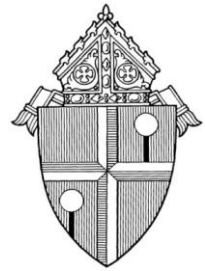


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109: Catholic Creeds

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS

Catechist Session I: Prepare for the Journey

Order booklets from RCL Benziger at <http://www.rclbenziger.com> or contact the Office of Religious Education.

Distribute *I Believe, We Believe*

Pray together using prayer on page 8.

Explain: This module will acquaint you with the Catholic Church's teachings on her central creedal statements. One goal is to help you reflect upon and articulate your personal faith (I Believe). Another goal is to understand more fully the truths you profess as a member of the believing community so that you can share your faith with others (We Believe). This presentation of the truths of your faith is not an exhaustive treatment of these beliefs. However, through the process of reflection on the content provided here, you will increase your understanding of the truths of the Catholic faith and feel more confident in expressing them.

Let's take a look at your booklet. Each of the four segments in this module is divided into two parts. For example, in the first segment, part 1 is covered on pages 11 - 13 and part 2 is covered on pages 14 - 18.

Here is an overview of all four segments:

1. God the Father

Part 1: The Revelation of God

Part 2: The Story of Salvation

2. God the Son

Part 1: The Incarnation of Jesus

Part 2: The Paschal Mystery

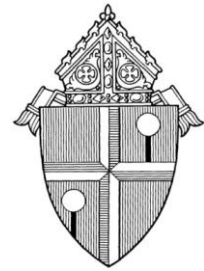
3. God the Holy Spirit

Part 1: The Holy Spirit in Scripture and Tradition

Part 2: The Role of the Holy Spirit

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4. The Christian Creed

Part 1: The Formation of the Creeds

Part 2: The Church

Activity and Discussion: Use pages 6 - 7. *This is an important step in getting to know each other before getting into deeper faith sharing.*

Read the article together and allow catechists to discuss their answers with each other. After discussion, tell catechists that they will be given two weeks to view the CD and answer all the questions in the booklet.

Catechist Session II: Discussion

*Note: Remember that the CD that comes with the booklet can only be read on a computer. If your parish does not have a computer that can be connected to a project and external speakers, you will need to borrow **I Believe/We Believe** DVD from the Office of Religious Education. The DVD format may be played on a TV/DVD combination.*

Greet catechists.

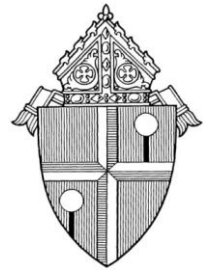
Play video. Stop at the end of each section and have catechists discuss their responses to the questions as a whole group.

Ask each catechist what one or two things (s)he will do differently because of what was learned in this course of study.

End the session with the *Prayer to the Holy Spirit* prayer on page 41.

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Page 1

109: Catholic Creeds

ASSIGNMENT SHEET

Instructions:

View your ENTIRE booklet, guided by the compact disc located on the back page. The CD works only in a computer, not in a DVD player. Write your answers to all questions, paying particular attention to the following:

Segment 1: God the Father

Part 1: Ritual and Liturgy

Page 13

- a. Recall the African creation story. What similarities and differences do you see between this story and the creation story in the Book of Genesis?
- b. Briefly identify one or two ways in which you saw God's call entering the lives of the people in the contemporary stories in this part of the segment.
- c. Based on your viewing of this part of the segment, write a sentence summarizing a key insight that you have gained regarding the meaning of Revelation.

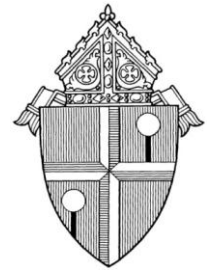
Part 2: The Story of Salvation

Page 15

- a. The video explores Hebrew Scripture stories of God's saving power in history, from Abraham to Moses to David. What insights did you gain from these stories about the nature of God and God's relationship with the Hebrew people?
- b. Jesus is the fullness of God's Revelation. In what ways do you show your belief in this doctrine of faith so that others can see that Jesus is at the center of your life?
- c. Why does the Church consider the Holy Trinity the most important mystery of our faith?

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Page 2

Segment 2. God the Son

Part 1: The Incarnation of Jesus

Page 21

- a. While Jesus is the fullness of God's Revelation, the Church also teaches that God is revealed in all times and places. What evidence have you seen that non-Christians as well as Christians have discovered something of the mystery of God?
- b. What does the Incarnation reveal about God's love and mercy?
- c. In what ways does your own life reflect the dying and rising of Jesus Christ?

Part 2: Paschal Mystery

Page 23

- a. Since Jesus' message contradicts many of the values of contemporary culture, why do you think it continues to thrive?
- b. In what ways does your own life reflect the dying and rising of Jesus?

Read *Mary in the Church* on pages 25 - 26. Write your answer to the question on page 26.

Segment 3: God the Holy Spirit

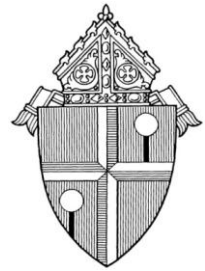
Part 1: The Holy Spirit in Scripture and Tradition

Page 29

- a. The flight sequence at the beginning of the video segment suggests images that describe the Holy Spirit. How do these images help you describe the mystery of the Holy Spirit?

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Page 3

- b. Think about your family and your parish community. What evidence of the Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit can you see in these people of faith? Give some examples.

Part 2: The Role of the Holy Spirit

Page 31

- a. To identify the Spirit of God prompting us, we must learn to listen. In what ways do you allow for time and space to listen for the Spirit in your life?
- b. The video described five ways the Church helps us discern the voice of the Spirit: Scripture, Tradition, the Magisterium, or teaching voice of the Church, the sacraments, and the witness of the faithful. Choose two of these ways and describe how each has assisted you in hearing the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Read *Trinity* on pages 33 – 34. Write your answer to the questions on page 34.

Segment 4: The Christian Creed

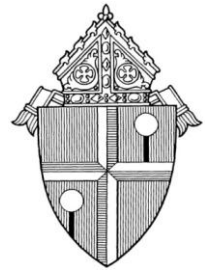
Part 1: The Formation of the Creed

Page 37

- a. Refer to the new translation of the Nicene Creed (2011) and focus on the portion of the Creed that refers to Jesus Christ. What insight does the Creed give you into Jesus' statement that faith in him provides the believer with "living water"?
- b. The bishops of the Council of Nicaea grappled with the question, Who is Jesus and what is his relationship to the Father? What did the bishops conclude? What questions do you still have about the relationship of Jesus Christ to God the Father?
- c. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "Whoever says 'I believe' says, 'I pledge myself to what we believe' " (CCC 185). Why is a public confession of faith with the community so important?

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Page 4

Part 2: The Church

Page 39

- a. In the Apostle's Creed, the Church professes its faith in the communion of saints. What is the importance of this belief to our identity as Christians?
- b. We profess that the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. In what ways do you live this belief as a member of the Church?

Page 40: Complete the *Looking Beyond* activity.

Pages 42 – 51 contain a series of four essays. **Select one** of the essays to read. Write your response to the *For Reflection* questions located at the end of your selected essay.