

2022 Spring Summer RCIA # 16

8/29/22

Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 37)

- Prayer
 - The What and Why of Prayer
 - Prayer That Reaches God
 - For Whom Shall I Pray?

Prayer

- The What and Why of Prayer

- What is Prayer?

- The lifting up of our minds and hearts to God

- Mind means our attention

- Hearts means to let our will go out in an act of love to God

- Do we need prayer?

- Yes, for without it there is no salvation

- Every good thing comes from God, He is our creator and we are in His image and likeness

- We owe God the duty of our prayers as an act of justice not piety

Prayer (Cont)

- How do we pray?
 - Begin by directing our attention to God
 - Hard to do because other things creep in and the devil will try and distract us
 - Avoid pride because prayer and pride cannot co-exist
 - Prayer needs to be sincere not just a duty

Prayer (Cont)

- We are body-soul, so we need to pray with the wholeness of body and soul
- Our prayers of petition do not tell God anything that He does not know, but they focus ourselves on our needs for His help and His goodness
- We can also pray to the Blessed Mother and the Saints for in doing so we still adore and honor God as we seek their intercessions as part of Christ's mystical body (The oneness in Christ the head)

Prayer (Cont)

- God will answer our prayers but not always in the way we expect. He has a better plan
- Sometimes, like St. Paul, we are given a thorn in the flesh to help us grow in grace and prayer
- We need to pray in a childlike manner
- We must always pray for the graces to get to heaven
- Perseverance is essential for prayer

Prayer (Cont)

- Four types of prayer: (ACTS)
 - **Adoration** – to acknowledge His infinite majesty as Lord and Master of all creation
 - **Contrition** – to acknowledge our sinfulness for we owe Him our complete loyalty
 - **Thanksgiving** –to acknowledge His infinite goodness because all graces come from Him
 - **Supplication** – to ask God for graces and favors we need for ourselves and others

Prayer (Cont)

- Levels of prayer:
 - **Vocal prayer**
 - As an individual
 - In groups (Corporate prayer)
 - The Our Father
 - Rosary
 - Novenas
 - Divine Mercy
 - Liturgy at Mass

Prayer (Cont)

- **Meditative prayer**
 - Meditate on
 - Scripture
 - Spiritual works
- **Contemplative prayer**
 - Becoming one with God
 - Foretaste of the Beatific Vision

Prayer (Cont)

- This is how our prayer life has evolved
 - Blessings at meals
 - A daily family rosary
 - **Night prayer**
 - Examination of conscience
 - Before going to bed – always **the Lord's Prayer**
 - List of people we pray for

Prayer (Cont)

- **Morning prayer:**
 - Morning Offering
 - Reading the scriptures for daily Mass
 - Spiritual readings
 - Saint for the day
 - A daily meditation
- The Office
- Daily Mass
 - Rosary on the way to Mass

Prayer (Cont)

- **The Morning Offering**

- O Jesus,
through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works,
joys and sufferings
of this day for all the intentions
of Your Sacred Heart,
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
throughout the world,
in reparation for my sins,
for the intentions of all my relatives and friends,
and in particular
for the intentions of the Holy Father.
- Amen.
 - *This prayer has numerous variations, but the main idea is to start your day giving to God everything you may encounter during the upcoming day.*

Prayer (Cont)

- **For Whom Shall We Pray?**

- Ourselves
- Our neighbors
- Church leaders
- National (International) leaders
- The dead (especially those in Purgatory)
- Missionaries
- Sinners
- Unbelievers

Prayer (Cont)

- **What prayer should we know?**
 - Our Father
 - Hail Mary
 - Glory be
 - Apostle's and Nicene creeds
 - Confiteor (said at every Mass)
 - Act of Faith, Hope and Love
 - Act of Contrition

Prayer (Cont)

- Catholics begin all prayer with **the sign of the cross**
- We should pray first thing in the morning and the last thing in the evening and as needed during the day, especially at meal times
- **Pray always**

Part III: The Our Father (Chapter 38)

- The Best Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

- The Apostles asked Jesus to teach them to pray
- His prayer teaches that God is personal and loves each one of us individually
- It is corporate prayer - “our” not “my” Father

The Lord's Prayer (Cont)

- Seven petitions: - first 3 are about God
 - ***Hallowed be thy name*** – Adoration and praise of God
 - ***May thy kingdom come*** – Ask that His grace may come to all men
 - ***May thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*** – whatever God wants not what we want

The Lord's Prayer (Cont)

- Second 4 are about the one praying:
 - ***Give us this day our daily bread*** – all our needs both physical and spiritual for today
 - ***Forgive us our sins (as we forgive those who sin against us)*** – this is hard to do
 - ***Lead us not into temptation*** – He may give us tests or trials for our own good
 - ***Deliver us from evil*** – protect us from all that can harm us

Merit

- Look at discussion on Merit from Conversation with God
- Thursday, 23rd week of ordinary time

Part III: The Bible (Chapter 39)

- Do You Read the Bible?

Catholic Bible Study

- What is the Bible and why should we read/and or study it?
 - It contains **God's Divine Plan** (*Economea*) for man
 - It helps us understand the "Kingdom of God"
 - On earth
 - In purgatory
 - In Heaven

Catholic Bible Study

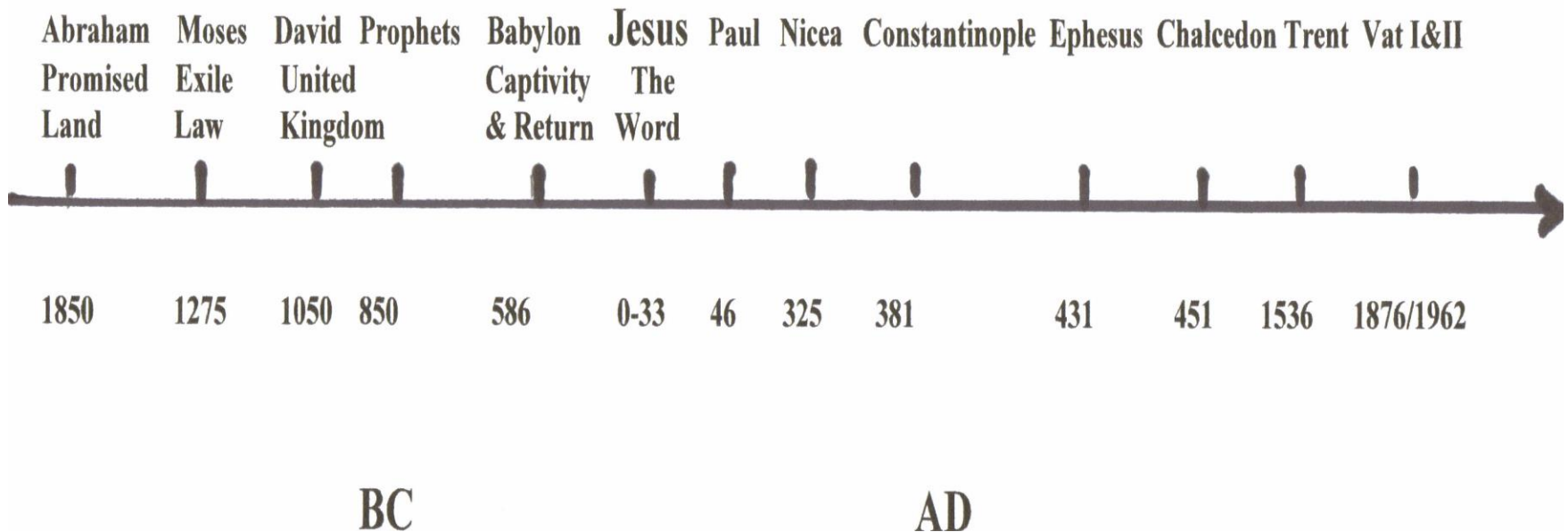
- There are many modern Bibles one may choose from
 - 1st it should be a “Catholic Edition” to ensure that it contains all of the Old Testament books that the church uses in her liturgy
 - The English translations vary from very close to what the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek say to a totally paraphrased translation
 - My recommendation is the Ignatius Press, Revised Standard Version (RSV) Catholic Edition
 - Buy an inexpensive paper back edition unless you plan to do serious study (If so get a hard back edition)

Catholic Bible Study Criteria (Cont)

- We often think that the Bible is what Protestants read while as Catholics we only hear it read at Mass
- Some Catholics believe that if they read the Bible they may become a Protestant
- The Catholic Church's understanding of Scripture is that it contains the word of God and should be read daily by the faithful

God's Divine Plan

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



Catholic Bible Study (Cont)

- **Catholics see the Bible as the:**

- Divine Word (*Debar* – Gn 1/*Logos* – Jn 1) as revealed to man
- The “Truth” of God
- Divine love story
- Wisdom (Sophia) of God
- God’s Revelation history
- God’s Salvation history
- The Word made flesh (incarnation)
- Book for the Liturgy

Catholic Bible Study Criteria (Cont)*

- God has chosen to reveal Himself:
 - From within the Trinity
 - In His truth - *veritas*
- There are many ways to study sacred scripture
 - Looking at the scripture through the lens of history is just one of them
- As Catholics we are guided in scripture study by paragraph 101-141 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- New *Compendium of the CCC* summarizes these paragraphs by asking and answering the following questions:

Catholic Bible Study Criteria (Cont)

- Why and in what way is the divine revelation transmitted?
 - Christ commanded that the apostles “Go forth and teach the gospel to all nations”
- What is Apostolic Tradition ?
 - The transmitted message of Christ by means of preaching, bearing witness, institutions, worship and inspired writings
- In what ways does Apostolic Tradition occur?
 - Through the living transmission of the word of God and Sacred Scriptures which is the same proclamation in written form

Catholic Bible Study Criteria (Cont)

- What is Sacred Tradition and its the relationship to Sacred Scripture?
 - Both are bound closely together and communicate one with the other as they flow out of the same well-spring
- To whom is the deposit of faith entrusted?
 - The Apostles - who then entrusted the deposit of faith through their successors to the whole Church
- To whom is given the task of authentically interpreting the deposit of faith?
 - The living teaching office of the Church alone, that is the successors of Peter, the Bishop of Rome, and to the bishops in communion with him (the *Magesterium*)

Catholic Bible Study Criteria (Cont)

- What is the relationship between Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium?
 - They are so closely united with each other that one of them cannot stand without the others
- Why does Sacred Scripture teach the truth?
 - Because God is its author

Catholic Bible Study Criteria (Cont)*

- **How, as Catholics, is the Sacred Scripture to be read?**
 - Inspired and infallible
 - Containing three criteria for its interpretation
 - Content and unity of whole Scripture
 - Living tradition of the whole Church as interpreted by the *Magesterium*
 - Analogy of Faith
 - Possessing **four senses of Scripture**
 - **Literal** – who, what, when, where, how
 - **Allegorical** – as related to Jesus
 - **Moral** – as related to our moral lives
 - **Anagogical** – as related to leading us to heaven
 - Christocentric

Catholic Bible Study Criteria (Cont)

- What is the Canon of Scripture?
 - The complete list of the sacred writings which the Church had come to recognize through Apostolic Tradition
- What is the importance of the Old Testament for Christians?
 - They are the true word of God written to prepare for the coming of Christ as Savior of the universe
- What importance does the New Testament have for Christians?
 - It conveys to us the ultimate truth of divine Revelation

Catholic Bible Study Criteria (Cont)

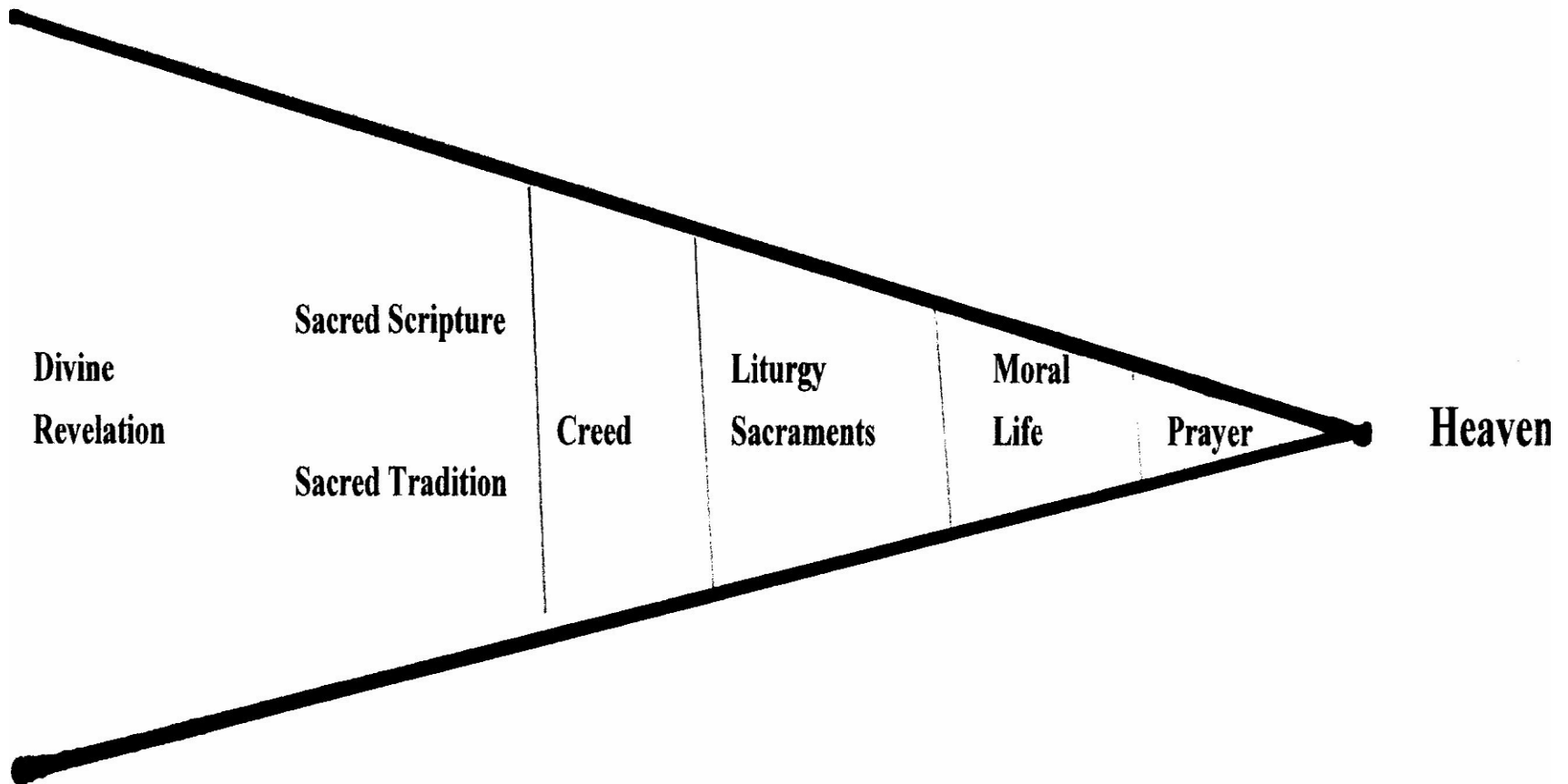
- What is the unity that exists between the Old and New Testaments?
 - Scripture is one insofar as the Word of God is one
- What role does Sacred Scripture play in the life of the Church?
 - It gives support and vigor to the life of the Church
- How does the Church interpret and transmit these teaching?
 - Via her theological documents*

The Bible

- The Word of God (Catholic edition of the Bible – 73 Books
 - OT – The Greek *Septuagint* - 46 books
 - Pentateuch – 5
 - Historical – 16
 - Wisdom – 7
 - Prophets – 18
 - NT – 27 books
 - Gospels – 4
 - Acts of the Apostles – 1
 - Epistles – 21
 - Revelation - 1

Transmission of the Revelation

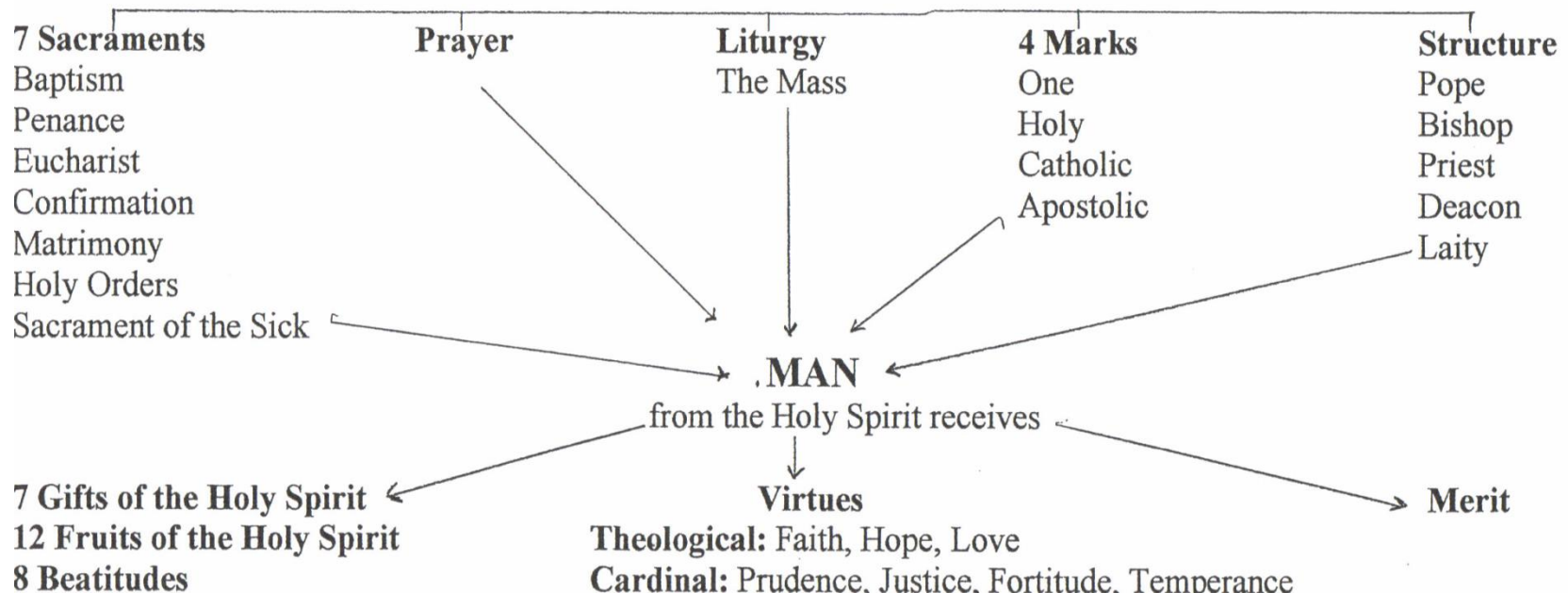
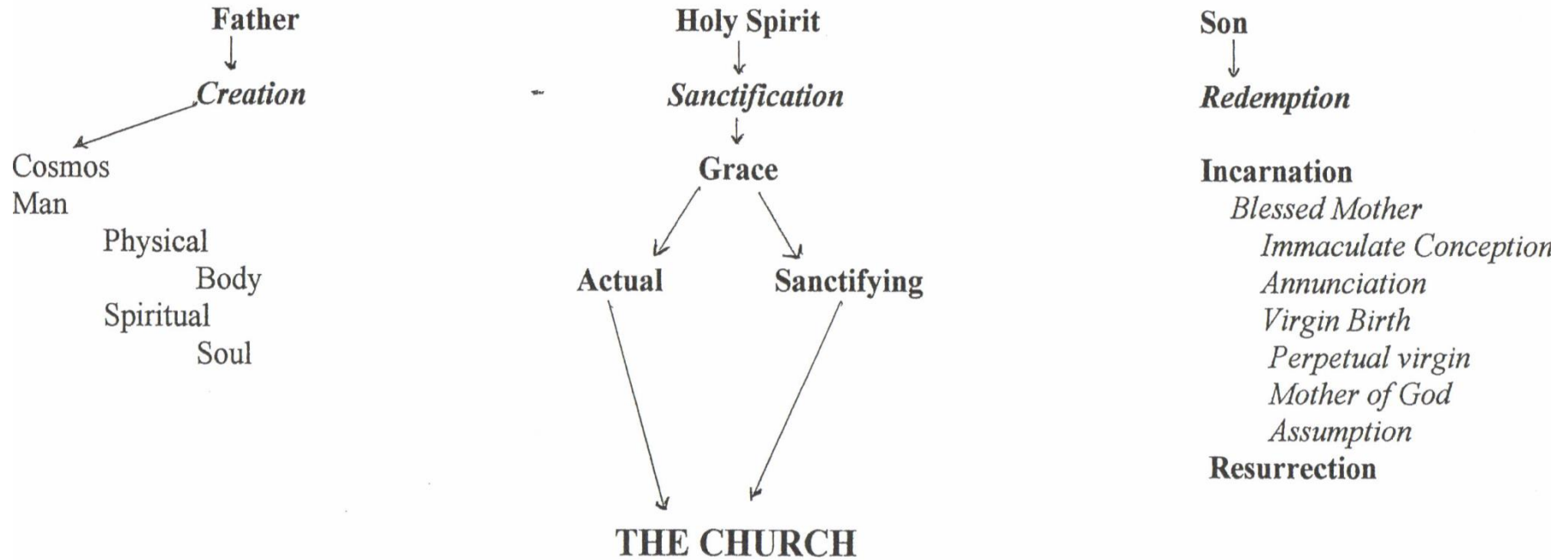
The Transmission of the Divine Revelation within the Church



The Bible (Cont)

- Everyone should read the bible as a source of nourishment for the soul
- God inspired the writers to write what He wanted but let them use their unique style
- Every word is inspired by the Holy Spirit
- There are no contradictions in the scriptures
- There are many translations and versions of the Bible

THE TRINITY



DIVINE COMMUNICATION WITH THE CHURCH

Father GOD Son

Holy Spirit

Old Testament

Law – Prophets – Wisdom – Historical

Revelation History

Oral – Written – Edited

New Testament

Gospels – Acts – Letters – Revelation

Apostles

Deposit of Faith

Sacred Scriptures & Sacred Tradition

(Ended with the death of the last Apostle)

Kerygma

(Succinct statements about the Pascal mystery)

Didache

(1st Century Catechism)

Apostolic Fathers

Fathers of the Church

(Apologists)

Creeds

(Nicene/Apostles)

Ecumenical Councils

Dogmatic Decrees (Infallible)

Papal Writings

Ex-Cathedra (Infallible)

Encyclicals (To Entire Church)

Apostolic Exhortations (After Synods)

Apostolic Letters (On Special Occasions)

Homilies

Speeches

Books/ Poetry/Plays/ Letters/ etc.

Vatican Documents

Writing from Congregations

Reminder

- The Confirmation Mass will be held on Saturday, September 3 at 12:00 Noon in the Church
- Please arrive NLT 11:30 A.M. with your sponsor for a brief explanation of the service