

JUNE 15 2025, MSGR. SAMUEL BIANCO

## The Father, the Son, and the Spirit: A Relationship of Love

“The Father has... I say to you... the Spirit will guide.” These words hint at a great mystery—the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity.

Let’s begin by reflecting on something familiar: the birth of a child. A baby is born. That child has an identity. It is a unique person—an \*I\*. But a baby is never born in isolation. In addition to the “I” that is the child, there is the “you” of the parents. And when the “I” and the “you” come together, something even more profound is formed: a \*we\*.

This isn’t just a grammatical point. These pronouns—I, you, we—describe something very real: a relationship. Pope Benedict XVI uses this analogy to help us penetrate, as far as possible, into the mystery of the Trinity. The Trinity is not something we simply imagine or construct intellectually. Rather, it is revealed through Scripture and through the lived human experience of love, family, and community.

The most fitting word to describe the Trinity is relationship. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not isolated beings. They are a communion of persons, each giving and receiving in perfect love.

We begin with the Father. The Father gives the Son a vision and a mission: not to condemn the world, but that through Him the world might be saved. Jesus, in turn, receives this mission and responds with gratitude. That gratitude is Eucharistic: “I praise and thank you, Father, for revealing these things to the little ones.”

Jesus also gives something back to the Father—His entire life. On the Cross, His final words express this complete self-offering: “Father, into Your hands I commend my Spirit.” He gives everything He is, especially His suffering, as a gift of love.

And the Father responds by entrusting everything into the hands of the Son. “The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in His hands.” Power, creation, salvation—it is all given to the Son.

Then comes the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gives the gift of prayer. As Saint Paul writes, “The whole of creation is groaning in one great act of giving birth.” This groaning, this longing, is prayer—the deep desire within us that cries out for the Father.

And in return, the Father and the Son give to the Spirit the gift of truth. Not a truth that is static or cold, but one that is living—growing, unfolding, and being shaped in love.

This divine relationship is our model. Just as the Trinity is a communion of giving and receiving, we too are called to give generously of ourselves—our time, our love, our presence. But we must also receive. Others have gifts to offer us. When we give and receive in love, we build true community.

That is the life of the Trinity. And it is the life we are invited into.

In giving, in receiving, in communion—we live in the power of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.