

2023-2024 RCIA #1

9/11/23

Welcome and Introduction

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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

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
- Other references
 - *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*

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)

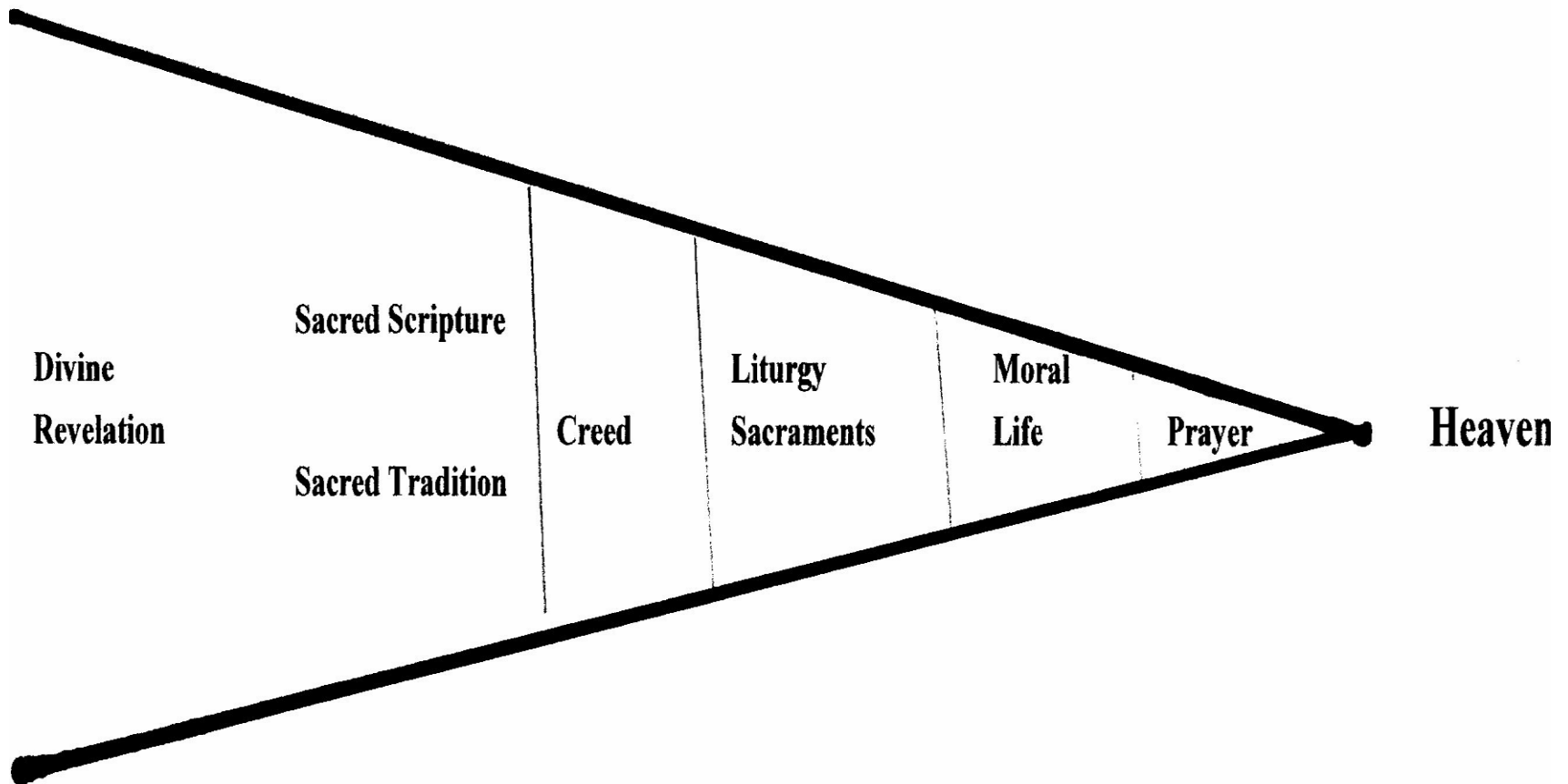
- Three parts of Father Trese's book
 - Part I – The Creed
 - Part II – The Commandments
 - Part III – The Sacraments and Prayer

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)

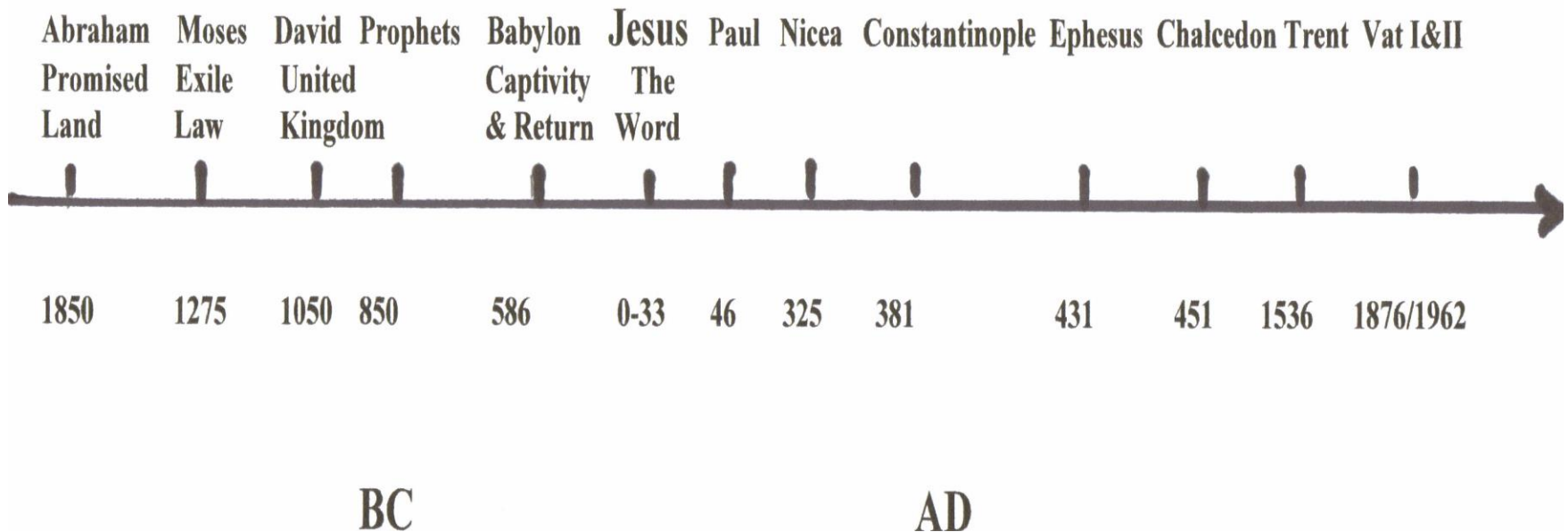
- How do we accept this supernatural information?
 - By Faith
- What is Faith?
 - “ Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Heb 11:1)
- How do we get Faith?
 - It is a free gift from God via His grace (love)
 - It something that we can learn

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*)



The Explosion of Christianity

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