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# THE MYSTERY OF ETERNAL LOVE

A RETREAT GUIDE ON THE  
BLESSED TRINITY

**STUDY & PRAYER GUIDE**

FR. JOHN PIETROPAOLI, LC, STL

This booklet is a part of RC Spirituality's *Retreat Guide* service, which includes free online videos and audio tracks available at **[RCSpirituality.org](http://RCSpirituality.org)**.

## **FIRST MEDITATION**

*The Very Structure of Being*



## QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION/GROUP DISCUSSION

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1. What difference does it make for me to say that God is love?
2. Where could I still be attached to some sin or attitude that prevents me from closer union with God? How much do I want to allow God to purify that, and how committed am I to cooperating?
3. In which situations in my own life is God asking me to cling more closely to him? In what ways could he be asking me to do that?

## QUOTATIONS TO HELP YOUR PRAYER

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“And Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will send you another Counselor, to be with you for ever ... the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you desolate, I will come to you ... In that day you will know that I am in the Father, and you in me, and I in you. If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

—John 14:15–23  
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## SECOND MEDITATION

*Welcoming the Trinity*



The Oak of Mamre

## QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION/GROUP DISCUSSION

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1. Where is the Lord calling me to leave my “tent” and trust in what he’s asking me to do?
2. In my own life, where could God be calling me to hasten to meet him?
3. What are some situations in my life where I’ve been aware of welcoming the Lord?

## QUOTATIONS TO HELP YOUR PRAYER

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☞ For thus says the Lord ... I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes ...

—Jeremiah 29: 10–14  
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☞ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You whose glory above the heavens is chanted by the mouth of babies and infants, you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.





## **CONFERENCE**

*Praying with the Blessed Trinity*



## PERSONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What idea or ideas resonated the most with me today? What could the Lord be telling me with that?
2. Which person of the Blessed Trinity (the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit) do I feel most drawn towards in prayer? Why?
3. What are one or two simple ways that I can create more silence in order to recognize the Blessed Trinity's presence and action in my life?
4. God is love, and Christ's great commandment is to love one another as he loves us—without limits. What are a few simple ways I can share that love with someone else?
5. Finally, list two or three practical resolutions from this Retreat. For example, I will create more silence in my life in the following way\_\_\_\_\_.
  - I will be a missionary of God's love today by praying for and reaching out to someone who is suffering (be very specific here).
  - I will read *Novo Millennio Ineunte* by Saint John Paul II (it's free online) and reflect on my call to holiness and its link with Trinitarian prayer.
  - I will make a habit of saying "Come Holy Spirit" as soon as I wake up in the morning.





## FURTHER READING

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If you feel moved to continue reflecting and praying about this theme, you may find the following books helpful:

*Novo Millennio Ineunte: Into the New Millennium*  
by St. John Paul II

*Contemplating the Trinity*  
by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa

*The One Thing Is Three*  
by Fr. Michael Gaitley

## EXPLORING MORE

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Please visit our website, [RCSpirituality.org](http://RCSpirituality.org) for more spiritual resources, and follow us on Facebook for regular updates: [facebook.com/RCSpirituality](https://facebook.com/RCSpirituality)

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