LIVING FAITH
SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

John 3:16-18

'For God so loved the world that he gave
his only Son, so that everyone who believes
in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world
to condemn the world, but in order that the world
might be saved through him. Those who believe in
him are not condemned; but those who do not believe
are condemned already, because they have not believed
in the name of the only Son of God.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

You see it at hockey games, football games, concerts and rallies. Someone in the crowd is inevitably holding up a sign that reads, simply, **JOHN 3:16.** This is the beautiful, compelling truth proclaimed in today's Gospel: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."

But what does it mean? This phrase speaks a truth that is almost too hard to believe, that is almost to good to be true. God sent Jesus, God's only Son, into the world for one reason only—love. God sent Jesus into the world because God loves you, loves all of us, loves this world and all who dwell in it.

Many saints have said this, and it remains true today. St. Alphonsus Liguori proclaimed it every chance he could get, saying that God is "pazzo par amore"—crazy with love—for you.

When we truly love another, our love is most like God's love, and God's love shines through us. Today, many people will only learn of God's love through us. Let's make sure that God shines in and through us, then, that others are drawn to us and, through us, to Jesus and service of others, particularly the poor and those on the edges of our world.

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The Mystery is so beyond, so near, so real
That all the volumes of our reflections

Are as the first words of a little child . . . .

Yet what joy they bring.

Trinity is one of our ways of expressing the Mystery, the Relational Holy at the heart of life, too big to comprehend, the God whose chosen home is our hearts and the dirt of our land, be we in ruins or grace...

There are times when we need to let go of our searching, our need to understand and express what our spiritual instincts already know.

We need to pause in the stillness, be with the Mystery, sit with the Holy and

let it become part of our awareness . . . . .

Extract from a reflection by Noel Davis, So Real! Celebrating the Trinity
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A family activity for this week: As a family, or with a friend, or alone, sit in silence in a place of beauty and bow before the God you behold within and without and all round.
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I BELIEVE

THE CREED

Every Sunday at Mass, we pray the *Creed*. In Canada, we pray the *Apostle's Creed* most Sundays, and the *Nicene Creed* at special times, such as Christmas.

A glance at a dictionary tells us that a *creed* is "a formal statement of religious belief; a confession of faith."

Sometimes we use the word *creed* a bit differently, for example, when we say that we do not discriminate against people on the basis of race, *creed*, ability or disability, or sexual orientation. In this case, *"creed"* means a system of beliefs, principles or opinions.

The word *creed* comes from the Latin word "credo," which means "I believe."

"I believe" is the way we start the *creed* that we professed - or somebody professed for us-- at our Baptism, one of the most ancient prayers of the Christian community, the "Apostles' Creed."

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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THE STORY OF ST. PATRICK AND THE SHAMROCK

HOW ONE TEACHER DESCRIBED THE TRINITY

The shamrock is a symbol both for the Holy Trinity and St. Patrick (389-461). The shamrock has a stem with three small green leaves. The plant is very common and widely distributed throughout Ireland.

St. Patrick was a zealous missionary to the Irish, a people who upon his arrival in 432 had heard little or nothing of Jesus and his gospel. St. Patrick was an energetic traveler, a determined evangelizer, and a courageous preacher. He was faced with the daunting task of explaining profound mysteries such as the Trinity which are so difficult to understand.

There are several popular legends about how St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the mystery of the Trinity. In all, St. Patrick used a shamrock to visualize the mystery of the Trinity, how a single plant with three leaves is analogous to the one Triune God with three separate and distinct Persons (Thurston, H. J., ed., *Butler's Lives of the Saints*, Vol. 1, 615).

I arise today
Through a mighty strength,
the invocation
of the Trinity,
Through belief in the
Threeness,
Through confession
of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.