

## Spiritual Council notes 2025-05-06

The book we are now reading is “What Christians Believe, Understanding the Nicene Creed.” by Bishop Robert Barron. The Nicene Creed is also called the Constantinople Creed. The Nicene Creed is actually the product of two ecumenical councils—one in Nicaea in AD 325, and one in Constantinople in AD 381—and a century of debate over the nature of the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Reading this book now is very appropriate as May 20, is the 1700 anniversary of the council of Nicene. I distributed 3 handouts on this topic:

- Vatican issues new document ahead of 1,700th anniversary of Nicaea, reaffirms centrality of creed
- What is the difference between the Apostles creed and the Nicene creed
- What does the roman catholic church say about the Apostles creed

The first thought that many of us had was with the title of the book. Should the book be named What Catholics believe or what most Christians believe?

The first chapter is Titled “I Believe”. Bishop Baron goes into the discussion of “I Believe” versus what we used to say, “We Believe”. The We believe is more of a communal prayer where the I believe expresses a person’s personal belief. This led us to a discussion as to the differences with each.

Is God in everything and what keeps us from God? When we are young, we have an innocence view of the world but as we develop and grow, we become accumulated to world experiences which can led us away from God.

Rich brought up the idea that True Reason (science) and True Faith do not contradict each other.

Mike mentioned that he says a “personal profession of faith” before he says the Nicene creed profession of faith. “Truth, the way, the life the love-the One”. (not sure I got this quote exactly right)

On page 5 we discussed the Paths to God, and what paths point us in the right direction.

You cannot have reason without Love.

Arius taught that Jesus was created by God and was therefore not of the same substance (homoousios) as the Father, while Docetists believed that Jesus' body was an illusion, not a real physical body. These doctrines were in direct opposition to the orthodox Christian belief that Jesus was fully God and fully human. In the beginning was the "WORD" and the word was with God. This begins to identify the trinity. And the fact that the Son (Jesus) the Word made flesh was with the father in the beginning. In the Genesis it has "Then God said" as it talks about creation indicating it was through the WORD that God "created" the world.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. The reading will be chapter 2, "The Father".

Easter Season blessings,

Norbert