

# Spring Summer 2023

## RCIA #16

8/21/23

# 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

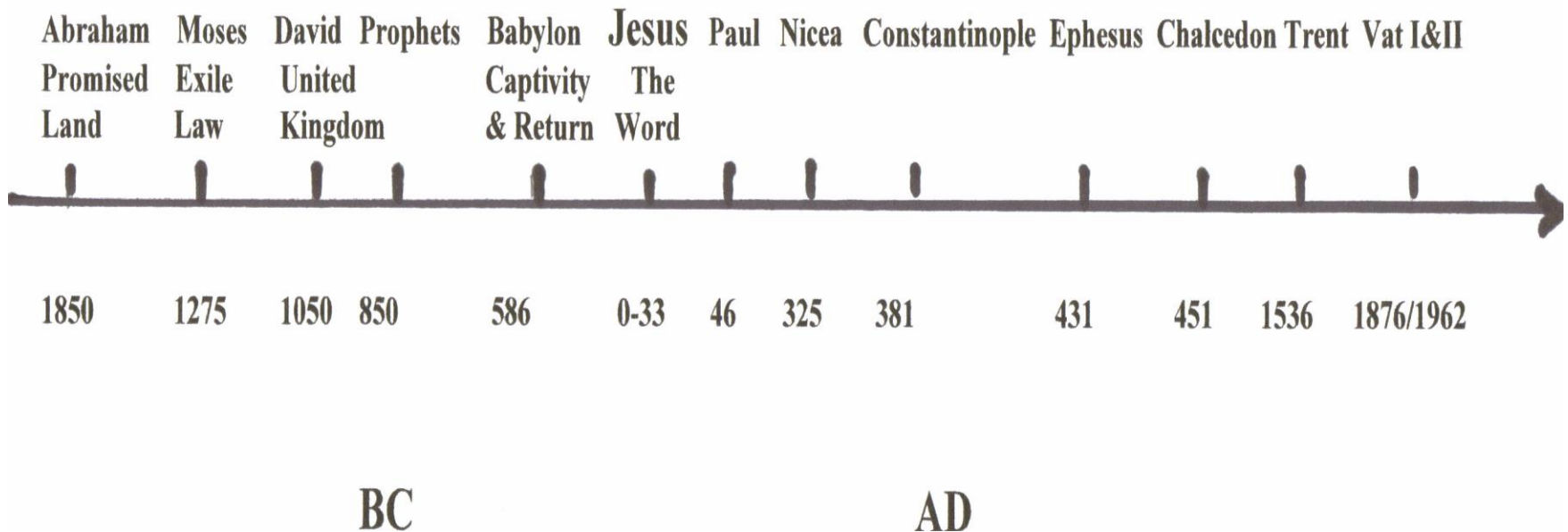
- There are many modern Bibles one may choose from
  - 1<sup>st</sup> it should be a “Catholic Edition” to ensure that it contains all of the Old Testament books that the church uses in her liturgy
  - The English translations vary from very close to what the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek say to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

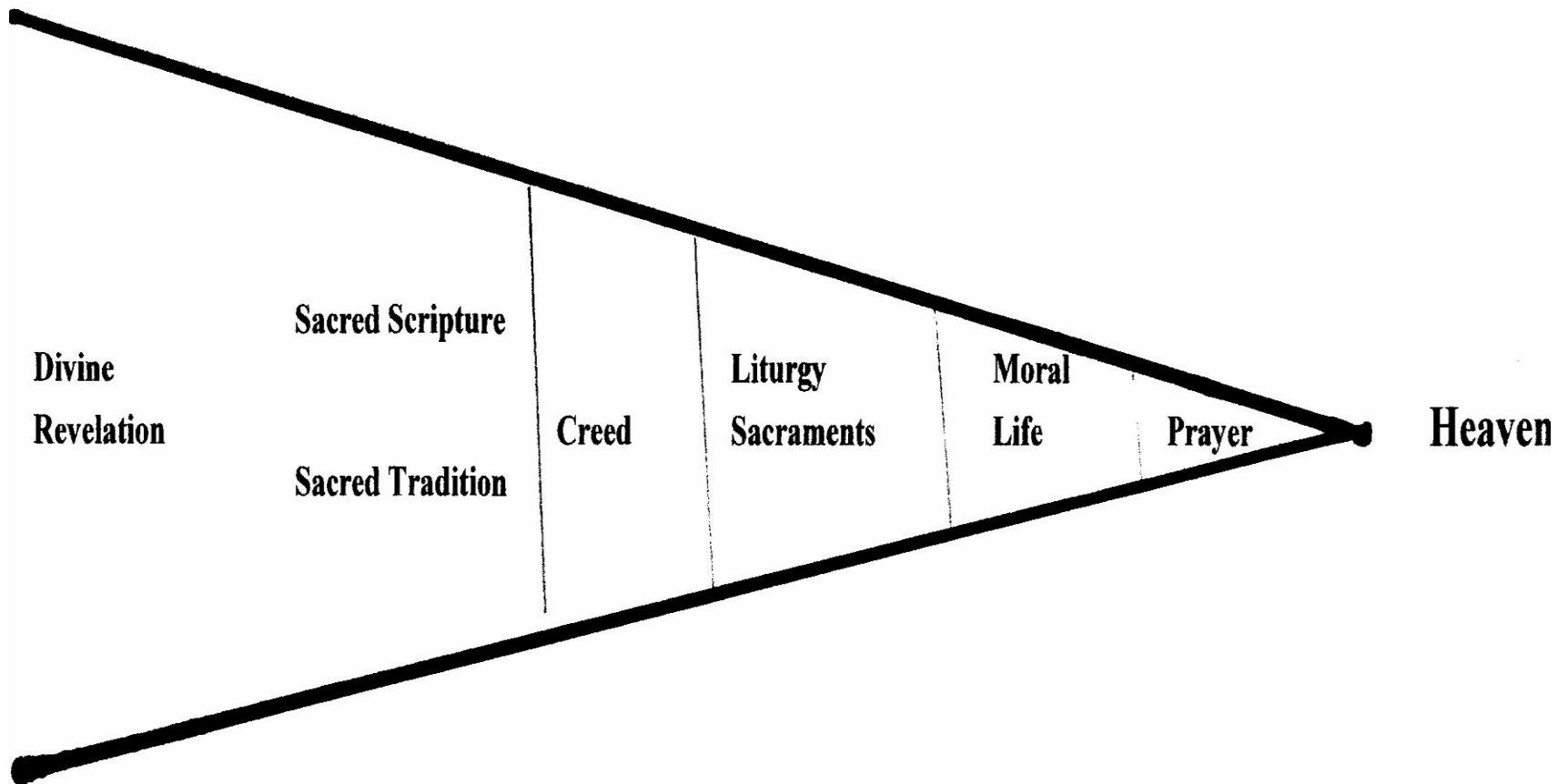
- What is the unity that exists between the Old and New Testaments?
  - Scripture is one insofar as the Word of God is one
- What role does Sacred Scripture play in the life of the Church?
  - It gives support and vigor to the life of the Church
- How does the Church interpret and transmit these teaching?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

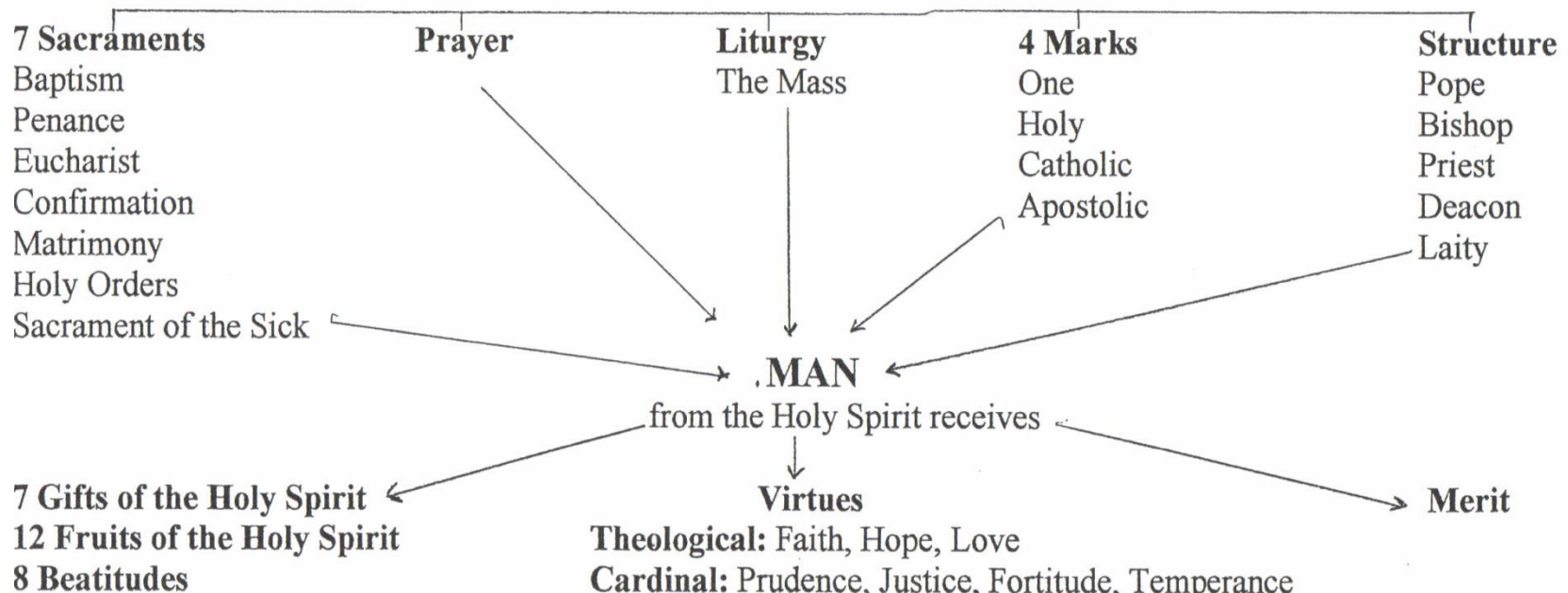
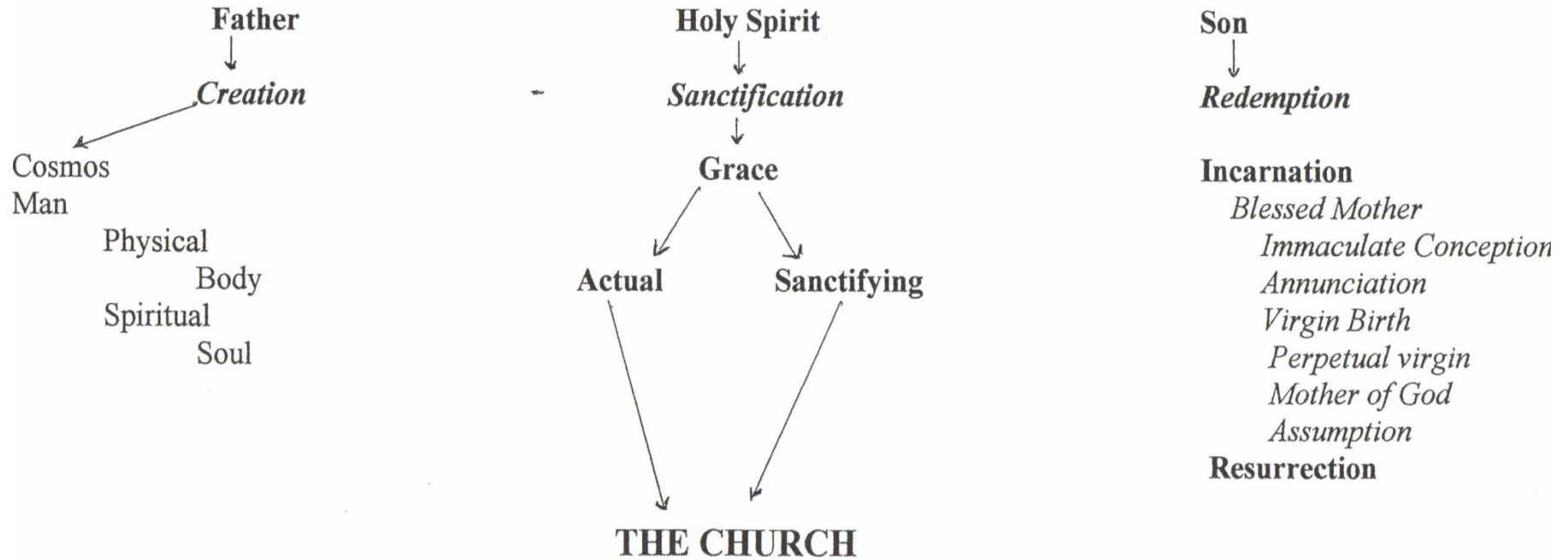




# The Bible (Cont)

- 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 Monday, August 28, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the Church
- Please arrive NLT 6:30 P.M. with your sponsor for a brief explanation of the service