

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY “B”
MAY 30/31, 2015

Military officers are commissioned; they are given specific authority to carry out the duties of their rank. Sales personnel might earn a commission; they are given a percentage of a sale over and above their regular salary. Etymologically, the word “commission” means to be “sent with.” So, someone commissioned might be sent forth with authority and reaps the rewards of a task well done. Today’s Gospel concludes with what is sometimes called the “Great Commission.” No other gospel so explicitly refers to the three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity. We hear the very words of the baptismal formula we still use today, and no doubt this gospel passage reflects the baptismal practice of the community for which St. Matthew wrote his gospel some decades after the historical events of Jesus’ life, death, resurrection and ascension. The disciples are sent forth to “all nations” with the authority of Jesus and they reap the rewards of being faithful to Jesus’ command and having Jesus always with them.

This weekend’s celebration of the Most Holy Trinity is not one given to us to figure out the nature of God and how God works as Father, Son and Holy Spirit like some type of divine Rubik Cube. Our celebration today, as the reading from Deuteronomy reminds us, is first of all a celebration of God’s initiative of self-revelation and invitation to relationship with him in grace through the works he has accomplished on our behalf. To accept this initiative and invitation St. Paul reminds us makes us “children of God” heirs with Jesus, God’s ultimate revelation of his divine self, and if heirs of Christ, heirs to his mission of bringing the good news of God’s love, mercy, and salvation to the world. Baptism, Confirmation, and each Mass are our “commission”. This is what we are sent to do by the deacon or priest at the end of each Mass as we are commissioned: “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.” This is our mission statement.