

# 2022-2023 RCIA #11

12/5/22

# Part I: The Creed

## (Chapter 13)

### The Communion of Saints and the Forgiveness of Sins

- The End of the Road

# 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 Communion of Saints and the Forgiveness of Sins

- What is the definition of a “saint?”
- In the early Church all Christians were called saints
  - *Sanctus* – holy
- Today it is limited to those in heaven

# The Communion of Saints and the Forgiveness of Sins (Cont)

- Communion of Saints means all souls in whom the Holy Spirit dwells
  - Church **Militant** – on Earth
  - Church **Suffering** – in Purgatory
  - Church **Triumphant** – in Heaven

# The Communion of Saints and the Forgiveness of Sins (Cont)

- We are called to be mindful of the needs of others
- When we honor the saints, we honor God who created them, Jesus who redeemed them and the Holy Spirit who sanctified them (**Nov 1<sup>st</sup> is all Saints Day**)
- Every soul in Heaven is a saint and we remember **all souls on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>**

# The Communion of Saints and the Forgiveness of Sins (Cont)

- We are called to pray for those in Purgatory by offering Masses and *indulgences* for them
- We believe that our prayers can ease their suffering and speed them to Heaven where they will remember us in prayer
- We must also pray for each other on Earth and practice the virtue of fraternal charity in thought, word, and deed

# The Communion of Saints and the Forgiveness of Sins (Cont)

- **Purgatory** is the place for purification
  - Silver is purified by fire
  - A woman asked a silversmith how he knew the process was finished – he said when he could see his face in the silver
    - We will be finished our purification when Jesus can see His face in our souls (Fr Scalia)



# The Communion of Saints and the Forgiveness of Sins (Cont)

- When someone turns on a light in the middle of the night it takes awhile for our eyes to adjust to the brightness of the light (Fr Scalia)
- Aloysius Gonzaga asked: “What does this have to do with eternity?”
- The saint did not fear death thus the proper state of death is acceptance
- Every Nov do two things:
  - Pray for the dead
  - Consider each day our eternity

# Part I: The Creed

## (Chapter 14)

### The Resurrection and Life Everlasting

- The End of the World
- Then what?
- What comes next?

# The Resurrection and Life Everlasting

- The month of November is the last month of the liturgical year
- The liturgy during the month of November focuses on the “four last things”
  - Death
  - Judgment
  - Heaven
  - Hell

# The Resurrection and Life Everlasting

- The end of the world
  - Life can be seen as eternity's proving ground where we prove our love for God and His creatures
  - In love we must withstand the pressures of man-made evils such as: poverty, pain, humiliation, and injustice
  - The role of suffering in our lives
  - Our road ends at death with the separation of the soul from the body

# The Resurrection and Life Everlasting (Cont)

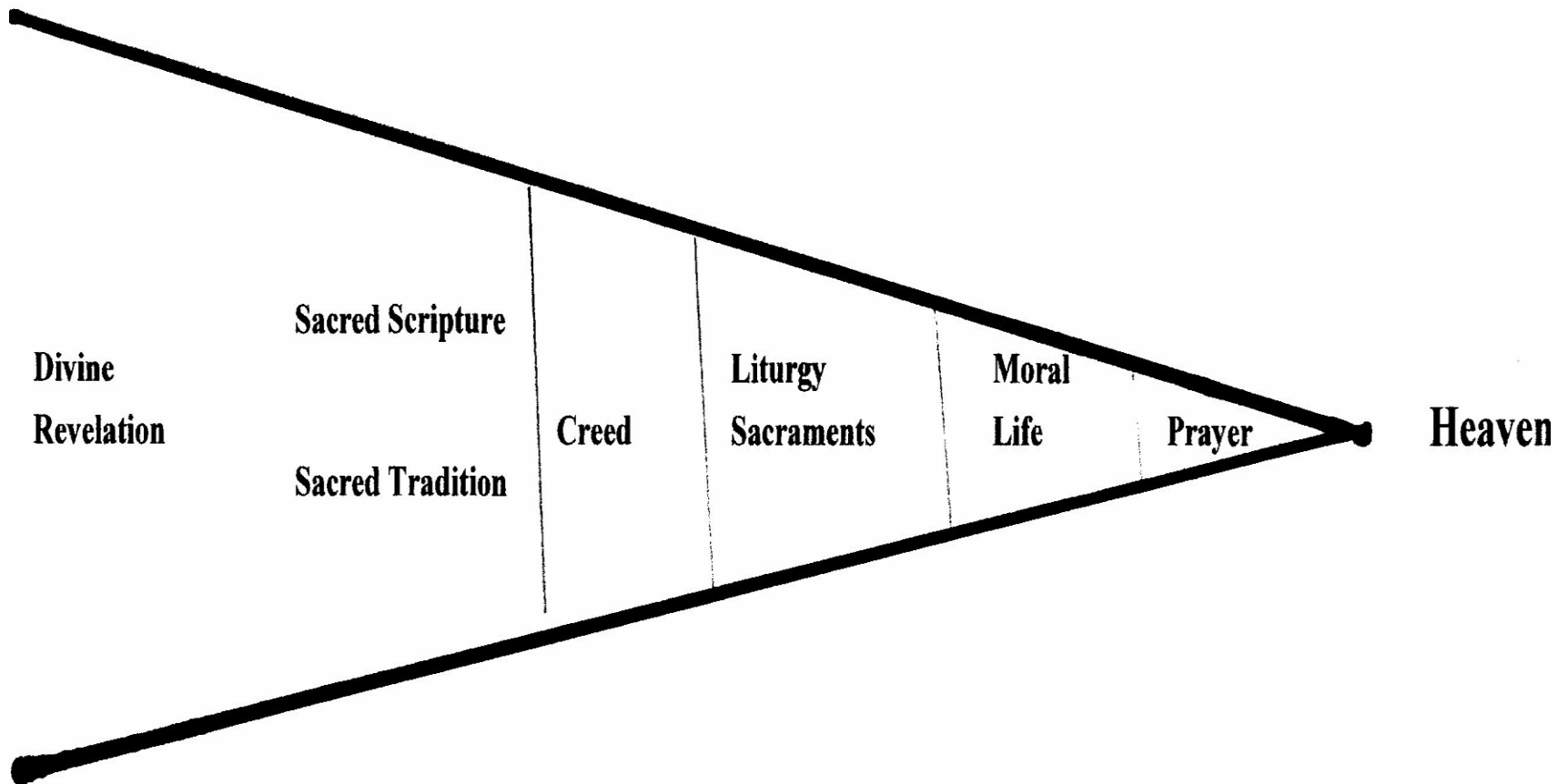
- Then what?
  - At death the soul leaves the body and enters the **particular judgment** by God which determines its eternal fate
  - Theologians speculate that the soul will be illuminated so that it sees itself as God sees it
  - At this point the soul will see if it is in the state of grace or of un-forgiven sin
  - By then God's mercy has done all it can and only His justice will prevail

# The Resurrection and Life Everlasting (Cont)

- What comes next?
  - Those who die in mortal sin will be sent to **Hell** for eternity
  - Those who die free of all mortal and venial sins as well as all un-discharged temporal punishment will go to **Heaven**
  - Those who die neither severed from God or in perfect purity will go to the state of temporary suffering called **purgatory**
  - When the **world ends (at the end of time)** all will experience the **General Judgment**

# Transmission of the Revelation

**The Transmission of the Divine Revelation within the Church**



# Transition

- This concludes our review of the **Nicene Creed** and next time we will begin looking at the Commandments – the Moral Life in:
  - Chapter 15 – The Two Great Commandments
  - Chapter 16 – The First Commandment of God
  - Chapter 17 – The Second and Third Commandments of God