



## The Trinity: Dynamic Community of Love

### *How-tos*

1. How to deepen appreciation for the Trinity at the roots of the liturgy of the Church:
  - Explore with our parish staff and/or liturgy committee the places where the liturgies of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist address or refer to the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Use the list of these places to help prepare for the following activities.
  - Develop a short series of homilies that highlight how the Trinity is addressed and mentioned in the Eucharistic liturgy and that present the significance of each place where this happens (i.e. the Sign of the Cross, the creed, the consecration of the Eucharist, etc.).
  - Use baptisms (within and outside of the Eucharist) as opportunities to explain to participants the meaning of baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
  - Make the renewal of baptismal vows (at Easter, confirmation, and other special occasions) real invitations to participants to respond to their own baptismal call as disciples of Jesus Christ on mission to the world, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - Emphasize the dismissal rites of catechumens and/or candidates during Sunday Eucharist. Invite parishioners to reflect on how we are responding to the Triune God who empowers us through the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation, Eucharist) for our daily Christian living.
  - Teach and use more hymns and songs in liturgies that reflect on the role and call of the Trinity in our lives.
2. How to encourage personal devotions to the Father, to Jesus the Son, and to the Holy Spirit throughout the liturgical year of the Church:
  - Conduct regular parish missions during Advent and Lent that give parishioners opportunities to deepen their personal and group relationships with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Other topics for such missions might be the meaning and appropriation of baptism, confirmation, or Eucharist in our lives. It is through these sacraments of Christian initiation that we are gifted with a share in the divine life of the Trinity.
  - Secure, develop, and distribute materials that individuals, committees, ministries, and small Christian communities can use in the parish to make an annual nine- day “Novena to the Holy Spirit” between the feasts of Ascension and Pentecost.
  - Enhance the preparation and celebration of the Eucharist on Pentecost Sunday to help us to experience anew the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. Pentecost incarnates the life of the Trinity in the Christian community and makes us the Church. This feast is as important in the Church’s life as Christmas and Easter.
3. How to provide adult faith formation and evangelization opportunities in the parish that call us to a fuller experience of the Trinity in our lives:
  - Develop a parish lending library of audio, video, computer, and print resources on the Trinity, on each of the three persons of the Trinity, on the communion of the Trinity, and on the mission of the Trinity in our everyday lives.
  - Plan to have a short speaker series in Advent and/or Lent that will focus on the role of the Trinity or on one of the persons of the Trinity. We might also have speakers talk about one of the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist) in our lives that grant us a share in the divine life of the Trinity.

- Have a Catholic bible teacher conduct a weekly study of one of the four gospels, exploring how it portrays the persons of the Trinity.
- Contact your parish or diocesan offices to find out about regional or diocesan speakers, workshops, retreats, and courses on the topics of the Trinity and the sacraments of initiation. We can publicize these locally and even offer to bring interested people with us to them.
- Ask the parish staff to recommend a popular Catholic book on the Trinity that we can use as material for adult discussion groups either at the Church or in the homes of parishioners.
- Form small Christian communities as ways to incarnate the love of the Trinity in the parish and the world by doing RENEW 2000 or another spiritual renewal process.<sup>1</sup>
- Develop parish committees and ministries that strive to incarnate the Triune love of our God into all of the ways we serve others. Consider downloading the workshop, "Creating Ministerial Communities," ([www.ParishLife.com](http://www.ParishLife.com)) to begin training our committees and ministries as ministerial communities.
- Organize and train a parish team to conduct an eight-week "New Life in the Spirit Seminars: Catholic Edition 2000" in the spring and fall of each year.<sup>2</sup>  
These new seminars help participants to release the life and the power of the Holy Spirit given to us through baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. Make these seminars into parish-wide opportunities for evangelization and/or re-evangelization of inactive Catholics and the unchurched in your area. Provide appropriate follow-up to these seminars with ongoing small groups (RCIA, RENEW 2000, *Remembering Church*, *Landings*, small Christian communities, prayer groups, Catholic bible study groups, etc.).
- Have quarterly parish religious concerts in which songs of worship, praise, and thanks to the Father, to Jesus, and to the Holy Spirit are featured and taught to participants. Intersperse three to five minute sharings by individual parishioners between songs that tell how the Trinity has become more central in our lives.
- Consider downloading the workshop, "The Trinity: Dynamic Community of Love," for use in your parish from [www.ParishLife.com](http://www.ParishLife.com).

#### 4. How to use the Christian visual arts to deepen our Trinitarian faith:

- Have an annual Trinity Art Festival in a tent or other gathering area of the parish on the Feast of the Holy Trinity. Invite Christian visual artists from your parish and surrounding area to come and exhibit their creations that depict the Trinity and/or one of the persons of the Trinity.
- Commission a professional liturgical artist to help your parish design and produce a statue, painting, stained glass window, or icon of the Trinity for display in a prominent place.
- Have an annual Trinity Art Show with many prizes for young people in the parish. Invite students in the parish school and/or the religious education program to draw or paint how they envision the Trinity or a person of the Trinity. Display all entries in the parish hall or gathering space for a month. We might even select two or three of the best pieces each year to be part of a permanent art exhibit in a chosen hall or room in the parish.

<sup>1</sup> Contact RENEW International at (908) 769-5400 or visit [www.renewintl.org](http://www.renewintl.org) for more information.

<sup>2</sup> Therese Boucher, *The New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual*, Catholic Edition 2000, (Locust Grove, VA: National Service Committee, 2000), [www.christkey.com](http://www.christkey.com), 800-338-2445.