

A wise man once said...

You can't preach on the Trinity without committing heresy.

Knowing full well... this is likely true... I will suck it up...

More than 500 years ago... Ignatius of Loyola wrote

***Consider how God dwells in creatures;
in the elements, giving them being;
in the plants, giving them growth;
in the animals, giving them sensation
consider how God works and labors on my behalf in all created things***

Ignatius was keenly aware of his surroundings.

He also knew John's gospel...

All that came to be had life in him

And the early church fathers agreed

God is found in all things... All processes of nature...

As a graduate of the University of Paris in 1553

Ignatius imagined the material world as a living, biological system
with ***earth...*** at the ***center...*** of ***everything.***

He was taught that all... ***growing things...***

Drew their strength... ***from the moon!***

Gold's qualities came ***from the sun...*** and silver ***from the moon...***

He was told... *health*... depended on *extrasensory links* to the *stars!*

So believed he was joined at the hip to the cosmos... and it with him

We have the same five senses as Ignatius of Loyola

But when *we* gaze into the starry night in wonder

We don't think of the stars as *mediators of grace.*

Because we have scientific knowledge... New data... New information

New discoveries from the Hubble telescope estimate

100 billion galaxies in the observable universe...

covering 300 billion... billion light years of expanding time and space

New stars are being born... others are collapsing in death.

If the thickness of this piece of paper

Was equal 93 million miles... the distance between the earth and the sun

Then the distance to the edge of the known universe...

would be a stack of papers 31 million miles high.

And yet here we are.

Within us lives the intricacy of our human bodies.

From a subatomic perspective...

We are Carbon based creatures...

thermodynamic units...

leaking baskets of energy and information.

Genetic information in 100 trillion cells of every human body...

In the form of 100,000 genes coiled on a molecule of DNA...

And here we sit at the center of these two infinite directions.

Above us space and time... Immeasurable
Within us space and time... Infinitesimal.

We *never* see the farthest thing above... or the smallest thing within

And yet here we are... In the middle of it all...

Does this expanding, replenishing universe of the big bang,
filled with Black holes and “dark matter”
make a difference to the way believers pray... and work?

Are we but dust? and *cosmic* dust at that?

The universe surveyed today is far different
from the one Ignatius of Loyola in the 16th century.

We understand more... *about the glory of God*

In Ignatius' time...

The Creator was perceived as a boring old king on his throne

But the universe seen through contemporary eyes... is extraordinary

We... you and I... are coming at the end of a vast chain of conversions
15 billion years in the making

We are the *interpreters*... the black boxes of nature
Submerged to our neck... to our eyes... to our hair...
In a furiously raging ocean...

*We are the voice of this cosmic hurricane... this thermal howl
And we do not even know it...*

*We are all ignorant... quipped Will Rogers
...just on different subjects.*

Robert Capon described human attempts to describe God
*We're like a bunch of oysters
Trying to describe a ballerina.*

We just don't have the equipment
to understand something so completely beyond us...
But that has *never* kept people from trying.

We are members of the choir in a great project
A mystery hidden from the foundation of the world

The prophet Isaiah tried to describe the Godhead

*I saw the Lord sitting on a throne high and lofty
and the hem of his robe filled the temple.
Seraphs were in attendance above him
Each had six wings... with two they covered their faces...
And with two they covered their feet... and with two they flew...*

The revelation to John reads...

*At once I was in the spirit
and there in heaven stood a throne with one seated on the throne!*

*And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian
And around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald.*

Believers throughout the centuries have tried to describe God

Words are too frail and human beings too limited.

Preachers tie themselves in knots trying to explain what it all means.

While author of all creation remains beyond reckoning... *unfathomable*.

All we have... *really* have... is wonder... and mystery... and love...

How can we... know the unknowable?

How can we experience a love... that is beyond our understanding?

We can pray... and we can listen...

We can have a conversation... with God...

We can live into the sacraments...

Holy Communion... Baptism... Confession...

Jess Cook offers a wonderful example. He wrote...

*At some point in seminary I was introduced to the idea of remembering
my baptism every time I interacted with water
The idea has held so strongly through the years of practice
That it now comes without thought
Rains starts falling and every drop on my head
Reminds me I am loved
Even when I don't have the capacity for it
Tear ducts become wellsprings within me
Sometimes gushing open at unexpected moments*

*The rain on my back, a reminder of the holiness around me
Each tear a reminder of the holiness within me
Grounding me in who I am
And connecting me to everything else*

*It rains and I am loved.
I cry and I am loved.
I wash my hands and I am loved.
Hard as I may try sometimes
(and I guarantee I have certainly tried hard)
I have realized that I simply cannot outrun my belovedness.*

None of us can.

When I pick up a glass of wine... Before I drink it...
I remember Jesus words to his disciples...
*This is my blood... given for you...
Whenever you drink it... do this in remembrance of me.*

And I do... whenever... and wherever... I may be...
And I know that I am loved

When I dip of piece of Tuscan boule
Into seasoned olive oil...

I remember Jesus words...

This is my body... given for you...

Do this in remembrance of me...

And I do... whenever... and wherever... I may be...

And I know that I am loved

I cannot explain the Trinity...

I accept in on Faith.

Revealed to me in all creation...

In all life...

In all matter...

Created by God...

Father... Son... and Holy Spirit...

Join me in this quest...

To know the unknowable...

Not through human understanding of Trinitarian Doctrine...

But through a divine relationship with the God of love.