

spiritual group meeting 2025-06-17

This was another meeting where we started off discussing a topic which then led us to many various discussions, so it was difficult to record all the topics we discussed. If there are any topics you would like to add for the group, just send a follow-up email to the group

The meeting started out with a discussion of the video that Michael had sent to the group called "*What people get wrong about the Council of Nicaea*" by Premodernist. The premise of the author is "A lot of people think that Council of Nicaea was this major historical event. And in a way it was, and I'll explain what I mean by that, but it was not a historically significant"

We expressed various opinions on his premise which of course led to other topics to disuses.

One was the split of Protestantism from the Catholic Church and all the various denominations there are. But then there are many various Rites of the current Catholic Church each of which has some differences but who are all under the authority of the Pope. The current influx of young adults into the catholic church and many are looking to the "Tridentine Mass" or the "**Traditional Latin Mass** (TLM)." which was Named after the Council of Trent (1545–1563), and led to the Roman Missal of 1570, promulgated by Pope Pius V. The Catholic Mass celebrated in the native vernacular (the local language of the people) is called the: **Novus Ordo Mass** (or more formally, the Mass of Paul VI or the **Ordinary Form** of the Roman Rite). Introduced: In 1969 after the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II). There is currently a discussion in the church about keeping the TLM.

A discussion came up as to when the Saturday mass was accepted as fulfilling the Sunday obligation. The Roman Catholic Church formally allowed the fulfillment of the Sunday Mass obligation on Saturday evening following reforms from the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965). The specific permission came with Pope Paul VI's 1967 *motu proprio Sacram Liturgiam* and was clarified in 1969 by the Congregation for the Clergy. The time of day was left somewhat flexible, but it became common practice for parishes to begin offering "Vigil Masses" around 4:00 PM or later on Saturdays. However, Local bishops can determine the earliest allowable time based on pastoral needs.

We finally go back to discussing the tonight's topic which was pages 34-41 "Begotten not made" section of the book "What Christians Believe" by Bishop Barron. Bishop Baron talked about Gennetos" and "Genotos". The explanation was rather a difficult concept to

understand, but members of the group tried to give various examples of the differences between these two are.

The mystery of transubstantiation was also discussed and how the Nicene creed expressed this belief that Jesus is "one substance " with the father and always existed with him.

Alex brought up the **Athanasian creed** which is a Christian statement of belief focused on **Trinitarian** doctrine (the nature of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. It is named after Athanasius of Alexandria, a 4th-century bishop who was a staunch defender of Trinitarian theology. It was written to affirm orthodox Christian beliefs and to refute heresies. It is rather long, and I have attached a copy of The Athanasian Creed with this email, and we can discuss it at our next meeting if we want.

We also discussed changing our name again to reflect what type of group we are. The consensus was to now be called "**St Johns Faith Sharing Group**" since this is really what we are doing at these meetings. Sharing our faith with others. I will wait until the next meeting to see if this is the name we decide to go with.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday July 1 at 5:30-6:30pm. (did he just say JULY already!!) We will continue reading "What Christians Believe" pages 41-53. As I mentioned in the meeting, at this rate we will have taken longer to read this book than the actual time the council of Nicaea was in session.

Summer Blessings to all,

Norbert