



Embracing the Mystery

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

The Christian confession of a triune God cannot be explained, it can only be believed. It is not a cop-out to proclaim that this belief is rooted in mystery. Mystery is the essential language and experience of belief. We lose something when we try to explain a mystery instead of embracing it. It may make us uncomfortable; it may provoke more questions than answers. Regardless, it does not suggest the weakness of mystery but rather the beauty, the wonder, and the awe.

Embracing belief and living as a person of faith is a singular journey. You cannot believe for someone else, and that person, even one you dearly love, cannot believe for you. It is also important to understand that as singular as the journey of faith may be, it ultimately ends in community. Belief does not isolate a person, but rather invites a person to connect with others who also walk in faith.

The community/communion of the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is the perfect witness to the truth that mystery creates. One God, three divine persons. The Eucharist that we celebrate on this day proclaims the unity of our belief—to the Father, through the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY



**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and
the love of God and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit be with all of you.**

2 CORINTHIANS 13:13

Reflect

How does the mystery of the Trinity reveal God's nature as a communion of love?

Dear Padre,

During Mass, is it proper for the faithful to raise our hands when pronouncing the words, “For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever”?

When the priest and people offer the Our Father together to God, the presider assumes an ancient posture of prayer, known as the *orans*—with arms extended and palms opened upward. After the Lord’s Prayer, the priest keeps his hands extended and says alone the embolism (“Deliver us, Lord...”). At the end, he joins his hands, and the people acclaim, “For the kingdom....” This acclamation is meant to be the people’s response to the embolism, and the priest remains silent for it. It would appear unnecessary for the faithful to now extend their hands during this acclamation—especially when it’s a response to an embolism prayer that just called for the presider to have extended his own hands and now has them joined together.

Although the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* doesn’t mention a specific congregational hand posture during this acclamation, it speaks in favor of “what serves the common spiritual good of the People of God, rather than private inclination or arbitrary choice,” stating that a common bodily posture “is a sign of the unity of the members of the Christian community gathered together for the sacred Liturgy: it both expresses and fosters the intention and spiritual attitude of the participants” (*GIRM* 42). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



TINNAKORN JORUANG / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

To those in power, I repeat: listen to the voice of conscience! The apparent victories

achieved with weapons, which sow death and destruction, are in reality defeats and never bring peace or security! God does not want war, he wants peace, and he strengthens those who are committed to leaving behind the spiral of hatred and taking the path of dialogue.

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday

June 1

St. Justin, Martyr

2 Pt 1:2–7

Mk 12:1–12

Tuesday

June 2

Weekday

2 Pt 3:12–15a, 17–18

Mk 12:13–17

Wednesday

June 3

St. Charles Lwanga and

Companions, Martyrs

2 Tm 1:1–3, 6–12

Mk 12:18–27

Thursday

June 4

Weekday

2 Tm 2:8–15

Mk 12:28–34

Friday

June 5

St. Boniface, Bishop

and Martyr

2 Tm 3:10–17

Mk 12:35–37

Saturday

June 6

Weekday

2 Tm 4:1–8

Mk 12:38–44

Sunday

June 7

The Most Holy Body

and Blood of Christ

(Corpus Christi)

Dt 8:2–3, 14b–16a

1 Cor 10:16–17

Jn 6:51–58