

Trinity Sunday, 2025

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit . . .

Dear Brothers,

We have the longstanding custom in the Institute to renew our vows in community on Trinity Sunday, a tradition that reflects continuity with the incredible contributions our Brothers have made over the centuries. This year in the days leading up to Trinity Sunday, I invite us to find some personal time to prayerfully read the formula of vows that we profess. Reflecting on the vow formula can bring us back to the threshold of our vocation journey and where our commitment has led us over the years and continues to unfold each day.

This year, I want to suggest that in our personal reflection we focus in a particular way on the quiet, powerful phrase found in the first paragraph: ***“to procure your glory as far as I shall be able and as you will require of me.”***

This phrase has appeared in every iteration of the vow formula since the Heroic Vow of 1691. It is a line that reverberates with humility and mission, dependence and dedication, faith and zeal. It does not boast of achievement or mastery; instead, it entrusts everything to God and to the discernment of the “Body of the Society”. It reveals the kind of “radical availability” that does not grasp for control but listens for the Spirit’s prompting and the needs of the Church, the Institute and, most importantly, young people.

Gaudium et Spes reminds us, “Man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself.” (#24) Promising ***“as far as I shall be able and as you will require of me”*** is precisely that sincere gift: not limited by personal ambition but stretched by the grace of faith and zeal and life in the Institute.

There is an excellent **MEL Bulletin** entitled, [To Procure Your Glory](#) by Brother Josean Villalabeitia that I highly recommend for your spiritual reading. Brother Josean observes, “Our consecration is one made **TO God** who calls us, **WITH our Brothers** who have heard the same call and try to respond with the same generosity as ourselves, and **FOR the children and young people in need**, who are the horizon that God puts in front of us.”

Our renewal of vows is not a repetition of old words, but a recommitment to make our lives something useful to the Gospel, in whatever condition, capacity, or location we find ourselves – still fired up by the desire to “procure God’s glory” and still formed by the pattern of the Trinity: unity in diversity, mission in communion, love poured out in service.

On this Trinity Sunday, some of us renew our vows with the strength of youth; others with the wisdom of age. Some are fully engaged in the apostolate as teachers or administrators; others offer quiet support in the school or community and some offer a powerful witness of fidelity through their sickness and infirmity. Some of us are building new communities and apostolates; others are patiently tending to long-standing ones or providing important District service. All of it – as far as we are able – is our response to what God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – requires of us today.

May our renewal of vows be an opportunity to reinvigorate our lives as Brothers of the Christian Schools who have been called by God to procure his glory so that his Kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Live Jesus in our hearts forever!

Vow Formula of the Brothers of the Christian Schools

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
prostrate with the most profound respect before your infinite and adorable majesty,
I consecrate myself entirely to you
to procure your glory as far as I shall be able
and as you will require of me.

For this purpose, I promise and vow to unite myself,
and to remain in society,
with the Brothers of the Christian Schools
who are associated to conduct together and by association
schools for the service of the poor,
to go wherever I may be sent and to do whatever I may be assigned,
by the Body of the Society, or by its Superiors.

Wherefore I promise and vow
association for the service of the poor through education,
stability in the Institute,
obedience, chastity and poverty,
in accordance with the Bull of Approbation and the Rule of the Institute.
I promise to keep these vows faithfully all my life.