

* Journey of Faith

What Catholics Believe

Tracy Edmonds, September 2015

Jesus The Good Shepherd



John 10:14-15 'I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.'

**Bible or
Holy Scriptures ~**

- God's revelation of Himself to mankind
- Old Testament books revealed God to the people of Israel
- New Testament books revealed God to the Apostles and followers of Jesus
- All Bible quotes will be from the New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible

**Catechism of the
Catholic Church ~**

- Complete overview of what the Catholic Church teaches

Saints ~

- Especially holy people. They have journeyed toward God and after death are united with Him in heaven



God is Three Persons in One God

- Father
- Son
- Holy Spirit



*In the beginning
God created the
heavens and the
earth.*

Genesis 1:1

God is Our Father

God is
the Son,
Jesus



Christ is
the Bridge
between
Heaven
and Earth



“Knowledge of faith is possible only in the Holy Spirit: to be in touch with Christ, we must first have been touched by the Holy Spirit” (CCC 683)

God is the Holy Spirit



The Holy Trinity

Father

Son

Holy Spirit

God Is Love

1 John 4:7-8:

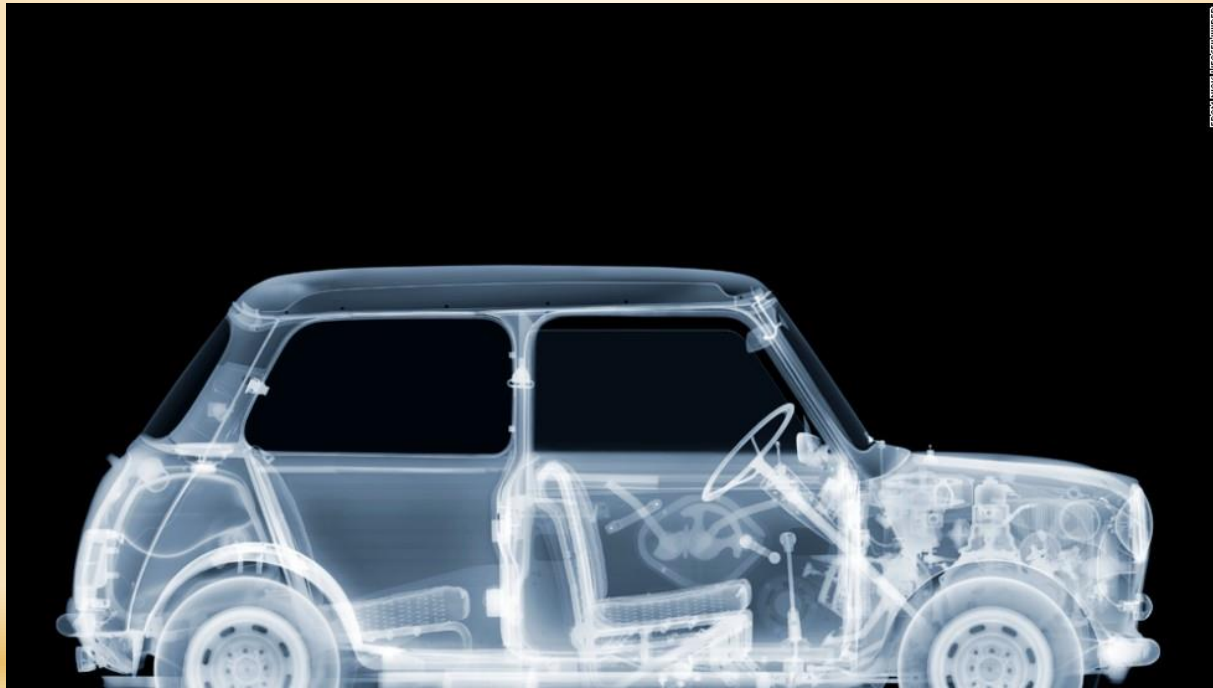
**“Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is from God; everyone who
Loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever
does not love does not know God, for God is love.”**

OUR

RCIA

JOURNEY

**SO,
WHAT IS
FAITH?**



Faith Is Belief In Something We Cannot See Directly

FAITH IN GOD

Holy Scripture

Sacred Tradition

Magisterium

Creation

In the People Around Us

Past Interactions with God

The Senses of Our Body and Our Soul

Before God Spoke to Abraham (Abraham - Our Father in Faith)

The Natural Law

- God's Voice to Mankind
- The gift of life came with the gift of Faith
- Natural Law an Introduction to Faith

Sense of God in Nature

Sense of God in Belief in Afterlife

Man longs for God

God longs for man

Man Longing for God In the Old Testament

Psalm 63

“O God, you are my God,
I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
As in a dry and weary land where
There is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
Beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
My lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.”

“Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord,
And our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee”
- St. Augustine



Man Longing for God after Jesus Came To Us

Scripture Tells us of God's Longing for Us Through His Prophets

Hosea 2:14-15:

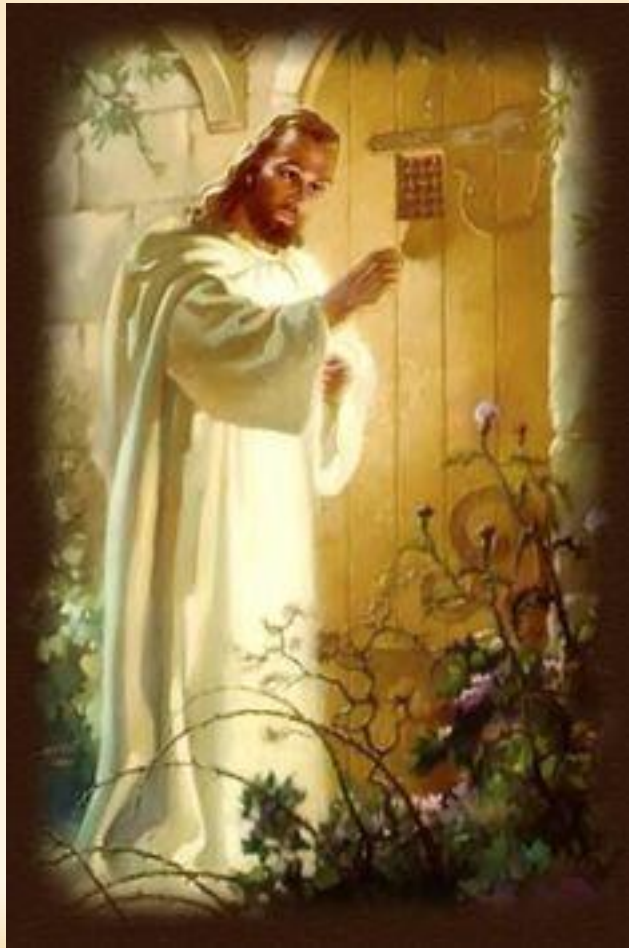
Therefore, I will now persuade her, and bring her
into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.
From there I will give her her vineyards, and make
the Valley of Achor a door of hope.

There she shall respond as in the days of her
youth, as at a time when she came out of the land
of Egypt.



Matthew 9:9: As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

Matthew Answering God's Call



Revelation 3:20 Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you and you with me.

Jesus Knocking On the Door of Our Hearts/Souls



LOVE



“Like a bee that secretly fashions its combs in the hive, so also grace secretly forms in hearts its own love. It changes what is bitter, what is rough into that which is smooth.

It is similar to a silversmith or engraver working on a plate, who partly covers up those various little animals that he is sculpturing. But when he has finished his work, then he holds it up shining in the light.

So the Lord, that true Artisan, engraves our hearts and secretly renews them until they leave the body. Then the real beauty of the soul is manifested.”

Pseudo-Macarius +AD 390



Beatific Vision



Resources that God Has Given Us Through His Church:

Sacred Scripture (The Bible)

Sacred Tradition

The Magisterium

**“Sacred Scripture is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit”
(CCC81)**

“[Holy] Tradition transmits in its entirety the Word of God which has been entrusted to the apostles by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit. It transmits to the successors of the Apostles so that, enlightened by the spirit of truth, they may faithfully preserve, expound, and spread it by their teaching.” (CCC81)

The Magisterium is the teaching office of the Church. “The task of giving an Authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living, teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ. This means that the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome. (CCC85)



The Three Legged Stool

Sacred Scripture
Sacred Tradition
Magisterium

Holy Sacraments





THE MASS

PRAYER

FAITH IS A FREE GIFT BUT IT **MUST BE PRAYED FOR** AND ONCE RECEIVED PRAYER MUST **CONTINUE** TO MAINTAIN IT!!

Spiritual Reading

- **Holy Scriptures**
- **Early Church Fathers**
- **Lives of the Saints**
- **Vatican Documents**
- **2000 years of Spiritual Writings**

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

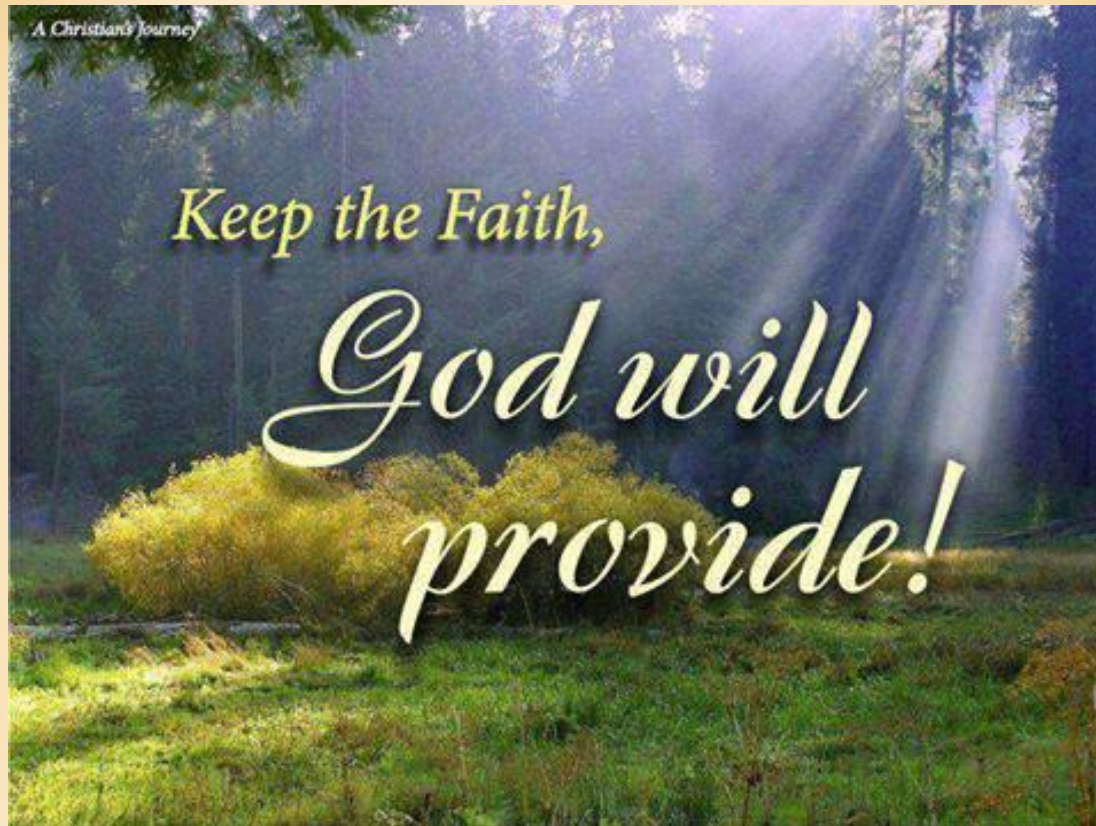


Mary

Our Blessed Mother...

...the greatest of all saints





Philippians 4:6-7 'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'



The Creeds

The word 'creed' comes from the Latin 'credo' which means 'I believe'.

A Creed is a statement of what members of a religion believe as being essential to the faith.



The Apostles' Creed

“I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth...



The Apostles' Creed

...And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord...

The Apostles' Creed



...who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary,...



The Apostles' Creed

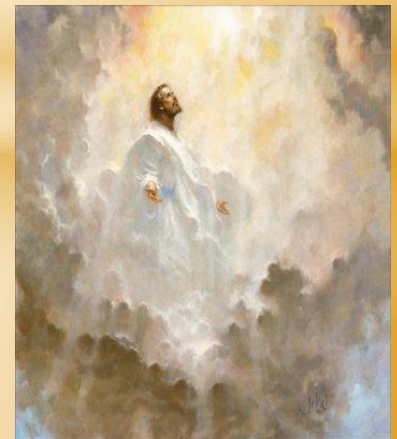


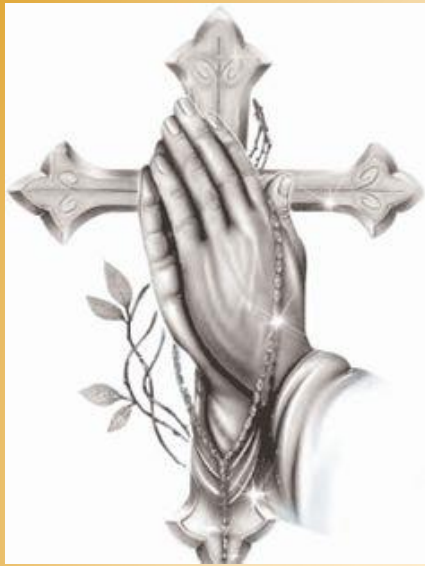
...suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell;...

The Apostles' Creed



...On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. ...





The Apostles' Creed

...I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.”

THE CATHOLIC FAITH!

PEACE AND JOY

Discussion Questions:

1. What event or inspiration has led you to investigate the Catholic Church?
2. Have you noticed the presence of God in your life?
3. If you were to draw a graph of your faith journey, what would it look like?

Share with the group if you are comfortable doing so.

PRAYER HOMEWORK

In the name of the Father
and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Dear God, who knows me and loves me.
Please help me to know you and love you.

In the name of the Father and the
Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.