



OCT 2018 

Reading: John 17:20-26

### Reflection

When his hour had come, Jesus offered up his priestly prayer to the Father, praying on behalf of all believers, that we may be one. The oneness that Jesus calls us to is a reflection of the inner life of the Blessed Trinity. This is why he prays “that they may be one even as We are one.”

In order to meditate on the inner life of the Trinity that we are called to imitate, we look to the Holy Spirit, who unlocks for us the heart of the mystery of God’s love. St. Augustine writes, “the Holy Spirit, according to the Holy Scriptures, is neither of the Father alone, nor of the Son alone, but of both; and so intimates to us a mutual love, by which the Father and the Son reciprocally love one another.” This means that the Spirit shares with us the very depths of love that are enjoyed by the Trinitarian Persons! (c.f. Rom 5:5)

The love with which the Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father is unimaginable. It is limitless self-giving and reverent reception of the Other in the Spirit. It is a love in which nothing is held back, in which there is no domination. Jesus tells us about this relationship in many ways throughout the Gospel, saying things like “I and the Father are one” or “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” The Father also testifies to their relationship, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” It is incredible then that Jesus asks his Father, “that the love with which you have loved me may be in them” (Jn 17:26). This prayer is fulfilled through the outpouring of the Spirit.

Life in the Spirit is one of being drawn daily into the “nexus of love” of the Father and the Son. In this relationship, it is impossible to continue living for oneself; the joy of living is found in living for the other. Touching our hearts with divine love, the Holy Spirit sanctifies us: healing our divisions, burning up our selfishness, enlivening our hearts for generous love each day. The Spirit is actively transforming us so that we can abide in Trinitarian communion. We who are touched by the love of God are called to a radically new way of living, a new Spirit-imbued lifestyle which is joyfully ‘for the other.’ As members of Jesus Youth, we strive to grow in this lifestyle through our daily practice of the fourth pillar of Fellowship.

“The Lord Jesus, when he prayed to the Father, ‘that all may be one...as we are one’ (Jn 17:21-22) opened up vistas closed to human reason, for he implied a certain likeness between the union of the divine Persons, and the unity of God’s sons in truth and charity. This likeness reveals that man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself” (Second Vatican Council - Gaudium et Spes)

### Saint’s Quote

“This mutual giving of the Father to the Son and the Son to the Father in the Holy Spirit – and mutual “breath” of that Spirit, is a complete mystery of faith.. If He is an internal gift with whom the Father and the Son are united – He especially has been revealed to man as a Gift.” – *St. John Paul II*

### To Do

“O Triune God, may I always be aware of being immersed in your loving presence”. May this prayer help you daily to draw deeper into the nexus of love in the Triune God.