

Appendix 1

The Most Holy Trinity – Teaching Points

- The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life.
- The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the mystery of God in Himself.
- It is the source of all the other mysteries of the Faith.
- It is the most fundamental and essential truth of the Faith.
- What we know about the Trinity has been revealed by God Himself.
- There is but one, true God.
- There are three persons in the one God and each of these persons is fully God.
- The three persons in the one God are: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. **Note: Terms such as God the Creator, God the Redeemer, and God the Sanctifier, do not say Who God is, but rather point to functions commonly attributed to one of the Divine Persons. Note to Catechist: While we commonly attribute certain works to one or another person of the Trinity, all three Divine Persons are involved in creation, redemption, and sanctification. The Divine Persons are distinct, but undivided. We have a responsibility to use the correct vocabulary, i.e. the vocabulary of the Church, when referring to the persons of the Trinity, and in all catechesis. We must not shy away from, or compromise, the language of the Most Holy Trinity, i.e. the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This language we clearly see in Sacred Scripture! This language speaks to Who God is! Learning the correct terminology for God affects both our relationship with Him and with one another as sons and daughters of God the Father and brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit.**
- God has the fullness of all perfection. He is all-loving, all-merciful, all-just, all-knowing, all-powerful, ever-present, etc.
- Nobody made God. God always was, is now, and always will be.
- God made all things and He made them good.
- God made man and woman and He made them very good.
- Men and women (and boys and girls) are the greatest of all of God's creatures on earth. We are made in His image. We are to love God and each other because God is love. He loves us and He made us to love and to be loved.
- Because we are made in God's image, He gives human beings the ability to reason and we are given free will so that we can freely choose.
- God shows us and tells us in different ways what is good and what is evil. He gives us His grace because He wants us to choose to be good and to be happy with Him forever.