

FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (6/6-7/2009)

Deuteronomy 4/32-40, Psalm 33, Romans 8/14-17, Matthew 28/16-20

I find the words of today's Gospel passage oddly reassuring: "*When they (the eleven apostles) saw him (the resurrected Jesus), they worshiped, but they doubted.*"

That describes my thoughts at times, and I suspect I am not alone.

We accept the Church's teachings about Jesus, about God, but questions and doubts keep popping up along the way.

And every time they do show up, it's possible that we might feel a tinge of guilt.

No need for more guilt, brothers and sisters.

When we focus on God, there is so much that we do not and cannot know.

As human beings (made this way by our Creator God), we hunger for more knowledge, for more assurance, even for certitude. But the hunger is not always satisfied.

We are asked to live by faith, by taking God's word for the truth.

We find that word, that truth in the Scriptures and in the teaching of the Church.

The passage from *Deuteronomy (4/32-40)*, gives us additional perspective: "*Did anything so great ever happen before? Was it ever heard of? Did a people ever hear the voice of God speaking from the midst of fire, as you did, and live?*"

The question is posed by the author of *Deuteronomy* because there were undoubtedly people who found the Hebrew God hard to swallow at times.

What if there is no God and it's all a figment of our collective imagination?

In a nutshell, that is what the neo-atheists insist is the truth of the matter.

We counter by saying that, while the existence of God cannot be proved scientifically, there is altogether too much "intuitive" evidence of God's presence and action to be ignored.

The make-up of the universe, the vastness, the intricacy, our ability to reflect on it all, the very reality of love, beauty, art, and all the pursuits of us humans.

It seems one denies God at his or her own risk.

What if, indeed, there is a personal God, profoundly involved in our lives and intent on having us join Father, Son and Spirit one day in eternity?

What if, despite all the mystery surrounding God, what we profess to believe in our Creeds really comes as close to the truth as we humans can manage?

That's part of the dilemma right there.

Our human capacity for knowledge is limited, even with incredibly fast complex computers.

And it will remain limited, although it is also expanding as we know from history.

God is like a reality just beyond our fingertips as we reach out; and, as if in a dream, we keep reaching out, but the reality keeps eluding us.

God is not playing "Hide and Seek", mind you.

God is all about us, in every aspect of our lives, "yearning" to have us imitate the Son, Jesus,

On this feast of the Holy Trinity, we do well to stop and ask ourselves what do we believe about God; our peace and happiness may depend on the answer.