

The Triune Post

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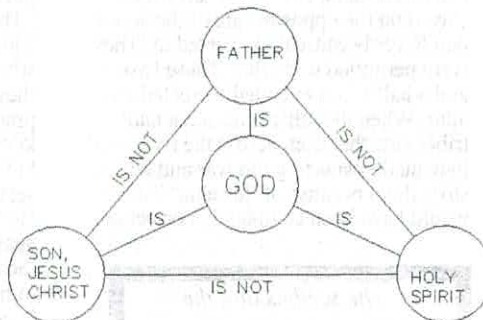
Our God is One in Three Persons

By: Jordan Bergeron

To understand the Blessed Trinity in its fullness is something man is not capable of without supernatural faith. It is a belief in something that has been divinely revealed by Our Lord to us throughout salvation history. We know, for reasons that will follow, that Our God is the One, True God. We also know, because of what He has revealed to us, through Sacred Scripture and oral Tradition that He is One God in Three Divine Persons. This is something that cannot be grasped without faith. Reason alone can lead us to the understanding that there is a God. Since the beginning, man has naturally known that there is some being responsible for the creation of the universe and everything in it. In His love for His creation, Our God has revealed to us Who He is. I will now and then use what are called bible verses from Sacred Scripture to show these Truths that are contained within these publications, and so the question may come up to a person

who is a non-believer or any person who is wondering about faith, "why do I believe it just because it is in this Bible you speak of?" I will answer that question in another article. For now, I would like to show how Our Lord revealed to us the truth of the Trinity. In the first book of the Bible, we can see that God the Father is creating, through His Word, He creates the world, and He is moving above the waters like a Spirit. This is in the book of Genesis, Chapter 1, verses 1-3 (Gen 1:1-3). Already we see the Father, and His Son, Who is the Word, and the Holy Spirit, Who

moves over the waters. This is the first glimpse of the Holy Trinity. What the Blessed Trinity means is that there are Three Persons in the One God. This does not mean that there are three gods. It simply means that God is present, fully, in three Divine Persons. God the Father is not the Son or the Holy Spirit, and the same is true of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are all three distinct from One Another, but each One is God, the same, One God. The Trinity is particularly revealed in two places in the Gospels of the New Testament. **Continued on Page 2**



Is the Bible the Word of God?

By: Jordan Bergeron

Christians must discuss the Bible when they are evangelizing. It is impossible to share Christ without sharing His Gospel. But why should anyone believe the words of the Bible when approached with its words of truth? It is true that the Bible has a verse that says "all scripture is inspired by God," (2 Tim 3:16), but why does that matter? I can write a book,

or even claim here that this article is inspired by God. Does that make it true that this article is the word of God? Obviously it does not. So why do Christians believe that the Bible is the word of God? It is not simply because it says it.

It is important to understand that the Bible did not exist how we have it now when-

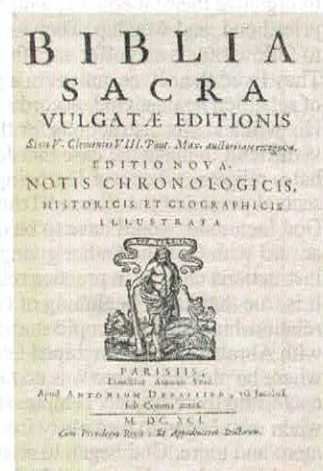
ever the Church was started. The old scriptures of Judaism existed, but the New Testament, which is the newer writings of the Bible, that have the Gospels, did not exist in writing. Everything was given to us by the men who Jesus chose to deliver His Gospel. Before the writings were put together in one book, they did this by.... **Continued on P. 3**

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- *Find out why the Bible is the Word of God*
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Our God is One in Three Persons

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The first example is in the Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter 3, verses 16-17. It says, "And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" At the baptism of Christ, Jesus is present, the Holy Spirit descends upon Him, and the Father speaks about His Son. This is a revelation of the Triune God. This also happens in an event called the Transfiguration. In the Transfiguration, Jesus goes up a high mountain with three of His apostles and is transfigured before them. Again, we see the Trinity, because here, Jesus is present, a bright cloud overshadows them, the same way that God was over the earth in the beginning, and the Fa-

ther again speaks, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." (S. Matt 17:1-6) So we have two examples of the Trinity being revealed through actions shown to men. In the end of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Our Blessed Lord, Jesus Christ, commands His apostles to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," (S. Matt 28:19). It has been divinely revealed to us through Sacred Scripture and Tradition that God is the True, One God. There are no other gods. And Our God revealed Himself to us because of His love for us. In this revealing of Himself, He showed us that He is One God in three Divine Persons. This does not mean that the One God takes three different forms and so He is only one form of Himself at a time. He is always fully present in each of the Three individually. This is why when

Christians get baptized, they get baptized in this way, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. If this seems difficult to understand how three beings can be One God, it is okay. It is okay because Our God is supernatural. This means He is outside of our normal abilities of understanding through reason. This can only be understood through faith and reason. Reason leads us to know there is a God and it complements faith, because faith allows us to know that same God is Three distinct Persons. A good example of understanding the supernatural by faith is by believing that He was raised from the dead. After all, it isn't everyday that a man is killed, rests in the grave for three days and then comes back to life forever, but that is exactly what Our Blessed Lord did, and it is in this miracle of resurrection that our hope in Our One, Triune God exists.

Does Our Blessed Lord Hate Religion?

By: Jordan Bergeron

It has been said to me before, when speaking with a member of a "non-denominational" church, that Jesus hates religion. I was told that Jesus hates it and it was religion that crucified Him. This was in the middle of a discussion about how Christ founded a Church. It is true that the Jews called for the crucifixion of Christ, but does this negate the fact that the Israelites were the Chosen People of God all throughout Hebrew history? They were instructed, in detail, as seen in the Old Testament of Sacred Scripture, on how to organize their tabernacle, temple, priesthood, and worship. They were told to follow rituals and offer sacrifices. They lived their lives, unless in a period of rebellion against God, according to His will and His instructions for them. It is difficult to make the case that Jesus hates religion, whenever He, being the second person of the Blessed Trinity, God Incarnate, would have to be in full accord with God the Father giving these instructions on how to practice religion. It is true that in the beginning of God's relationship with His people starting with Abraham, man worshipped God where he pleased. There was no tabernacle, and there was no Temple. But when man began to turn away from God more and more, God began to restrict worship to places He established. First,

there was a tent, then a temple. When the 12 tribes of Israel crossed into the Promised Land, two and a half tribes stayed on the opposite side of the Jordan River because they wanted to. They were permitted to do this. These two and a half tribes eventually erected an altar. When the other nine and a half tribes saw this from across the river, they made plans to go to war and destroy them because of this altar! They would have been completely correct to

*"The scribes and the
Pharisees sit on Moses' seat;
so practice and observe
whatever they tell you..."*

do so, because God established that He would be worshipped in a certain way, in a certain place. The two and a half tribes were saved though, because they explained to the nine and a half tribes that the altar was just to remind them who they were, it was not for worship. They replied that they knew they had to worship in the place established on the other side of the river. This spared them from the war, and their lives were saved. Jesus of Nazareth was born into

these people, the Jews, also known as the Israelites. He practiced His faith perfectly, and even told His disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice," (S. Matt 23:2-3) because He knew that they had evil in their hearts, but they had the authority of Moses' seat. If Our Lord hated their religion, He would have instructed to rebel against all of it. He hated the evil, not the religion. In like manner, we are also to listen to the men chosen by God. The Israelites were chosen by God to be in authority over His people. Now there is a new religion. It is Christ's Church. And although the men in charge of it may be filled with evil now and then, they still have binding authority over our souls. So when they make something truthful binding, we are to follow it. We know that it is true because it is protected by the Holy Spirit. He gave instructions on how to shepherd His people in the New Covenant to those whom He told, "Whoever hears you hears Me, and whoever rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects me rejects the One Who sent Me." (S. Luke 10:16) So let us listen to the Father and the Son by listening to those whom Our God has sent.

Is the Bible the Word of God?

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word of mouth. They set to work preaching the Gospel of Christ, not writing it down to print and then hand out. Some of them wrote, *in addition to* preaching. Some of the men who wrote, like St. Luke, were not actually apostles that knew Christ, but their writings are still included in the Bible. So how did these writings make it into the bible? Before Our Lord ascended back to from where He came, heaven, He made a couple of promises to us through His apostles. One of them was that He would start a Church, and the gates of hell would not overpower it (S. Matt 16:18). Another was that He would send a Counselor, Who would guide them into all truth and remind them all that He said to them (S. Jn 14:22-26, 16:7,12-15). This Man Who promised these things claimed to be God. If He is God, then He cannot lie, and He must keep His promises. This logically follows because God is good, and to lie or not keep a promise is the opposite of good, the opposite of God. So we know that He was telling the truth if He is God, and we know that His promise will be

kept. If His promise is kept, it means that there is someone Who is being sent, who will make sure that the Father's revelation to the world is guarded against any falsehood or corruption. The only way that this could happen brings us to the Trinity. The Father has a revelation being given to us through the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. So the Trinity, One God, is always at work to reveal truth of the Father, through the Church started by the Son, under the guard of the Holy Spirit to ensure that it is true. This is Our One God in Three Divine Persons, guarding the truth for our salvation, won for us by Christ on the Cross. Without the Cross, the Holy Spirit could not be sent to us because the resurrection and ascension of Our Lord would not have happened. With the understanding that if this Man is God, He has to tell the truth, the next question is, was this Man really God? It is recorded in history books, including the Bible, that this Man, Jesus of Nazareth, was crucified and laid in the grave. For three days He was there, and then He was not found in His grave. The Bible is not the only historical book to

record this occurrence, but the Bible does tell us what happened. It tells us He rose from the dead, of His own power. Do you believe that a man who raises himself from the dead by his own power is God? I do. And this man started a Church guarded by God to be truthful. This Church, in the year 382 A.D. at the Council of Rome, decided which writings to put into the Bible, and they ended up at 73 books. There are 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. They declared at this council that these books were the inspired word of God, and because they were making this decision as the Church started by Jesus Christ, we know that their decision to do this was right and true, because it is guarded by God to be true. And this is why, as Christians, we do not just call this book the Holy Bible, we call it *Sacred Scripture*. We know that it is sacred because it comes from God, and we call it scripture because we do not just read it, we live by it. So, only one question remains. Can you start reading the Bible, and can you start to live by it? We invite you to join us and become Christians with us.

Did Jesus Christ Start a Church?

By: Jordan Bergeron

Jesus Christ came to save us. He came to redeem us to the Father, and He gave us the Holy Spirit to accomplish this after His Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. While He was here, He spoke frequently of the Kingdom of God and eternal life. The Israelites of our history were the Chosen People of God. God chose to reveal Himself to man through the Israelites and eventually to bring salvation to man through the Israelites. There are many different denominations in the world that claim Jesus Christ as their Lord. These could be Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Non-Denominationalists, or any other church that believes truly in their hearts that Jesus Christ is Lord and the Son of God. These churches are lacking one thing that seems to be somewhat irrelevant to people now, and that is the fact that Jesus did not start the Lutheran church, or the Baptist church, or any of the churches that came after the one that He began. He did start a Church though. We know He started a Church, because He said that He would before He entered into His Passion, and like we have stated before, when God says He is going to do something, He does it. He remains true to what He says He will do

because He is faithful and He is Truth. Our Blessed Lord looked at His apostle, Simon, after Simon made a proclamation that He was the Holy One of God. He said to Simon, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! ... And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the powers of hell shall not prevail against it." (S. Matt 16:18) It is clear from this statement that Our Lord was going to build a church, so we can conclude because God said it and He is always faithful that He built a church. But what does this mean for us? Was His Church just a grouping of people who claim to be Christian, or was it an actual church? Many people will claim that the rock Jesus mentions is this declaration of faith, but He changed Simon's name to Peter, which in the language He was speaking means "rock." If it was simply Peter's declaration that was the rock, then why change Simon's name to Rock and then claim that He will build His Church on Rock? The answer is clear from millennia of teaching on this subject, that Peter was being chosen to lead Christ's Church after Christ ascended back to the Father. Now a good examination of conscience might be to think of this. If I claim to

love a king and call him my lord, would I do that in word, in action, or both? In other words, how may I claim that a man is my king, but bind myself to another kingdom? If I bound myself to a different kingdom, I would be in the other king's kingdom, and I would not be able to have two kings. To claim Jesus as Lord but rebel against the Church that He began would mean that a person would not believe that Christ fulfilled His word of building a church. The Church that Christ began was the Catholic Church. For roughly 1,500 years, this was the only Church to belong to if you wanted to be a Christian. It was only after the Protestants attempted reforming the Church that these other "denominations" of Christianity emerged. How could 1,500 years of the Christian Church have gotten so much wrong, only to be corrected by 40,000 other denominations? These denominations all teach different doctrines. There is only One Church started by God, and all of the others were started by men. So which church do you prefer? Would you like to be part of a Church started by the perfect and holy God, or started by men, who are full of error? Who is your King and Lord?

Do you want to become a Christian? Join the Catholic Church. Do you already consider yourself a Christian but feel like there is something you are missing or that you do not have the fullness of Christ that you search for? If so, please consider joining the Catholic Church. You can seek membership in the Church by contacting St. Agnes Catholic Church parish and asking about joining. You can also seek out any other Catholic Church to ask about joining. All Catholic Churches are part of the same body of Christ, so if you want to become a Christian, seek out any Catholic Church.

St. Agnes Catholic Church

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Why We Need Jesus Christ

In the beginning of creation, man was created to be in holiness and justice with God, but man chose to disobey God and sinned. This was the first sin committed, by Adam and Eve, and it separated man from God. The result of this sin is that man now has to die. He no longer had eternal life with God after this sin, and so his life became mortal. If this sin was never committed, we would not know death, because death would not exist among God's creation. God tells us in the book of Wisdom in the Bible that He, "did not create death, and He does not delight in the death of the living." (Wis 1:13) But the Bible also tells us that "the wages of sin is death," (Rom 6:23). Man inherited this condition of sin and its result from his first parents, Adam and Eve. This does not mean that man committed the sin that Adam and Eve committed. It means that he inherited a sinful nature because after sin, Adam and Eve could no longer pass on original holiness. This is an inherited condition of being separated from God. It is not because

of a sin we committed that we are born this way, but this does give us an inclination to sin, because it makes us fallen from the glory of God. The good news is that there is a second part to Romans 6:23 to finish the sentence. It says, "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus Our Lord." (Rom 6:23) Christ came to earth and became man so that He could save us. He did this by conquering death. He conquered death by offering Himself up for crucifixion. When He died, He also rose from the dead, and this is how He conquered death for us. He is the New Man who starts the new creation in Himself, and if we are in Him, we are part of that new creation, and death, the result of

sin, no longer has power over us. So how do you become part of Christ? The first thing necessary is to call to mind that you are a sinner in need of God's mercy. After this, call on God's mercy by being baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is rebirth. It takes you from being born of Adam and makes you born of Christ, so that you are in Him. To be baptized, you must belong to His Church. His Church is the way to salvation, and He offers you His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity through this Church that you may fully be part of Him and you may have life, life eternal, life to the fullest, in the glory of God, forever.

NOTE

This is an independently produced newsletter. St. Agnes Catholic Church is not responsible for the production of this material. It is fully produced by the authors named throughout the publication with no involvement from the parish. Jordan Bergeron is a member of St. Agnes Parish and desires that all people come to the Church and be in fullness of communion with Christ, so he invites people to come and join the Church in the parish to which he belongs. There are many Catholic churches in Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas that someone could join if they did not want to join St. Agnes.

