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Trinity Sunday

Last year a group of our Boy Scouts went on a hiking trip to Philmont, New Mexico, one of the highest and most difficult mountains to climb in all of the country. Upon returning, a scout on the trip, Paul shared what the experience was like. He described the difficult terrain, the heat and the many miles. Yet with pride he recounted what it was like to reach the top of the mountain, a place where few Scouts ever reach.

One of our early Church Fathers used this wonderful image of a mountain to symbolize faith and understanding of God. He noted that some people are at the top of the mountain, knowing a lot about God while some are in the middle, knowing less, some are at the bottom of the mountain...perhaps we could even imagine some people are unaware a mountain exists. Yet, even the people at the highest point of this mountain, those who think they know and understand a lot about God are still closer to those at the bottom than they are to fully knowing God above. For us as humans, God is too great for us to ever fully understand.

Yet recognizing the awesomeness of God, being so far beyond our intellectual grasp we can't but feel humbled or even in awe as we see that this great God desires to reveal what we know about Him to us. It is God who makes it possible for us to be in relationship with Him. He desires to reveal Himself to us, revealing what we need to know for salvation. He reveals Himself to us not in some far off distant isle nor do we need to take an airplane to reach Him. Instead, we come to encounter Him right here, right now.

Our reading from Exodus speaks so wonderfully about this in Moses' encounter with God where he calls out to God "If I find favor with you, O Lord, do come along in our company." God chooses to be with us. As we gather as a community of believers we cannot come to Church to be taught about God. It is not a class. Rather, we gather for Liturgy to ENCOUNTER Him, to HEAR His Words in the Scripture as it is proclaimed and to Taste Him as we receive Him in the Eucharist.

Yet God also reveals Himself in each one of us. Since we are made in the image and likeness of God, the more we know ourselves, the more we will know God. We are most complete when we, like God exist in a threefold relationship, a Trinity. We were created to be in relationship with God, with our true selves and with one another. Just as God is Father, Son and Spirit, our very lives reflect this Trinity relationship.

Since God desires to reveal Himself to us in our very human nature, we encounter God when we encounter one another. Both in church and in the world. That is why Saint Paul in his letter to the people of Corinth, directs the people to encourage one another, live in peace and the GOD OF LOVE AND PEACE will be with you.

This Trinity Sunday, a day in which we not only acknowledge but we celebrate the mystery of who God is, the Trinity. For it is in this mystery that we realize the wonder and awesomeness of God; far beyond our understanding. Yet it is this same God that desires, He desires to reveal His very self to us as Father, Son and Spirit. So perhaps starting today we might want to think differently as we make the sign of the cross throughout our days. Whether we bless ourselves in the Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit at mass, gathered with believers, blessing ourselves before a meal with family and friends, making the sign of the cross before a game with teammates or even alone in the quiet of your room, each and

every time marks another opportunity, a moment in our lives that God wishes to reveal Himself to us in a wonderful way.

Because of this, we know that we need not fear if we see ourselves at a place on the mountain of faith that we aren't comfortable with. Every moment in our life that we bring God to our mind, is another possibility to be another step closer to the top of that mountain. Just as our Boy Scout Paul told me from Philmont, it is a place like you have never been before!