

Faith Sharing notes 2025-08-19

Question came up about when was the first written evidence of the Apostle's Creed? It was around **215 AD** in Hippolytus. I have a handout with details.

From Michael's and Rich's suggestions, after we complete the current Bishop Barron Book, we will have volunteers who would like to lead the talks for the session.

Michael mentions how he prays the rosary in Latin and we talked about the beauty of Gregorian Chant. Here is a link to the rosary in Latin sung in Gregory chant.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yO9jmHIKJk0&list=RDyO9jmHIKJk0&start_radio=1

The Holy Spirit is mentioned in the Bible in various forms and in the creed it states "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man." to show that indeed Jesus was the Son of God conceived by Mary from the Holy Spirit.

We talked about the afterlife and discussed what did the Jewish people then and now believe in regarding the afterlife. Rich sent a follow up email on "Is There Life After Death? Jewish Thinking on the Afterlife" by Amy E. Schwartz. Very interesting and unlike our Catholic Faith it shows that the Jewish religion seems to have a variety of beliefs on this subject.

Bishop Barron points out that Jesus is presented as the sacrificial lamb. And God as being of justice and people will be judge for their actions and deeds in the afterlife. We are to act justly and imitate God's way of justice. Through salvation and sacrifice we continually strive to be sanctified and receive it as a gift from God. It is a continue process and recognition of this gift that we strive for.

We believe that "God became man, that man might become God" this identifies who we are in Christ and have a unique vocation to share in this Gift from God.

There were many gods/religions that talked about love, but Jesus gave us the commandment to “Love one another” with an agape love which was very different. (Agape is a Greek word for selfless, unconditional, and sacrificial love, considered the highest form of love in Christian theology, demonstrated by God's love for humanity and exemplified by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. It is not a feeling but a deliberate act of the will that desires and actively works for the good of others, regardless of their worth or whether the love is reciprocated.)

With the Ascension of Jesus leaving mankind, His work became our work to continue. We get this gift to become Christ's hands.

Our next meeting will be September 2nd. We will read pages 94-108. These pages will discuss the Holy Spirit.