

From the **US Conference of Catholic Bishops** website:

Catholic belief is succinctly expressed in the profession of faith or *credo* called the **Nicene Creed**:

"Our profession of faith begins with God, for God is the First and the Last, the beginning and the end of everything. The Credo begins with God the Father, for the Father is the first divine person of the Most Holy Trinity; our Creed begins with the creation of heaven and earth, for creation is the beginning and the foundation of all God's works."

---the [*Catechism of the Catholic Church*](#), no. 198

LESSON 2:

The Beginning of The Nicene Creed

**I Believe
In One God
The Father
Almighty
Maker of Heaven and Earth
of All Things Visible and Invisible.**

EXERCISE #1: “I Believe”

Write down everything that comes to mind when you think of the word:

“Believe” or “Belief”

EXERCISE #2 “In One God”

Write down everything that comes to mind when you think of the word **“One”**

- Think about what it means generally.
- How and when and why is it used?
- List Synonyms

EXERCISE #3 “The Father”

Write down those words that come to mind when you think about the word **“father”**

- What attributes do you associate with “father”?
- What feelings come up for you?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

God as “Almighty”

What does “almighty” mean in practical terms for everyday life?

Are there moments in your own experience where God’s power:

- feels especially clear?

- or mysteriously absent?

“Maker Of Heaven And Earth”

When we conceive of things like Heaven and earth, the **visible** and the **invisible**, it involves some use of our imagination.

What images come to mind for you? It could be a picture, a sound, a feeling

What does creation, in your experience, reveal about God’s character?

The Father’s Role Within The Trinity

It’s often said that the idea of the Trinity is a difficult thing to grasp, yet the Nicene Creed dives right into it

How does the Creed’s description of the Father’s **Eternal Relationship** with the Son and the Spirit deepen, expand or clarify your view of the Trinity?

Why do you think it is important that the Creed emphasizes Unity of Action among The Father, Son and Spirit?

What does that mean for us as a Church, a community of faith?

“I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.

Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name, and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.” **- John 17: 20-26**

Read the text again slowly and silently.

~ If there is a word or phrase that you are drawn to, underline it.

Looking at your list of things you associated with the word “father”

-Is there anything you would like to add to that list?

-Are there things on that list that are hard to reconcile with the image of The Father in this Gospel Reading?

~ Is there anything in the reading that you would want to ask God about?