



Journey of Faith

What Catholics Believe

St Thomas More Parish
RCIA – Journey of Faith
September 22, 2011



Human Faith

- I believe what I see or understand
- Most of our knowledge is based on human faith
- St Augustine – born of particular mother and father
- Love of mother for child – very real, but you don't see it.



God Exists

- Wise thinkers arrive at conclusion of a Supreme Being
- We also arrive at same conclusion- beauty of nature, vast universe
- God is Good – not evil – C.S. Lewis



Christian Faith

- Personal God – concerned with and about me.
- God who Loves me. God is Love
- Offers his Love – offers to enter into our lives –needs our consent
- Human beings are free to accept God in our life. St Theresa of Lisieux



Personal Relationships

- How does a relationship develop?
- Slowly reveal yourself to another.
- Knowing and understanding leads to caring and loving.
- Same with God- the more we know God the more we can love him.



God's Revelation

- Scripture – Bible – New and Old Testament – Gospel – Good News
- Tradition – Teachings of Pope, Bishop, Fathers of the church and councils
- People in Christian community, family, sponsor, catechists - Mother
- John 3 (16)



Faith – Gift of God - Grace

- Supernatural gift – infused in us by God
- Holy Spirit moves the heart and converts it to God
- God offers this Gift to everyone
- We can not earn gift ; it is freely given by God to everyone.
- Ephesians 2 (8-10)



Faith is a Journey

- Our inquiry should lead to a **decision** of our heart and our mind that we want to enter into a relationship with God
- Faith is not a feeling – Mother Theresa
- We likely still have questions, even doubts
- We have Faith or Trust in God that he has all the answers
- We all grow in our Faith – We journey together



Other Dimensions

- Faith is knowledge of God ; supernatural knowledge.
- Faith is Trust in God – like a child with Parents
- Gift of Faith – give thanks for this great gift
- Faith is commitment to God/Christ and living his Way of life.
- Jn14 (15); Jn 15(12); Jn 13(34-35)



The Creed

- A crucial part of Tradition is the Creed
- Creed from latin “Credo”, I Believe
- Creed is a statement of what we believe as essential for the Faith
- Apostles creed – oldest form
- Nicene Creed – from council of Nicea



Apostles' Creed

- Trinity – Triune God
- God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- 3 Persons each distinct , One God
- Creator – to make something from nothing
- Jesus (Jeshua) God Saves
- Christ (Christos, Messiah) anointed one
- Lord , implies divinity



Apostles' Creed

- Jesus is both fully human and divine – 2 natures
- Jesus had a human mother- Mary
- Jesus did not have a human father, but was conceived in the womb of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit



Apostles' Creed

- Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified and was buried.
- Pontius Pilate – historical
- Resurrection – Ascension
- Judgement



Apostles' Creed

- Holy Spirit
- Holy , Catholic church
- Communion of Saints
- Forgiveness of sins
- Resurrection of the body
- Life everlasting



Conclusion

- God freely offer us the Gift of Faith
- God Loves us and wants to enter into our life
- We have the freedom to decide to let him in to our life
- We can enter into God's love
- Our Journey