

TAKE A STAND

May 20th, 2012

“Credo In Unum Deum” – I Believe in One God

Talk by Fr. Dominic Allain

Using the YouCat – Questions 30-51

Mystery:

- Something that was hidden, but over time, God is making clear
- *Not* something we can't understand or will never understand, but something that we will only fully understand, when we get to Heaven

The Trinity & One-ness of God:

- The doctrine of the Trinity comes out of the lived experiences of the Apostles.
- We need to go back to the Old Testament to see that the Israelites believed and proclaimed in the “one-ness” of God
- To believe in ONE GOD is to say that you can't be saved by other things or gods (such as a fertility god, god of crops etc.)

“To confess one-ness of God is to renounce idolatry and a decision to trust yourself to this one-ness.”

- That creation is “good” (from creation story in Genesis) – massively bold statement for Israel to make
- Creation is not random and therefore needs to be embraced as “good”

“We are tempted to make gods of things & put our faith for happiness in things that aren't God.”

- **Practical challenge! – Reject everything that is not of the one-ness of God, especially things such as witchcraft & tarot cards**

“When men stop believing in God, they’ll believe in anything!”
– G.K. Chesterton

➤ **One thing we can take from tonight – how much we need the Old Testament. If you want to understand Jesus, you need to go to the Old Testament.**

- At the beginning, Israel didn’t have much of an idea of who this One God was, but then Moses had a revelation from God in the form of the burning bush
- Moses receives revealing of Divine Name – Yahweh – I AM
- This name is so sacred to Jews, that they don’t write it or speak it
- Names tell you about relationships. In the Bible, names mean power & God changes names (Saul-Paul, Simon-Peter etc.)
- Moses’ act of asking God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" is so bold and shocking in Jewish terms (to ask God what His name is!).
- God’s reply says that He is happy to be named and is His way of saying that He is invoke able, people can call on Him, He is nameable, He is identifiable as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

“The most remarkable thing about Jesus – He addresses this person (God) as His Father, even using the informal word, Abba (Daddy). He calls the Eternal One Daddy – such is His relationship with Him.”

- Disciples ask for Jesus to teach them to pray, and Jesus invites us to be drawn into His son-ship with the Father, by calling Him “Father”, “Daddy” – so remarkable & amazing is this fact!

- **Pentecost:** Direct commemoration of Jewish feast

- Disciples thinking: If Jesus is not God, he takes us further away from God, therefore, He must be God.

- **The Trinity:**
 - *Not* a mathematical mystery, but a mystery of Love
 - **God the Father is the Principle of Love** (ecstatic love – gift, not drawing back into himself, so immense, pouring out, needing someone to love)
 - **He begets the Son**
 - **The Son loves the Father so much that this love creates a third person – The Holy Spirit**
 - **Mystery of Love that creates Community of Love**
 - Giver – Father
 - Gift – Son
 - Grounds for accepting that Gift – Holy Spirit

“Being a Catholic is about more than just keeping a set of rules – it’s about being called into this Community of Love.”

- **Image of God’s Love** – continually outpoured, but never exhausted. When God draws it back, it is so we can be ecstatic.

“We are to be God’s source of love in the world.”

- God is Truth.

We have looked at Israel’s faith in One God.

Jesus comes as an expression of love, in a form that can be understood.

The burning bush becomes a symbol of the Resurrection.

- **Practical challenge: To begin to have a sense of your prayer as a Trinitarian prayer**
- All our prayer is addressed to The Father, through the Spirit...
- **Begin to be aware of the structure of The Mass**
- For the next week: to become more aware of God as Father – just say the line, “Our Father”, as a prayer. Open your heart, listen to God & what He wants to reveal to you.
 - God is relationship, God is community

Q. Why does God allow evil?

A. God permits evil, because He has given people freedom. If God only allowed people freedom to do good, that would be control.

“God allows evil, only if good can come out of it.” (Thomas Aquinas)

Q. Why natural disasters?

A. Creation itself still needs to be perfected & completed. “Creation is groaning in one act of giving birth.” (St Paul)

“What I do with my earthly life will shape my eternity.”