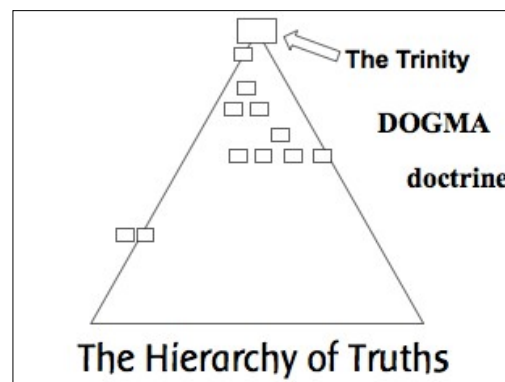




The Mystery of the Holy Trinity



"Go and make disciples  
of all nations,  
baptizing them in  
the Name of the  
Father  
and of the  
Son  
and of the  
Holy Spirit"



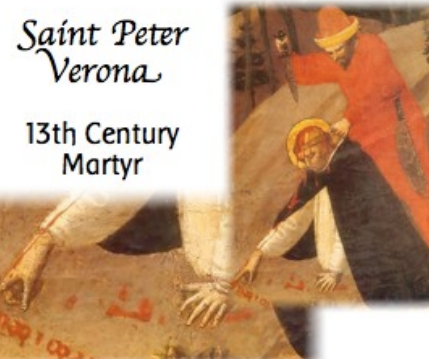
Matthew 28:19

A  
MYSTERY  
is  
*"infinitely  
comprehensible"*

The mystery  
of the Holy Trinity is the  
**central mystery**  
of the Christian Faith and  
of the Christian life.  
(CCC 261)



Hear, O Israel, the Lord your God is ONE.



The TRINITY  
is  
THREE Divine PERSONS  
in  
ONE Divine NATURE

NATURE  $\simeq$  what

## NATURE

Nature = what



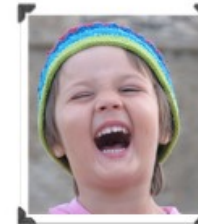
## ONE Divine NATURE

Nature = "essence"



What is the human  
NATURE like?

- body
- soul
  - intellect
  - will
  - emotions



How many "natures" are there  
in the created world?

= How many kinds of things  
are there?

## ONE Divine NATURE

- uncreated
- eternal
- omnipotent
- omniscient
- omnipresent

The TRINITY  
is  
ONE WHAT  
= One God

The TRINITY  
is  
THREE Divine PERSONS  
in  
ONE Divine NATURE

PERSON  $\simeq$  who

Person = the ONE who IS  
& the ONE who acts



THREE Divine PERSONS

Person = the ONE who IS  
& the ONE who acts  
  
= the ONE who uses  
and  
possesses a NATURE

## THREE Divine PERSONS

Three types of PERSONS

- 1) Divine
- 2) Angelic
- 3) Human

Person = the ONE who IS  
& the ONE who acts



Person = the ONE who IS  
& the ONE who acts



## THREE Divine PERSONS

Person = the ONE who IS  
& the ONE who acts  
  
= the ONE who uses  
and  
possesses a NATURE

Person = the ONE who IS  
& the ONE who acts



The TRINITY  
is  
THREE Divine PERSONS  
in  
ONE Divine NATURE

Who are the  
THREE Divine PERSONS?

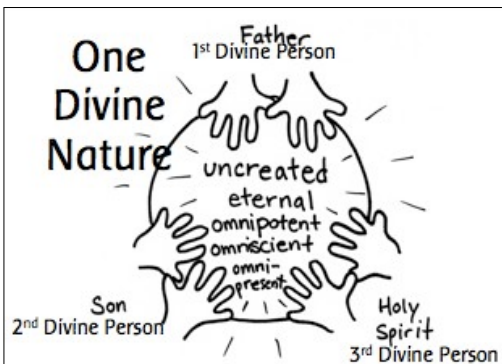
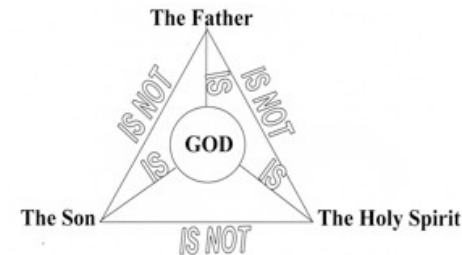
The Father

The Son

The Holy Spirit



Each of the  
Three Divine Persons  
possesses and uses the  
One Divine Nature



PERSON  $\simeq$  who

The TRINITY  
is  
THREE WHOs  
in  
ONE Divine NATURE

NATURE  $\simeq$  what

The TRINITY  
is  
THREE WHOs  
in  
ONE WHAT

The TRINITY  
is  
THREE Divine PERSONS  
in  
ONE Divine NATURE

The TRINITY  
is  
THREE Divine PERSONS  
in  
ONE Divine NATURE

Two ways we speak  
about the TRINITY

The   
**IMMANENT**  
Trinity                      The  
                                 ECONOMIC Trinity

God in HIMSELF

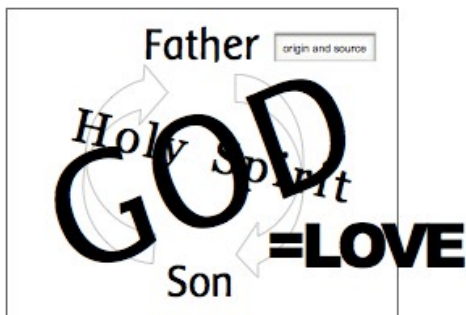
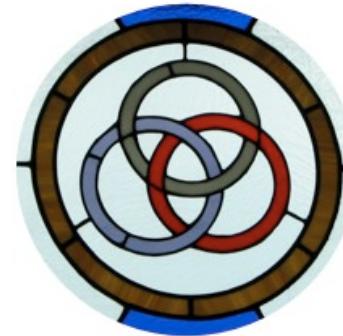
"relation"

versus

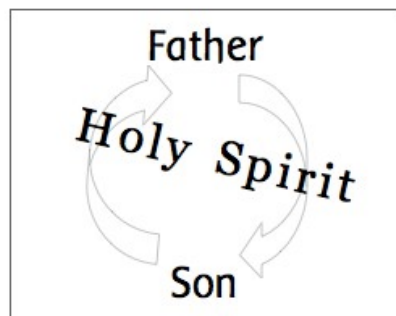
"relationship"

The  
**IMMANENT**  
Trinity

= God in Himself



Works of the  
Trinity  
"ad intra"

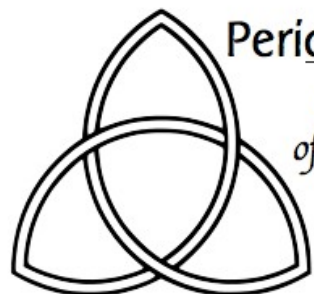


The  
**IMMANENT**  
Trinity

The  
**ECONOMIC** Trinity

Absolutely  
necessary

Non-necessary -  
God's revealing Himself  
to us out of LOVE



**Perichoresis**

*Richard  
of St. Victor*



Works of the Trinity  
"ad intra"

The **IMMANENT** Trinity  
God in HIMSELF

God in HIMSELF

God FOR us

IMMANENT  
Trinity

ECONOMIC Trinity

Works of the Trinity  
"ad extra"

The ECONOMIC Trinity

God FOR us

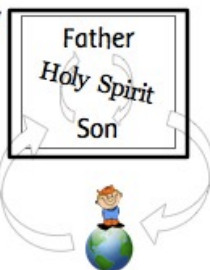
The mystery  
of the Holy Trinity is the  
**central mystery**  
of the Christian Faith and  
of the Christian life.  
(CCC 261)

Theologia  
(Immanent Trinity)

**GOD IS LOVE**

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.  
God is love."  
1 John 4:16

Immanent Trinity /  
Works "ad intra"



Economic  
Trinity  
Works  
"ad extra"

We are made in the image and likeness of God:  
we are made to love.

Oikonomía  
(Economic Trinity)

"God is love.  
Whoever lives in love  
lives in God, and God in him."  
1 John 4:16

"If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My  
Father will love him, and we will come to him and  
make our home with him. John 14:23



The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian Faith and of the Christian life.  
(CCC 261)

## Other images of the Trinity from the Catholic Tradition

The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian Faith and of the Christian life.  
(CCC 261)



**Stage 1**



St. Augustine:  
Looking at the human person as image of God

Mind	Mind
Word	Thought
Breath	Love

## ERRORS

concerning the TRINITY

- "Three hats"



## ERRORS

concerning the TRINITY



- "Three levels"—a hierarchy



## ERRORS

concerning the TRINITY



- "Three Ages"—one for each Person



"Go and make disciples  
of all nations,  
baptizing them in  
the Name of the  
Father  
and of the  
Son  
and of the  
Holy Spirit"

Matthew 28:19



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