WHAT IS THE TRINITY AND WHO IS GOD THE FATHER?

God, our Father, the first person of the Trinity, is not an omnipotent distant creator, but a loving Father who wants us to know Him, shares His innermost being with us, and wants us to know that He has a plan of loving goodness.

Sources: CCC 198-421, Exodus 3:6-15, Isaiah 54:8-10, Matthew 11:27, Genesis 1-3

1. The Trinity is the central MYSTERY of the Christian faith.
   a. The Trinity is the heart of our faith, everything flows from it and is connected to it.
   b. Mystery: A truth of faith that we could not know without God revealing it. It is understandable and reasonable, but never fully comprehensible.
2. Important truths of the Mystery:
   a. God is TRANSCENDENT, He is beyond His creation, all ideas and speech about God cannot fully understand or describe Him.
   b. God is not an impersonal “force”
   c. There are three divine persons, and one divine nature.
   d. Divinity is indivisible, each person of the Trinity has the fullness of divine nature.
3. God is LOVE: The Three persons of the trinity live in a perfect communion of self-giving love.
   a. Nature: The essence of being, the source of activities.
   b. God’s nature determines His action, who God is determines what God does.
   c. God’s actions are good, and everything He does is from love.
   d. God is IMMANENT, He is always close to us, and acts in our lives.
4. Each Person of the Trinity has a work or role, the common work is the work of salvation.

GOD THE FATHER, CONT.

1. We were created for love
    a. we live to respond to and grow in love
        i. Baptism, prayer, service, communion and community, etc.
    b. We enter that love forever at the end of our earthly lives.
2. Who is God the Father?
    a. The Lord Almighty, who is all-powerful, yet all-loving and merciful.
    b. He is the uncreated creator, who created all things seen and unseen, from nothing.
    c. A caring Father, merciful to all, who forgives our sins, because of His desire for loving union with us.
    d. His love is greater than what we might associate with earthly fathers.
    e. Has a plan of salvation for each one of us that we are invited to freely participate in, for our redemption and the redemption of our loved ones.

If God is all-powerful, why does evil exist?

1. The Father's plan for us is based on our freedom.
2. God created us as free-persons, because love must be free to be authentic.
3. Evil is not the result of God's inaction, but humanity turning away from God.
4. God the Father endured the greatest evil for the sake of the redemption of humanity.

Scripture:

Gen 1:26
Matt 3:13-17
Matt 28:19
John 10:30
Matt 5:48
Matt 6:9-15

If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' ...Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

-Matthew 6:25ff