

2023-2024 RCIA #11

11/27/23

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 1st is all Saints Day**)
- Every soul in Heaven is a saint and we remember **all souls on Nov 2nd**

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)

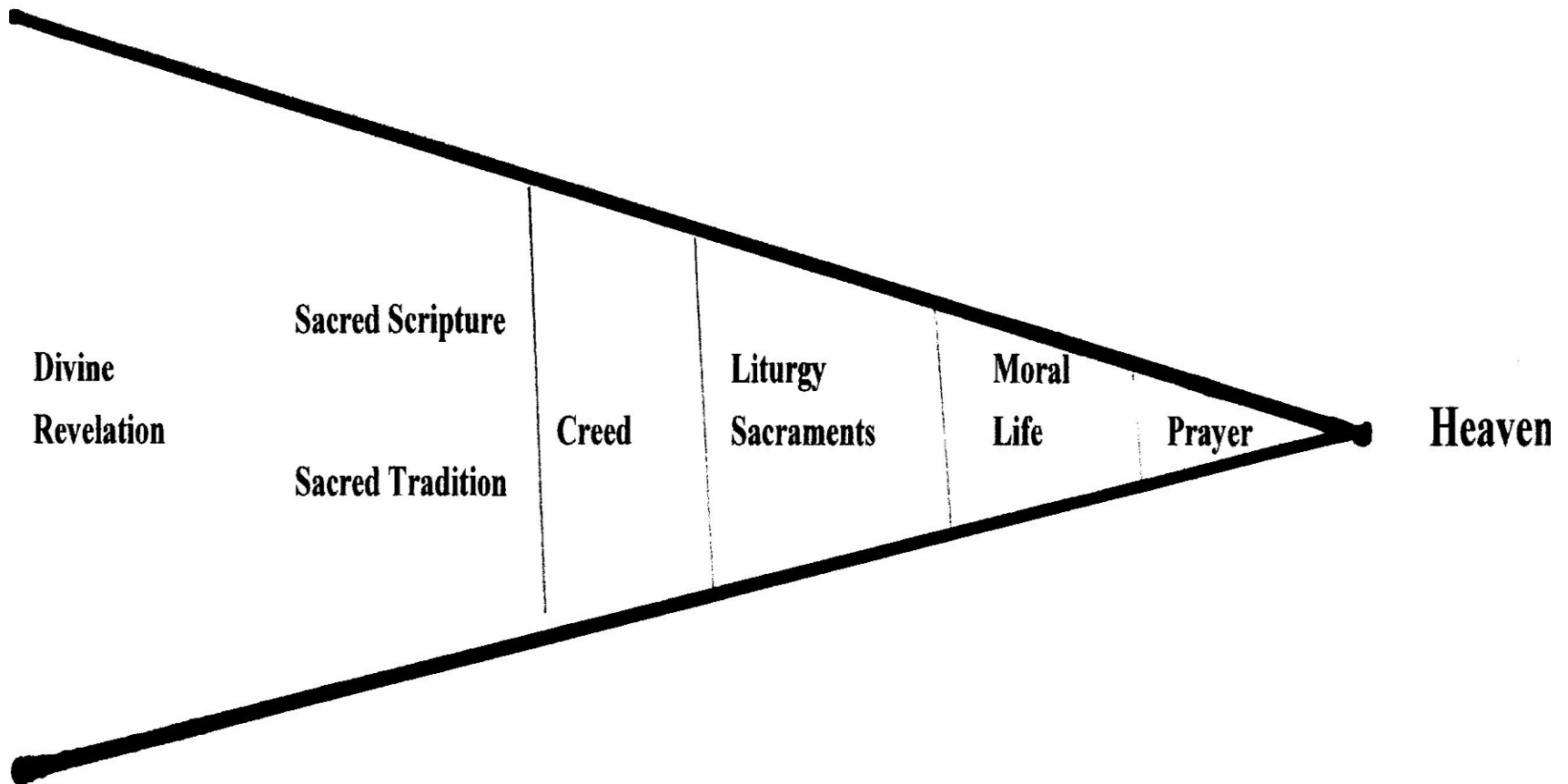
- Then what?
 - At death the soul leaves the body and enters the **particular judgment** by God which determines its eternal fate
 - Theologians speculate that the soul will be illuminated so that it sees itself as God sees it
 - At this point the soul will see if it is in the state of grace or of un-forgiven 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