

# 2021 Spring Summer RCIA #3

4/26/21

# 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
- 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 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 24:36-53** and **Acts 1:1-11** 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 (**Genesis 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

# Creation and Angels

- What did God create before man?
  - **The Angels**
    - Messengers
    - Persons of pure spirit with intellects and wills
    - Possess great power
    - Capable of loving God
  - The word angel or angels appears 332 times in Holy Scriptures

# Creation and Angels (Cont)

- **Nine choirs of Angels**

- Seraphim
- Cherubim
- Thrones
- Dominations
- Virtues
- Powers
- Principalities
- Archangels
- Angels

# Creation of Spiritual Beings - Angels

- How would you describe an angel?
  - Valentine cupid
  - Winged man/woman
  - Pure spirit

# Creation and Angels (Cont)

- Three Archangels named in Scripture
  - **Gabriel** – Hero of God (Luke 1:26-38)
  - **Michael** – Who is like God (Revelation 12:7)
  - **Raphael** – God hath healed (Tobit 5)
  - *Feast Day of Archangels is September 29*
- Every person is assigned a Guardian Angel
  - *Memorial of Guardian angels is October 2*

# Prayer to Saint Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel

Defend us in battle

Be our protection against the  
wickedness and snares of the devil;

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;

And so then, O Prince of the heavenly host,

By the power of God, thrust into hell Satan  
and all evil spirits

Who wander through the world seeking the ruin  
of souls

# Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God,  
My guardian dear  
To whom God's love  
Commits me here;  
Ever this day be at my side  
To light and guard,  
To rule and guide.

Amen

Feast Day: October 2

# 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.**



# Creation and the Devil

- Do you believe that the devil exists?

# Jesus and the devil

- Right after Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17) he spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying
- At the conclusion of this time the devil presented Jesus with three temptations (tests)

# Matthew 4:3-11(Cont)

- Jesus' defeat of the devil:
  - Sets the tone for the rest of Jesus' public ministry
  - Cause all of his subsequent actions to be seen as repercussions of His initial triumph over the devil
  - Allows Jesus to take this victory to all whose lives he touches in his travels

# Matthew 4:3-11

- Jesus's **first** test was in response to hunger
  - Jesus fasted for 40 days/nights and was hungry
  - The devil challenged Jesus to turn stones into bread
  - Jesus replied **“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’”**
  - Jesus' reply was based on **Deuteronomy 8:1-3**

# Matthew 4:3-11 (Cont)

- Jesus quoted from **Deuteronomy** 8:1-3 while he in fact was the word of God
- Every time he quoted **Deuteronomy** to the devil he was actually pointing to his own divinity

# Matthew 4:3-11(Cont)

- Jesus' **second** test was in response to putting God to the test (Matthew 4:5-7):
  - The devil took Jesus to the pinnacle of the Temple and challenged him to prove that he was the son of God by throwing himself down
    - Psalm 91:11-12 (13)
    - Genesis 3:15
  - Jesus replied: **“Again it is written, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”**
  - Jesus' reply was based on **Deuteronomy 6:16**

# Matthew 4:3-11 (Cont)

- **The passage continues with “lest you strike your foot against a stone” (Matthew 4:6):**
  - Here the devil:
    - Was quoting from **Psalm 91:11-12**
    - Stopped at **Psalm 91:12** because **Psalm 91:13** says: “You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot”

# Matthew 4:3-11(Cont)

- Jesus' **third** test was in response to worshiping false gods (Matthew 4:5-7):
  - The devil took Jesus to a high mountain and promised that if he would worship him he would give him all the nations of the world
  - Jesus replied: "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve'"
  - Jesus' reply is based on **Deuteronomy 6:13**



# Creation and the Fallen Angels

## The Devil

- What is the devil?
  - A fallen angel
  - A tempter
  - A snake

# Creation and the Devil

- Lucifer, the Seraphim, leader of the fallen angels
  - Was a light bearer –a *Seraphim*
  - Angels due to superior intellect were given one choice
  - Cast to the earth by St. Michael (Revelations)
  - Became an enemy of mankind and ruler over hell
  - Names for the devil:
    - The devil, the tempter, the adversary

# Creation and the Devil (Cont)

- Is the devil real?
  - Yes and he is 100% evil and filled with hatred; a liar
  - He can tempt us to sin but can never cause us to sin
  - Temptations are from the devil, and the world
  - We can overcome temptation via grace especially from Confession and Eucharist
- People can become possessed by the Devil
  - The Church counters with exorcisms

# Transition

- Next week we will discuss:
  - Chapter 5 - The Creation and Fall of Man
  - Chapter 6 - Actual Sin