

TRINITARIAN FOUNDATION OF MISSION

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The means and the method of mission and evangelization are modeled through the witness and grace of the Blessed Trinity. Studying the meaning of Mission and Evangelization bring us to the foundations and root of these invitations from God himself, to live and to love as he himself does. "God is a supreme relationship, the highest family and community. It is in his nature to be for the other. We are created in his image and likeness and therefore we are most ourselves when we are most like God; when we are giving ourselves away. This model of Trinitarian love is where the fullness of the Christian life resides. Although our culture flaunts individualism as a key to freedom, it is precisely the opposite we find ourselves when we lose ourselves and surrender to another in love not when we live for only ourselves."¹ This is primarily the basis of mission to be giving ourselves away for a greater cause. "Man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself."²



The communion of persons within the Blessed Trinity is continuously pouring themselves out to one another; as previously stated they are the highest family, community and relationship. The roles of the three persons of the Holy Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit are distinct as stated in the lesson summary; "The Father is the lover, the Son is the Beloved and the Spirit is the love they share. The fullness of God's love is on display only in the Trinity itself. This is when the Father gives himself away to the Son who can receive and return it to the Father. The mutual look of love gives rise to the Holy Spirit."³

This love of the Father is the same love poured out on us when we commune or unite with any person of the Blessed Trinity, this pouring out is the nature of God's love. We are brought into the union of Trinitarian Love we receive their love and thus become capable of pouring out this Love to the three persons of the Trinity and to those around us. The pouring out to those around us happens through the means of missions and evangelization: we make our lives a self-gift to those around us, by giving them the salvation offered in the Gospel and the gift of our own person through love and service. God models this act of self-gift in the Trinity. Jesus's response to the love and call of the Father; within the Blessed Trinity giving life to the Holy Spirit and also by being 'sent' on 'mission' to us in order to procure our salvation; He makes himself a gift for all of humanity, models the nature of God and therefore the nature of the Christian life. As Persons of the Trinity pours themselves out to one another; it is modeling for us the behavior that will bring abundant life that is to give oneself away, through service, love and other opportunities the Lord provides. "As Christians, we participate in the divine love of God and in the missionary and evangelizing outreach of the Trinitarian persons."

¹Cf; Barron, Fr. Robert, Sermon 54, The God Who is Love, Trinity Sunday, www.wordonfire.org

²Gaudium et Spes, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, www.vatican.va, 24

³Anaeto, Dominic, Fr., PS 514, Lesson Summaries- Week Three: Trinitarian foundation for Mission and Evangelizaion.

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