

**Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults**

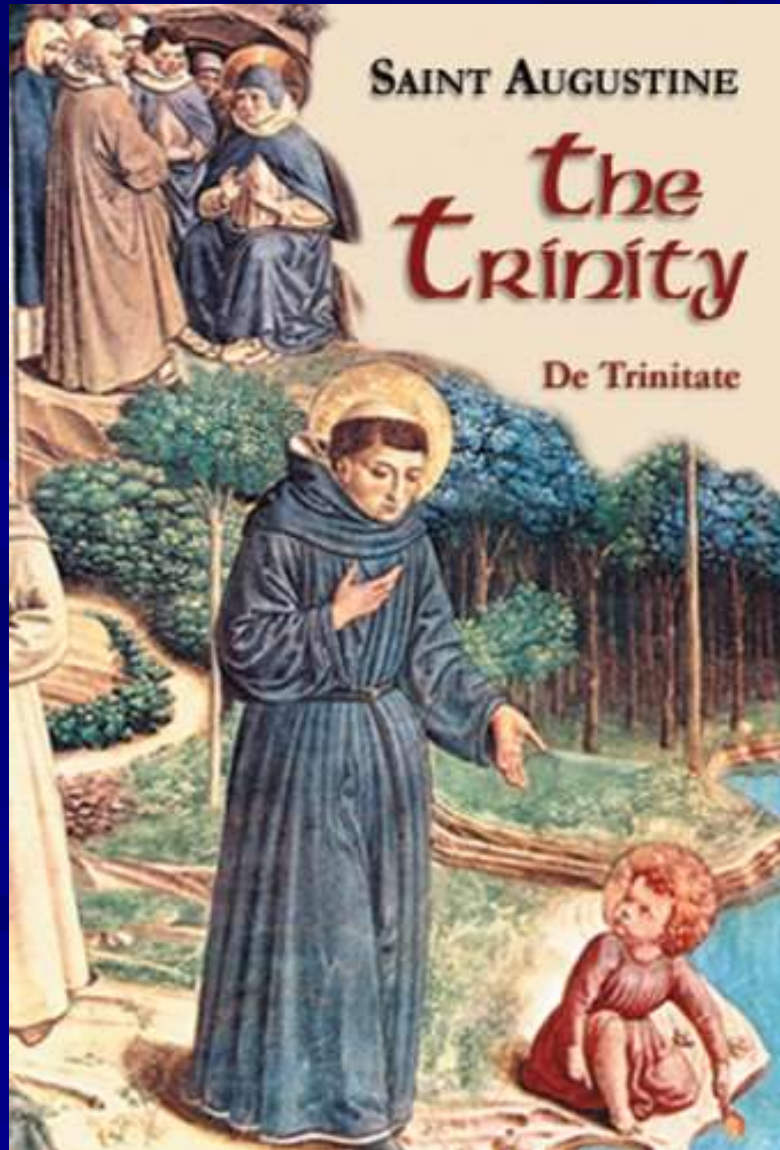
Deacon Ed Prisby

Q3: The Holy Trinity



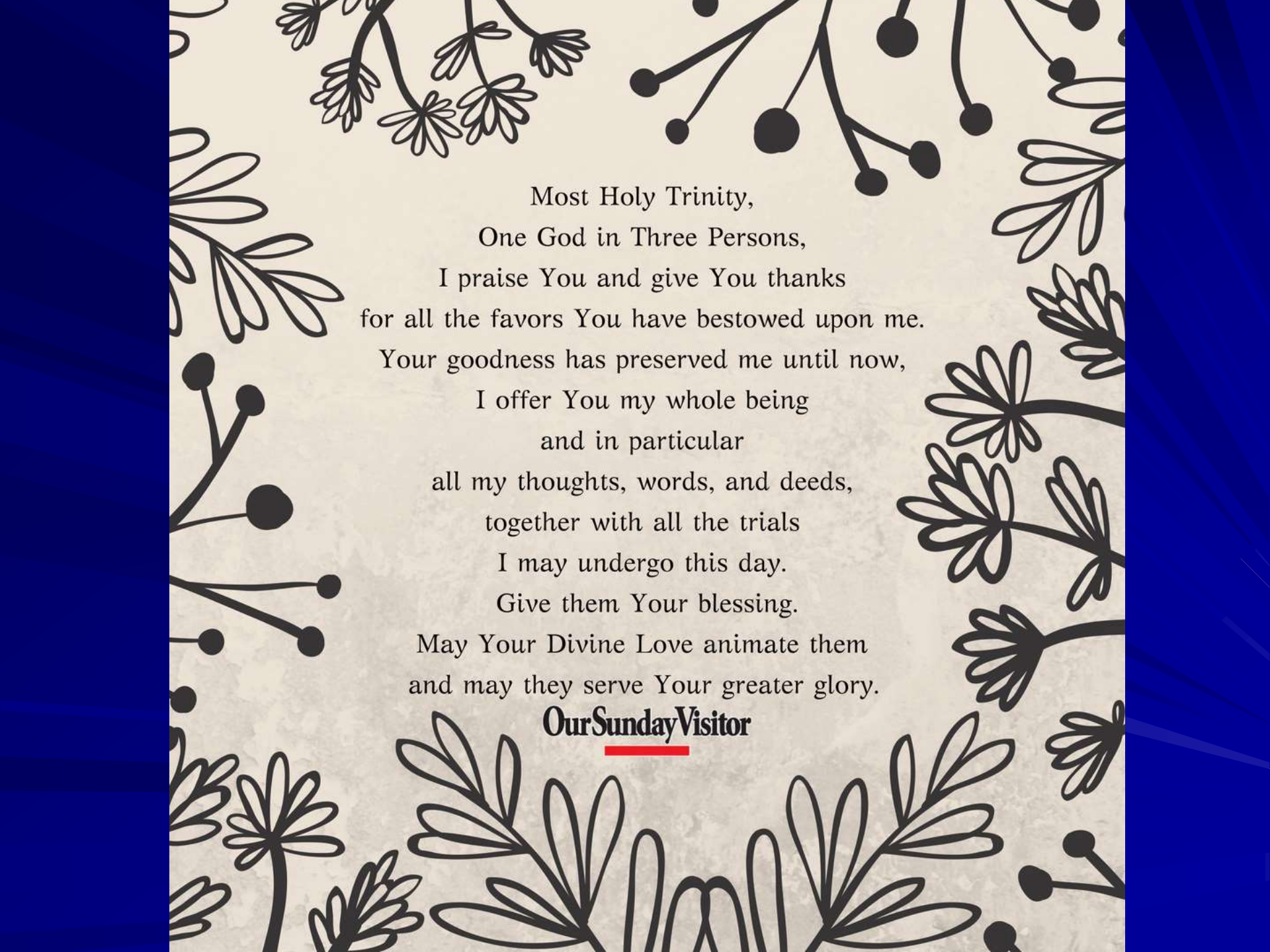
St. Augustine (354-430)

“On the Trinity”



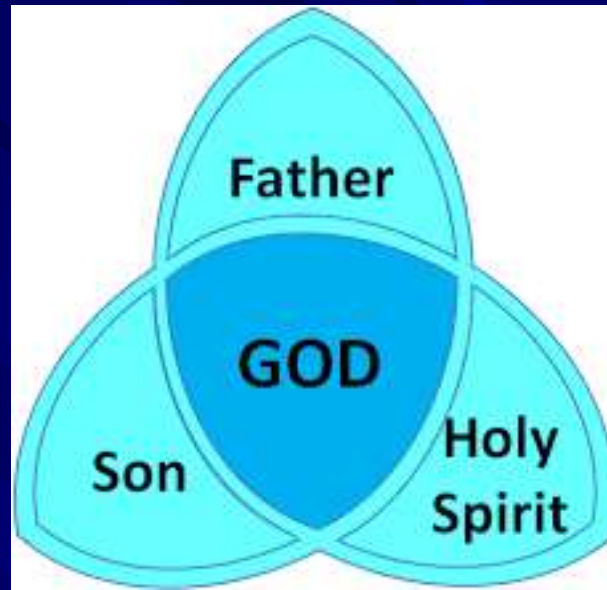
Opening Scripture

Matthew 3:13-17

A decorative border of black line-art flowers and leaves surrounds the central text. The flowers have various petal shapes, some simple and some more complex. The leaves are elongated and pointed. The background is a light, textured beige color.

Most Holy Trinity,
One God in Three Persons,
I praise You and give You thanks
for all the favors You have bestowed upon me.
Your goodness has preserved me until now,
I offer You my whole being
and in particular
all my thoughts, words, and deeds,
together with all the trials
I may undergo this day.
Give them Your blessing.
May Your Divine Love animate them
and may they serve Your greater glory.

Our Sunday Visitor



How to Understand the Trinity

Bishop Robert Barron

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church...

- ***“The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them.”***

– CCC 234

The Holy Trinity

- ***"Now this is the Catholic faith: We worship one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in unity, without either confusing the persons or dividing the substance; for the person of the Father is one, the Son's is another, the Holy Spirit's another; but the Godhead of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal" (Athanasian Creed: DS 75; ND 16).***
 - CCC 266

The Holy Trinity

The Greatest Mystery of the Christian Faith

- *“We do not confuse the word mystery with the term as it applies to a detective story or a scientific puzzle to be solved. It is a truth to be revered. It is a reality too rich to be fully grasped by our minds, so that while it continues to unfold, it always remains mostly beyond our comprehension. The mystery of God is present in our lives and yet remains hidden, beyond the full grasp of our minds.”*

– US Catholic Catechism for Adults (51)

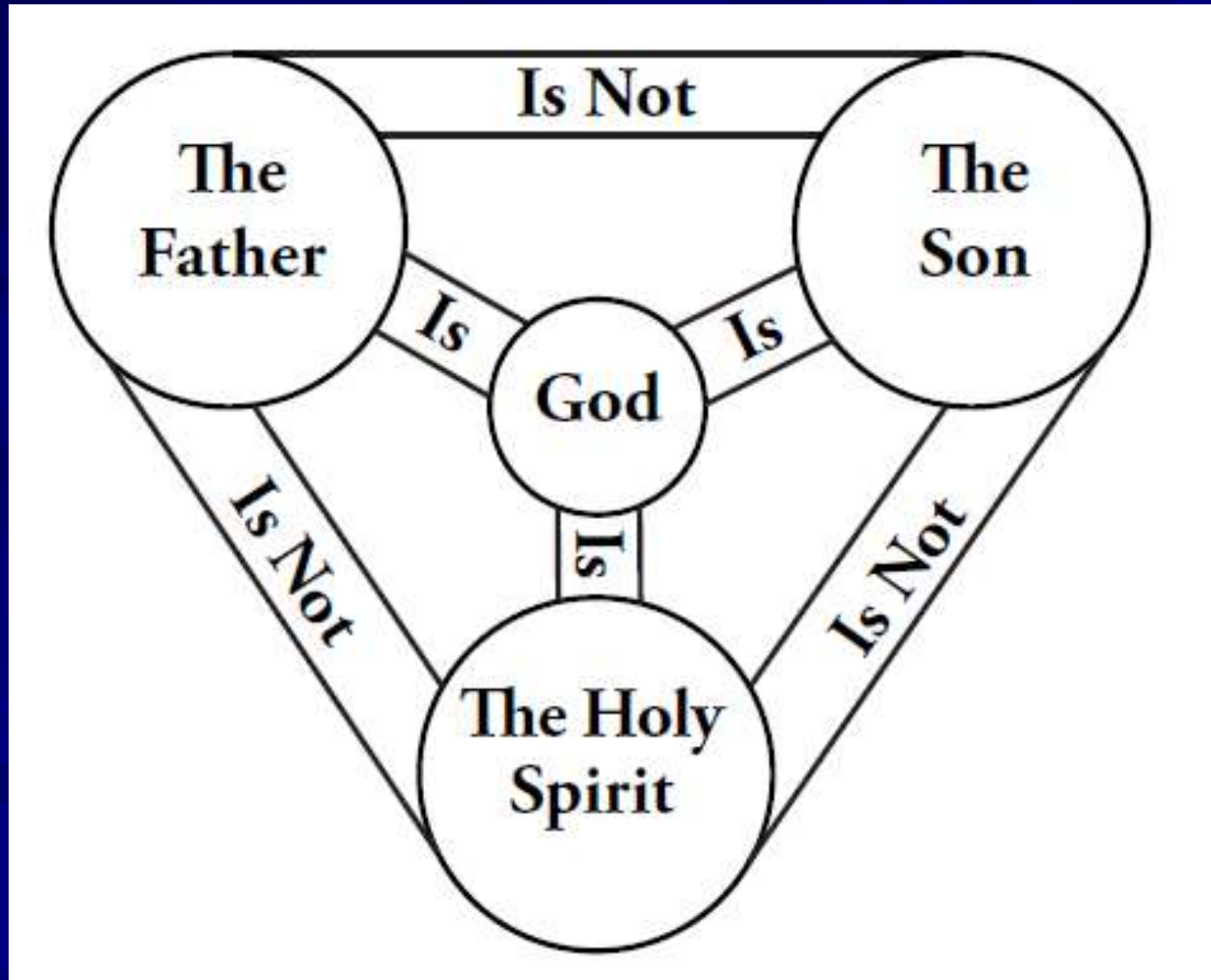
The Trinity in the Bible



Speaking of God: A Vocabulary of Faith

- **The Nicene Creed**
- **The Creed begins with “*I believe in one God.*”**
- **The first section is about God the Father.**
- **The second section is about Jesus the Son.**
- **The third section is about the Holy Spirit.**
- **We believe in one God in three persons who live in eternal relationship with each other.**

An Image of the Holy Trinity



The Work of the Trinity

- The work of the Trinity is a single effort, the work of one God.
- What might this work of God be?
 - *“The goal of the Trinity in creation and history is to unite human beings with the love of the triune God.” (CCC 260)*
- We become adopted into the family of God through our baptism. That’s why the only valid baptism is using the “Trinitarian Formula.”
 - *“I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

Characteristics of Each Person of the Trinity in the Bible

■ God the Father

– Matthew 19:4

Creator

– Roman 8:15

Abba, Father

– 2 Corinthians 1:3

Father of Jesus

Characteristics of Each Person of the Trinity in the Bible

■ God the Son

– Matthew 1:23

Emmanuel

– John 1:14

The Word

– John 10:11

Good Shepherd

Characteristics of Each Person of the Trinity in the Bible

■ God the Holy Spirit

– Matthew 3:16

A Dove

– John 15:26

The Advocate

– Acts 2:1-4

Tongues of Fire

Praying to the Trinity

- We can pray to God as one (using names such as God, Lord, Holy Trinity)...and we can pray to each person of the Trinity.
- You may be more comfortable praying to one person of the Trinity at any given time.
- Your relationship with the Divine persons will continue to grow the more you pray.
- The important thing is that we pray to our one, true God.

Questions

Closing Prayer

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymn to the Holy Trinity