

# 2022 Spring Summer RCIA #1

4/25/21

# 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
  - E-mail him at: [fr.decelles@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:biblestudy@straymonds.org)
- My telephone number is 703 644-5873
- Inclement weather decision will be in accordance with the Parish Inclement weather notifications (an email from me)

# 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
- 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*

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*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)

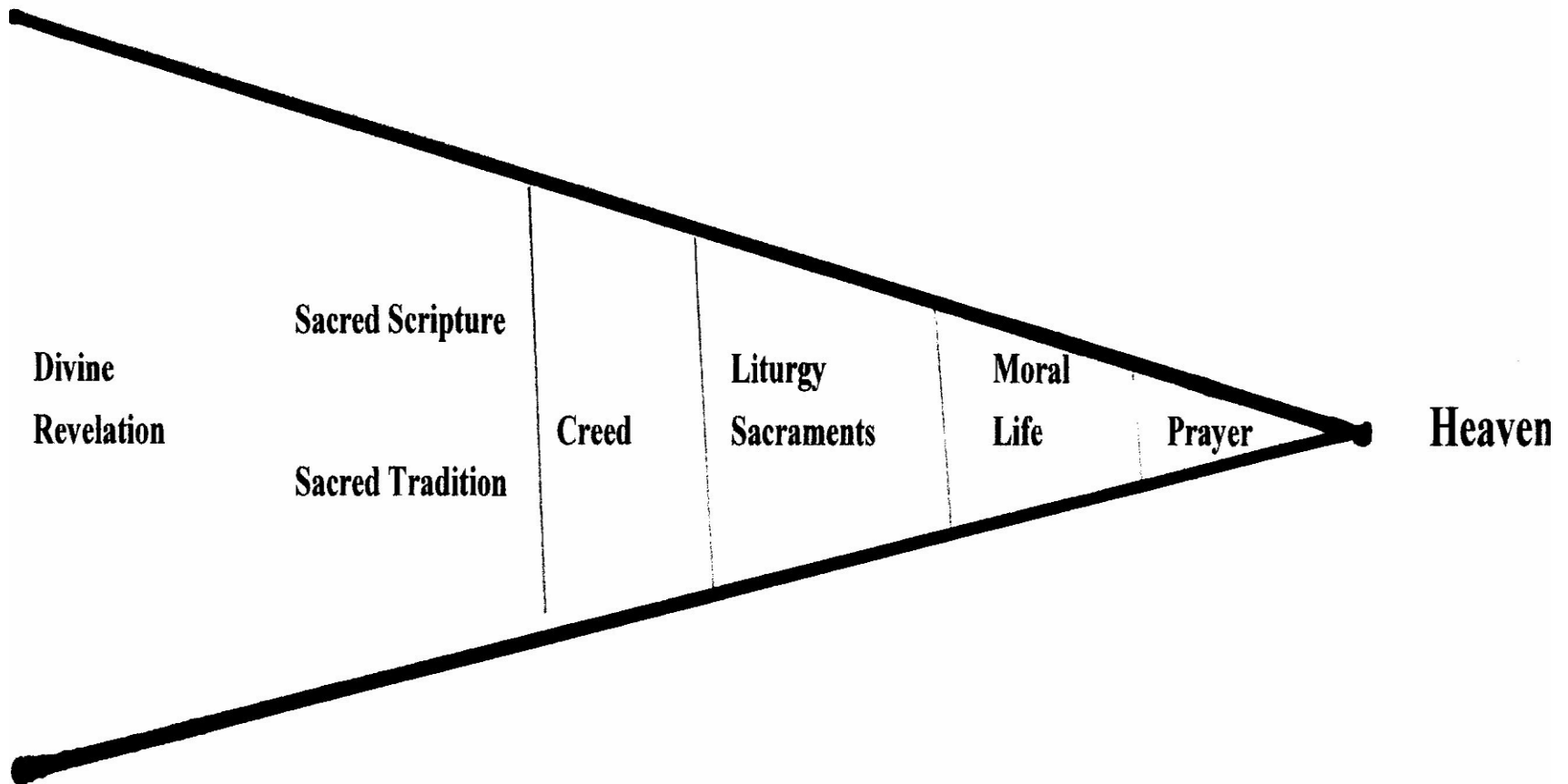
- Three parts of Father Trese's book
  - Part I – The Creed
  - Part II – The Commandments
  - Part III – The Sacraments and Prayer

# 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

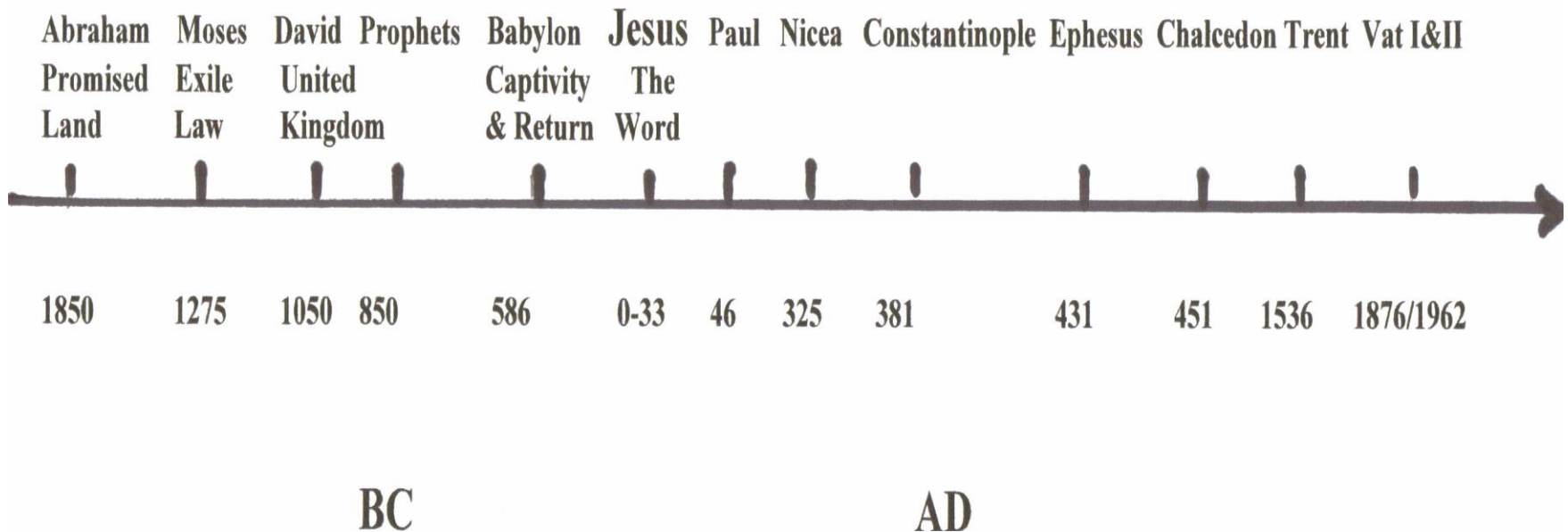
- According to St. Thomas Aquinas every things a Christian need to know is contained in three things:
  - **The Apostle's Creed** – what to believe
  - **The Ten Commandments** - what to do
  - **The Lord's Prayer** – what to pray

# Introduction and Overview (Cont)

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

# God's Divine Plan

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



# Early Church History Leading To The Nicene Creed

- 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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