

## **Day 108 (Saturday, July 4)**

“I believe in God” – continued

### **"A God merciful and gracious"**

**210** After Israel's sin, when the people had turned away from God to worship the golden calf, God hears Moses' prayer of intercession and agrees to walk in the midst of an unfaithful people, thus demonstrating his love.<sup>18</sup> When Moses asks to see his glory, God responds "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you my name 'the LORD' [YHWH]."<sup>19</sup> Then the LORD passes before Moses and proclaims, "YHWH, YHWH, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness"; Moses then confesses that the LORD is a forgiving God.<sup>20</sup>

**211** The divine name, "I Am" or "He Is", expresses God's faithfulness: despite the faithlessness of men's sin and the punishment it deserves, he keeps "steadfast love for thousands".<sup>21</sup> By going so far as to give up his own Son for us, God reveals that he is "rich in mercy".<sup>22</sup> By giving his life to free us from sin, Jesus reveals that he himself bears the divine name: "When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will realize that "I AM"."<sup>23</sup>

### **God alone IS**

**212** Over the centuries, Israel's faith was able to manifest and deepen realization of the riches contained in the revelation of the divine name. God is unique; there are no other gods besides him.<sup>24</sup> He transcends the world and history. He made heaven and earth: "They will perish, but you endure; they will all wear out like a garment. . . but you are the same, and your years have no end."<sup>25</sup> In God "there is no variation or shadow due to change."<sup>26</sup> God is "HE WHO IS", from everlasting to everlasting, and as such remains ever faithful to himself and to his promises.

**213** The revelation of the ineffable name "I AM WHO AM" contains then the truth that God alone IS. The Greek Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, and following it the Church's Tradition, understood the divine name in this sense: God is the fullness of Being and of every perfection, without origin and without end. All creatures receive all that they are and have from him; but he alone is his very being, and he is of himself everything that he is.

*Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Jesus*

Sincerely,  
Fr. Jim Kaptein