

## The Trinitarian Mystery of Prayer (Most Holy Trinity, Year B)

### Romans 8:14-17—The Spirit of Adoption

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by *the Spirit of God* are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. *When we cry, “Abba! Father!”* <sup>16</sup> *it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,* <sup>17</sup> *and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him* in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Romans 8:14-17)

#### 1. Paul’s Trinitarian Theology:

- a. The Holy Spirit: “the Spirit (Greek *pneuma*) of God” (8:14)
- b. The Father: “we cry, Abba! Father!” (8:15)  
(cf. Jesus in Gethsemane; Mark 14:36)
- c. The Son: “fellow heirs with Christ” (8:17)

#### 2. The Holy Spirit:

- a. Not a “spirit of slavery” (8:15)
- b. But a “spirit of sonship” (8:15)
- c. When we cry “Abba! Father!” (8:15)
- d. “It is the Spirit himself bearing witness” within us (8:16)

#### 3. Divine Sonship:

- a. Sons: “We are children of God” (8:16)
- b. Heirs: “fellow heirs with Christ” (8:17)

#### 4. Inheritance: How do we receive it?

- a. Suffering/the Cross: “provided we suffer with him” (8:17)
- b. Glory/Resurrection: “we may also be glorified with him” (8:17)

### The Living Tradition

Cyprian of Carthage: Let us pray, dearest brothers, just as God the master has taught us. Imploring God in his own words, sending up to his ears the prayer of Christ, is a friendly and familiar manner of praying. When we make our prayer let the Father recognize the words of his own Son. May he who lives inside our heart be also in our voice...” (Cyprian of Carthage, *On the Lord’s Prayer* 3 [trans. Alistair Stewart-Sykes])<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Tertullian, Cyprian, and Origen, *On the Lord’s Prayer*; trans. Alistair Stewart-Sykes, Popular Patristics 29 (Yonkers, N.Y.: St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2004), 66.

## Questions for Discussion and Reflection (Most Holy Trinity, Year B)

1. According to Paul, how is Christian Prayer itself a Trinitarian mystery?

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### For Further Reading

1. Saint Augustine. *Homilies on the First Epistle of John*. Translated by Boniface Ramsey, O.P. Hyde Park, N.Y.: New City Press, 2008.
2. Tertullian, Cyprian, and Origen. *On the Lord's Prayer*. Translated by Alistair Stewart-Sykes. Popular Patristics 29. Yonkers, N.Y.: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2004.