

# SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

JUNE 7, 2009

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32607  
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## 1<sup>ST</sup> READING: DEUTERONOMY 4:32-34, 39-40

This is why you must now know and fix in your heart, that the Lord is God in the heavens above and on earth below, and that there is no other.

## PSALM 33

May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us who have placed our hope in you.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> READING: ROMANS 8:14-17

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear.

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28:16-20

They worshiped, but they doubted... Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.

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Rome is a very ancient city. One day we were enjoying wine and a snack at a sidewalk bar. Across from us we could see the pillars of a four thousand year old temple, and across from it a 400 year old building. Romans ruled the world for centuries and have been invaded through the centuries. They have a, "we've seen it all; nothing surprises us," joy for living. Once, some of us priests were on the Number 62 bus which crosses town by the church for the Americans living in Rome. The bus suddenly stopped and the bus driver got out of his seat and everyone got quiet, he said, "I've never driven this route before. Does anyone know where this bus is supposed to go?" A few guys went forward saying, "Oh sure, we'll show you." One of the priests translated all this for us. The whole bus was talking and laughing like we were all one big happy family back on course.

We have a saying on our weekly parish bulletin: "If you don't know where you are going, you might end up somewhere else." Do you know where you are going? Are you following the crowd or making your own plans? Is what you are planning to do with your life what will give you life?

I was replacing the battery in the cordless microphone before Mass. The battery doesn't just need to be changed; it needs to fit into the container in the

correct direction. There is a positive side and a negative side. If you put the battery in wrong it won't work. It came to me that people are like those batteries. Everyone has a positive side and a negative side. It is that way in our thoughts and our attitudes.

In today's gospel we hear, "they worshiped, but doubted." Have you ever met anyone who seemed to have everything any person could want and yet there is a profound negativity to them? I remember reading that the first time Billy Martin was named the manager of the Yankees, Casey Stengel, a famously successful previous manager, called him and gave him advice, he said, "Billy, find out who your negative players are and never, ever, ever, let them sleep on the same floor as the other guys when you travel. Those negative guys are poison and they will poison the rest of the team if you are not careful." There are people who seem to insist on turning everything and every situation negative. On the other hand, some people are positive. We are each responsible for our selves. It is the way we humans choose to be that determines attitudes and attitudes become character. I can help the driver and enjoy the ride or I can sit on the bus and criticize. I can choose to be positive or I can choose to be negative. I can hope or I can mope. I can choose Jesus Christ or I can choose doubt. We all have the same choices; it is up to us to decide where we are going. Is what you are doing with your life giving you life?

In our society, the crowd has a direction we could follow. Is the crowd going in the direction that will give you life? Everything about God is positive. Jesus said in tonight's Gospel, "All power in heaven and earth has been given to me." Does he leave anything out? God can give life to your living. God can turn your battery in the right direction. God can steer you toward where you want to go. What I am trying to say is that we have been baptized into the Christian mission to light up the world with the good news! If we want to go in the right direction, that's what we'll do.