



From the Pastor's Desk:

There is great power in this Most Holy Trinity. The hands of the Creator, God the Father, feed us the sustaining foods of life. The thorny crown of the Son of God reminds us that life on this planet is worth dying for, that suffering is a condition of our human nature overcome by the Bread of Life who suffered and died that we might live leaving us the Gospel Message of "Life and Truth". And, the dove, the ultimate power of the Father Creator and the Son Redeemer, the Spirit of peace and love that soothes strengthens our spirit with the power and love of the Father and the Son. The Dove, "inhabitant of the heavens", a bearer of Divine Revelations, and of heavenly messages of guidance. The bird was man's soul or spirit as it was released from the body in ecstasy or in death. It was seen as the embodiment of

liberty and the transcendence of the soul, the victory spirit over matter. Thus, birds were often associated with godliness, immortality, power, victory, and kingship.

This Trinity of persons in One God teaches us how to live life to the fullest, how to protect it with the shedding of our blood and how to inspire it with the celebration of all things good.

"The Trinity is the mystery of one God in three Persons:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The revealed truth of the Holy Trinity is at the very root of the Church's living faith as expressed in the Creed.

The mystery of the Trinity in itself is inaccessible to the human mind, and is the object of faith only because it was revealed by Jesus Christ, the Divine Son of the Eternal Father."

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

"The **mystery of the Most Holy Trinity** is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian life. God alone can make it known to us by revealing Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

"The **Incarnation of God's Son** reveals that God is the eternal Father and that the Son is consubstantial with the Father, which means that, in the Father and with the Father, the Son is one and the same God.

"The **mission of the Holy Spirit**, sent by the Father in the name of the Son (John 14:26) and by the Son: from the Father (John 15:26), reveals that, with them, the Spirit is one and the same God."With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified" (Nicene Creed).

"Inseparable in what they are, the Divine Persons are also inseparable in what they do. But within the single divine operation each shows forth what is proper to Him in the Trinity, especially in the divine missions of the Son's Incarnation and the gift of the Holy Spirit."

-- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* §§ 261, 262, 263, 267

This Creative, Redemptive and Inspirational Divine presence, lies, I believe, at the heart of our weekend celebration of Memorial Day. This is a day that expresses gratitude to all men and women of this great nation who lived and died so that WE might be FREE...Free to exercise our Religion, Free to speak openly... Free to write and publicize our thoughts... Free to assemble peacefully and openly. The preamble to the Constitution tells us,

"When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

At the heart of these written words is the influence of God. This Divine Influence is the living out of the work of Christ, who came to defend life and the rights and freedoms of all of God's people. This Divine Influence is the spirit that drives our nation, the spirit that sends men and women into battle. I have never met such dedicated and selfless men and women as those I was privileged to serve with while a Chaplain in the United States Navy during the Kuwait War and in a Fleet Hospital caring for the wounded from the war in Iraq. To be ranked among these veterans is an honor.

I pray for all of our Veterans who have died and all who still live. And for the men and women now serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and in unknown corners of the world I offer you my salute, I embrace you in love, and I thank you for fighting for the Freedoms we hold so very Sacred.

May God +bless you and yours now and forever,

Father Anthony

