Spiritually Speaking

Holy Trinity: Model of Relationship

Fr. Thankachan Joseph

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

Holy Trinity Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday following Pentecost, a solemn celebration of the belief in the revelation of one God, yet three divine persons. Our God is far beyond the grasp of our intellect. All we can say is that we have the Father the Creator, Son the Redeemer, and Holy Spirit the Sanctifier and Counselor. The doctrine of Three Persons in one God, equal in Divinity yet distinct in Person, is not explicitly spelled out in the Bible. Even the very word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible. But the doctrine of the Trinity underlies all major Christian feasts, three distinct individuals having different functions to fulfil. Holy Trinity explains the plurality of godhead and the one-only God.

When I was thinking of explaining about the dogma of Trinity what came to mind was a very old and much-repeated story about St. Augustine, one of the intellectual giants of the Catholic Church. St Augustine was walking on the seashore pondering how to comprehend the truth of Holy Trinity and explain in human terms. An angel appeared to him in the form of a little lad playing on the seashore. The lad was trying to dig a small hole, picking a shell from the shore, and playing with the water. Augustine watched as the child went back and forth several times. Augustine approached the little boy and asked him what he was trying to do. The boy said, "Trying to fill that hole with the ocean." Augustine said, "You'll never fit the ocean into that hole." And the boy said, "Neither will you be able to fit the Trinity into your mind." The child was an angel sent by God to teach Augustine a lesson. This means that we can understand something of the Mystery of the Holy Trinity more readily with the heart than with our feeble minds.

The Holy Trinity from the Scriptural perspectives is Triune - three but one. Let us split the word Trinity into two – Tri and unity. "Tri" or Trio means three and "unity" makes God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit one. This means three in one and one in three. If we search for "Trinity" on the internet, we will be shown an equilateral triangle – the sides are the same, with three corners that can be interchanged – because our God in three persons is the same.

The Trinity has prominent importance in our Christian life. All prayers in the Catholic Church begin in the Name of the Holy Trinity and end glorifying the Trinity. When we are baptized, confirmed, anointed, our sins forgiven, our marriage blessed, and our bishops, priests and deacons ordained, it is in the name of the Holy Trinity. We bless ourselves, and the priest blesses us, in the name of the Holy Trinity. As the old tradition goes, where Church bells ring thrice daily, they remind us to pray to the Holy Trinity.

The first letter of St. John states: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" (1 John 5:7). The scriptures present God as one, Co-eternal, Co-existing, Inseparable, which, I am sure, is rather difficult to comprehend by our human minds. Some theologians are of the opinion that God is beyond all comprehensions and understandings. We can only speak of the Trinity with analogies and allegories: Trinity is like water, which can be in three forms, Liquid – Ice - Gas. An Egg is like the Trinity, three parts in one egg, Shell – White - Yoke. Another example is that of St. Patrick of Ireland's shamrock, a trifoliate leaf he used to explain the Trinity to the people of Ireland.

The Holy Trinity teaches us the following:

Communion. Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are inseparable. This scriptural passage describes their unity: "But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, he shall testify of me" (John 15: 26). This communion we need to acquire for our family life, as well as in our society. We need to uphold everyone with respect and enrich them by our ways of living, and we need to become models after the example of trinity.

Community of loving persons. We are created in love to be a community of loving persons, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in Love. When a new family is formed through the sacrament of Marriage, this peculiarity of the Trinitarian God begins to exist. Two different people come together to live in intimacy. Their conjugal love brings children into the family. All of them will have their own identities and individuality, but they begin to appreciate, love, and forgive one another, an example of a Trinitarian family. How privileged we are to belong to the Family of the Triune God. The love, unity, and joy in the relationship among the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit should be the supreme model of our relationships within our Christian families. Our families will become truly Christian when we live in a relationship of love with God and with others.

Relationship of love with God and with other people. Man, a social animal, needs the model of the Trinitarian relationship in order to grow as a human being. We see in the Trinitarian relationship mutual love, care, and affection for one another. Individualities are respected. No one is a hindrance to anyone else and there is perfect union. Our human relationships should be built in this pattern. Like God the Father, we are called upon to be productive and creative persons by contributing to the fabric of life and love in our family, our Church, our community, and our nation. Like God the Son, we are called upon to reconcile, to be peacemakers, to put back together that which has been broken, to restore what has been shattered. Like God the Holy Spirit, it is our task to uncover and teach truth and to dispel ignorance.

We are made in God's image and likeness. We read in the book of Genesis, "God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Gen.1: 26). Just as God in the Trinitarian relationship, we can be fully human only in a horizontal relationship with all other people, and in a vertical relationship with God. Modern society follows the so-called "I-and-I" principle of unbridled individualism and the resulting consumerism. But the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity challenges us to adopt an "I-and-God-and-neighbor" principle: "I am a Christian insofar as I live in a relationship of love with God and with other people." Trinitarian spirituality is a way of living the Gospel attentive to the requirements of justice, understood as rightly ordered relationships between and among persons.

On Trinity Sunday, let us ponder with joy and thanksgiving what the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have done to accomplish the salvation of humanity. It has brought to mind how Christians should respond to the love God has shown for us, praising Him and giving Him glory. Let us remember the Father as our Creator, the Son as our Savior, and the Holy Spirit as our Comforter, and live in mutual love, care, and affection for one another.

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM LB-1 — **NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

A public meeting of the Heppner Cemetery Maintenance District will be held on June 8, 2021 at 5:30 pm at 61232 Hwy 207, Heppner, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 as approved by the Heppner Cemetery Maintenance District Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at 61232 Hwy 207 between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year. If different, the major changes and their effect on the budget are:

Contact: Amy Kollman, Secretary Telephone: 541-377-1055 Email: heppnercemetery@gmail.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES

TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount 2019-2020	Adopted Budget This Year 2020-2021	Approved Budget Next Year 2021-2022
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	95,758	101,617	108,568
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges	4,170	4,300	6,300
Federal, State and all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations and Donations	6,000	3,000	3,000
Revenue from Bonds and Other Debt			0
Interfund Transfers / Internal Service Reimbursements	9,213	9,270	9,525
All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	1,374	1,380	758
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	55,413	58,051	59,966
Total Resources	**171,928**	**177,618**	**188,117**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION

Personnel Services	29,482	38,200	38,300
Materials and Services	25,009	38,113	36,500
Capital Outlay	14,153	34,328	34,213
Debt Service			0
Interfund Transfers	9,213	9,270	9,525
Contingencies			0
Special Payments			0
Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	46,537	57,707	69,579
Total Requirements	**124,394**	**177,618**	**188,117**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *

Name / FTE for that unit or program			
FTE			
FTE			
FTE			
FTE			
FTE			
FTE			
FTE			
Not Allocated to Organizational Unit or Program			
FTE			
Total Requirements			
Total FTE	**None**	**None**	**None**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES and SOURCES OF FINANCING *

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES

	Rate or Amount Imposed 2019-2020	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2020-2021	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2021-2022
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit .5413 per $1,000)	.5413/$1000	.5413/$1000	.5413/$1000
Local Option Levy	N/A	N/A	N/A
Levy For General Obligation Bonds	N/A	N/A	N/A

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS

LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1.	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1
General Obligation Bonds	none	none
Other Bonds	none	none
Other Borrowings	none	none
Total		

* If more space is needed to complete any section of this form, insert lines (rows) on this sheet. You may delete blank lines.

150-504-073-2 (Rev. 02-14) Published May 26 & June 2, 2021 Affidavit

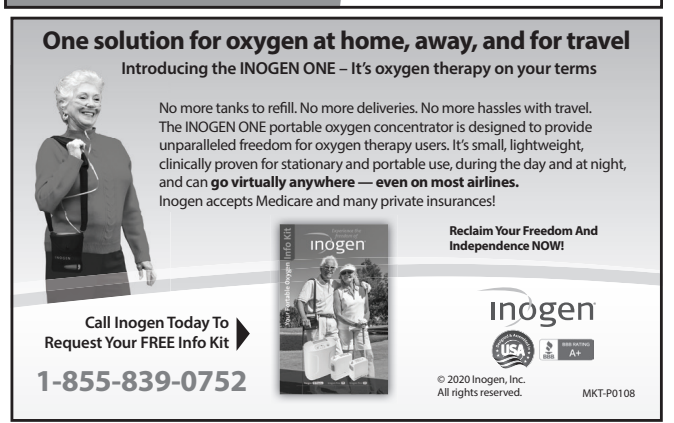
Community invited to review health assessment

The Community Health Improvement Partnership of Morrow County (MCCHIP) invites community members to review the draft 2021 Community Health Assessment; participate in a virtual presentation and discussion of the data describing the health of the county (June 3, 9 – 10:30 a.m.); or provide written or oral comment.

The Partnership, comprised of Morrow County health care providers and human services, local government, education and community partners throughout the region, formed during 2010 to collaboratively complete a comprehensive analysis of health status data, collect information to identify potential gaps in access to health care services and create strategies to help improve health and meet community needs. The assessment is completed every three years.

Public review and input are very important functions of health service planning and accommodations can be made, if needed, to encourage your involvement. Please call Andrea Fletcher at 541-989-8232 or email mcchip11@gmail.com to receive a copy of the document and instructions for participation in the virtual meeting, where information will be shared using video teleconference.

G-T closed for holiday

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 31. The deadline for all news and advertising for the June 2 issue will be Friday, May 28, at 5 p.m.

The G-T wishes everyone a happy and safe Memorial Day weekend.