

UNITED IN MISSION



ATLANTIC-MIDWEST PROVINCE

Transforming the world through education

September 2018



A message from
Judith Schaum, SSND

Dear Colleagues,

We deepen our consciousness of who we are in relationship with the Triune God, one another, and God's amazing universe, especially through theological reflection on the Trinity.

This statement is the second commitment of the 24th SSND General Chapter Directional Statement, Love Gives Everything. As in the last newsletter, we will explore this statement by drawing upon the writings of authorities in the field. Reflecting on Trinity is no easy task, as we will never understand this mystery. It is hoped that the references below will inspire you to spend quality time with our Triune God as you ponder your relationship with God, with one another, and with God's amazing creation.

In October, we will celebrate the 185th anniversary of the founding of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. You are encouraged to visit the AMSSND.org website to read some interesting reflections on the School Sisters of Notre Dame. As the tiny mustard seed of the early

beginnings took root, it became a sturdy plant that has grown into an international congregation serving in 32 countries. We thank God for Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger and for all who have embraced her charism and spirit.

Sincerely,

Judith Schaum, SSND

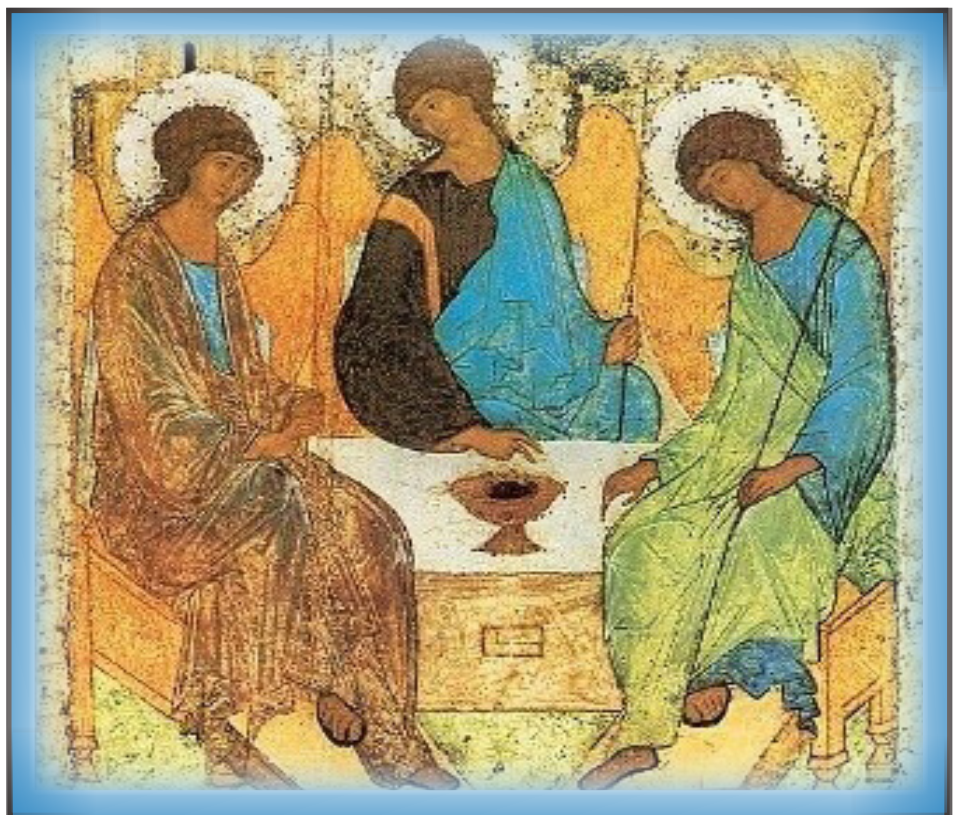
Judith Schaum, SSND
Ministry Services,
Associate Director
jschaum@amssnd.org

As you read these reflections, you may want to ponder the following questions.

- What does it mean to you to have a Trinitarian God?
- How do your relationships model the Trinity?
- What comes easy to you in the building of relationships, community?
- With what do you struggle?
- What do you need to move from struggle to joy?

In a Trinitarian formula, God, Abba, is the Source of Love, Revealed in the Word of Love, which has been spoken in creation and incarnation. That Source and Word is Enacted in the Spirit of Love which has been breathed into the community itself, forming it into the Body of Christ.

"Trinity as Source, Word, and Spirit of Love: Relationship as Core of Reality"
by Heidi Russell, 2018 LCWR National Assembly



Constance Fitzgerald, OCD

Address to the 2017 LCWR Assembly

The identity of our God/Trinity is communion. Just imagine knowing Abba, the Source of life, as Jesus Christ knows Abba, experiencing being under the sway of the Holy Spirit the way Jesus Christ experiences being with the Spirit's persuasive influence, being united with every human person, every living creature, the earth itself, the cosmos, precisely because we are, in Jesus, webbed into this Trinitarian dance of life and communion.

United States Bishops

Economic Justice for All 1986: #64 (p. 16)

Ours is a Trinitarian religion. The Trinity is the source of our faith as well as the goal of our lives. We long to live for all eternity the life of the Trinity. Meanwhile, the Trinity is for us the model towards which we strive as a community: free individuals with total equality in complete unity. Christians look forward in hope to a true communion among all persons with each other and with God. The Spirit of Christ labors in history to build up the bonds of solidarity among all persons until that day on which their union is brought to perfection in the Kingdom of God. Indeed, Christian theological reflection on the very reality of God as a Trinitarian unity of persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—shows that being a person means being united to other persons in mutual love.

Laudato Si'

Paragraph 238

The Father is the ultimate source of everything, the loving and self-communicating foundation of all that exists. The Son, his reflection, through whom all things were created, united himself to this earth when he was formed in the womb of Mary. The Spirit, infinite bond of love, is intimately present at the very heart of the universe, inspiring and bringing new pathways. The world was created by the three Persons acting as a single divine principle, but each one of them performed this common work in accordance with his own personal property. Consequently, "when we contemplate with wonder the universe in all its grandeur and beauty, we must praise the whole Trinity."



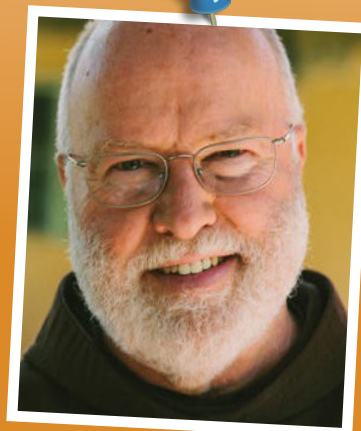
Richard Rohr, OFM

Center for Action and Contemplation

St. Bonaventure (1221-1274) called the Trinity a “fountain fullness” of love. God is unhindered dialogue, a positive and inclusive flow, an eternal waterwheel of self-emptying and outpouring love—that knows it can completely self-empty because it will always be filled back up. This is the very definition and description of divine love; all human love merely imitates, approximates, and celebrates this same pattern.

The energy in the universe is not in the planets or in the protons or neutrons, but in the relationship between them. Not in the particles but in the space between them. Not in the cells of organisms but in the way the cells feed and give feedback to one another. Not in any precise definition of the three persons of the Trinity as much as in the relationship between the Three! This is where all the power for infinite renewal is at work:

The loving *relationship* between them.
The infinite *love* flowing between them.
The *dance* itself.



Malcolm Guite, A Sonnet for Trinity Sunday

In the Beginning, not in time or space,
But in the quick before both space and time,
In Life, in Love, in co-inherent Grace,
In three in one and one in three, in rhyme,
In music, in the whole creation story,
In His own image, His imagination,
The Triune Poet makes us for His glory,
And makes us each the other's inspiration.
He calls us out of darkness, chaos, chance,
To improvise a music of our own,
To sing the chord that calls us to the dance,
Three notes resounding from a single tone,
To sing the End in whom we all begin;
Our God beyond, beside us, and within.



Visit the Mission and Heritage page of the AMSSND web page to view all the resources available to you. You will find newsletters, videos and other resources.

Here is the link:

<https://atlanticmidwest.org/ssnd-mission-and-heritage>

Another helpful link is:

<https://atlanticmidwest.org/resources-ministry-boards>

Here you will find prayers and newsletters among other useful information.

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Judith Schaum, SSND, Associate Director of Ministry Services
410-377-7774 Ext. 1107 | jschaum@amssnd.org