

Basics of the Faith

Central Beliefs and Practices

A Brief Review

- Creation

God created out of nothing (ex nihilo)

Logically there must be a reality that always was.

Modern Physics embraces Greek Myth by suggesting that Matter is that which always was

- Through Revelation we know God is Trinity

Three Divine Persons, but only one divine nature

These three divine persons are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

- Prayer

Petition, Intercessory, Liturgical and Contemplative Prayer

Grace and Our Response

- God has what we call a “universal salvific will, in other words, God desires that all be saved. (1 Tim 2:4)
- God gave us freedom and so we must choose, God gives us the necessary “grace” to choose well, but often we choose poorly.
- God orders the world in such a way that when we act in accord with nature and His commands, we will be spared great heartache and pain.
- We have every reason to hope in our salvation if we accept Jesus and His invitation to us.

Actions Do Matter

- There is a distinction between our own moral guilt or culpability and the objective quality of the act.
 - e.g. Murder is always wrong, but people can accidentally kill someone, which they are not morally guilty.
- The Young Woman and the abortion
- The young man with the plant.

The Young Woman

- Imagine the young woman gets pregnant and is scared and very confused.
 - Society tells her that she has a choice, she carries no child yet, just a mass of cells
 - Her parents tell her that if she needs to have an abortion because they will not support her or the child if it is born
 - Her boyfriend tells her to have an abortion (the last thing he wants is support payments)
- She has the abortion because she does not even think it is wrong.

The Plant and the Young Boy

- The boy has a plant that he loves, the leaves are turning brown, and he goes to some people he believed would give him good information.
- They believe if you have dry skin, oil can soften it, so they suggest that the boy should put some oil on the dry spots.
- The boy dumps a can of 10 w 40 oil on the plant, it dies.

Intrinsic Evil

- There are things that are intrinsically evil, that just means that in and of themselves, the actions are disordered and will cause harm and damage the good that God intends.
- Even though the young girl and young boy did intrinsically evil things (e.g. abortion, dumping oil on the plant) they were not morally guilty or culpable because they did not know what they were doing.

Moral Guilt or “Culpability” (It is my fault)

- To be morally guilty or culpable the following conditions apply
 - Grave Matter (the sin is Big – intrinsically evil)
 - Reasonable reflection and full consent of the will (you know the sin is big)
 - Accomplish the act or have every intention of accomplishing the act (you do it anyway or you would if you could!)

The Trinity

- The Sign of the Cross, a reminder of baptism and God's nature.
- Augustine's image of the Trinity and the Mind

The Mind is a wonderful image of God, because of its memory, understanding and will.

We do not have three brains

- We can think of the memory as the Father
- The understanding as the Son
- And the will as the Holy Spirit or God's activity

Are you saved?

Are Catholics saved?

- A Catholic can confidently make the outrageous claim, I Hope So! Based on Romans 8:24 and the 19th Psalm.
- We are born again, and Catholics understand this to occur at Baptism.
- The Sacraments of Initiation
 - Baptism (Water and the Words)
 - Confirmation (Laying on of Hands and words)
 - Eucharist (Bread and Wine and Words)

Prayers of Petition

- God I need stuff, please help!
- This is simply the type of prayer where we ask, or petition God for His assistance.
- There is nothing wrong with the prayer.
- This would be the “atheist in a foxhole prayer.
- Naturally we want help in desperate situations.

Intercessory Prayer

- Have you ever been troubled and asked a friend, “would you pray for me?”
- This is how the Church understands the communion of saints. They are our heavenly friends who can pray for us.
- We ask their intercession (them pleading for us)
- Intercessory prayer is used in the canonization process for saints, we ask for their intercession and if the healing is miraculous it contributes to their “cause” for being a saint.

Liturgical Prayer

- Liturgy comes from a Greek word which literally means, “The People’s Work”.
- We are called to pray as the Body of Christ for the world.
- The Mass is the perfect prayer which “makes present” from Greek, *ανεμνισις*, or in Hebrew “zikaron”. *(in mass we rip across the fabric of space and time and are thrust into the presence of the pure sacrifice of Christ made present in the unbloody sacrifice of the mass.*
- The other Sacraments are also a real encounter with Christ

Contemplative Prayer

- Lectio Divina

Prayerfully and slowing meditation over the Scriptures or other spiritual texts

- Meditation

- Reflecting on Spiritual reading

- Centering Prayer

- The Rosary that dates in it current form from the 13th century. Its 20 mysteries comprised of an Our Father, ten Hail Marys and a Glory Be comprise each “decade” of the Rosary. Our Lady at Fatima asked we pray the Rosary daily for peace in our world.