

JUNE 19, 2011
TRINITY SUNDAY

JOHN 3: 16-18

Yes, God loved the world so much that God gave God's only Son so that everyone who believes in the Son may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world but so that through the Son the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because she has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

--John 3:16-18

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with understanding as I seek to learn the meaning of John's words and relate them to the Feast of the Holy Trinity that we celebrate today. As I "embrace the reign of God" how can I "stretch my boundaries"?

Choosing to accept the doctrine of the Trinity is already "boundary stretching" because the Trinity is one of the most profound mysteries of the Christian faith and though I often find it difficult to believe, I pray, "Lord I believe. Help my unbelief." I do believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father as the Father gives the only Son so that I will not be lost but may have eternal life. I am grateful to God who gave the gift of the Son for my salvation and that of my sisters and associates.

Can I stretch my boundaries? Yes! "For thanks to God's love poured into hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5) a religious community is a true family gathered together in the Lord's name and rejoicing in His presence (Mt. 18:20) In fact [this] unity shows that Christ has come (Jn 13:35; 17:21) and from [this indwelling presence of Christ] results great apostolic influence." [*Constitution*, p. 12, 14).

We give you glory, most Holy Trinity, three in one,
We sing your praises, three in one
Glory to you Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

Creator God, saving Word, abiding Spirit, renew and enlighten your
Church and awaken the world to your presence.

Holy Trinity, one in unity, guide to the truth all who profess your
name that the richness of your word may be magnified in the earth.
Blessed Trinity, bless families and communities and all who band
together in your name and grant wisdom and integrity to all who
lead our church and the nations of the world.

Holy Trinity abide in us and renew your people and all creation.

[from *People's Companion to the Breviary*, pp. 330-333]

For the almighty truth of the Trinity is our Father, for He made us
and keeps us in Him. And the deep wisdom of the Trinity is our
Mother, in whom we are enclosed. And the high goodness of the
Trinity is our Lord, and in Him we are enclosed and He in us.

[from Julian of Norwich, *Showings*, p. 285]

--Sr. Elizabeth Anne Sueltenfuss, CDP

[Sr. Elizabeth Anne served as President of Our Lady of the Lake University for nineteen years before her retirement. She died in December 2009.]