

GOD IS LOVE (DEUS CARITAS EST)

We read in today's Gospel, "The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to Him, and whoever believes in the Son has eternal life." We learn from this reading that love is a relational and self-giving experience. And the awesome power of Almighty God, to both create this expansive universe, as well as each one of us with such intricate precision rests solely in His limitless and pre-eminent love. And because God created us out of His love, and came to share it with us, even when we were still engulfed in our sins, these same principles of love must rule our lives, for our own well-being and perfection.

God, who is love is both unity amidst diversity. But what do I mean by unity amidst diversity? Although one in substance, He is also diverse, but not divided, as to persons and functions as God within these same personal relationships. God is diverse as to persons, simply because true love necessarily needs an object or person to love. You cannot love in a vacuum. But at the same time, God is essentially one, because love by its very nature unites those who love. Unites the Father with the Son.

But how does this work? From all eternity the Father communicates His entire being and bestows all of His love to the person of the Son, as the primary object of His love. And upon receiving His Father's love, the Son immediately returns all of His love back to the Father; back and forth, back and forth for all eternity! And this mutual bestowal of God's divine love between the Father and the Son truly operates as a Divine Family. Now this mutual exchange of divine love between Father and Son is so overwhelming, so powerful, that it actually takes upon itself a third, separate Person, the person of the Holy Spirit. So, who is the Holy Spirit, but the personification of God's limitless love, mutually exchanged between Father and Son from all eternity.

And love, by its very nature cannot be contained or bottled up, but must always increase, expand, and give of itself, because love, by its very definition must be shared. As a result, God shares divine love by creating further objects to love. Objects that reflect His own, unique image and likeness. Objects with the capacity to both receive and return His love. And much like a huge fountain of living water, God's love bursts forth, and cascades down upon all of humanity! And like the Son, into whom we have been incorporated, we all are called to return that love we have received back to God in praise and thanksgiving. It is also that same Spirit of God's love, dwelling within us that both transforms and unites us to Him, and then to one another. For although we are many persons, we all become one - one in God's love - one in the Body in Christ. As such, we all share in that same communion of God's love, thereby entering into God's Divine Family?

For love is indeed, a matter of relationships, relationships between the Church and her people, relationships between husbands and wives, relationships between parents and children, and relationships between friends. Relationships which seek to imitate and reflect that mutual exchange of divine love between Father and Son. It has often been said that our poverty has need of God's abundance, and God's abundance has need of our poverty! For when we empty ourselves to others, then we become full, but when we become self-centered and self-contained, we remain empty!

God bless you all