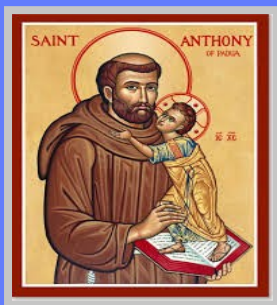


May 27, 2018

The Most Holy Trinity



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

Weekly Reflection



The Most Holy Trinity PROCESSION AND PERICHORESIS Neither the term nor the concept "Trinity" appears in the New Testament. Our scriptures do name all three persons and describe some sort of unity of relationship among them, but it remained for following centuries to wrestle with this self-revelation of God. The term "Trinity" appeared about two hundred years into Christianity's existence, as it began to gain a hold and there was more time to reflect (and agree or disagree) upon a more precise understanding. One way the church began to understand the relationship of the persons of the Trinity was through the term "procession." The three persons of the Trinity live in mutual indwelling with each other, and are revealed to people this way. Thus the Son became known through the procession called "filiation" and the Spirit through the procession called "spiration." Another way the Trinity was understood was through perichoresis (the "chor" of our "choreography" is in there), in which the three eternal persons of the Trinity dance together in their divine and holy unity. DANCING AND DWELLING So what? It is easy to ask this question about obscure theological debates that took place centuries ago. But these definitions were born of the struggles of the faithful to understand how the Trinity lived and worked in their lives, and the fruit of their efforts can benefit us today. Each of us was baptized in the name of and into the Holy Trinity. At that time, the Trinity came to dwell in us, and we began to dwell in the Trinity. At the beginning of the twentieth century, St. Elizabeth of the Holy Trinity (d. 1906) went even further and prayed for the Trinity to be buried in her, that she might be buried in the Trinity. Our relationship with the Trinity, then, can be as deep and profound as our humanity will allow. And, just as their manifestation or revelation is how we know them, it is when the grace and life of the Trinity are made known through our witness that others see their holiness proceed into the world. It is when we reflect and share the joyous dance of the three persons that their mystery is once again revealed for the life of others

