

# 2023-2024 RCIA #2

9/18/23

# Part I: The Creed

## (Chapter 1)

### The Purpose of Man's Existence

- Why Am I Here?
- What Must I Do?
- Who Will Tell Me?

# The Nicene Creed

- The first section of the Nicene Creed deals with God the Father:

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty  
maker of heaven and earth  
of all things visible and invisible.**

# How in antiquity did man understand God?

- What was among the most important things to primitive man?
  - **Fertility**
- What form of worship did primitive man employ
  - **Polytheism**
- How did primitive man attempt to satisfy his gods?
  - Through **animal** and sometimes human **sacrifices**

# The gods of Egypt

- The Ancient Egyptians had around 8700 gods in total
  - Approximately 64 Egyptian gods played a vital role in Ancient Egyptian life
  - By the mid 400's there was record of over 2000 deities worshipped in Ancient Egypt
  - Almost every village in Egypt had it's own gods
  - Every time a new Pharaoh came into power the whole culture recognized his gods as the best so they were always changing

# The God of Israel

- How did the form of worship change with the call of Abraham?
  - **Monotheism**
- How did the people of Israel come to know how to worship God?
  - **The Promises to Abraham**
    - Land
    - Descendants
    - Blessing and Redemption
  - **The Law given to Moses**
  - **The Covenants between the God of Israel and His people**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Century Worldview (Cont)

- Covenants
  - **Abraham** - Circumcision
  - **Moses** - The LAW
  - **David** - The Kingdom
  - **Jesus** – The Kingdom of God
    - One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church

# Covenantal Structure of Salvation History

## 1. THREE-FOLD PROMISE TO ABRAHAM:

**ABRAHAM**

Gen 12: 1-3

## 2. THREE-FOLD PROMISE UPGRADED TO COVENANTS:

1. Land Promise  
Genesis 15

2. Kingdom Promise  
Genesis 17

3. Promise of Worldwide Blessing  
Genesis 22

## 3. THREE COVENANTS FULFILLED IN MOSES, DAVID & JESUS:

**MOSES**

Mosaic Covenant - Ex 24  
Deuteronomic Covenant  
(with Moses) - Deut 29

**DAVID**

Davidic Covenant  
2 Sam 7

**JESUS**

New Covenant in  
Jesus Christ  
Mark 14

## COVENANT SIGN AND MEDIATOR:

Adam  
(Gen. 1-3)



Noah  
(Gen. 9)



Abraham  
(Gen. 15, 17, 22)



Moses  
(Ex. 24 / Deut. 29)



David  
(II Sam. 7)



Jesus  
(Mk. 14)



## FAMILY FORM:

One Holy  
Couple

One Holy  
Family

One Holy  
Tribe

One Holy  
Nation

One Holy  
Kingdom

One Holy Catholic  
and Apostolic Church



# What was the Law?

- The first five books of the Bible (Torah, Pentateuch, the Law )
- It contained:
  - The 10 Commandments
  - 613 Commandments (Laws) in the Old Testament
    - 248 Positive Commandments
    - 365 Negative Commandments
    - 30 Dietary laws

# The 10 Commandments

- I. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have  
strange gods before Me**
- II. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God  
in vain**
- III. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day**
- IV. Honor thy father and thy mother
- V. Thou shalt not kill
- VI. Thou shalt not commit adultery
- VII. Thou shalt not steal
- VIII. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy  
neighbor
- IX. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife
- X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods

# The Purpose of Man's Existence

- What is the definition of a person?
  - A being with an intellect and will
- How many kinds of persons exist?
  - God (Trinity) – pure spirit except for the human Jesus
  - Angels – pure spirit
  - Humans – body and spirit

# The Purpose of Man's Existence (Cont)

- **Why Am I Here?**

- **From God's point of view**

- To give glory to God and show His goodness
    - To reflect His gift to us of an immortal and spiritual soul
    - To accept His willingness to share His happiness with us

# The Purpose of Man's Existence (Cont)

- **Why am I here?**

- **From our point of view**

- To accept His love even though it is not fully understandable in this life
    - To grow in happiness despite the fact that it cannot be fulfilled in this life
    - To achieve the ultimate end of man – the beatific vision (heaven)

# The Purpose of Man's Existence (Cont)

- **What must I do to attain heaven?**

- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind; and to love your neighbor as yourself
- Love is:
  - Based on knowledge
  - Decision of the will
  - Self-gift
  - Permanent
  - Open to life
- We are obliged to learn to love God
- We are called to do things for God
- We need to be open to His Supernatural gifts of grace

# The Purpose of Man's Existence (Cont)

- **Who will tell me how to do this?**
  - Jesus who:
    - Calls us to know, love and serve God in this life
    - Was sent to show us the way:
      - Redemption
      - Establish the Church

# The Purpose of Man's Existence (Cont)

- Left the Church under the Holy Spirit to give us the Divine Revelation (the Deposit of Faith)
  - Public Revelation – ended with death of last Apostle
    - Sacred Scriptures
    - Sacred Tradition
  - Private Revelation – we are not bound to accept
- We can also use the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* as source for the Deposit of Faith