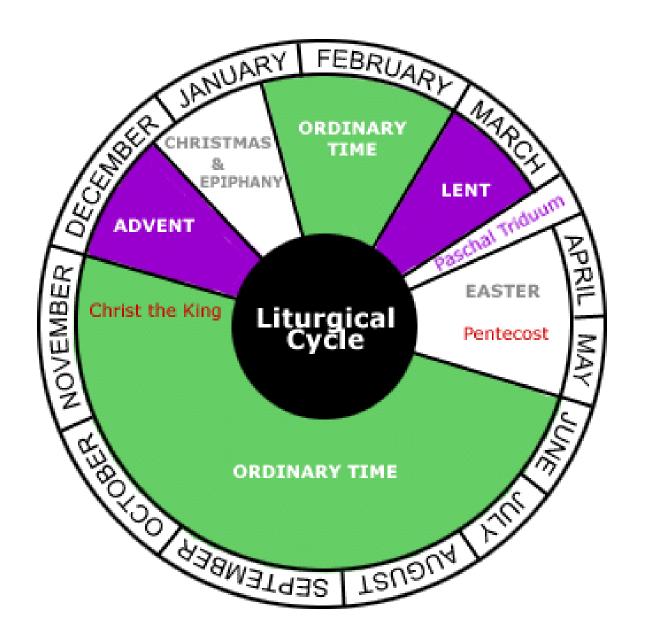
## 2020-2021 RCIA #4

10/5/20

# Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults

The Faith Explained

Father Leo J. Trese



Part I: The Creed (Chapter 3)

The Unity and Trinity of God

• How Are There Three?

## The Trinity is based on the Baptism of Jesus

- Matthew 3:13-17
- Mark 1:9-11
- Luke 3:21-22
- John 1:29-34

### Introduction and Overview (Cont)

#### Early Heresies

- Judaizers said had to be a Jew to be a Christian
- Gnostics secret knowledge
- Dualism two gods: one good, one bad
- Montanism end of the world was imminent
- Manacheism two equal gods run everything
- Arianism Jesus was not divine
- Nestorianism Mary was not the mother of God
- Apollinariansm Jesus had an incomplete human nature

### Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- Early Councils
  - **Jerusalem** 50 A.D. *Gentiles can become Christians without becoming Jews rejected Judaizers*
  - Nicaea 325 A.D. Christ is the same as God rejected Arianism
  - Constantinople 381 A.D. HS is the same as God and Jesus – rejected revised Arianism
  - **Ephesus** 431 A.D. –*Blessed Mother was the Mother of God rejected Nestorianism*
  - Chalcedon 451 A.D. Christ possessed two natures: human and divine rejected Apollinariansm

## The Trinity (Cont)

- What are some images we have for the Trinity?
  - Clover
  - Ice, water, steam
  - Intersecting circles
  - Husband/wife/child
  - A MYSTERY

## What is the Trinity of God

- According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church the Trinity is the:
  - Central mystery of Christian faith
  - Mystery of God in himself
  - Source of all other mysteries of faith
  - Light that enlightens them
  - Most fundamental and essential teaching in the "hierarchy of the truths" of faith

## What is the Trinity of God (Cont)

- It is one of the mysteries that are hidden in God which can never be known unless they are revealed by God
- A dogma of the Church teaches that all three persons of the Trinity exist for all times
- One God Three Persons
  - Three Missions
    - **Father** creator
    - **Son** redeemer
    - Holy Spirit sanctifier

## The Trinity

- When you pray to God, what does He look like?
  - Father figure
  - Old man
  - Cloud
  - Spirit
- Let us look at the ascension of Jesus from Luke 24 and Acts 1 as discussed Pope Benedict XVI's book Jesus of Nazareth

## Part I: The Creed (Chapter 4)

#### **Creation and Angels**

- How Did Creation Begin?
- Is the Devil Real?

#### The Nicene Creed

Our belief in "God the Father" is expressed as:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

#### God and Creation

- How did creation begin?
  - God created everything out of nothing (ex nihilo)
  - He wills and it is done (Gn 1)
  - He keeps everything in existence

#### God As Creator

- The Book of Genesis begins with the two stories of creation
  - Genesis 1:1- 2:3
  - Genesis 2:4-24

## He Creates Everything Out of Nothing

- The Seven Days of Creation
  - "And God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."
    - God spoke (debar Hebrew) and it came to be
- The "Word of God" was understood in the Old Testament to be the "sophia" - Greek for "wisdom"

## First Six Days of Creation

#### From the Void

- Day One
  - Day/night
- Day Two
  - Sea/Sky
- Day Three
  - Land/Vegetation

#### Filled the Void

- Day Four
  - Sun/Moon/Stars
- Day Five
  - Birds/Fish
- Day Six
  - Animals/Man

## The Seventh Day of Creation

- God Rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day:
  - Sabbath
  - A day to praise, adore, glorify and worship God

## Hierarchy of Beings

- Divine Life God in the Trinity pure uncreated spirit with infinite intelligence and will
- Angelic Life Pure created spirits with intellect and will
- Human Life A spiritual soul w/ intellect and will
- Animal Life Existence, growth, and feelings
- Plant Life Existence and growth
- No Life Existence

#### Reminder

- Next week, October 12, we will not meet because of the Columbus Day Federal holiday
- Monday, October 19 we will continue looking at Chapter 4 - Creation and the Angels