

Spring Summer 2023

RCIA #7

6/5/23

Part I: The Creed

(Chapter 11)

The Catholic Church

- The Holy Spirit and the Church
- We are the Church

The Nicene Creed

The Church

I believe in **one, holy, catholic,**
and **apostolic** Church.

I confess **one Baptism** for the forgiveness of sins.

The Explosion of Christianity

- 12 Apostles
 - Grew to over
- 2.18 Billion Christians
 - In the World by
 - 2010

The Catholic Church

- What does “Church” mean to you?
- How does a person become a member of the church?

The Catholic Church (Cont)

- The Holy Spirit and the Church
 - **Externally** - Jesus established His Church to give us peace of mind about our state of sanctifying grace
 - The Church teaches us:
 - As Jesus taught
 - To want the sacraments for our sanctification
 - What we need to know for our salvation
 - One becomes a member of the Church through Baptism

The Catholic Church (Cont)

- The Holy Spirit and the Church
 - **Internally**
 - The soul of the Church is the indwelling of the Trinity
 - The Holy Spirit does the work of salvation
 - God breathes his Holy Spirit into the Church
 - Jesus chose the 12 Apostles as the first bishops under the leadership of the Holy Spirit

The Catholic Church (Cont)

- The Church is a **living organism** or organization where the Trinity dwells
- The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church
- Jesus gave **the Apostles** (and their successors the **bishops**) a three-fold mission:
 - **Teach** – the meaning of Jesus Christ
 - **Sanctify** – via Jesus Christ
 - **Govern** – under His name via the Chair of Peter, through the apostles and their successors

The Catholic Church (Cont)

- What is the hierarchy of the Church?

The Catholic Church (Cont)

- Hierarchy of the Church
 - **Pope** – the head of the universal Church
 - **Bishop** – the head of a See or geographical area
 - **Priest** – one who assists their bishop by teaching and serving the people within a parish
 - **Deacon** – one who assists the priest in their work
 - **Laity** – God's people who are baptized into His Church

The Catholic Church (Cont)

- Pope
- Bishop
- Priest
- Deacon
- Lay person
- Holy Orders
- Confirmation
- Penance
- Eucharist
- Sacrament of the Sick
- Matrimony
- Baptism

Part I: The Creed

(Chapter 12)

The Marks and Attributes of the Church

- Where Do We Find It?
- Holy and Catholic
- Reason and Faith – and Myself

The Marks and Attributes of the Church

- The **Four Marks of the Church**

- **One *or unity*** – we are all united in all beliefs and under the same spiritual leadership
- **Holy** – founded by Jesus Christ who is all holy
- **Catholic** or universal – has been in existence uninterrupted since Pentecost and contains one doctrine in the world for all men
- **Apostolic** – founded by Peter and the apostles

The Marks and Attributes of the Church (Cont)

- The Church can also be seen as:
 - A **juridical** Church (or as an organization)
 - The mystical body of Christ:
 - Christ is the head
 - The believers are the body
 - The Holy Spirit is the soul
 - A living organism

The Marks and Attributes of the Church (Cont)

- Each of us is called to the Church through:
 - **Baptism** – which makes us members of the Christ's mystical body
 - **Eucharist** – which calls us to share in the common priesthood of Christ as we adore God by prayer and sacrifice and by practicing the virtues of faith, hope, and charity as we love our neighbor
- Each of us is called to have a zeal for souls and to be lay apostles

The Marks and Attributes of the Church (Cont)

- The Church contains three classifications of members:
 - **The clergy** – bishops, priests, deacons
 - **The religious** – men and women who live a community life and take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
 - **The laity** – all the baptized who are not clergy or religious
- The Clergy and Religious are ordained through the Sacrament of Holy Orders

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)

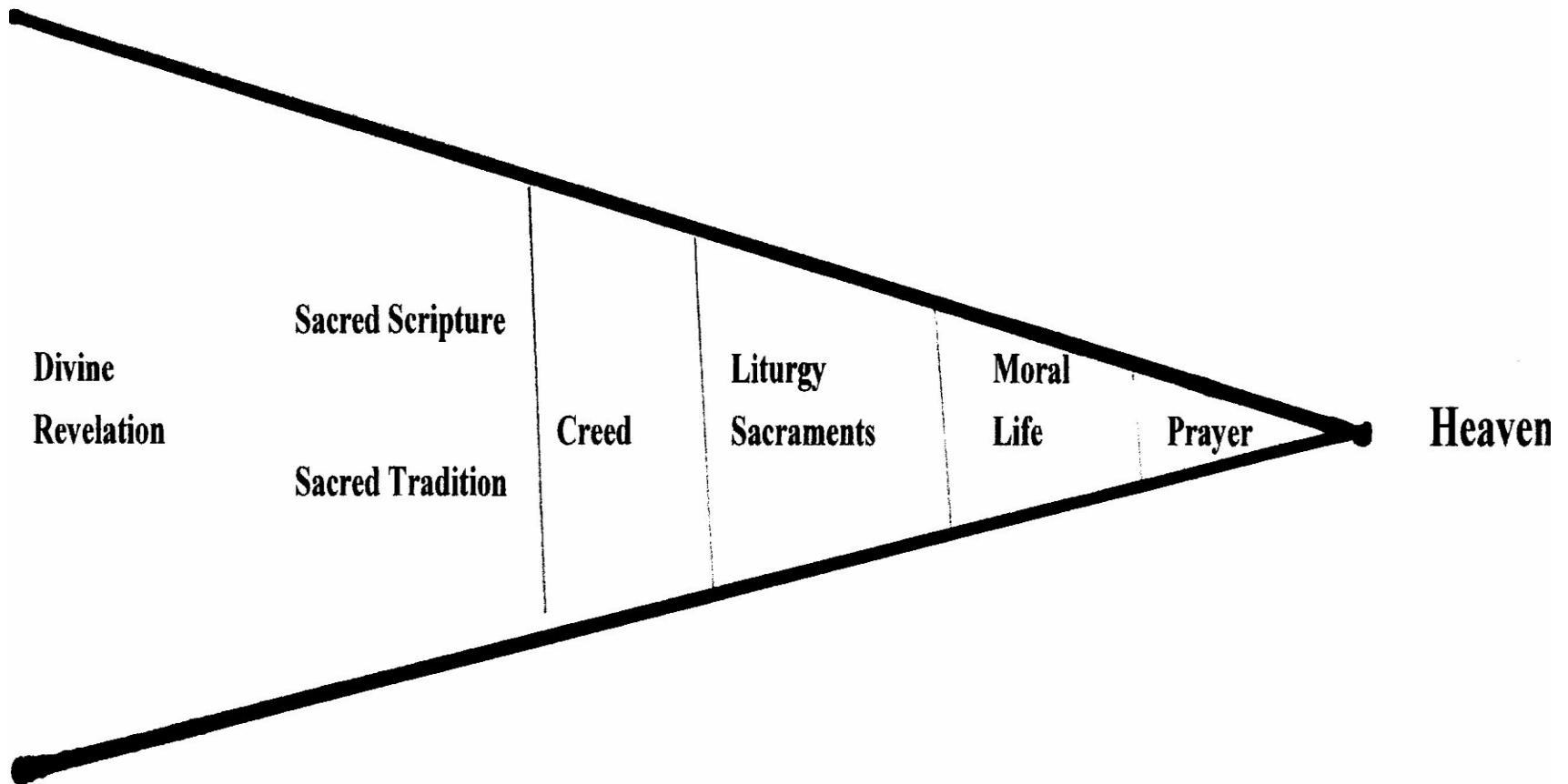
- Then what?
 - At death the soul leaves the body and enters the **particular judgment** by God which determines its eternal fate
 - Theologians speculate that the soul will be illuminated so that it sees itself as God sees it
 - At this point the soul will see if it is in the state of grace or of un-forgiven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

- A review of the Nicaean and Apostles' Creed

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 Commandment of God
 - Chapter 18 – The Fourth and Fifth Commandment of God