



## Things to Ponder

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## Most Holy Trinity – Gospel of Matthew 28:16-20

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### Introduction: It All Comes Down to Community

This Sunday we return to the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. However, this weekend and the following Sunday (Corpus Christi) are designated as solemnities – special days that call our attention to the central mysteries of our faith. On the first Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity – a feast that invites us to ponder that our God lives in a dynamic community of three persons. And we are called to both immerse ourselves in that divine community and to model that community in our own lives. And that's the tough challenge! For our faith comes down to community! *What holds me back from living in union with others? What do I fear?*

However, in a scene unique to this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew masterfully ties in the "Great Commission" to the Trinity: "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (This probably is a liturgical baptismal formula from early Christian tradition placed on Jesus' lips.) Until this point in the Gospel, Jesus had insisted that his mission was restricted to the Jewish people. But now the disciples are to go to "all nations." In brief, their mission is to make disciples, to teach, and to baptize—new lives being joyfully welcomed into God's inclusive community—and all sealed in a sacred bond in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. This singular belief in a Trinitarian God anchors the community worldwide.

It is interesting to note that the juxtaposition of "eleven" with "disciples" creates a tension in Matthew's narrative. "Eleven" is a reminder that one of the "Twelve" is no more. *Perhaps this is to signify that there is often a tension in ministry – or a sense of incompleteness?*

The final verse of this Gospel reiterates Jesus' promise to "be with you always until the end of time" – despite their doubts and "little faith."

I would invite you to take time to read and ponder the words from the *Gospel of Matthew 28:16-20*.

What word or words caught your attention?

What in this passage comforted you?

What in this passage challenged you?

## Further Reflections and Questions:

“We become icons of the Blessed Trinity. What an incredible gift and responsibility. Just think of what the simple gesture of the Sign of the Cross means. We touch our heads for the Father – the one whose mere idea, whose smallest thought, created us. This is where we began, in the mind of God. We touch our hearts for the Son – the one whose unceasing love took him to the cross, and the one who taught us, as well, how to love. We touch our shoulders for the Holy Spirit—the one who gives us strength, and who carries us on his shoulders—on his wings if you will—and who enables us to be God’s arms, working on earth.” - Deacon Greg Kandra

The name of God at our baptism is the name of love: the Trinity exists in a community of love. Each time we make the sign of the cross, we place on our bodies the badge of love.

Our God is not a monolith. There is life and movement within the divinity, and this God has decided to share it with us. *Is there life and movement within me?*

Lord, you scare me with your command: “Go and teach all nations.” You were talking to eleven men, without education, money, or influence, in a despised province of the Roman Empire. But they obeyed you because they knew you were with them. *What about me? Do I believe you are with me in a world that seems to be increasingly harder than ever to hear my voice?*

*Some of the disciples doubted. I may have doubts, fears too. Can I be open with the Lord about them? Jesus sends me, recognizing my hesitations and weaknesses. Do I find comfort in Him?*

*Deacon David*

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