

# OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

## Boca Grande, Florida

Father Jerome A. Carosella, Pastor

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### Mass Schedule:

Daily (except Saturday)	8:00 A.M.
Saturday Vigil	5:00 P.M.
Sunday	9:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Confessions: Saturday	4:15 to 4:45

Online Giving <https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/parish-donations-online/>

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

JUNE 4, 2023

### ST AUGUSTINE



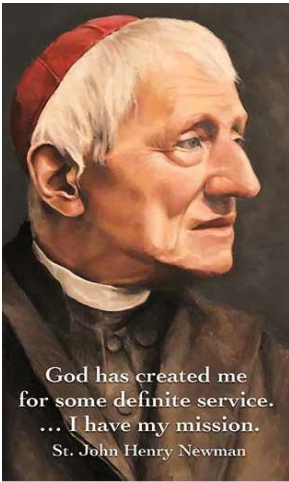
The Mystery of the Blessed Trinity reveals, “God is love.”

Shortly after he converted to Christianity in his mid – 30s, in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, St. Augustine, theologian and Bishop of Hippo in Roman North Africa was attempting, as he walked along North African coastline, to understand something of the central mystery of our faith, the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. The more he tried to understand it, the more frustrated he became. He was distracted momentarily by a young child playing by the water’s edge. The child had scooped a hole in the sand. Then, taking a shell, he went to the water’s edge, filled it with water and emptied it into the hole it had scooped in the sand. Augustine was fascinated with what the child was doing and, decided to question him. The child explained that he was going to **“empty the sea into that small hole he dug in the sand.”** Augustine smiled at the naiveté of the child. The child was quick to respond, **“Well, there’s a far greater chance of me emptying that huge ocean into this small hole in the sand than of you fathoming the mystery of the Trinity in your little small brain.”**

This incident in the Life of St. Augustine pinpoints the purpose of theology, which is a systematic study of faith, in an attempt to understand it. In attempting to understand the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, Augustine came to realize **the limits of the human mind.**

At heart, the mystery of the Blessed Trinity is **not an intellectual exercise but a relational one.** The human mind, the intellect, does not have the capacity or facility to understand or to penetrate the inner workings of the life of God, who is Father, Son, Holy Spirit. It was in revealing His love for us, we came to discover that there were other persons in the inner mystery of God’s life, the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. We are told in John’s Gospel, that **“God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son.”** It was in expressing his love for us in human form that we came to discover there was a **2<sup>nd</sup> person, the Son,** in the inner life of God. On the feast of the **Ascension,** two Sundays ago, as Jesus was about to ascend to heaven, having completed his earthly mission, he promised to send the **Holy Spirit** on his disciples, the expression of the love that existed between the Father and the Son. His followers came to realize that there was a **3<sup>rd</sup> person** in the inner life of God.

**“God is love,”** the source of love; being made in his **“image,”** we are the human expression of God’s love. Our role, mission, is to give God a beautiful human face. We do so in the manner in which we relate to spouse, children, parents, siblings, friends, neighbors, work mates, school mates, and, in doing so, to **make God’s love become real.**



St. John H. Newman made a distinction between **notional Christianity and real Christianity**. What most people are looking for today is not an explanation of Christianity but **an experience of Christianity**. Our challenge, mission, on the feast of the Holy Trinity is to **make God's love become real** in our relationships with one another. It is not an intellectual but a relational challenge. That's what St. Augustine discovered on African coastline 1500 years ago.

**SOLIDARITY FUND FOR THE CHURCH IN AFRICA**  
(Letter from Bishop Dewane)

For over 15 years, the Church in Africa has continued to grow despite many economic and social challenges. The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa of the U.S. Bishops' Conference provides the support needed to overcome these challenges by offering assistance for the formation of religious sisters and brothers and other pastoral ministries that address the needs of the rapidly growing African Church.

This Solidarity Fund also works to foster lasting peace and reconciliation in a continent often marked by division and tension. One such example was the organization of a congress for youth that focused on citizenship and Christian education. The congress provided training sessions to hundreds of youth leaders focusing on citizenship, Christian Education, and mutual respect for the physical wellbeing of neighbors. These empowered youth leaders can help spread peace and unity in places affected by conflict and separation.

The Collection for Solidarity with the Church in Africa is scheduled in the Diocese of Venice for the weekend of **June 10 and 11, 2023**. When you contribute to the Collection for Solidarity with the Church in Africa, you pass on the Joy of Faith and help your brothers and sisters in Africa grow closer to Christ and to the Church. Please be generous in your response to the appeal.

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration and my prayers!

**PRAYER OF ST. PATRICK**

I bind unto myself today  
The strong Name of the Trinity,  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three in One and One in Three.  
I bind unto myself today  
The virtues of the starlit heaven,  
The glorious sun's life-giving ray,  
The whiteness of the moon at even,  
The flashing of the lightning free,  
The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,  
The stable earth, the deep salt sea,  
Around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today  
The power of God to hold and lead,  
His eye to watch, His might to stay,  
His ear to hearken to my need.  
The wisdom of my God to teach,  
His hand to guide, His shield to ward,  
The word of God to give me speech,  
His heavenly host to be my guard.  
I bind unto myself today  
The strong Name of the Trinity,  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three in One and One in Three.