



## THE PASTOR'S DESK

December 27, 2009 - Holy Trinity Revealed

### Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas! After four weeks of Advent, we can finally exchange this wonderful greeting. It is truly a wonderful greeting, pointing to the joy we experience in celebrating the birth of the eternal Son of God into the world.

Let's look back to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and consider Mary's question to the Angel Gabriel: "How can this be since I do not know man?" This question marks the turning point in salvation history. Mary asks a question based on the created order. She receives an answer pointing to the eternal, uncreated order. Of all the glories of Mary, we can look to this moment as the height of her glory. For the first time, God is revealing himself as a community of persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Mary is told by Gabriel that "the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

Gabriel's message tells of the work of all three persons of the Blessed Trinity: The child will be the Son of God; He will be conceived when the Holy Spirit comes upon her; and the child Himself will be called holy. This one sentence of Gabriel reveals to Mary the three persons of the Blessed Trinity. To quote St. Paul in the Letter to the Romans: "Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed. . ." This secret mystery is the Blessed Trinity itself. The revelation of this mystery began with the conversation between Mary and the Angel Gabriel. Now it is disclosed to the world in and through the Church.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Having received the revelation of God as a community of persons in the Blessed Trinity, we can now look back on the creation of man and see the seed of that revelation in the creation of man and woman and the charge they received to "be fruitful and multiply." We can now see the family as an image of the Blessed Trinity. The Father and the Son love each other with such intensity that they generate a third person, the Holy Spirit, the personification of that love. This is done eternally in

God. But, temporally, this love is reflected in the love of a husband and wife, a love that can be so fruitful that it is open to the personification of that love in a new child brought into the world. This child, though, is also the fruit of God's creative love, as He gives the child an eternal soul at the moment of conception.

At Christmas, both of these come together, the love of a family and the divine love of God. In the person of Jesus Christ, God's eternal love as it exists in the Blessed Trinity is now present in the world. The perfect love of the Blessed Mother for her Divine Son is the sign of the divine love which we can share through the grace of that same Son of God.

During this Christmas Season we celebrate both the birth of the Son of God into the world and also the revelation of the Blessed Trinity. May the joy of this revelation be with you and your families this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.

**Merry Christmas,  
Fr. LaHood**

### *Our Sincere Gratitude*

*For Fr. Gellert and myself, I wish to thank all of you who worked so hard to get the parish ready for the wonderful celebration of Christmas: the choirs and musicians, the volunteers who decorated the church, all who served in the Christmas Liturgies, and those who donated to the poor through the Angel Tree Project and St. Martin's Food Pantry. We also thank you for the cards, gifts and food that you have sent to the rectory.*

*May God bless you one and all !*

**ATTENTION !!!**

**Please take note that effective  
Sunday, January 3, 2010,  
the Spanish mass will be moved  
from 5:00 pm to 1:00 pm**