

Spring Summer 2023 RCIA #6

5/23/23

Part I: The Creed

(Chapter 9)

The Holy Spirit and Grace

- The Unknown Person
- What Is Grace?
- The Grace that Comes and Goes
- Wellspring of Life
- What is Merit?

The Nicene Creed

Holy Spirit

- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

What is the Trinity of God (Cont)

- It is one of the mysteries that are hidden in God which can never be known unless they are revealed by God
- A dogma of the Church teaches that all three persons of the Trinity exist for all times
- One God – Three Persons
 - Three Missions
 - **Father** – creator
 - **Son** – redeemer
 - **Holy Spirit** – sanctifier

The Holy Spirit and Grace

- The Unknown Person
 - Not discussed *per se* in the Old Testament
 - *Ruah* – the breath of God
 - Consubstantial (=) with the Father and the Son
 - Mission: **Sanctification**
 - Names for:
 - *Paraclete* – Greek for “comforter”
 - Advocate – one who pleads our cause to God

The Holy Spirit and Grace (Cont)

- Symbols
 - Water
 - Fire
 - Cloud and light
 - Seal
 - Hand
 - Finger of God
 - Dove
- Received at Baptism and Confirmation

The Holy Spirit and Grace (Cont)

- What is Grace?
 - Gift from God to which we are not entitled
 - Love
- Grace is an interior supernatural gift of God bestowed on us through the merits of Jesus Christ for our own salvation
- Luke declares Mary to be “...full of grace” (Lk 1:29)
 - *Kecharitomane* - Gk for “overflowing with grace”

The Holy Spirit and Grace (Cont)

- Types of Grace:
 - **Sanctifying** – The supernatural state of being infused by God which permanently inheres in the soul. It is freely given and necessary for salvation
 - **Actual** – A supernatural intervention of God to enlighten the mind or strengthen the will to perform supernatural actions that lead to heaven
 - **Efficacious** – The actual grace to which free consent is given by the will so that the grace produces its divinely intended effect. It is given to carry our human will with almost no effort on our part.

The Holy Spirit and Grace (Cont)

- **Sanctifying grace**, the principle of our interior life, makes us truly the children of God because it makes us partakers of His nature. We cannot be sons of God by nature, as the Word is; but we are truly sons of God by grace and by adoption.
 - John 1:11-13
 - John 3:5
 - 1 John 3:9
 - 2 Peter 1:4

The Holy Spirit and Grace (Cont)

- Wellsprings of life
 - Two sources of divine grace:
 - Prayer
 - Sacraments
 - What is merit?
 - The property of a good work (if done for God) which entitles the doer to a reward
 - Size of vessels in Heaven
 - Do you say “Good morning God or Good God morning?”

The Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass being offered throughout the world, I offer You all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for my sins and the sins of the whole world.

Part I: The Creed

(Chapter 10)

The Virtues and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- What Is Virtue?
- Hope and Love
- Wonders Within Us
- The Moral Virtues
- The Virtues and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - *Most of this chapter is summarized on the grey fold out*

The Virtues and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- **What is Virtue?**

- A habit or permanent disposition which indicates a person to do good and to avoid evil
- **Natural virtues** are those acquired by our own efforts
- **Supernatural virtues** are those directly infused into our soul without any effort; sanctifying grace increases the supernatural or infused virtues

The Virtues and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Cont)

- **Theological Virtues (1 Cor 13):**

- Faith
- Hope
- Charity (love)

- **Cardinal (Moral) Virtues:**

- Prudence
- Justice
- Fortitude
- Temperance

The Theological Virtues and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- **Faith** is the virtue given to us by God that gives us the ability to believe all **the truths of God** who can never deceive or be deceived
 - **Human faith** – most of knowledge is based on human faith (flying in an airplane)
 - **Divine faith** – based on a truth revealed by God (Infused at Baptism)
 - God gives each soul sufficient grace to get to heaven

The Theological Virtues and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Cont)

- **Hope** is the virtue by which we firmly trust that God in His mercy gives us eternal happiness and the means to obtain it
 - It is essential for salvation
 - It must not lie dormant
 - It applies to all people since God wills all to be saved
 - We must pray in hope for ourselves and others

The Theological Virtues and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Cont)

- **Charity** (Love) is the virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God
 - Love God and then “do as you please”
 - The heart of Christianity is Jesus on the cross
 - To love God means to be willing to give up anything rather than offend God by sin

The Cardinal Virtues and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- **Four Cardinal or Moral Virtues** – Grace builds upon nature
 - **Prudence** – the power to make right judgments
 - **Justice** – perfects our will and safe-guards the rights of others
 - **Fortitude** – disposes us to do what is good in spite of every difficulty
 - **Temperance** – disposes us to control our desires and correctly use things which appeal to our senses

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- **Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (*Isaiah 11:1-2*)**
 - **Wisdom** – the right sense of proportion to esteem the things of God
 - **Understanding** – accepts the truths of the Faith in accord with one's needs
 - **Counsel** – helps one choose courses of action that are most conducive to God's love and our spiritual good
 - **Fortitude** – to live a heroic life
 - **Knowledge** – helps one know what will be helpful or hurtful to our spirituality
 - **Piety** – a child-like intimacy with God
 - **Fear of the Lord** – helps one to avoid offending God

The Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit

- **The 12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit** (*Galatians 5:22-23*)
 - **Charity** – an unselfish person
 - **Joy** – a cheerful and pleasant person
 - **Peace** – a quiet and relaxed person
 - **Patience** – one not easily angered or resentful
 - **Benignity** (Kindness) – a kind person
 - **Goodness** – one who is slow to criticize

The Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Cont)

- **Long-suffering** (Generosity) – one who is uncomplaining even under pain
- **Mildness** (Gentleness) - one who does not seek to dominate others
- **Faith** (Fidelity) – one who is proud to be a member of Christ's mystical body
- **Modesty** – one who recoils from the devil or sin
- **Continency** (Self Control) – one whose passions are ruled by reason and grace
- **Chastity** – one who reverences the procreative powers of God

The Eight Beatitudes

- **The Eight Beatitudes**

- **Poor in Spirit** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven – those who never forget that all we are and have is from God
- **Meek** for they shall possess the earth – those who can accept disappointments, failures, and death while keeping one's face toward God
- **Mourn** for they shall be consoled – those who accept suffering in the present knowing the glory in the world to come
- Those who **hunger and thirst for justice** for they shall be satisfied – those who work and hope for the goodness of others

The Eight Beatitudes (Cont)

- **Merciful** for they shall obtain mercy – those who are able to forgive others who hurt them
- **Pure of heart** for they shall see God – those who are selfless and view everything from God's point of view
- **Peacemakers** for they shall be called the children of God – those who are at the center of peace in their families and communities
- They who **suffer persecution for justice's sake** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven – those who willingly accept persecution