

A Reflection for Trinity Sunday by Fr Jose Pagola,
also offering a wonderful summary of the essence of the message of Jesus in the gospels

'THE SPIRIT WILL GUIDE INTO ALL TRUTH' JOHN 16: 12-15

Throughout the centuries, theologians have tried diligently to get to know the mystery of God more intimately. They use different conceptual formulas to describe the relationships that bind and differentiate the divine persons within the Trinity. It is a genuine effort born, no doubt, out of the love and desire for God.

Jesus, however, does not take this approach. Based on his own experience of God, he invites his followers to relate with confidence to God as a Father, to follow faithfully his footsteps as the incarnate Son of God, and to allow themselves to be guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit. This is how he teaches us to be open to the holy mystery of God.

First of all, Jesus calls his followers to live as children of a God who is close to them, who is good and lovable, and whom we can call all upon as a loving Father. What characterizes this Father is not his power and might, but his goodness and infinite compassion. No one is alone. We all have God as a Father who understands us, loves us and forgives us as no one else ever could.

Jesus reveals to us that this Father has a project very close to his heart, born of his love; to build together with all his children a more humane, fraternal, just and inclusive world. Jesus calls it 'the kingdom of God.' He invites all to join this project of the Father who seeks a life of greater justice and dignity for all, beginning with his poorest, most vulnerable and needy children.

At the same time Jesus also appeals to his followers to trust in him: 'Let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe in me also.' He is the Son of God, the living image of his Father. His words and actions show us how much the Father of all loves us. So he invites everyone to follow him. He will teach us how to live with trust and gentleness in the service of the project of the Father.

With his group of followers, Jesus wants to form a new family in which all seek 'to do the will of the Father.' The legacy he wishes to leave on earth is this: 'a movement of brothers and sisters at the service of the most vulnerable and helpless.' That family will be the symbol and heir of the new world the Father wants.

For that to happen, they will need to receive the Spirit that animates the Father and His Son Jesus: 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses.' This Spirit is the love of God, the breath of life the Father and the Son share, the strength, the drive, and the life-giving energy that will make the followers of Jesus his witnesses and partners at the service of the grand project of the Holy Trinity.