

I BELIEVE IN GOD



WE'RE ALL HERE TODAY BECAUSE WE DESIRE GOD

*He made from one the whole human race to dwell on the entire surface of the earth, and he fixed the ordered seasons and the boundaries of their regions, **so that people might seek God, even perhaps grope for him and find him**, though indeed he is not far from any one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being,' as even some of your poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'*

-Acts 17:26-28



God has made us for himself
and **calls us**

CCC 27-30

Listen for God's call!

WHO IS GOD? THE HOLY TRINITY

God reveals himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Three Truths Of The Trinity

- 1) The Trinity is One – *Not three Gods, one God*
 - We do not speak of three Gods but one
 - Each of the Persons is fully God
 - They are a unity of three persons in one divine nature
- 2) The Divine Persons are distinct from each other -
 - Father, Son, and Spirit are not three appearances or modes of God, but three identifiable persons, each full God in a way distinct from the others
 - Father – Creator, Son – Redeemer, Holy Spirit - Sanctifier
- 3) The Divine Persons are in relation to each other
 - The distinction of each is understood only in reference to the others. The Father cannot be the Father without the Son, nor can the Son be without the Father, The Holy Spirit is related to the Father and the Son both send him forth



“I have been called by the Father to be Holy, given the Way of Holiness by the Son, and given the means to Holiness by the Spirit...”

Mother Angelica

HOW DO WE KNOW THERE ARE THREE PERSONS?

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Jesus said so!

I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, **the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name**—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you.

-John 14:25-26

The Bible tells us!

But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.**

-Luke 1:34-35

HOW DO WE KNOW THE THREE PERSONS ARE ONE GOD?

The Bible tells us!

For thus says the LORD, The creator of the heavens, who is God, The designer and maker of the earth who established it, Not as an empty waste did he create it, but designing it to be lived in: **I am the LORD, and there is no other.**

-Isaiah 45:18

HOW CAN WE UNDERSTAND THE HOLY TRINITY?

Analogy of the Trinity – Light

- Three parts; Source (like the sun), ray of light, spot (The sun shining on the table)
- All three parts as distinct - the spot isn't the source, the ray isn't the spot, the sun isn't the ray
- All three are part of the same/connected – The ray is connected to the source and the spot, the ray emanates from the source, the spot exists because of the source and the ray



It's a mystery!

The mystery of God is not a puzzle to be solved. It is a truth to be revered. It is a reality too rich to be fully grasped by our minds, so that while it continues to unfold, it always remains mostly beyond our comprehension.

The mystery of God is present in our lives and yet remains hidden, beyond the full grasp of our minds.



LOOK UP THESE VERSES FOR MORE!

There is only one God

Dt. 6:4, Isa. 44:6, 1 Cor. 8:6, Eph. 4:6, 1 Tim. 2:5

There are three distinct persons who are each fully God

Ps. 45:6, 110:1, Isa 63:7-10, Zech 1:12, Mt. 3:16-17, Mt. 28:19, Lk. 23:46, 2 Cor. 13:14

The Father (Jn. 6:27, Rom. 1:7, Gal. 1:1)

The Son (Mk. 2:5, 14:61-65, Jn. 1:1-5, 8:58, 10:11, Col 1:15-17, Heb. 1:1-15, Rev. 1:17)

The Holy Spirit (Gen 1:2 (cf. Isa. 44:6, Isa 63:7-9, Ps. 139:7, Acts 5:3-4, 2 Cor. 13:14, Heb 9:14)

More

Wis.11:21-23, Is. 55:6-9, 2 Cor. 6:16-18, Rom. 8:15-17, Hb. 1:12-13, Hb. 3:17-19, Gal. 5:1-6, 1 Cor. 1:25, Lk. 10:22, Mt. 6:9-13, Jer. 16:10-12, Mt. 5:48, Jn. 14:24-26



GOD THE FATHER

First Person of the Holy Trinity



“Father “

A way to understand God. A parental figure. Jesus called him Father.

By calling God "Father", the language of faith indicates two main things: that **God is the first origin of everything and transcendent authority**; and that he is **at the same time goodness and loving care for all his children**. God's parental tenderness can also be expressed by the image of motherhood, which emphasizes God's immanence, the intimacy between Creator and creature. The language of faith thus draws on the human experience of parents, who are in a way the first representatives of God for man. But this experience also tells us that human parents are fallible and can disfigure the face of fatherhood and motherhood. We ought therefore to recall that God transcends the human distinction between the sexes. He is neither man nor woman: he is God. **He also transcends human fatherhood and motherhood, although he is their origin and standard: no one is father as God is Father.**

-CCC239

WHAT IS GOD'S NAME?

“But,” said Moses to God, “if I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what do I tell them?” God replied to Moses: **I am who I am**. Then he added: This is what you will tell the Israelites: **I AM** has sent me to you.

-Exodus 3:13-14



I AM WHO I AM

meaning

The One who exists by His own power

GOD IS...

Omnipotent

For I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. **Whatever the LORD desires he does in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all the depths.**

-Psalm 135:5-6

Of all the divine attributes, only God's omnipotence is named in the Creed: to confess this power has great bearing on our lives. We believe that his might is universal, for God who created everything also rules everything and can do everything. God's power is loving, for he is our Father, and mysterious, for only faith can discern it when it "is made perfect in weakness".

-CCC 268

Creator

Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible

-The Nicene Creed

For thus says the LORD, The **creator of the heavens**, who is God, The **designer and maker of the earth who established it**, Not as an empty waste did he create it, but designing it to be lived in: I am the LORD, and there is no other.

-Isaiah 45:18

GOD IS...

Love

Whoever is without love does not know God, for **God is love**.

-1 John 4:8

Immutable/Does not change ever

Of old you laid the earth's foundations; the heavens are the work of your hands. They perish, **but you remain**; they all wear out like a garment; Like clothing you change them and they are changed, **but you are the same**, your years have no end.

-Psalm 102:26-28

Personal

From afar the LORD appears: With age-old love I have loved **you**; so I have kept my mercy toward **you**.

-Jeremiah 31:3

Our Father who art in heaven...

-The Lords Prayer



GOD IS...

Leader

The LORD is my shepherd; **He guides me** along right paths

Comforter

He **restores my soul.**

Your rod and your staff **comfort me**

Provider

My cup overflows

Infinite

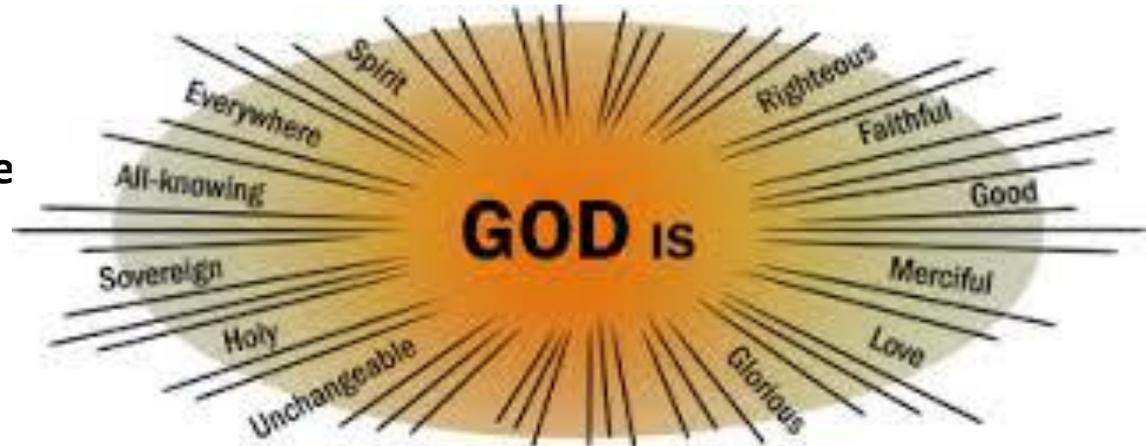
I will dwell in the house of the LORD **for endless days**

Rescuer

He rescued us from such great danger of death, and he will continue to rescue us; in him we have put our hope [that] **he will also rescue us again...**

Perfect

So be perfect, just as **your heavenly Father is perfect**



-Psalm 23

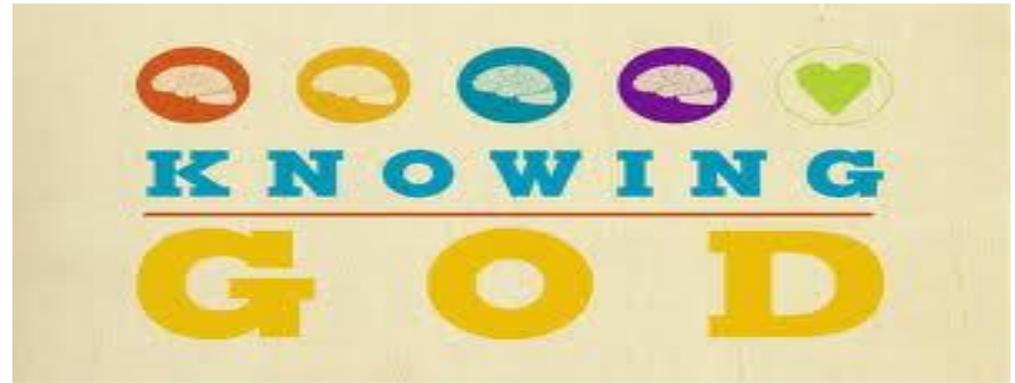
-2 Cor 1:10

-Matthew 5:48

HOW DO WE KNOW GOD?

We can know God by reason alone,
but with difficulty

-CCC 31-43



*Man's faculties make him capable of coming to a knowledge of the existence of a personal God. **But for man to be able to enter into real intimacy with him, God willed both to reveal himself to man and to give him the grace of being able to welcome this revelation in faith.** The proofs of God's existence, however, can predispose one to faith and help one to see that faith is not opposed to reason. Our holy mother, the Church, holds and teaches that **God, the first principle and last end of all things, can be known with certainty from the created world by the natural light of human reason.** Without this capacity, man would not be able to welcome God's revelation. **Man has this capacity because he is created "in the image of God."***

We need divine revelation because reason is limited/our minds are limited in the ability to know God.

-CCC 35-36

WHAT DO WE SAY THAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT GOD?

I believe in God, the Father **Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth**

-Apostles' Creed

I believe in **one God**, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible

-The Nicene Creed

Our Father , Who Art in Heaven, **Hallowed** be thy name

-The Lord's Prayer, from Matthew 6:9-13



MORE FROM CHAPTER FIVE OF UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CATECHISM FOR ADULTS

pp. 54-61

Angels

Nicene Creed - God is the maker of all things, visible and **invisible**.

Spiritual beings, have intelligence and free will, glorify God and work for our salvation, their power is limited and never greater than God's power

CCC330

Immortal

They can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise.

– Luke 20:36

Evil - Free will p.56-57

Divine Providence - p. 56

Are Faith and Science incompatible?

No!

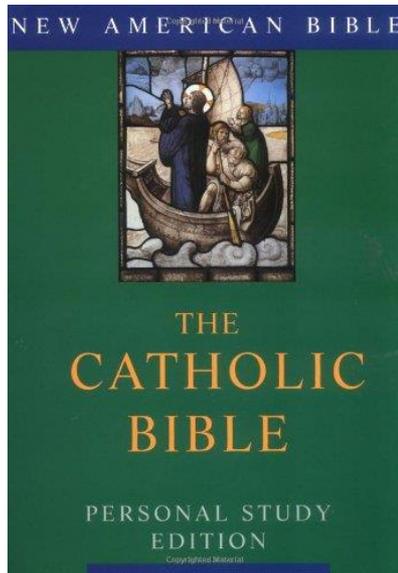
The world comes from God. Our intellect comes from God.

Doesn't mean there aren't conflicts. Examples; USCCA p. 58, science used for immoral purposes

STUDY THIS MORE!



- Look up the verses quoted here
 - Read the verses before and after
 - What is the context?
 - Catholic Study Bible



- Catechism of the Catholic Church
 - 238-240, 268-271, 279
 - 2013
 - 2779-2784, 2786-2793, 2822-2827

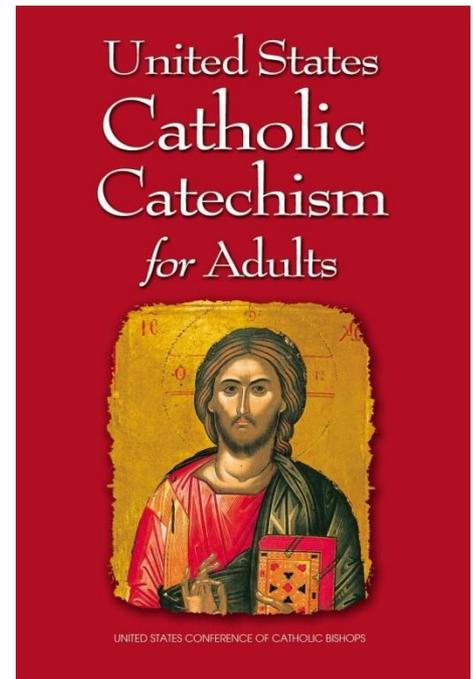
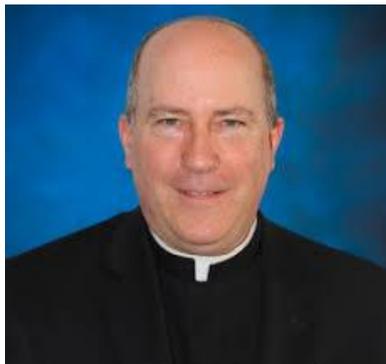
- United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

- Join a parish Bible Study class

- Go to mass, Pray

- Good resources

- www.Catholic.org
- www.usccb.org
- www.catholicity.com
- www.vatican.va
- RCIA Team Members
- RCIA Sponsor
- RCIA Question Box
- Father LaHood



STUDY THIS MORE!

