

Spiritual council notes 2025-05-20

We are continuing our discussion from the book “What Christians Believe, Understanding the Nicene Creed.” by Bishop Robert Barron.

We talked about how the Nicene Creed is more detailed and specific, while the Apostles' Creed is shorter and more general.

The topic this week was from chapter 2, “**The Father**”. In the Apostles Creed it has “I believe in God, the Father almighty, **creator** of heaven and earth.” In the Nicene creed it has “I believe in one God, the Father almighty, **maker** of heaven and earth,”. Bishop Barron discusses the difference between MAKER and CREATOR. **Maker** emphasizes **God as artisan**—a divine craftsman who forms and constructs the world. And “**Creator**” emphasizes **God’s role in originating everything from nothing** (*ex nihilo*), aligning with deeper theological concepts about God’s power and transcendence. This led us to a discussion of maker and creator.

Patricia told us about some spiritual experiences she had that were very moving. From her realizing the meaning of “ABBA” as father and some other experiences that were spiritual. She also mentions that she follows the Vatican news website at <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html> where you can find the Pope’s Calendar of Activities.

Someone questioned when Sundays do we say the Apostle creed versus the Nicene creed at mass. The Nicene Creed is the standard profession of faith used during the Mass on Sundays and solemnities. The Apostles' Creed is an alternative profession of faith that may be used in place of the Nicene Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time. The choice between the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds is at the discretion of the celebrant, guided by the liturgical context and pastoral needs.

Michael suggested that instead of our group being called a Spiritual Council we should be called a Spiritual Counsel.

- Counsel (noun or verb) Meaning: As a noun: Advice or guidance,
- Council (noun) Meaning: A group of people assembled for advice, deliberation, or decision-making,

We will discuss this change of name in a future meeting.

We discussed the various Gospels and the narrative theology which stresses that Christian faith is best understood through the unfolding story of God’s relationship with humanity, especially as told in Scripture.

We did go off the subject of Father and delved more into the entire Nicene Creed. Talking about the Holy Spirit as the giver of life.

How does the CREED “speak” to you, was a topic that we discussed along with what parts of the creed do we have trouble with. Some of the ideas that were liked were we are “one, holy, catholic and apostolic faith”. Also, the phrase “the life of the world to come”, gives us hope for our own resurrection. And the phrase “On the third day He rose again, in fulfillment of the Scriptures” ties Jesus being the Son of God back to references in the Jewish torah and the gospels.

Creation is not just in the past but is continuing even now. When are those recreated moments in our lives.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 3rd, at 5:30 pm. We will start to read the section on “The Son” reading pages 23 to 33.

Summer Blessings!

Norbert