

2023-2024 RCIA #24

3/25/24

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

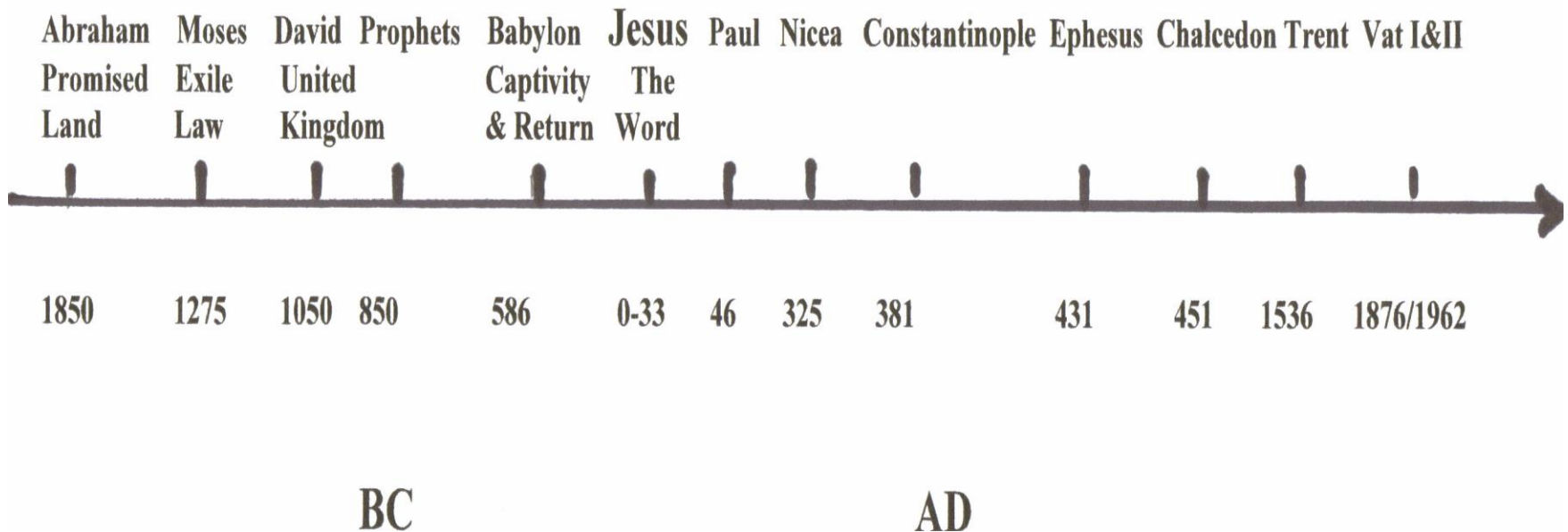
- There are many modern Bibles one may choose from
 - 1st it should be a “Catholic Edition” to ensure that it contains all of the Old Testament books that the church uses in her liturgy
 - The English translations vary from very close to what the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek say to a totally paraphrased 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)

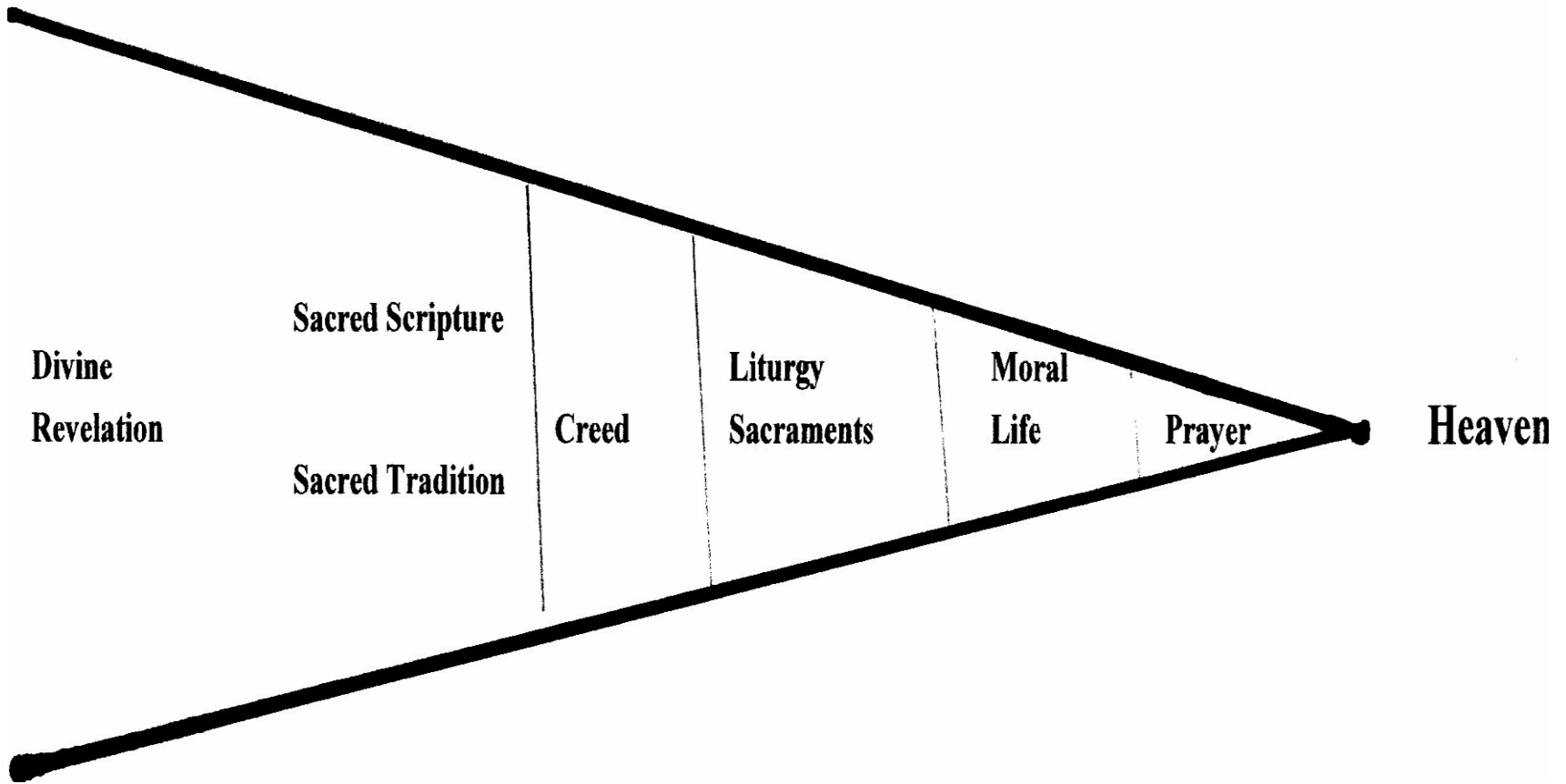
- What is the unity that exists between the Old and New Testaments?
 - Scripture is one insofar as the Word of God is one
- What role does Sacred Scripture play in the life of the Church?
 - It gives support and vigor to the life of the Church
- How does the Church interpret and transmit these teaching?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

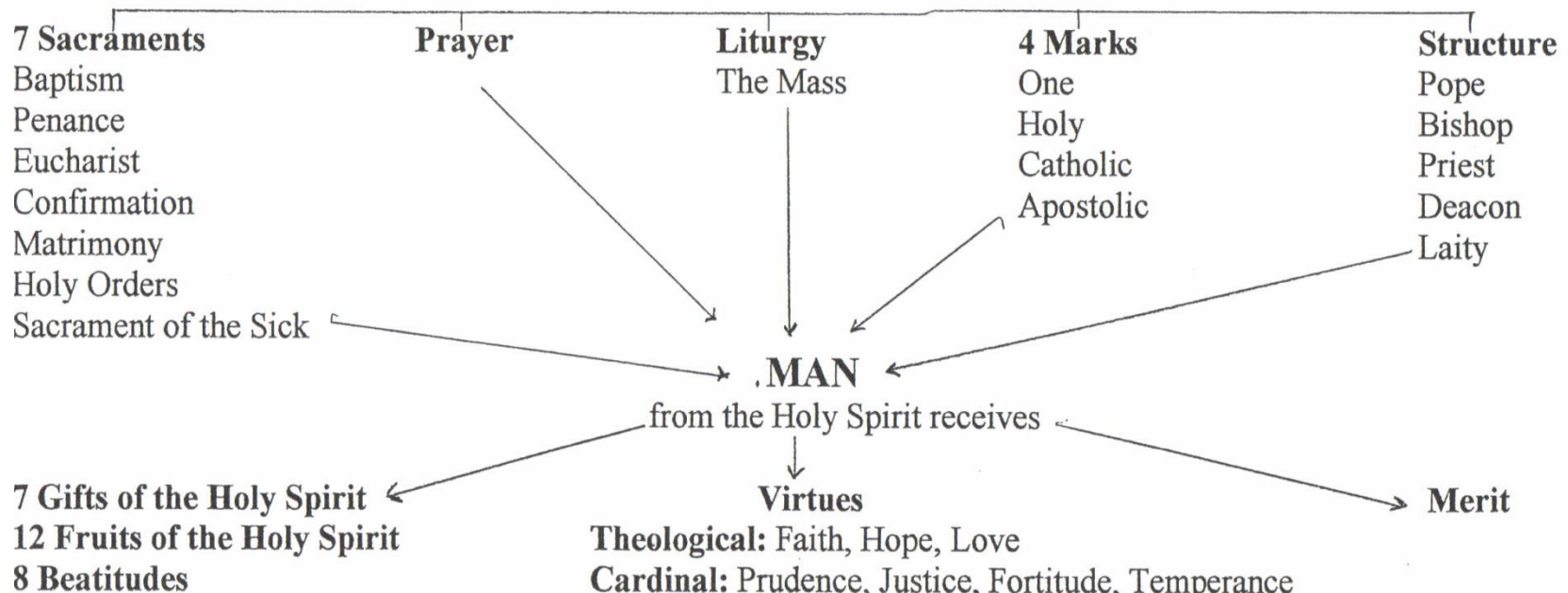
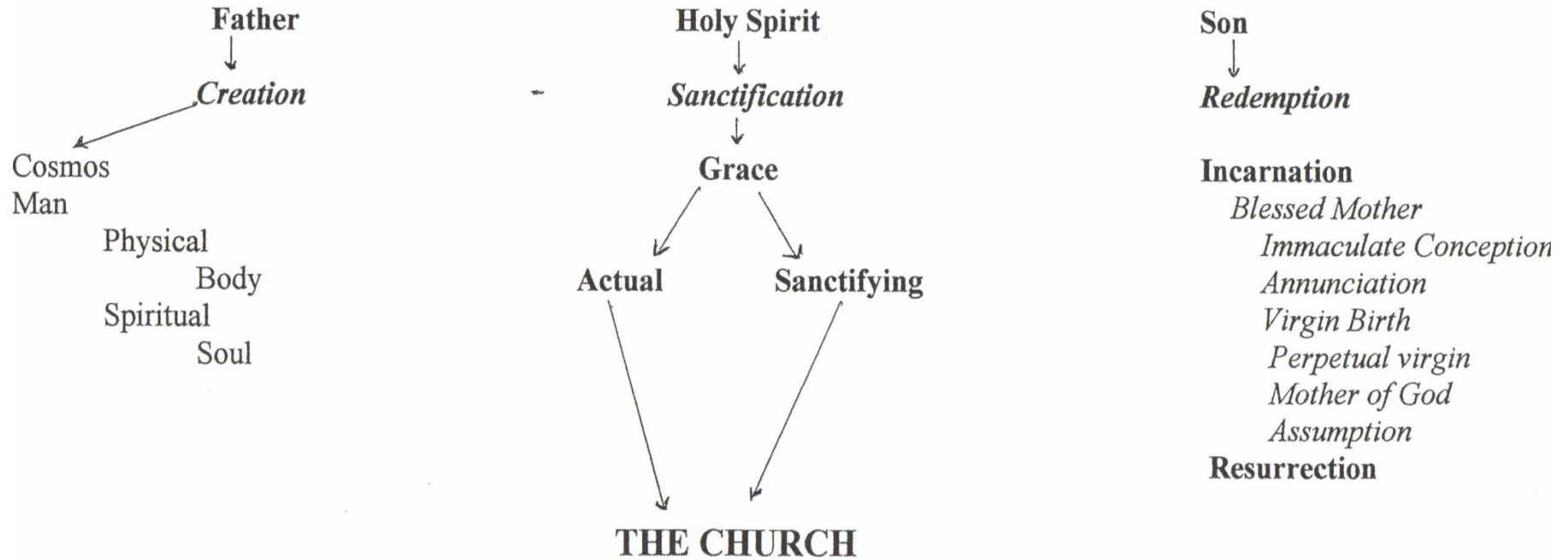
The Transmission of the Divine Revelation within the Church



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, March 30, 2024 at 8:00 P.M. in the Church
- Please arrive NLT 7:30 P.M. with your sponsor for a brief explanation of the service