

2021 Spring Summer RCIA #1

4/12/21

Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults

The Faith Explained

Father Leo J. Trese

Welcome and Introduction

Administrative Information

- Please return of **Registration Form as soon as possible**
- Obtain a copy of your Baptismal Certificate
- Please schedule a meeting with Father DeCelles as soon as possible
 - Call rectory 703 440-0535 or email him at:
fr.decelles@gmail.com

Administrative Information (Cont)

- I will send a copy of each week's charts to your email address one or two days before the next class
- My email is biblestudy@straymonds.org
- My telephone number is 703 644-5873

Introduction and Overview

- Class procedures
 - Open and close with Prayer
 - Our Father and Hail Mary
 - Questions/Answers
 - Lecture/Conference
- Textbooks
 - *The Faith Explained*, Leo J. Trese
 - **(Please pick up a copy at the Parish Office, or call me for other arrangements)**
- Other references
 - *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The
Faith
Explained



LEO TRESE

CATECHISM *of the* CATHOLIC CHURCH

SECOND EDITION

*revised in accordance with the official Latin text
promulgated by Pope John Paul II*

contains glossary and analytical index



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Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- Please seek answers to your questions
 - Ask them in class
 - Call me on the phone
 - E-mail me
 - There is no such thing as a dumb question!!!
 - Half of the class may have the same question but are also hesitant to ask

Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*
 - Trent
 - Baltimore
- Four Pillars of the Catechism
 - Creed – summary of Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition
 - Sacraments and Liturgy
 - Moral Life
 - Prayer

Introduction and Overview (Cont)

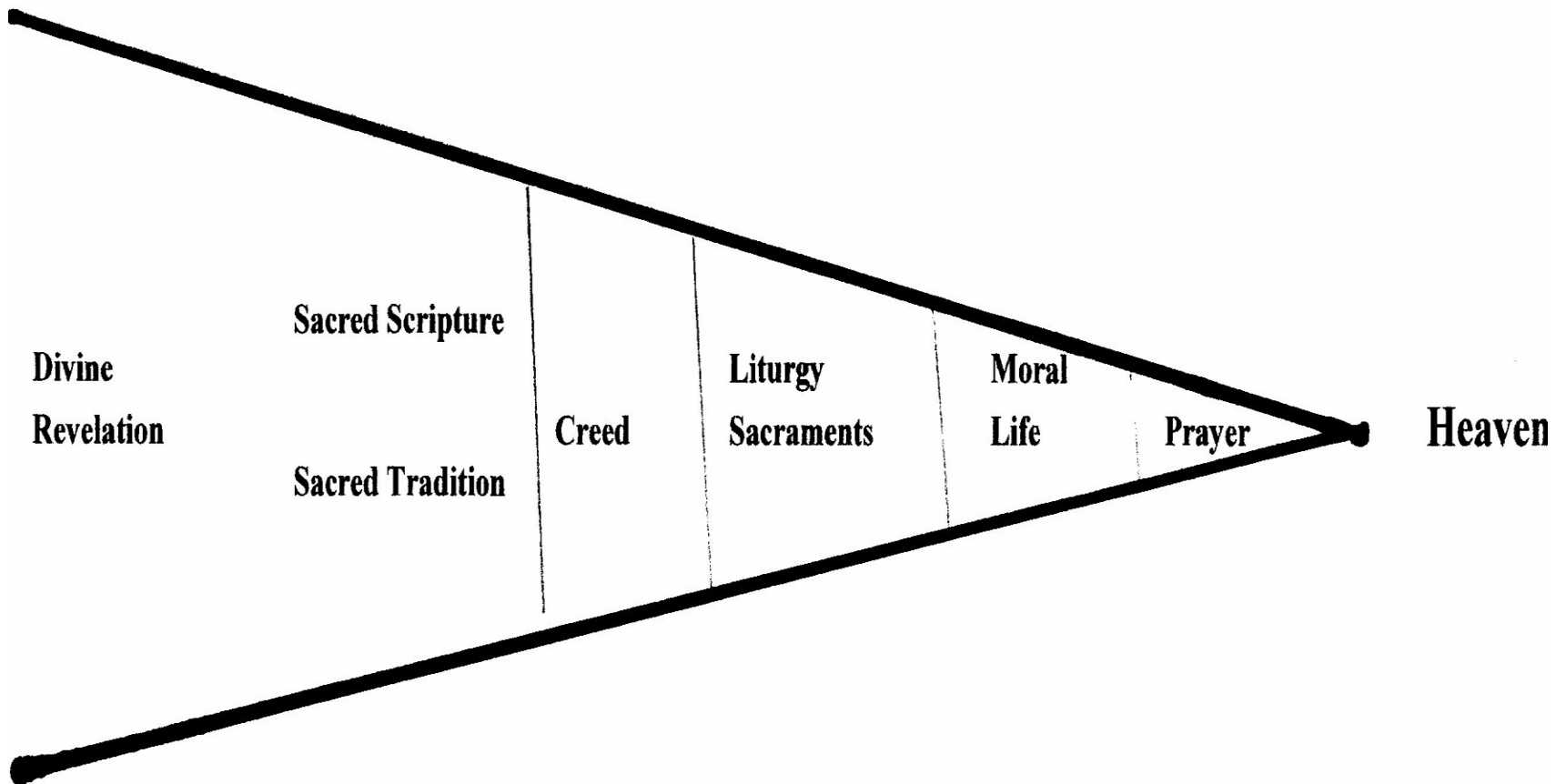
- Three parts of Father Trese's book
 - Part I – The Creed
 - Part II – The Commandments
 - Part III – The Sacraments and Prayer

Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- *Veritas* –Truth - An attribute of God “and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (**John 8:32**)
- Differences between:
 - Anthropology – science of man
 - Philosophy – science of concepts (truth, existence)
 - Theology – science of God
- Importance of Philosophy and its relationship to Theology
- Views of history
 - Circular
 - Revisionist
 - Linear

Transmission of the Revelation

The Transmission of the Divine Revelation within the Church



Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- Transmission of the “**Divine Revelation**”
 - Sacred **Scripture**
 - Sacred **Tradition**
- **Hierarchy of Truths** – the order (hierarchy) of the truths in Catholic doctrine **as they relate to** the central mystery and foundation of the Christian faith, **the mystery of the Holy Trinity**

Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- **Mystery** – something continuously explored without ever knowing everything
- **Heresy** – something left out of or added to a doctrine (teaching) of the Church

Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- Why do we seek to learn about God?
 - The “God hole”
- So we must ask “Is there a God?”
 - Yes there is/No there is not
 - This is the **Fundamental Option**

Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- What is belief
 - That state of the mind by which it assents to propositions, not by reason of their intrinsic evidence, but because of authority (Catholic Encyclopedia)

Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- The Bible address this topic in the story of the “father of an epileptic son” who asks Jesus if he can heal his son
 - Jesus responds
 - “If you can! All things are possible to him who believes. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, ‘**I believe; help my unbelief!**’” (Mk 9:23-24)

Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- Do you believe that American Astronauts actually walked on the moon?
 - Although I did not see it happen, I believe it is true because I believe in those who reported it to me

Introduction to Faith

- How do we attain information?
 - Through our five senses
- How are we different from the animals?
 - We have an intellect and will
- How does this difference provide us with a greater capacity to attain information?
 - We can accept abstract concepts

Introduction to Faith

- How do we process information?
 - The **intellect** seeks “the good” and presents it to the **will** who directs an action as impacted on by the imagination and the memory
- How do we believe God communicates to us?
 - Naturally through our senses
 - Supernaturally

Introduction to Faith (Cont)

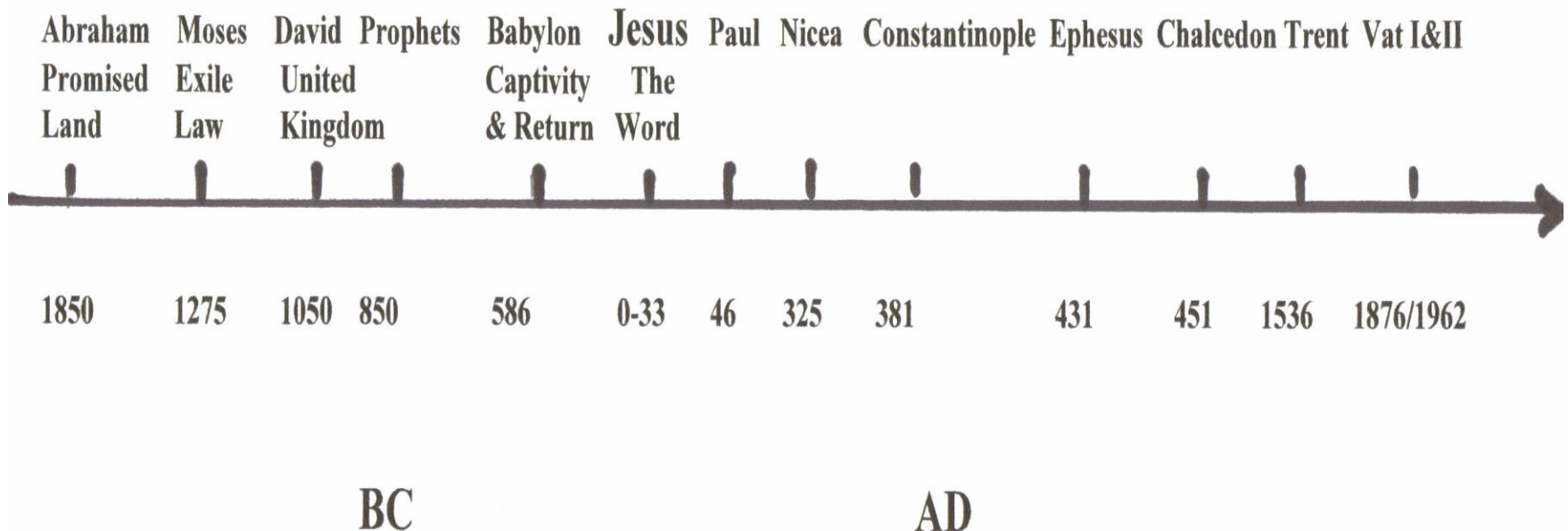
- How do we accept this supernatural information?
 - By Faith
- What is Faith?
 - “ Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Heb 11:1)
- How do we get Faith?
 - It is a free gift from God via His grace (love)
 - It something that we can learn

Summary of the Faith

- According to St. Thomas Aquinas every things a Christian need to know is contained in three things:
 - **The Apostle's Creed** – what to believe
 - **The Ten Commandments** - what to do
 - **The Lord's Prayer** – what to pray

God's Divine Plan

God's Divine Plan of Salvation History – (*Economea*)



Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- **Two Creeds**
 - **Apostles** – faith of the Church expressed privately
 - **Nicene/Constantinople** – faith of the Church expressed publicly

The 12 Articles of the Apostle's Creed

- I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**
- **He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**
- **He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**
- **He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.**
- **He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

The 12 Articles of the Apostle's Creed (Cont)

- **He will come again to judge the living and the dead**
- I believe in the Holy Spirit,
- The holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
- The forgiveness of sins,
- The resurrection of the body,
- And the life everlasting. Amen

Early Church History Leading To The Nicene Creed

- 1st - 3rd centuries – Roman Persecution – Christianity underground
- 313 A.D. Edict of Milan ending Christian persecutions
- 313 A.D. onward the rise of a multitude of questions about the Faith
- 4th and 5th centuries the need for Church councils

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
- Manicheism – two equal gods run everything
- Arianism – Jesus was not divine
- Nestorianism – Mary was not the mother of God
- Apollinarianism – 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 Apollinarianism*

The Nicene Creed

God the Father

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

The Nicene Creed

Jesus Christ

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the Only **Begotten** Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, **begotten, not made,**
consubstantial with the Father; through
him all things were made.

The Nicene Creed

Jesus Christ (Cont)

For us men and for our salvation he came
down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was **incarnate**
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate,
he **suffered death** and was buried,
and **rose again** on the third day in accordance
with the Scriptures.

The Nicene Creed

Jesus Christ (Cont)

He **ascended** into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory **to judge** the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

The Nicene Creed

Holy Spirit

- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

The Nicene Creed

The Church

I believe in **one, holy, catholic,**
and **apostolic** Church.

The Nicene Creed

End Things

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

The Explosion of Christianity

- 12 Apostles
 - Grew to over
- 2.2 Billion Christians
 - In the World by
 - 2010

Transition

- Please read the following chapters in *The Faith Explained* for the next class:
 - Chapter 1 – The Purpose of Man's Existence
 - Chapter 2 – God and His Perfections