

Discussion Questions

Where have I seen the face of God?

What do I want people to see when they come to Ave Maria?

Do I feel myself as part of a living reality, the Church? Share a time when I felt connected to others in the Church.

Which of these statements do you most agree with? Why?

- a) The Church exists to reveal God to the world.
- b) The Church exists to fulfill God's mission.

God Is Here Series 1, Part 3



For Further Reading

Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*
InterVarsity Press, 2012 - 135 pages

The Most Holy Trinity Invites Us into COMMUNION

The Word of God

God's Life Becomes Our Life: 1 John 4:7-17

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. In this is love perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world.

Series 1 Prayer

“Grant, we pray, almighty God, that your Church may always remain that holy people, formed as one by the unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, which manifests to the world the Sacrament of your holiness and unity and leads it to the perfection of your charity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.”

–Collect For the Church C

Voices of the Church

“When the Lord told his disciples to go and teach all nations and to baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, he conferred on them the power of giving men new life in God.... Luke says that the Spirit came down on the disciples at Pentecost ... with power to open the gates of life to all nations.... So it was that men of every language joined in singing one song of praise to God, and scattered tribes, restored to unity by the Spirit, were offered to the Father as the firstfruits of all the nations.” (St. Irenaeus of Lyons, 2nd century)

“The Church, in Christ, is in the nature of sacrament – a sign and instrument, that is, of communion with God and of unity among all men” (Vatican II, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church Lumen Gentium)