

# The Trinity: Dynamic Community of Love

## *Links and Resources*

### Scripture

#### Matthew

3:16–17

Jesus' baptism (See Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22)

28:19–20

Jesus commands his disciples to baptize all the nations

#### Luke

1:35

The Annunciation

5:20–26

Jesus' power to forgive sins attests to his divinity (See also 7:48–50)

#### John

1:1–3

The pre-existence of Christ (the "Word") with the Father

1:14

The Word became flesh

3:16

God so loved the world that he sent his only Son

5:21

The Father raises the dead, and the Son gives life

10:17

The Father loves the Son

14:16–17

The Son will send the Spirit ("Paraclete")

20:21–23

The Father sends the Son, the Son gives the Spirit

20:28

Thomas proclaims to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

#### Romans

15:30–33

Paul urges Christians to pray to the Father through the Son and Spirit

#### 1 Corinthians

2:10–12

Only the Spirit knows the depths of God

#### 2 Corinthians

13:13

The grace of Jesus, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

#### Colossians

1:15–17

Christ is the image of the invisible God

2:9

In Christ the fullness of divinity dwells in bodily form

#### 1 Peter

1:2

We are chosen by the Father, made holy in the Spirit, and called to be obedient to Jesus

#### 1 John

1:1

We have seen, heard, touched Christ who has always existed

1:3

Our life is shared with the Father and the Son

### Conciliar Documents

*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium)*

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19631204\\_sacrosanctum-concilium\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19631204_sacrosanctum-concilium_en.html)

6: Through baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist we experience the Spirit sent to the disciples at Pentecost and are sent to continue Christ's mission.

*Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum)*

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19651118\\_dei-verbum\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651118_dei-verbum_en.html)

God the Father sent his Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to reveal to the world the divine nature of the Trinity and what the Lord has done, is doing, and will do in and for us who believe.

*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium)*

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19641121\\_lumen-gentium\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html)

- 4: All believers have access through Christ in one Spirit to the Father.
- 5: Christ poured out the Spirit promised by the Father on the disciples.
- 7: The Spirit pours out spiritual gifts on the Church.
- 9: The Church is the new People of God by the power of the Spirit.
- 9–17: The Holy Spirit sanctifies and guides us through the sacraments, the ministries, and the charisms of the Church.

*Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)*

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_cons\\_19651207\\_gaudium-et-spes\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html)

- 1: We are led by the Holy Spirit to the kingdom of the Father.
- 21: The Church is led by the Spirit to make the Father and the Son present and visible to the world.
- 26–27: The Spirit renews the face of the earth and renews in us our human dignity and communion with one another.

## Papal Documents

*The Church in Asia (Ecclesia In Asia)*, John Paul II, November 6, 1999

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_exh\\_06111999\\_ecclesia-in-asia\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_06111999_ecclesia-in-asia_en.html)

12: "It has been a constant concern of my Pontificate to remind the faithful of the communion of life of the Blessed Trinity and the unity of the three Persons in the plan of creation and redemption.... The saving action of Jesus has its origin in the communion of the Godhead, and opens the way for all who believe in him to enter into intimate communion with the Trinity and with one another in the Trinity."

*On the Coming of the Third Millennium (Tertio millennio adveniente)*, John Paul II, November 10, 1994

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/apost\\_letters/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_apl\\_10111994\\_tertio-millennio-adveniente\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_letters/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_10111994_tertio-millennio-adveniente_en.html)

Call from the pope to renewed commitment to the teachings of Vatican II and to concentrate on the themes of Christ, Holy Spirit, and Father as we enter the Third Christian Millennium.

*On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World (Dominum et vivificantem)*, John Paul II May 18, 1986

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_18051986\\_dominum-et-vivificantem\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_18051986_dominum-et-vivificantem_en.html)

Reflection on the Holy Spirit's role in the divine plan of salvation united within the life and action of the Trinity.

*On the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World (Christifideles Laici)*, John Paul II, December 30, 1988

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_exh\\_30121988\\_christifideles-laici\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_30121988_christifideles-laici_en.html)

The Trinity is the model and source of our communion with each other. In baptism, we receive God's call to make the Church a sign and an instrument of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the world.

*Rich in Mercy (Dives in misericordia)*, John Paul II, November 30, 1980

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_30111980\\_dives-in-misericordia\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30111980_dives-in-misericordia_en.html)

Reflection on God the Father's role in the divine plan of salvation united within the life and action of the Trinity.

*The Redeemer of Man (Redemptor hominis)*, John Paul II, March 4, 1979

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_04031979\\_redemptor-hominis\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_04031979_redemptor-hominis_en.html)

Reflection on Jesus Christ's role in the divine plan of salvation united within the life and action of the Trinity.

## **Catechism of the Catholic Church**

(Click on *Catechism* to find the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on the Web.)

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/ccc\\_toc.htm](http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/ccc_toc.htm)

For paragraphs, 232–267, click on: <http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p1s2c1p2.htm#l>

- #232 Christians baptized in the name of the Trinity
- #233 Christians baptized in the *name* (not the *names!*) of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- #234 The mystery of the Trinity is central to Christian faith
- #235 The mystery of the Trinity revealed by God, taught by Church, is God's plan of salvation
- #236 Inner life of Trinity (*theologia*), and God's actions in the world (*oikonomia*)
- #237 Trinity is a mystery, but we see signs of it in creation and history
- #238 God is Father as Creator, but also as Father in relation to the Son
- #239 God transcends titles of Father or Mother and is beyond all human language
- #240 Jesus revealed the Father in a previously unheard of sense
- #241 Jesus is the Word of God, and the icon of the invisible God
- #242 Jesus is eternally begotten of the Father and is of the same substance
- #243 At his last supper, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit (third Person of the Trinity)
- #244 The Holy Spirit is also eternal, sent by the Father and Son to the apostles
- #245 The Spirit professed by Council of Constantinople (A.D. 381)
- #246 The Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son (*filioque*) in Western theology

- #247            The *filioque* remains a point of disagreement between East and West
- #248            The East emphasizes three-in-one; the West emphasizes one-in-three
- #249            The Trinity revealed in the Church's liturgical tradition
- #250            The early Church councils helped to clarify teaching against falsehood and errors
- #251            The Church developed its own terminology to be able to speak about the Trinity
- #252            Defines *substance*, *person*, and *relation* with respect to Trinitarian teaching
- #253            Each person of the Trinity is God "whole and entire," yet they are one God
- #254            The divine Persons are really distinct from one another
- #255            The divine Persons are relative to one another
- #256            St. Gregory's summary of Trinitarian faith
- #257            The love of the Trinity unfolds in Creation, history, and the mission of the Church
- #258            The whole divine economy is the work of all three Persons
- #259            The whole Christian life is a communion with each of the divine Persons
- #260            The goal of the Christian life is to enter perfect unity with the Trinity
- #261–267       Summary of previous paragraphs on the Trinity

## United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Documents

*Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions* (1998)

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/socialteaching.htm>

Catholics are not familiar with Catholic social teaching and do not understand that this teaching is an essential part of our faith. These teachings flow from the very life and mission of the Trinity: 1) Life and Dignity of the Human Person, 2) Call to Family, Community, and Participation, 3) Rights and Responsibilities, 4) Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, 5) The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers, 6) Solidarity, and 7) Care for God's Creation.

## Books and Articles

Boucher, Therese. *The New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual*, Catholic Edition 2000. Locust Grove, VA: National Service Committee, 2000.

A seven- or eight-week basic course on the baptismal call to holiness, faith-sharing community, and the use of gifts and charisms in ministry. For more information contact: [www.christkey.com](http://www.christkey.com). (To order, call 800-338-2445.)

Downey, Michael. *Altogether Gift: A Trinitarian Spirituality*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, December 2000. Attempting to make the mystery of the Trinity accessible to spiritual lives, Downey favors a more communal and relational approach. In his view, prayer communion in the mystery of Trinity leads us to a fuller understanding of our share in the divine life and of our participation in the mission of Word and Spirit.

Hill, Edmund. *The Trinity: Saint Augustine*. Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, November 1991. Hill presents a fresh translation of Saint Augustine's masterpiece. An opportunity to observe one of the foremost scholars of the Bible use both Testaments to reflect on the doctrine of the Trinity.

Hunt, Anne. *The Trinity and the Paschal Mystery: A Development in Recent Catholic Theology*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, November 1997. The mystery of the Trinity is approached and further revealed by reflection on the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. This new approach is assessed in relation to the classical tradition of Trinitarian theology.

LaCugna, Catherine Mowry. *God For Us: The Trinity and Christian Life*. San Francisco: HarperCollins Publishers, 1991. A brilliant theologian revitalizes theology and Christian life by recovering the early Christian roots of God as Trinity. She shows how understanding God as a community of Persons is vital to the living of Christian faith.

Maloney, George A. *God's Community of Love: Living with the Indwelling Trinity*. New York: New York City Press, September 1995. Father Maloney elucidates the pragmatic reality of the divine presence, Father, Son, and Spirit, within men and women and the ways of faith through which people are making a space for God.

Montague, George T. "The Fatherhood of God: Traditional Belief and Contemporary Question." *The Living Light*, Vol. 35, No. 1, (Summer 1998).  
<http://www.usccb.org/education/catechetics/livlightfall98.htm#fatherhood>  
Reflects on the biblical and traditional roots of the Fatherhood of God and its importance for us today.

O'Carroll, Michael, C.S.Sp. *Veni Creator Spiritus: An Encyclopedia of the Holy Spirit*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, November 1990. Covers patristic authors, modern authors, and theories—the latter in great detail. Those who require more information have reference to fine source notes for all the major articles. Indexed.

O'Collins, Gerald, S.J. *The Tripersonal God: Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity*, Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1999. This book is written for the serious student and contains much valuable information. There are three sections: (1) Scriptural roots, (2) Historical developments (3) Personal existence of the Holy Spirit, Trinitarian persons and actions, naming the Trinity, and images of the Trinity.

Rahner, Karl. *The Trinity*, New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1997. This book is an important read on the Trinitarian meaning of salvation, as well as a landmark in "resourcement theology" (renewal of Christian theology based on a revisit of its patristic and biblical roots).

Studer, Basil, OSB. *Trinity and Incarnation: The Faith of the Early Church*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, June 1994. Overall view of the history of the early Christian doctrine and of the teaching concerning our salvation in Jesus Christ. Considers in particular the circumstances of Church history and the context of changing forms of spirituality.

Theological-Historical Commission for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. *God, the Father of Mercy*. Translated by Robert R. Barr. New York: Crossroad/Herder & Herder, December 1998. This book...plunges us into the refreshing waters of the mystery of a God who exists only by and for love. God is Father in the absolute sense of the word. To believe is to recognize God as Father, as our Father.... The human being can cease to be a child of God, but God cannot cease to be our Father (foreword).

Theological-Historical Commission for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. *The Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life*. Translated by Agostino Bono. New York: Crossroad/Herder & Herder, October 1997. An accessible study aid for adult catechesis and religious education on the third Person of the Holy Trinity.

Theological-Historical Commission for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. *Jesus Christ, Word of the Father, The Savior of the World*. Translated by Adrian Walker. New York: Crossroad/Herder & Herder, February 1997. In his apostolic letter, Tertio Millennio Adveniente, the pope has underscored the special feature that has to characterize christological catechesis in this, the first of the preparatory years leading up to the Jubilee: "the rediscovery of Christ as Savior and Evangelizer" (foreword).

Vanhoozer, Kevin J., ed. *The Trinity in a Pluralistic Age*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997. The essays in this book show how Trinitarian doctrine, with a proper emphasis on both the one and the three, provides the necessary resources for successfully addressing the problems and the possibilities of contemporary pluralism.

## **RENEW International Resources**

Kleissler, Thomas A., Margo A. LeBert, and Mary C. McGuinness. *Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, revised and updated. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997. A very hands-on manual that provides practical tools and insights for the ongoing growth and development of small Christian communities.

(To order, click on: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/voh.html>)

RENEW International. *God, A Community of Love*, Faith-Sharing Booklet A for Season I of RENEW 2000. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997. Presents the following themes for the six weeks of Season I: (1) The Trinity, A Relationship of Love, (2) God, Our Creator, (3) Jesus, Our Loving Friend and Healer, (4) Jesus, Our Savior and Liberator, (5) Power of the Holy Spirit, and (6) God with Us.

(For more information, click on <http://www.renewintl.org/RENEW2000/Pages/WeeklyThemesla.htm>)

RENEW International. *Search for Meaning*, Faith Sharing Booklet B for Season I of RENEW 2000. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997. Presents the themes for the six weeks of Season I: (1) Who Is God for Me? (2) I Find That I Am Torn, (3) Family, (4) My World, (5) Myself and the Church, and (6) Hope.

## **IMPACT Series**

The *IMPACT Series* (available from RENEW International) aims to connect faith to the wide range of human concerns and personal issues. In the process, participants will be led not only to prayerful reflection and fruitful sharing, but also to concrete actions that influence for the better human attitudes and behaviors.

Martin, Catherine. *Preparing for Your Child's Baptism*. A look at the deeper spiritual meaning in everyday situations and the challenge of welcoming a child into the family. Ideal for new parents, those about to become parents, grandparents, and godparents (six sessions).

(To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/prepareimp.html>)

Nerney, Catherine T., SSJ, PhD. *Lenten Longings: Seeing with God's Eyes*, Cycle C. An invitation to see ourselves, one another, and our world with the eyes of God (six sessions).

(To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/LLCC.html>)

Pinyan, Charles. *At Home in the Catholic Church*. Helps both new and longtime Catholics recognize and appreciate the many riches of the Catholic faith, celebrate what it means to be Catholic, and grow in awareness of various dimensions of the faith (six sessions).

(To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/athomeimp.html>)

Tuoti, Frank X. *Awakening the Mystic Within: Graced Vision*. This generous collection of beautiful and inspiring reflections is designed to fire the hearts and stir the souls of those beginning the contemplative journey.  
(To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/awakeimp.html>)

## **Web Site Links**

General Address of the Holy Father on the Trinity, January 19, 2000  
[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_pau...es/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_aud\\_20000119\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_pau...es/documents/hf_jp-ii_aud_20000119_en.html)