



“They are trees planted by streams of water; they bear fruit; their leaves do not wither; in all that they do they prosper.” Ps 1:3

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The Theme for 2010: Live By the Spirit (Gal 5:16)

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The Blessed Trinity - Part 2

The Father is not first, and then thinks — the Father and Son are co-eternal, for in God all is present and unchanging. Nothing is new and nothing is lost. Thus it is that the Father, contemplating His Image, His Word, His Son, can say in the ecstasy of the first and real paternity: "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten Thee." "This day" — this day of eternity, that is, the indivisible duration of being without end. "This day" in that act that will never end as it has never begun; this day — the agelessness of eternity.

Go back to the origin of the world, pile century on century, aeon on aeon, age on age — "The Word was with God." Go back before the creation of the angels, before Michael summoned his

war hosts to victory and there was a flash of archangelic spirits — even then "The Word was with God." It is that Word which St. John heard in the beginning of his Gospel, when he wrote: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). And just as my interior thoughts are not made manifest without a word, so in the language of John, that Word "Became flesh and dwelt amongst us." And that Word is no other than the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Word who embraces the beginning and the end of all things, the Word who existed before creation, the

Word who presided at creation as the King of the Universe, the Word made flesh at Bethlehem, the Word-made-flesh on the Cross, and the Word-made-flesh dwelling with divinity and humanity in the Eucharistic Emmanuel. The Good Friday of twenty centuries ago did not mark the end of Him, as it did not mark the beginning. It was but one of the moments of the Eternal Word of God. Jesus Christ has a pre-history — the only pre-history that is prehistory, a pre-history not to be studied in the rocks of the earth, not in the caves of man, not in the slime and dust of primeval jungles, but in the bosom of an Eternal Father; He alone brought history to history; He alone has dated all the records of human events ever since into two periods — the period before and the period after His coming, so that if we were to deny that the Word became Flesh, and that the Son of God became the Son of man, we would have to date our denial as one thousand nine hundred and thirty years after His coming.

We are not yet finished with the inner life of God, for if God is the source of all life and truth and goodness in the world, He must have a will as well as an intellect, a love as well as a thought. It is a fact of nature that every being loves its own perfection. The perfection of the eye is color, and it loves the beauty of the sun setting in the flaming monstrosity of the west. The perfection of the ear is sound, and it loves the harmony of an overture of Beethoven or a sonata of Chopin. Love has two terms: He who loves and he who is loved. In love the two are reciprocal. I love and I am loved. Between me and the one I love there is a bond. It is not my love, it is not his love, it is our love — the mysterious resultant of two affections, a bond, which enchains and an embrace wherein two hearts leap with but a single joy. The Father loves the Son, the Image of His Perfection, and the Son loves the Father. Love is not only in the Father. Love is not only in the Son. There is something between them, as it were. The Father loves the Son, whom He engenders. The Son loves the Father, who engendered Him. They contemplate each other, love each other, unite in a love so powerful, so strong, and so perfect, that it forms between them a living bond. They give themselves in a love so infinite that, like the truth, which expresses itself only in the giving of a whole personality, their love can express itself in nothing less than a Person, who is Love. Love at such a stage does not speak; does not cry; does not express itself by words, nor by canticles; it expresses itself as we do in some ineffable moments, by that which indicates the very exhaustion of our giving — namely, a sigh, or a breath. And that is why the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is called the Holy Spirit or the Holy Ghost.

That breath of love is not a passing one like our own, but an eternal spirit. How all this is done, I know not; but I do believe on the testimony of the Word Incarnate that that Holy Spirit has been sent by God to rule His Church: "But when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will teach you all truth." And I believe that the continuous, unbroken succession of the truth communicated by Christ to His

Church has survived to our own day; not because of the human organization of the Church, for that is carried on by frail vessels, but because of a profusion of the Spirit of Love over Christ's Vicar and all who belong to Christ's mystical body.

Three in one, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; three persons in one God; one in essence, distinction of persons — such is the mystery of the Trinity, such is the inner life of God. Just as I am, I know, and I love and yet am one; just as the three angles of a triangle do not make three triangles but one; just as the heat, power, and light of the sun do not make three suns, but one; just as water, air, and steam are all manifestations of the one substance; just as the form, color, and perfume of the rose do not make three roses, but one; just as our soul, our intellect, and our will do not make three substances, but one; just as one times one times one times one, does not equal three, but one — so too in some much more mysterious way, there are three Persons in God and yet only one God.

The Trinity is the answer to the questions of Plato. If there is only one God, what does He think about? He thinks an eternal thought; that is, His Eternal Son. If there is only one God, whom does He love? He loves His Son, and that mutual love is the Holy Spirit. I firmly believe that the great philosopher was fumbling about for the mystery of the Trinity, for his great mind seemed in some small way to suspect that an infinite being must have relations of thought and love and that God cannot be conceived without thought and love. But it was not until the Word became incarnate that man knew the secret of those relations and the inner life of God.

It is that mystery of the Trinity which gives the answer to those who have pictured God as an egotist God, sitting in solitary splendor before the world began, reduced to loving Himself as a selfish deity; for the Trinity is a revelation that, before creation, God enjoyed the amiable society of His three Persons, the infinite communion with Truth and the embrace of infinite Love, and hence had no need ever to go outside Himself in search of happiness. The greatest wonder of all, then, is, that being perfect and enjoying perfect happiness. He ever should have made a world. And if He did make a world, He could only have had one motive for making it. It could not add to His perfection; it could not add to His truth; it could not increase His happiness. He made a world only because He loved.

Finally, it is the mystery of the Trinity, which gives the answer to the quest for our happiness and the meaning of Heaven. Heaven is not a place where there is the mere vocal repetition of alleluias or the monotonous fingering of harps. Heaven is a place where we find the fullness of all the fine things we enjoy on this earth. Heaven is a place where we find, in their plenitude, those things which slake the thirst of hearts, satisfy the hunger of starving minds, and give rest to unrequited love. Heaven is the communion with perfect Life, perfect Truth, and perfect Love,

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, to whom be all honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Did the Lord Really Have Brothers? - Part 2

Fundamentalist Arguments:

Fundamentalists insist that "brethren of the Lord" must be interpreted in the strict sense. They most commonly make two arguments based on Matthew 1:25: "[A]nd he did not know her until (Greek: *heos*, also translated into English as "till") she brought forth her firstborn son." They first argue that the natural inference from "till" is that Joseph and Mary afterward lived together as husband and wife, in the usual sense, and had several children. Otherwise, why would Jesus be called "first-born"? Doesn't that mean there must have been at least a "second-born," perhaps a "third-born," and so on? But they are using a narrow, modern meaning of "until," instead of the meaning it had when the Bible was written. In the Bible, it means only that some action did not happen up to a certain point; it does not imply that the action did happen later, which is the modern sense of the term. In fact, if the modern sense is forced on the Bible, some ridiculous meanings result.

Consider this line: "Michal the daughter of Saul had no children till the day of her death" (2 Sam. 6:23). Are we to assume she had children *after* her death? There is also the burial of Moses. The book of Deuteronomy says that no one knew the location of his grave "until this present day" (Deut. 34:6, Knox). But we know that no one has known since that day either.

The examples could be multiplied, but you get the idea—nothing can be proved from the use of the word "till" in Matthew 1:25. Recent translations give a better sense of the verse: "He had no relations with her at any time before she bore a son" (*New American Bible*); "He had not known her when she bore a son" (Knox).

Fundamentalists claim Jesus could not be Mary's "first-born" unless there were other children that followed him. But this shows ignorance of the way the ancient Jews used the term. For them it meant the child that opened the womb (Ex. 13:2; Num. 3:12). Under the Mosaic Law, it was the "first-born" son that was to be

sanctified (Ex. 34:20). Did this mean the parents had to wait until a second son was born before they could call their first the "first-born"? Hardly. The first male child of a marriage was termed the "first-born" even if he turned out to be the only child of the marriage.

The Holy Family:

Fundamentalists say it would have been repugnant for Mary and Joseph to enter a marriage and remain celibate. They call such marriages "unnatural" arrangements. Certainly they were unusual, but not as unusual as having the Son of God in one's family, and not nearly as unusual as having a virgin give birth to a child. The Holy Family was neither an average family nor should we expect its members to act as would members of an average family. The circumstances demanded sacrifice by Mary and Joseph. This was a special family, set aside for the nurturing of the Son of God. No greater dignity could be given to marriage than that.

Backing up the testimony of Scripture regarding Mary's perpetual virginity is the testimony of the early Christian Church. Consider the controversy between Jerome and Helvidius, writing around 380. Helvidius first brought up the notion that the "brothers of the Lord" were children born to Mary and Joseph after Jesus' birth. The great Scripture scholar Jerome at first declined to comment on Helvidius' remarks because they were a "novel, wicked, and a daring affront to the faith of the whole world." At length, though, Jerome's friends convinced him to write a reply, which turned out to be his treatise called *On the Perpetual Virginity of the Blessed Mary*. He used not only the scriptural arguments given above, but cited earlier Christian writers, such as Ignatius, Polycarp, Irenaeus, and Justin Martyr. Helvidius was unable to come up with a reply, and his theory remained in disrepute and was unheard of until more recent times.

So, if it is established that the "brethren of the Lord" were not Jesus' brothers or half-brothers through Mary, who were they?

To be continued:

Sourced from: www.Catholic.com and contributed by Richard Mascarenhas

Thank You JESUS—A Testimony

We have a son Nathan Elias Vaz who will be completing 4 years on the 1st of August, 2010. In his initial years from the age of one onwards we didn't notice him talking nor babbling. After a span of 6 months or so he started babbling but the

progress was very slow and gradually we started noticing that children of his age are already uttering 2, 3 or more words, that's when we started worrying and it was weighing on our minds all the time. We fervently started praying to God daily asking for his grace upon Nathan. It is worth mentioning here that both my wife and myself were working around this time and we used to keep Nathan with a baby sitter during the day. Though he was not fully happy being away from us but we had no choice at that point in time so the only time we used to spend time with him was in the late evenings. Nathan's progress in talking was very slow sometimes if he wanted to tell us something he would take us by the hand and lead us to the things that he wants. This went on for almost until he reached the age of 2½ years. Our worries were only compounding by now our main concern was will he be able to go to school like a normal child. Slowly things started changing in Nathan after he went to Vailankanni, along with my brother and sister. He started understanding more, he started imitating words. All this while we never stopped praying and it was our daily cry to the Lord and the Lord said, Let No prayer go unanswered and we trusted in him. We are so happy to tell that Nathan is saying so many words now and even says in sentences while talking, he has just got admission in KG1 and has started schooling. We want to Thank Jesus for working this wonder working miracle in our son's life and Mary our Mother for always interceding to Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Thank You Jesus, Praise You Jesus. We also want to thank the MIPC the brothers and sisters for their constant prayers in our time of need.

Elvis Vaz

Children's Bible Quiz # 45

The answers to these questions can be found in the Gospel of John.

All readers are encouraged to answer these questions.

Children should submit their answers before **10th October 2010** to any Core Team Member or put their answers in the MIPC Box.

1. Where did Lazarus live?
2. How long had Lazarus been dead when Jesus arrived?
3. Jesus says in John that he is the true vine, and God is the:
4. Jesus says in John that he is the vine, and his disciples are the:
5. According to Jesus, greater love has no one than this, that he:
6. Jesus prayed that his disciples might be 'one', like.....?
7. Jesus said that his kingdom was not of this world. If his kingdom HAD been of this world, what would his servants have done?

8. When Jesus was taken to be judged and crucified, how many disciples followed him?
9. According to the gospel of John, what were Jesus' last words to his mother before his death?

Answers to Children's Bible Quiz #44

- 1) No one!
- 2) Cephas.
- 3) He changed water into wine at Cana.
- 4) He needs to be born again of water and Spirit.
- 5) She was Samaritan. The Jews and Samaritans despised each other.
- 6) He performed the cure on the Sabbath.
- 7) Adultery.
- 8) Set you free.
- 9) 5 loaves and 2 fish
- 10) 12 baskets with remnants of the loaves.
- 11) Siloam.

Correct Answers were submitted by:

**Samantha Pinto (11) Stanislaus Pinto (14) Janice Saldanha (12)
Joash Saldanha (14)**

If I had the Gift of Wisdom, This Is How I Would Use It

With the gift of wisdom, the wonders of nature, every event of history and all the ups and downs of our life take on deeper meaning and purpose. The wise person sees where the Spirit of God is at work and is able to share that insight with others so that they too many benefit. Wisdom is the fullest expression of the gifts of knowledge and understanding too. In fact, all these three gifts are interrelated.

It is often said that the Holy Spirit itself is wisdom. In Proverbs 3:13 and 15-19 it says "Happy is anyone who becomes wise-who gains understanding."

"Wisdom is more valuable than jewels; nothing you want can compare with it. Wisdom offers you a long life as well as wealth and honour. Wisdom can make

your life pleasant and lead you safely through it. Those who become wise are happy.

The Lord created earth by his wisdom; by his knowledge he set the sky in place, His wisdom caused the rivers to flow and the clouds to give rain to the earth.”

The bible in this context explains why Wisdom is precious and important and that it is indispensable of knowledge.

In the book of Kings, when God appeared in a dream to Solomon, he promised to grant Solomon for anything he wished. Solomon could have asked for a long life for himself or for riches, honour and wealth or he could have wished for the death of his enemies but he knew that he most wanted the Holy Spirit. Therefore, he asked and prayed to God for wisdom. God himself was so impressed that he also promised to give him all that he had never asked for – understanding, wealth, honour, riches, long life and everything else more than any other king had. Here also we see how wisdom and understanding are related which is why God granted Solomon both these gifts although he asked for only one of them. In addition, God conveys to us a wonderful message that unless we ask for the gift of wisdom from the Holy Spirit, God himself cannot grant it.

Wisdom is the first and highest gift of the Holy Spirit and as it is merely the perfection of our faith in God, The Holy Trinity and in Heaven. Only a person given wisdom by the Holy Spirit to be his gift (like Solomon) can understand such truths in its deepest meanings and hence value them properly. Thus merely knowing about these truths makes us only relish and love the things of heaven. However, through wisdom, we judge the things of the world taking into account the contemplation of God.

Wisdom helps us to love the world properly, as a creation of God, rather than for its own sake. The material world, though fallen because of the sin of Adam and Eve, is still worthy of our love; we simply need to see it in the proper light, and only wisdom allows us to do so.

Only through wisdom, can we more easily bear the burdens of this life and respond to our fellow beings with charity and patience. Therefore, wisdom brings such a lot of virtues like love, peace, faith including many other fruits of the Holy Spirit.

I would use it in these ways and that is why I crave for the gift of wisdom from the Holy Spirit and pray that he will grant it to me for which I will be ever grateful and thankful.

STANISLAUS PINTO, 14 YEARS

If I had the Gift of Healing, This Is How I Would Use It

Gift is something that is freely received by the grace and mercy of God which is given out of His abundance and for a specific purpose and to use it and bear fruit. Each person is blessed with different gifts and talents as we would see it today in the world. Some gifts are used for God's Glory while, many are used for selfish motives, personal gains and fame and some burry their talents either unknowingly or not knowing how to use.

I have always desired and longed for the gift of Healing. I know that our Lord Jesus was, is and will remain a divine healer for all those who need healing, spiritually, mentally, physically and emotionally. When I receive that gift from the Holy Spirit, I will be able to do many things by the grace and mercies of God.

I have a great burden for the sick, down trodden, marginalized and exploited people and want to extend our Lord Jesus' divine healing to all of them. We live in a wounded, hurt, broken world where people are hurt, wounded, broken, shattered and many live in sin and sadness. Many of God's children are caught up in various vices and need deliverance.

I will be able to administer to the sick people everywhere. I will be able to heal people in and through our Lord Jesus of their physical, emotional, mental and most importantly spiritual sickness and lead them to the source and author of life, our Lord Jesus. I will conduct many retreats to heal people from everywhere. All downtrodden people shall feel encouraged and uplifted. More over, many people shall be strengthened in the spirit. I shall also try and teach my companions the gift of healing and pray for them so that they too may receive it. Along with their help we shall start many healing centres where many can be healed. Along with the healing, we shall educate people about God's love, his forgiveness and Salvation so that all may come to know Jesus, the Healer, Deliverer and Savior of Souls. I can

use the gift of healing as a source to bring many to our Lord Jesus Christ as I don't claim to be a healer, but Jesus who Heals everyone.

As we always enjoy gifts received during our birthdays and other occasions, from our family and friends and cherish and use them carefully, it is also important that I pray and ask God to know what Gift I'm blessed with. Once the Lord reveals the gift that I have then I need to work on that gift I'm blessed with. Once the Lord reveals the gift that I have then I need to work on that gift and start exercising and using it for His glory at all times. In order to put my gift to best use, I need God's grace and also the gift of humility to remain humble and docile to the Spirit of God. Always praying and waiting on the Lord to guide and lead and not to do things as I like and thus avoid displeasing my Savior.

Furthermore as the scripture says in 1 Cor 13, gifts are generally temporary and may disappear soon, I must strive for the greatest gift, that is "Love". If I have love in my heart for God, neighbour and self, I can work wonders and miracles every day of my life.

Finally, I pray that as I'm blessed with the Gift of Healing, dear Lord help me to use the gift for your Glory in the power of the Holy Spirit for your Glory and for the greater Glory of my Father in Heaven.

Dear Lord, help me to be a "gift" to everyone around me so that all may enjoy me as a son of God.

This is only a small insight as to what can be achieved with the gift of healing. When the Spirit guides and motives, far greater things can be achieved.

Andrew Menezes 14 years

Poem on Prayer by George Mueller

"I believe God answers Prayer,
Answers always, everywhere.
I may cast my anxious care,
Burdens, I could never bear,

On the God who heareth Prayer.
Never need my soul despair,
Since He bids me boldly dare,
To the secret place repair,
There to prove He answers Prayer.”

Submitted by Bosco Pereira

Christianity Tested

We Christians are being tested by ordinary circumstances every moment of our lives. It's only when we act positively that our life can truly exemplify Christ. Let's say you wake up one fine morning and receive a call asking you to check your inbox for an urgent email. But somehow your desktop/laptop doesn't connect to the internet. Or a housewife over-sleeps and is too late to prepare breakfast or tiffin for the kids and husband. You have 2 options. To fret and be upset or you can handle the situation with patience.

We have the choice to think about the situation and act wisely or we can just let our worldly self take control and ruin the moment. How we react to such situations is what makes us either pass or fail the test. I believe that every time we praise our Lord, we are cleansed and renewed. But does this happen like magic? Certainly not! It is built up through our personality; Our way of life. It is our choice of whether we truly want to be renewed and pass the test or do we just think we are renewed but live our lives as before.

By understanding a situation and acting wisely is living Christ-like and reflecting Jesus through our actions. Moreover, those who watch us, or work with us also see this attitude and perceive what Christianity really is. We are all well aware of the phrase “Our lives are the only Gospel some may ever know”. Hence let us truly work towards really reflecting Christ through our everyday situations; be it at work or at home or at a supermarket.

Returning to where we began, the email and the breakfast, we can control our anger and determine whether there is a technical error instead of yelling at your child or maid and accusing them of disturbing the cables or yelling at the internet providers for a terrible service. The housewife who over-sleeps you can make something

basic quickly or give the kids some money to buy a snack.

Getting upset over small things does not exalt the Lord and neither are our Praises worth anything in His sight. But it is our choice through the grace of the Lord to act wisely and live a life truly worthy of our Creator.

Anonymous

Success in Examinations and Healing - A Testimony

I praise and thank God for doing wonderful things in my life.

Before my 12th Board exam, the intercessory ministry had prayed over me for success in the exam.

As I am an average student, I thought I will get between 50 to 60%.

I was attending the Novena to the Holy Spirit for the last 8 days, and today I got my result – It was a miracle, I secured 72% on aggregate and 84% marks in English, which I never obtained in my life.

Thank and Praise you, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

God has also healed me of the ear pain completely. (During my exam I had bad ear pain).

I thank God for the MIPC and the Core Group and the Intercessory Ministry.

Reuben Cardoz



MIPC Prayer Meeting: Every Wednesday at 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

General Intercessory Meeting: Last Monday of every month at 8:00 pm.

Community Mass: Every Friday at 9.00 a.m. except the last Friday of the month.