



## *Reflection from Denise Simeone*

My five-year-old grandson loves to bring me three-leaf clovers (and the occasional four-leaf lucky one). For him, it is just a fun search in nature. For me, it eternally reminds me of lessons learned in grade school about the Trinity. We didn't have words for something seemingly so mysterious so we often used images. But images just give us a glimpse of the many layers of God.

We didn't always know how to name God or call or God in prayer or refer to God when we tried to talk about God in languages or prayers. Over time, the institutional church wanted to create some uniformity and patterns in prayer. So, we often defaulted to familiar ones such as Father, Lord, and Holy Spirit. And in many languages, such as English we called God: He/Him/His. Yet our God is way beyond a specific gender; God is "they." God is multiple. God is beyond words and formulas.

Our God as depicted in the Trinity is an awesome, immensely mysterious God — I use mystery meaning something that is infinitely being revealed. The more we peel the layers, the more we discover. The more life experiences we have, the more we understand how fragile, powerful, staggering, sobering, and lovely life is. If we allow ourselves, we can do the same discovery with God.

The more we explore our relationship with God, the more God we will be revealed in all aspects of our lives. We may take a walk outside and feel the stirrings of creative power; we may practice a yoga posture or exercise and understand more clearly the workings of a communal body, we may be moved to action for some aspect of justice and feel the force that has prodded and pushed us — perhaps even driven us — to do something.

Our Trinitarian God constantly seeks intimacy with us and offers endless ways for us to enter into this intimacy. We barely scratch the surface of knowing the ways of God. So, in the end, we can only know God as mystery. But we know that we bear the image and imprint of God on our hearts and we were created to share God's own identity and mission to be in and stay in loving relationships with one another.

*~ Peace,  
Denise*