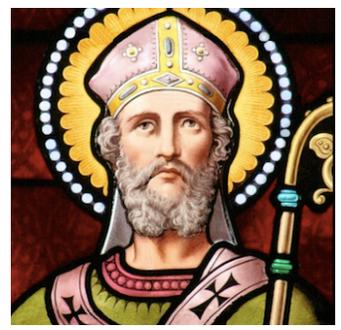
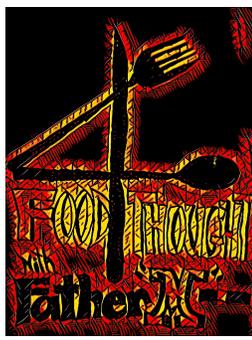


## Food 4 Thought with Father M

*Is this phrase true? "seeing is believing"*



"For I do not seek to understand in order to believe, but I believe in order to understand. For I believe this: unless I believe, I will not understand."

-- Anselm of Canterbury

Whenever people think about the act of seeing they are probably thinking of simply using their physical eyes to grasp the reality of our earthly environment. Our physical eyes are not always accurate in perceiving a reality we experience on earth. Take for example the photograph of a dress that became a viral internet sensation on 26 February 2015, when viewers disagreed over whether the dress pictured was colored blue and black, or white and gold. This was a perfect example of an optical illusion and so our physical eyes do greatly assist in our perception of reality in the world, but it's not always trustworthy. The second way of seeing is our mind or intellect to grasp some reality that we can easily experience on earth. It is good and necessary that we use our intellect to reason things out by learning first principles. When children are in kindergarten they are not able to grasp the concept of numbers without the aid of objects such as fruit, coins, or animals because their mind isn't ready for abstract principles. NASA has had their share of success, but also failures because our mind is not perfect at seeing every possible scenario beforehand and avoiding it perfectly so that human lives are never lost in the process of explorations in the universe.

Faith does not and cannot contradict reason but rather it goes beyond it just as space shuttle surpasses the distance of any airplane. An airplane is designed specifically to be mobile in the sky's atmosphere and the space shuttle is designed to be mobile in space. In a certain limited sense "Faith" is similar to the space shuttle because it can climb upwards to the Divine while our intellect is similar to an airplane because it's able to move forward from place to place on earthly terrains. This analogy is not perfect because faith is a supernatural gift from God and our intellect is a natural gift from God. One does not need supernatural faith to be a NASA scientist but we do in order to see the eternal reality of which we call God the Blessed Trinity. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit which means He is three Divine distinct Persons but one God. This is a mystery that was revealed by Jesus Christ who is both the Son of God and Son of Mary. If we cooperate with the grace of the Holy Spirit and let our faith become our lens then He gives us new lights that give a deeper understanding of His identity in relation to ours. That is the conditions that God has required for us to see Him as He is by accepting our faith as the first step, hope the second and love becomes the third that gives us not a one but three dimensional perspective on the Holy Blessed Trinity.

St. Anselm is a doctor of the Church which basically means his writings are faithful and useful in articulating the teachings of the Church. In St. Anselm's quote above he is explaining how faith is a higher way of seeing God as He is rather than our intellect because God is the Creator of both means of seeing reality. Jesus Who is both the Son of God and Son of Mary came to reveal to us about His relationship with Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit. Our Blessed Lord is like the living prism that helps us to see that which is beyond us as the earth's distance is from the sun.

In Jesus, Joseph and Mary

Fr. Mekonnen