



**Is the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity  
AGAINST REASON?**

Unlike the doctrine of the existence of God, which can be deduced and proven by human reason, unaided by Revelation, that of the *Holy Trinity*, which teaches that there are three distinct Persons in One God, can only be known by Revelation, and cannot be proven by unaided reason. But does this necessarily mean that this teaching of the Catholic Church is therefore *unreasonable*?



Now, *if* the Church claimed that there were three Gods in One God, or three Persons in one Person, that *would* be a contradiction, and therefore very much contrary to reason. BUT-- this is *not* what the Church teaches....

What the Church actually teaches is that there is only **One God**, but that in the one *Divine Essence* that is God, there are three distinct but equal *Persons*. These *Persons* are called by us the *Father*, the *Son*, and the *Holy Ghost*.



As the late Bishop Sheen once pointed out, we can simplify our understanding of this concept by thinking of it this way: In God we find three *“WHO”*s in a single *“WHAT”*.

**We are all familiar with the story of St. Patrick teaching the doctrine of the Holy Trinity by taking an example from nature, which is God's created world. Picking a shamrock, he pointed out that in one *shamrock* there are three distinct but equal *leaves*.**



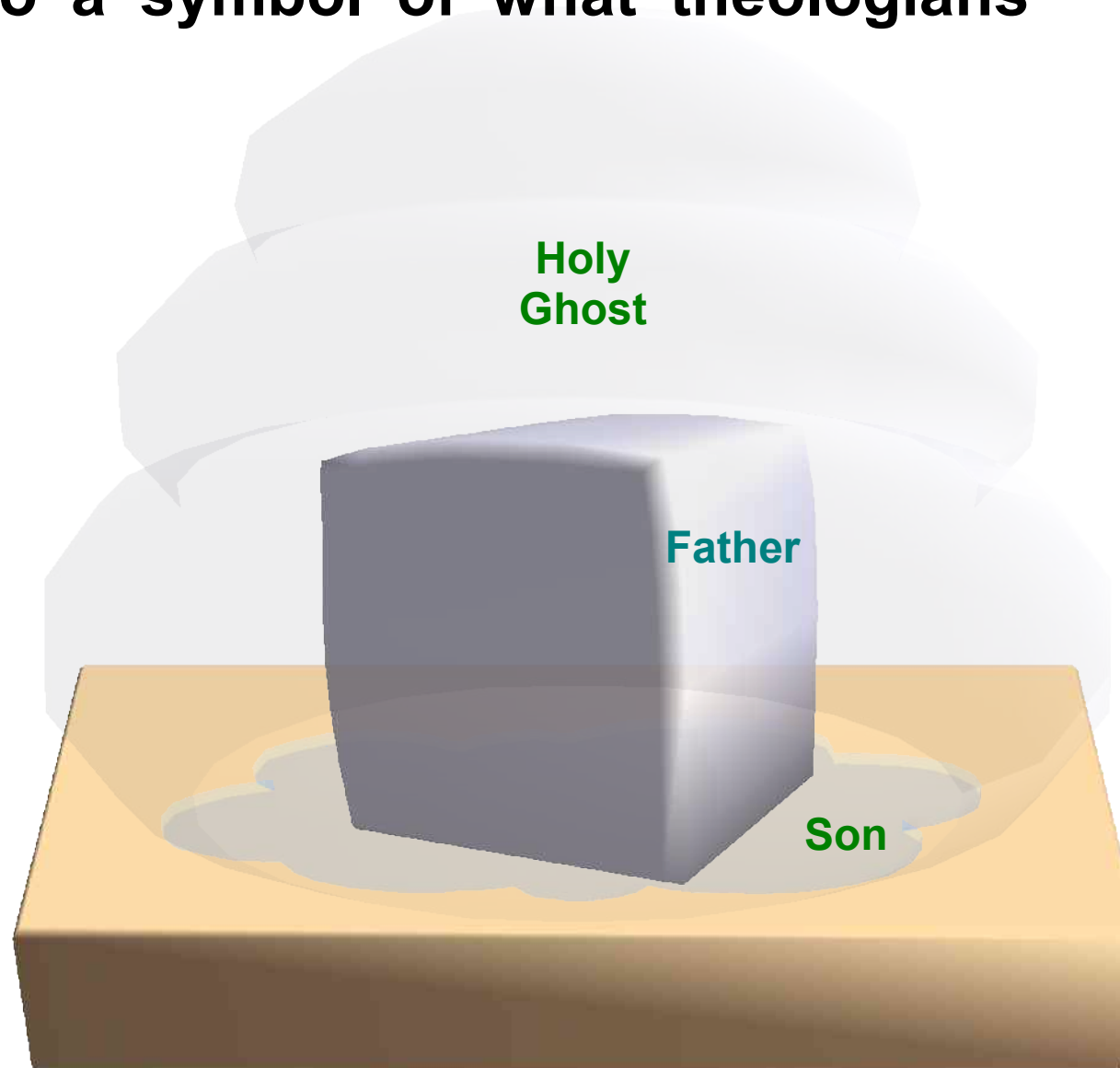
Perhaps a clearer analogy from nature that is more suited to modern man would be the substance known as H<sub>2</sub>O, or dihydrogen oxide. This *one* single *substance* exists commonly in a *trinity* of distinct forms, or “*personalities*”: ice, water, and vapor. Take an ice cube and place it on a table, and let it start melting.

Note that ice is cold, translucent and hard. The water that is produced by its melting is liquid and transparent. The vapor that science tells us arises from both is gaseous and virtually invisible. Yet they are all the same *substance*, H<sub>2</sub>O.



**Can it be that the Author of nature wanted us to see in nature itself various reflections or symbols of His Own Divine Nature? Here in this common natural substance so basic to Life, we see not only three distinct “personalities”, but also a symbol of what theologians call “procession”.**

**Thus, as the ice melts, it generates water, which “proceeds” from the ice, symbolizing the Son's procession from the Father. Vapor proceeds from both the ice and the water, symbolizing the fact that the Holy Ghost proceeds from both Father and Son.**





**Some theologians have offered this explanation:  
God the Eternal Father contemplates His own perfections. This, His Divine Thought, or “Word”, which proceeds from the Father, is perfect, and is the second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Son.**

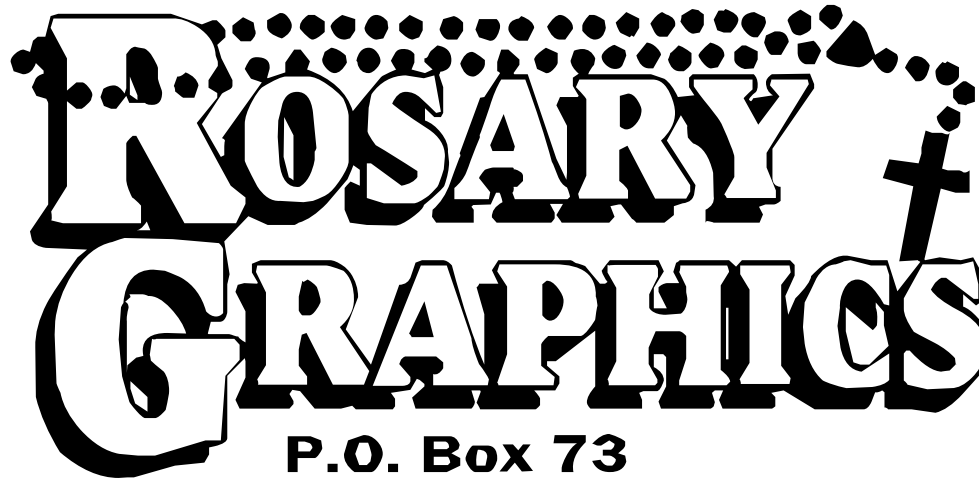
**The Father and the Son contemplate each other, and love each other infinitely and perfectly. This perfect Love, which proceeds from both the Father and the Son, is the third Person, the Holy Ghost. This happens in eternity, for Time itself is a creature of God, Who has no beginning or end.**



# BUT...

**...do not think that we have successfully explained the mystery of the Holy Trinity! No creature can ever fully comprehend the essence of the Infinite! The only purpose of this presentation is to demonstrate that this sacred Doctrine is not contrary to logic or reason. We Catholics believe it because God has revealed it through His Church.**

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