

In school, it seems you get all sorts of teachers. Easy and hard ... nice and not-so-nice ... middle-of-the-road ... normal and strange ... Certain things about teachers stand out in our memories.

In seminary, my favorite teacher was Fr. Mike. I only had him for one class; and the title of that course was “Trinitarian Theology.”

Fr. Mike was, in my estimation, a very brilliant theologian. The class on the Trinity was very heady - after all, Trinitarian Theology is the study of God as related to the inner workings of God.

Nonetheless, we read some difficult but fascinating articles and books; and were supposed to summarize something from what we read in a single page. And when you’re talking about the inner workings of God, that’s not very easy.

Now, being as it was only 7 years ago - some of the students would push the envelope on what one page meant. In other words, they’d play around with the margins ... or shrink the type so that it was barely read-able.

But Fr. Mike took it all in stride. He was brilliant, but also very calm, cool, and collected. I’d even say he was laid back. When a student would present a paper, he would take a back seat to the discussion - allowing the class to flesh out the details.

Only once ... just once ... do I remember Fr. Mike speaking up when a student presented her paper in class. And what he blurted out mid-stream during the presentation was one word. And that word was “Heresy!”

Trinitarian Theology is sort of like a minefield - meaning that, since we can’t very well open up God and explain the inner workings of the Trinity, we’re sort of working in the dark ... as it were. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus gives us glimpses of the Trinity when He speaks of the Father and the Holy Spirit; but that’s it - these are glimpses.

And throughout 2,000-so years of Christianity, most heresies have been regarding God in some way, shape, or form.

And of course, your beloved pastor, Fr. Bob, has chosen to be out-of-town today - Trinity Sunday ... passing the buck to me ... handing me your immortal souls ... and letting me wade through the minefield of potential heresy.

I suppose starting with the easy stuff, we all know that the Trinity is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Three Divine Persons in One Immortal Godhead. Of one substance, or in a word “consubstantial.”

But outside of the easy stuff, we may want to keep the Trinity at a distance. After all, even though we don’t burn heretics at the stake anymore ... who wants to risk it?

However, keeping the Trinity at a distance is actually the very last thing that God wants from us.

We are all baptized “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit;” and the Catechism tells us that “*Baptism properly speaking ... signifies and actually brings about death to sin and entry into the life of the Most Holy Trinity through configuration to the Paschal mystery of Christ.*”

That is, for most of us here ... as infants, were Baptized. And that brought us ... quoting the Catechism ... “*into the life of the Most Holy Trinity*”.

So, if we’re supposed to be **in** “*the life of the Most Holy Trinity*” ... how can we keep the Trinity at a distance?

The secret is twofold. First we need to realize that the Trinity is outside of our human ability to comprehend. So, in other words, disengage the brain.

Secondly, the secret of the Trinity is all about the Divine relationship. Father and Son. Son and Father. Father and Son and Holy Spirit. And on and on in various combinations.

And by our Baptism, we enter into that Divine life. And throughout our lives, we are called to live in relationship to God ... Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ... as well as with each other ... as members of the Church - the mystical Body of Christ.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity ... let us ask for a deepening of our own relationship with God ... God the Father ... God the Son ... and God the Holy Spirit ... As well as a strengthening of our relationship with each other - as members of the Church. And may the graces we receive in the Holy Mass overflow into all the relationships in our lives ... as we all strive to live more deeply “*the life of the Most Holy Trinity*” in our day-to-day goings on ... today ... tomorrow ... and every day.