

AS I REMEMBER MY ORDINATION AT ST PIUS ON MAY 25, 1979 AND NOW AT THIS 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SERVICE. THERE ARE QUESTIONS AND DOUBTS THAT WE REFLECT ON THIS TRINITY SATURDAY. MANY PREACHERS PAST AND PRESENT HAVE HAD DOUBTS AND DIFFICULTY EXPLAINING THE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY, AS ITS MEANING HAS NOT BEEN CLEAR TO EVERYONE. IN MATTHEW'S GOSPEL THE 11 DISCIPLES ALL SAW JESUS AND THEY WORSHIPED BUT DOUBTED. DOUBT, LACK OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONFUSION DOES NOT PRECLUDE WORSHIP NOR DOES IT PREVENT JESUS FROM GIVING A COMMISSION TO THE DISCIPLES TO SPREAD THE WORD. EVEN WITH THEIR DOUBT, JESUS SENT THE DISCIPLES OUT TO ALL THE NATIONS TO TEACH. WITH THEIR DOUBT TODAY'S PREACHERS STILL SPIN AROUND IN CIRCLES WITH THE DIFFICULTY OF EXPLAINING THE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY.

LONG AGO LEGEND HAS IT THAT ST PATRICK USED THE SHAMROCK WITH THE IRISH PEOPLE TO TACKLE THE CONCEPT OF THE TRINITY. HE EXPLAINED THAT, LIKE THE TRINITY, THE SHAMROCK HAS THREE LEAVES AND ONE STEM WHICH TOGETHER MAKE UP ONE CLOVER. THIS EXPLANATION WAS A PRACTICAL WAY TO EXPRESS A CONCEPT IN A WAY THE PEOPLE OF THE TIME COULD UNDERSTAND. IN MY PREACHING TODAY, I TOO AM CHALLENGED TO FIND A WAY TO HELP US APPRECIATE THIS CONCEPT SO THAT WE TOO CAN UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULT IDEA OF THE TRINITY.

LAST SUNDAY, PENTECOST, THE GOSPEL STATED "AND WHEN HE SAID THIS TO THEM, HE BREATHED ON THEM". YOU AND I CAN USE OUR IMAGINATIONS TO PICTURE A HARMONICA TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE TRINITY. THERE IS A CERTAIN HARMONY IN THE FACT THAT GOD IS THREE DIVINE PERSONS. WHEN BREATHING INTO THE THREE HOLES OF THE HARMONICA THE SOUND IS PURE LIKE THE DIMENSIONS OF SALVATION IN THE TRINITY. THE HARMONICA, LIKE GOD OUR CREATOR, IS PLAYED BY BLOWING INTO THE THREE LEVELS - THE FATHER, THE GIVER OF GIFTS, THE SUFFERING SERVANT AND SAVIOR, AND THE SPIRIT WHOSE BREATH WE LIKENED TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD. THESE THREE LEVELS ARE HARMONIZING, COORDINATING, AND IN BALANCE. THERE ARE THREE PERSONS OF THE TRINITY, THREE LEVELS OF GIFTS THAT DWELL WITHIN US EVERY DAY. AS WE DRAW OUR BREATH THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S GLORY IS REVEALED TO US, THAT BY LOVING OUTWARD WE CAN BE IN HARMONY WITH THE DIVINE PERSONS OF THE TRINITY WHICH DIRECTS ALL MANNER OF OUR LIVES. THE DISCIPLES AND PREACHERS OVER TIME HAVE COME TO SEE AND UNDERSTAND THAT BECAUSE OF THE HARMONY OF

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GOD'S TRIUNE LIFE WITHIN US, WE ARE ABLE TO DO GOD'S WORK. BY GIVING A COMMISSION TO THE  
DISCIPLES AND BY CONTINUING TO DRAW THE BREATH OF THE THREE LEVELS OF DIVINE PERSONS  
WITHIN US, WE ARE IN TURN AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED TO BRING SALVATION TO THE WORLD.