

# Diocese of Boise

## Office of Religious Education and Catechetical Leadership

The Office of Religious Education supports the mission of the Diocese of Boise by assisting the Bishop in carrying out his role as the chief catechist of the Diocese.



## Advanced Catechist Certification The Trinity

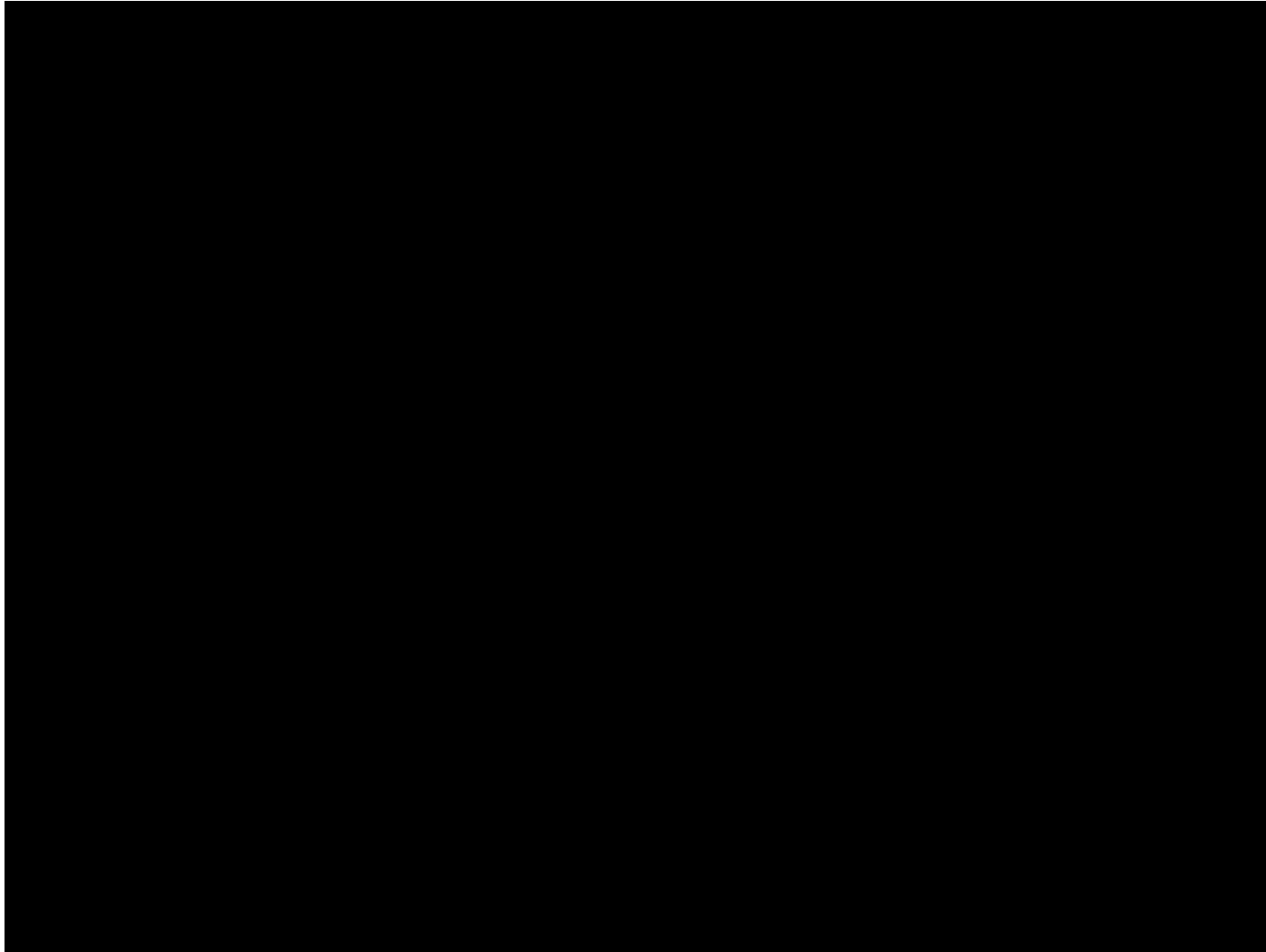
Kathy Barkdull, Presenter



# Outcomes for Advanced Certification: The Trinity

- ▶ Explain how the Trinity shapes our understanding of God in the Catholic Tradition.
- ▶ Explain how the Trinity shapes our understanding of the human person and the dignity of the human person in the Catholic Tradition [CCC #36-43, 108, 154, 156, 2419].
- ▶ Explain how Trinitarian doctrine originates from the New Testament.
- ▶ To understand the Church's theology of collaboration based on the Trinity as community, parish and institution as community, and the Pauline theology of Church as a community of many gifts and charisms, yet one body.

# Opening Prayer



# Appreciating the Trinity



# THE TRINITY



## A Theology of Relationship

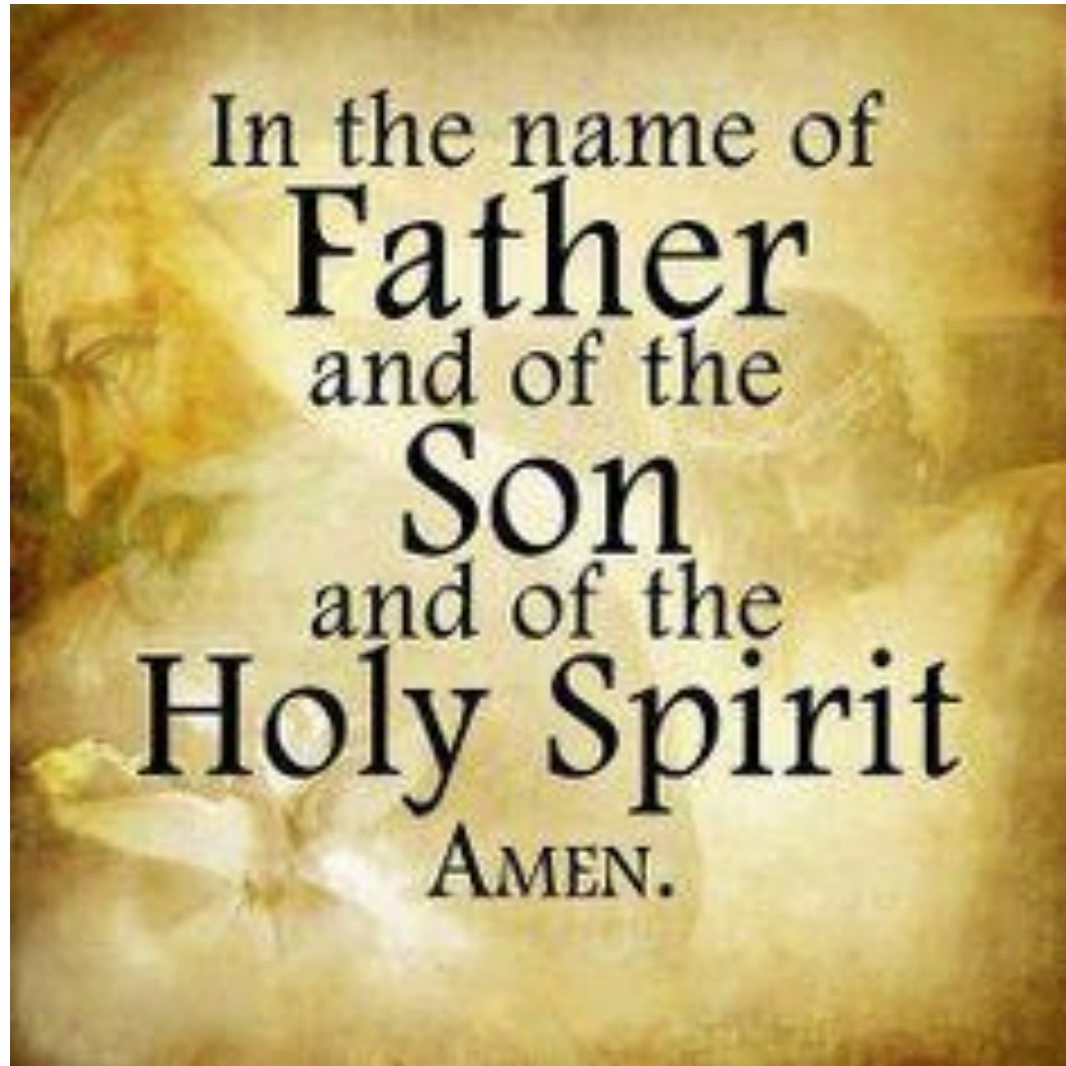


# The Mystery of God

*“The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the “hierarchy of the truths of faith.” CCC 234*

*“The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the “mysteries that are hidden in God, which can never be known unless they are revealed by God.” CCC 237*





*...”The faith of all Christians rests on the Trinity.” CCC 232*

*“Christians are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: not in their names, for there is only one God, the almighty Father, his only Son, and the Holy Spirit: the Most Holy Trinity.” CCC 233*

# The “One Thing” is Three

- ▶ The Trinity really is the “one thing.”
- ▶ God’s “innermost secret”
- ▶ God has destined us to share in that exchange.

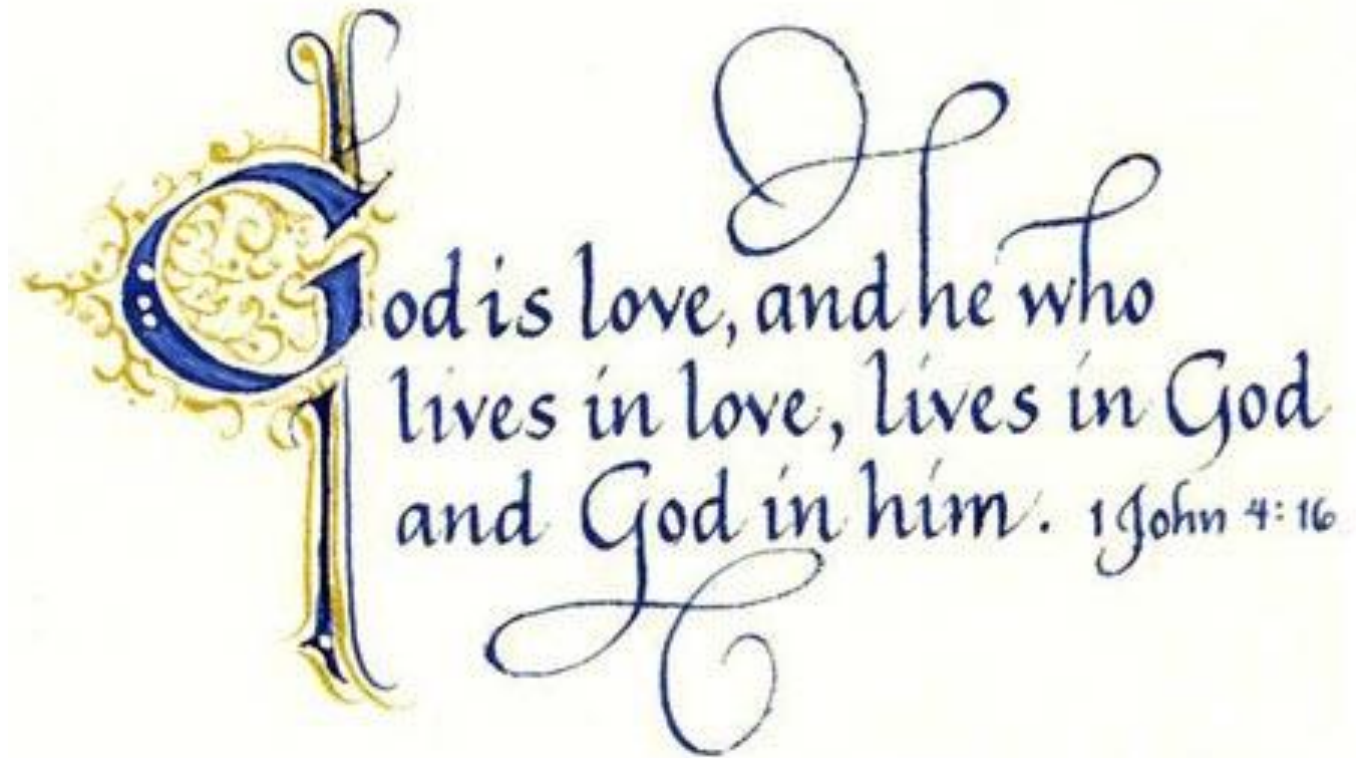




# The Three Points of Communion

- ▶ Point One: Communion with the Trinity (Our Final End)
- ▶ Point Two: Transforming Communion with Christ (Our Immediate End)
- ▶ Point Three: Mission of Communion (Our Mission)

# God who is a Communion of Love

The image shows a snippet of a medieval manuscript. The text is written in a dark blue Gothic script on a light cream-colored background. The first letter 'G' is a large, ornate initial, filled with intricate gold filigree and surrounded by a decorative gold border. The text reads: "God is love, and he who lives in love, lives in God and God in him. 1 John 4:16". The script is elegant and characteristic of the late Gothic or early Renaissance period.

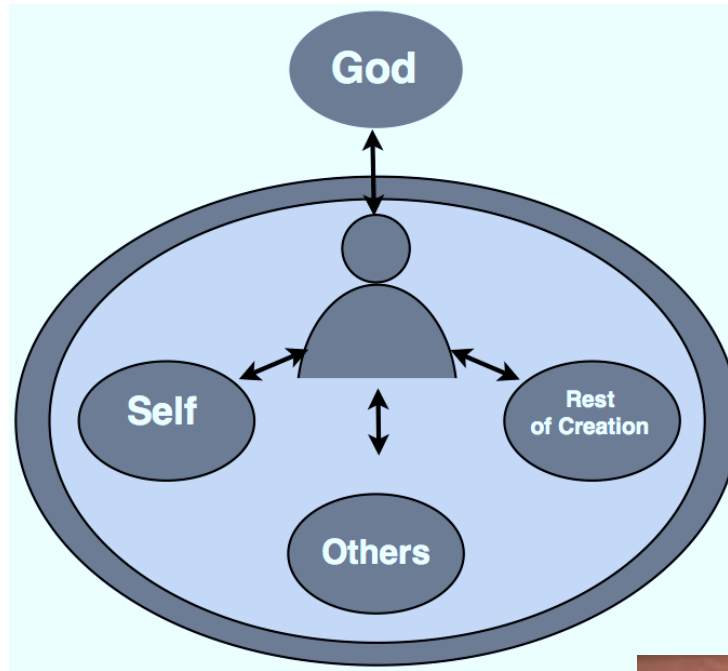
God is love, and he who  
lives in love, lives in God  
and God in him. 1 John 4:16

# Sharing in the Trinity's Exchange of Love

*“Justification is the most excellent work of God’s love made manifest in Christ Jesus and granted by the Holy Spirit. It is the opinion of St. Augustine that “the justification of the wicked is a greater work than the creation of heaven and earth”, because “heaven and earth will pass away but the salvation and justification of the elect...will not pass away.”” CCC1994*

# Redemption

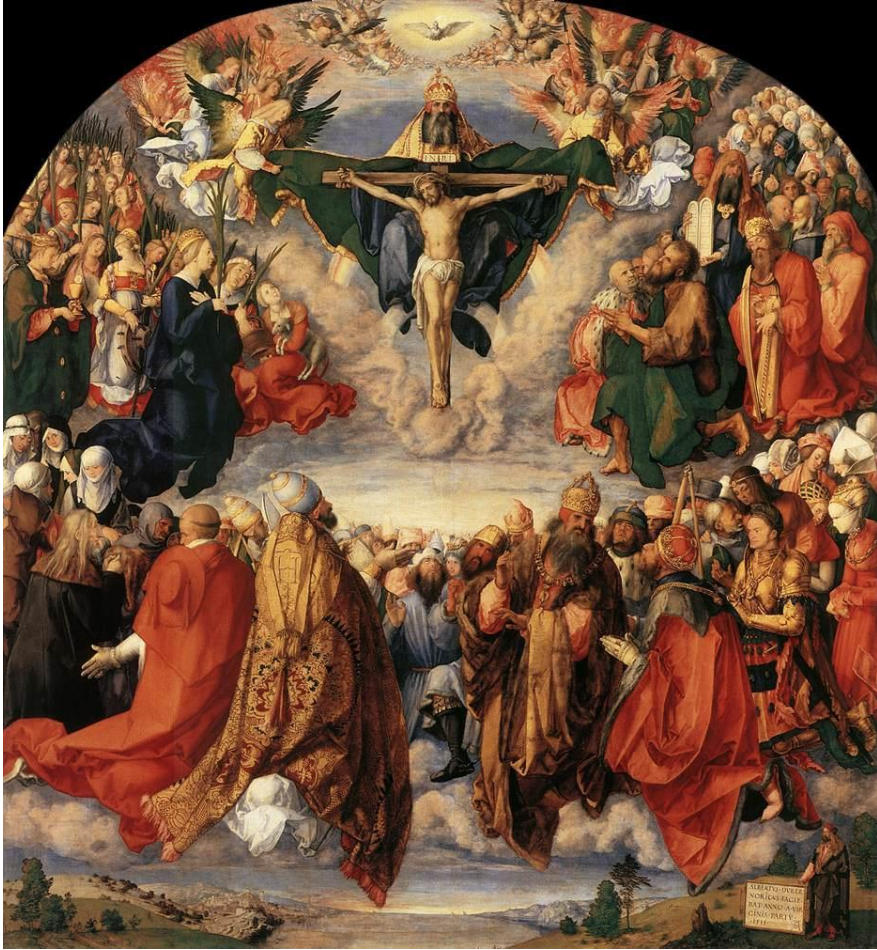
- ▶ We are all sinners.
- ▶ Broken Communion.
  - ▶ With God
  - ▶ With Ourselves
  - ▶ With our Neighbor
  - ▶ With the rest of Creation



*“I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ... I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me.” Roman 7: 15-20*



# Glorification



# The Glorious Action of the Trinity



- ▶ Eternal exchange of love.
  - ▶ The Father for the Son.
  - ▶ The Son for the Father.
  - ▶ Proceeding love between the Father and the Son.

*“... he has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to share in the divine nature ...”*

*2 Peter 1:4*

# Divinization of Man

*“O marvelous exchange? Man’s Creator has become man, born of a virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.” Liturgy of the Hours*

*“By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.” Roman Missal of the Catholic Church.*

*“That though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.” 2 Cor 8:9*

*“Man, as a being, is of no account; he is dust, grass, vanity. But once he is adopted by God of the universe as a son, he becomes part of the family of that Being, whose excellence and greatness no one can see, hear, or understand. What words, thoughts, or flight of the spirit can praise the superabundance of this grace? Many surpasses his nature: mortal, he becomes immortal; perishable, he becomes imperishable; fleeting, he becomes eternal; human, he becomes divine.”*

*St. Gregory of Nyssa*

# Our Final, Joyful End

1

God gives us a choice.

*Communion or Alienation*

*Life or Death*

*Eternal Bliss or Eternal Hell*

*To serve God or Ourselves*

*Self-Giving or Selfishness*

2

The meaning of life.

*Self-Giving Love*

*“Life finds its meaning when it is given as a gift. The meaning of life is self-giving love.” Pope John Paul II*

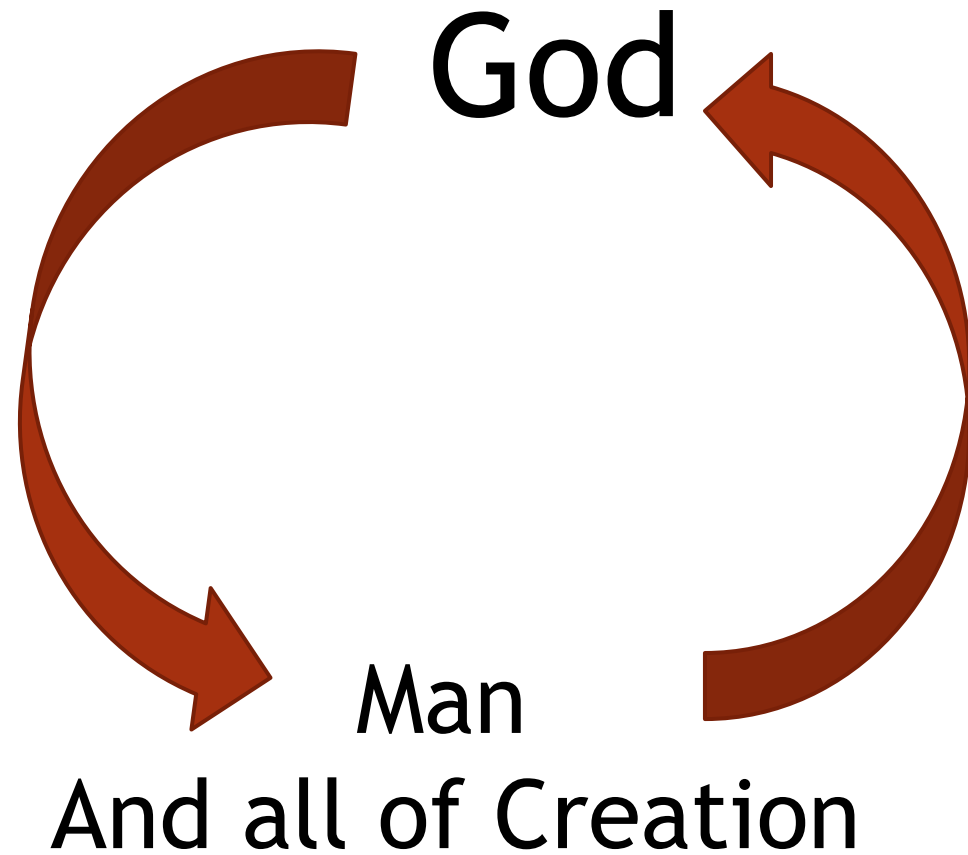


# Transforming Communion with Christ



# The Great Circle of Being

St. Thomas Aquinas - Summa Theologiae (*Summary of Knowledge*)



# The Journey Out from God



*“The world was made for the glory of God. St. Bonaventure explains that God created all things ‘not to increase his glory, but to show it forth and to communicate it,’ for God has no other reason for creating than his love and goodness: ‘Creatures came into existence when the key of love opened his hand’.” CCC 293*

Father is the one *“from whom all things are,”* the Son is the one *“through whom all things are,”* and the Holy Spirit is the one *“in whom all things are.”* CCC 258

*“Before the mountains were settled into place, before the hills, I was brought forth; When the earth and the fields were not yet made, nor the first clods of the world. When he established the heavens, there was I, when he marked out the vault over the face of the deep; When he made firm the skies above, when he fixed fast the springs of the deep; When he set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress his command; When he fixed the foundations of earth, then was I beside him as artisan; I was his delight day by day, playing before him all the while, playing over the whole of his earth, having my delight with human beings.” Proverbs 8: 25-31*

# The Journey Back to God



- ▶ God wanted a free humanity.
- ▶ Man as the conscious savior of creation.

# Man is a *Microcosm*.

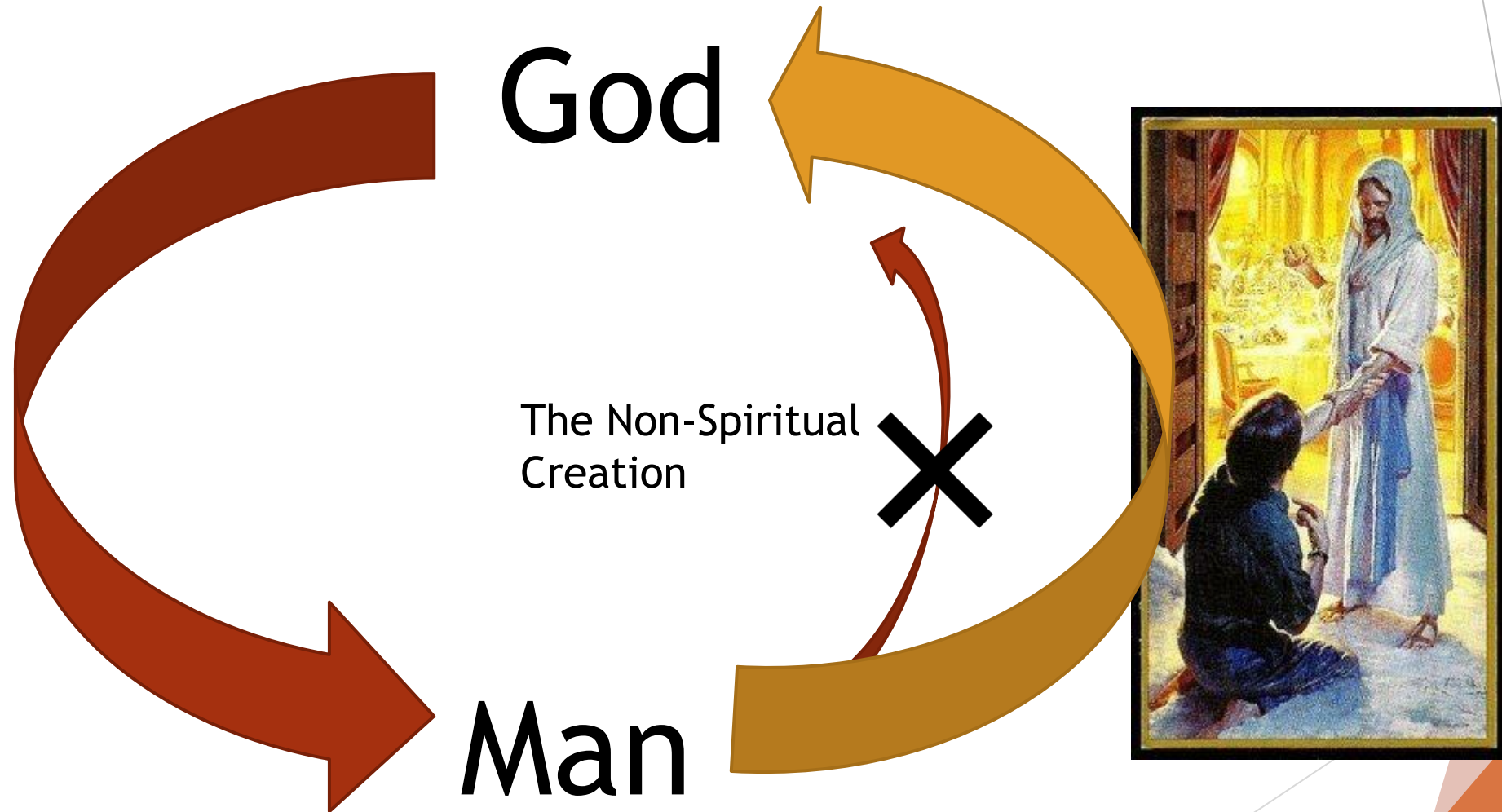


# Trinity - Pure Spirit

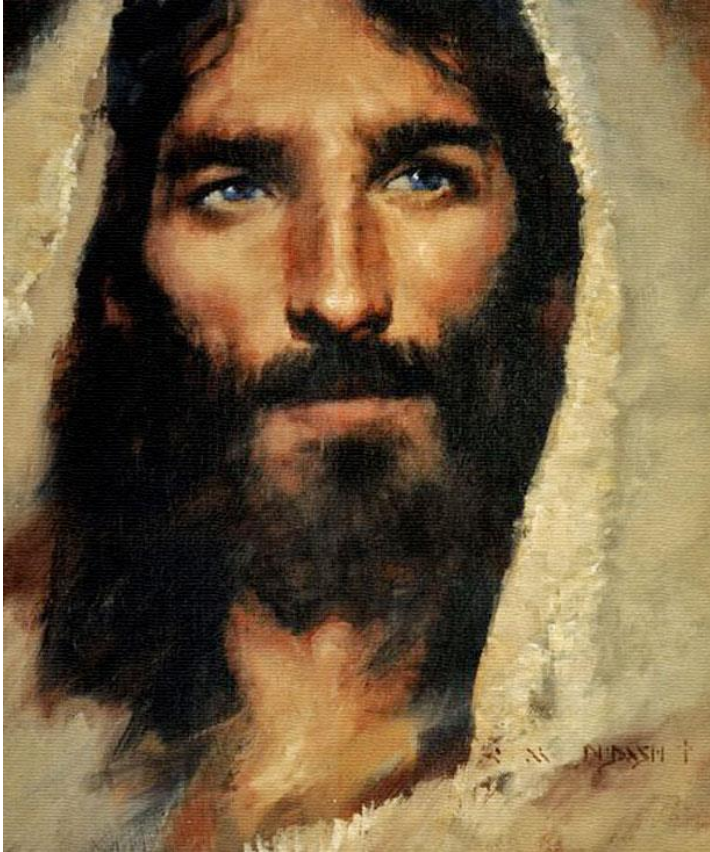
*“Creation does not venerate the Maker through itself directly, but it is through me that the heavens declare the glory of God, through me the moon worships God, through me the stars glorify him, through me the waters and showers of rain, the dew and all creation, venerate God and give him glory.” St. Leontius of Cyprus*

*“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves.” Romans 8: 19-23*

# Our Brokenness of Sin



# Man: The Image of God



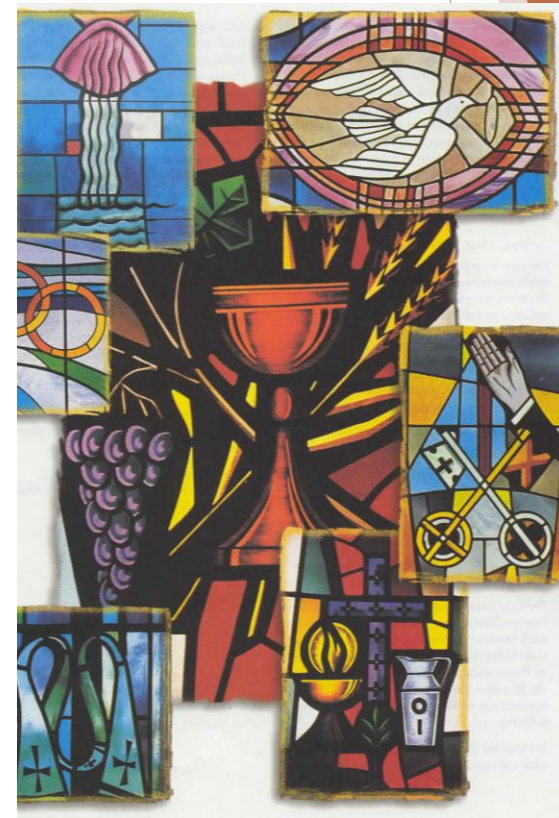
“He who is the “image of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15), is himself the perfect man who has restored in the children of Adam that likeness to God which has been disfigured ever since the first sin. Human nature, by the very fact that it was assumed, not absorbed, in him, has been raised in us also to the dignity beyond compare. For, by his incarnation, he, the son of God, has in a certain way united himself with each man. He worked with human hands, he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart he loved. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been made one of us, like to us in all things except sin.” Gaudium et Spes #22



# Communion with Christ through Faith and the Sacraments.

*“The power of Christ’s passion is joined to us through faith and through the sacraments, yet in different ways; for the contact which is through faith takes place through the act of the soul, but the contact which is through the sacraments takes place through the use of external things.”*

*St. Thomas Aquinas*



# The Passion of Christ

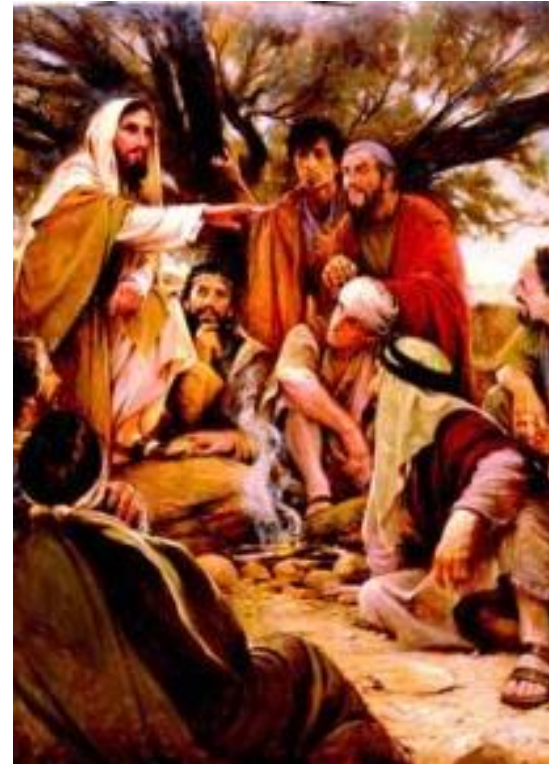
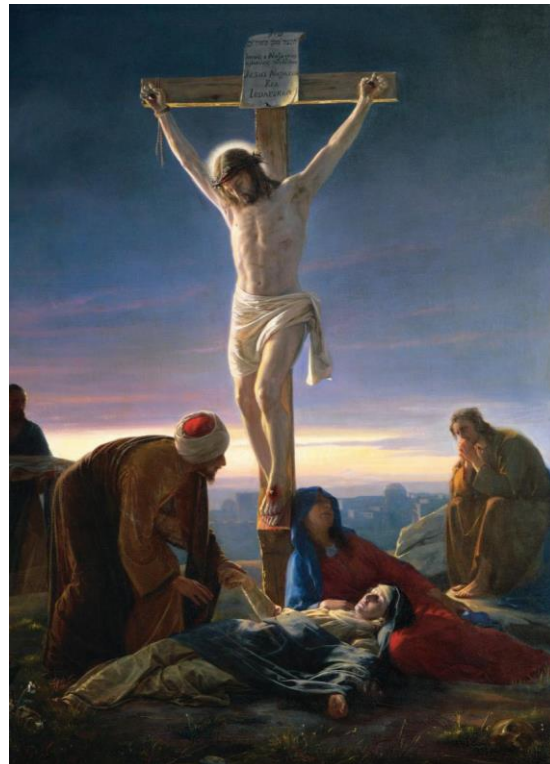


## Redeemed, but not Glorified

*“that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them and I in them.” (John 17:26)*

*“Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”  
(John 15:13)*

*“His Paschal mystery ... is unique: all other historical events happen once, and then they pass away, swallowed up in the past. The Paschal mystery of Christ, by contrast, cannot remain only in the past, because by his death he destroyed death, and all that Christ is - all that he did and suffered for all men - participates in the divine eternity, and so transcends all times while being made present in them all. The event of the Cross and Resurrection abides and draws everything toward life.” CCC 1085*



# Faith and the Passion of Christ

# Jesus as True God

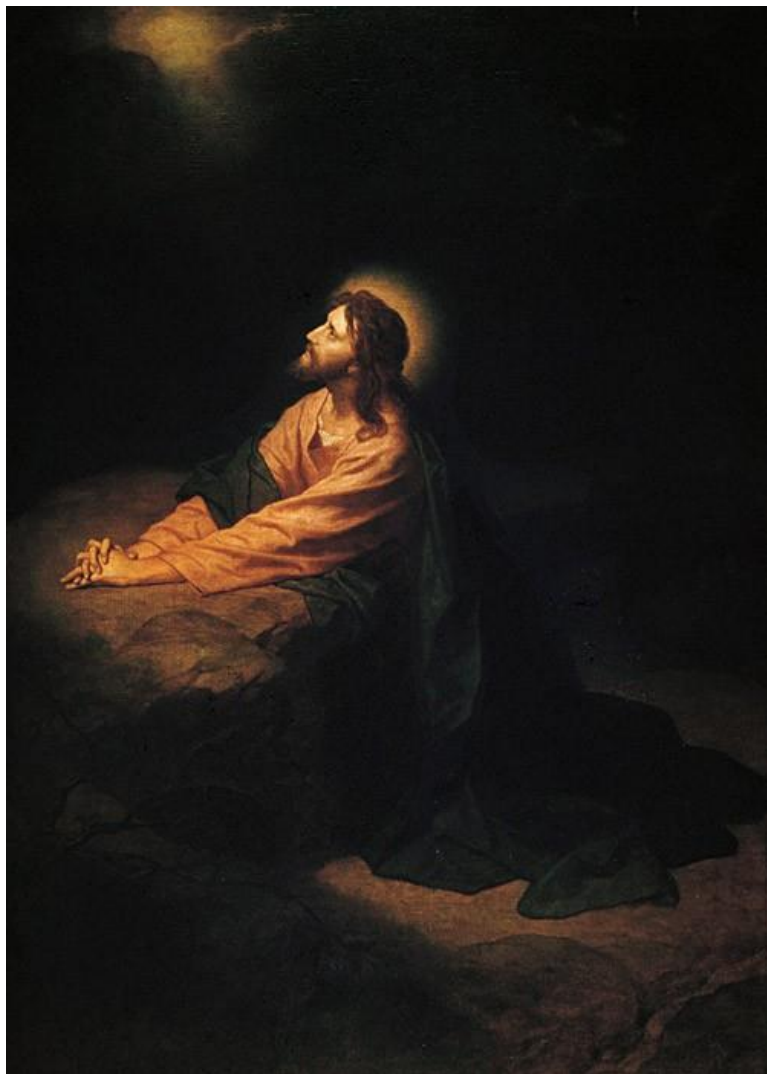
## God Events

- ▶ Events that cannot remain only in the past.
- ▶ Events that participate in the divine eternity.
- ▶ Events that transcend all times while being made present in them all.
- ▶ Events that “abide” and a source of life and blessing for us all.



# The Sacred Heart of Jesus

*“Jesus knew and loved us each and all during his life, his agony, and his Passion, and gave himself up for each one of us: ‘The Son of God ... loved me and gave himself for me.’ He has loved us all with a human heart. For this reason, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, pierced by our sins and for our salvation, ‘is quite rightly considered the chief sign and symbol of that ... love with which the divine Redeemer continually loves the eternal Father and all human beings’ without exception.” CCC 478*



## The Prayer of Jesus

*“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: 24-26*



Sharers in  
Divine Eternity

Faith

Hope

Charity

# Focus on Faith

- ▶ The primacy of Faith.
- ▶ Faith precedes Hope and Charity.
- ▶ Faith - the Mind



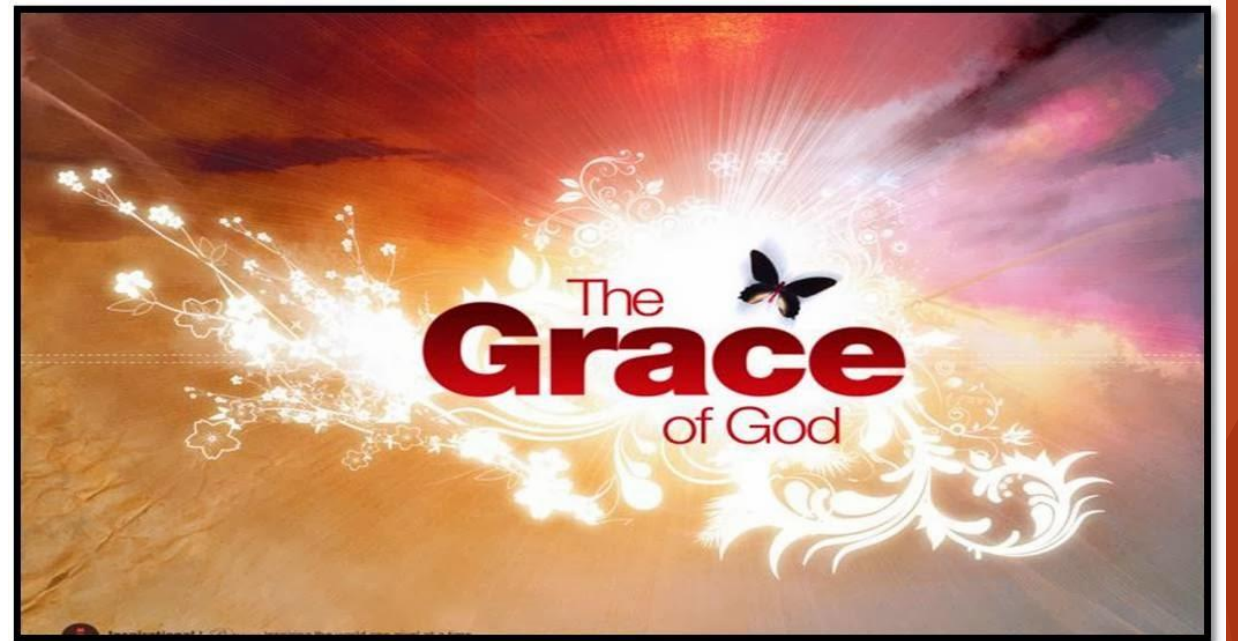


# Faith is a Human Act

“In faith, the human intellect and will cooperate with divine grace:

“Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace.” CCC 155

“...we believe “because of the authority of God himself who reveals them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.” CCC #156



# Hope and Charity





# Meeting Christ in the Sacraments

*“In this gift Jesus Christ entrusted to his Church the perennial making present of the paschal mystery. With it he brought about a mysterious ‘oneness in time’ between the Paschal Mystery and the passage of the centuries.*

*The thought of this leads us to profound amazement and gratitude. In the paschal event and the Eucharist which makes it present throughout the centuries, there is a truly enormous ‘capacity’ which embraces all of history as the recipient of the grace of the redemption. This amazement should always fill the Church assembled for the celebration of the Eucharist.”*

*Pope John Paul II (Ecclesia de Eucharistia)*



## Faith and Vatican II

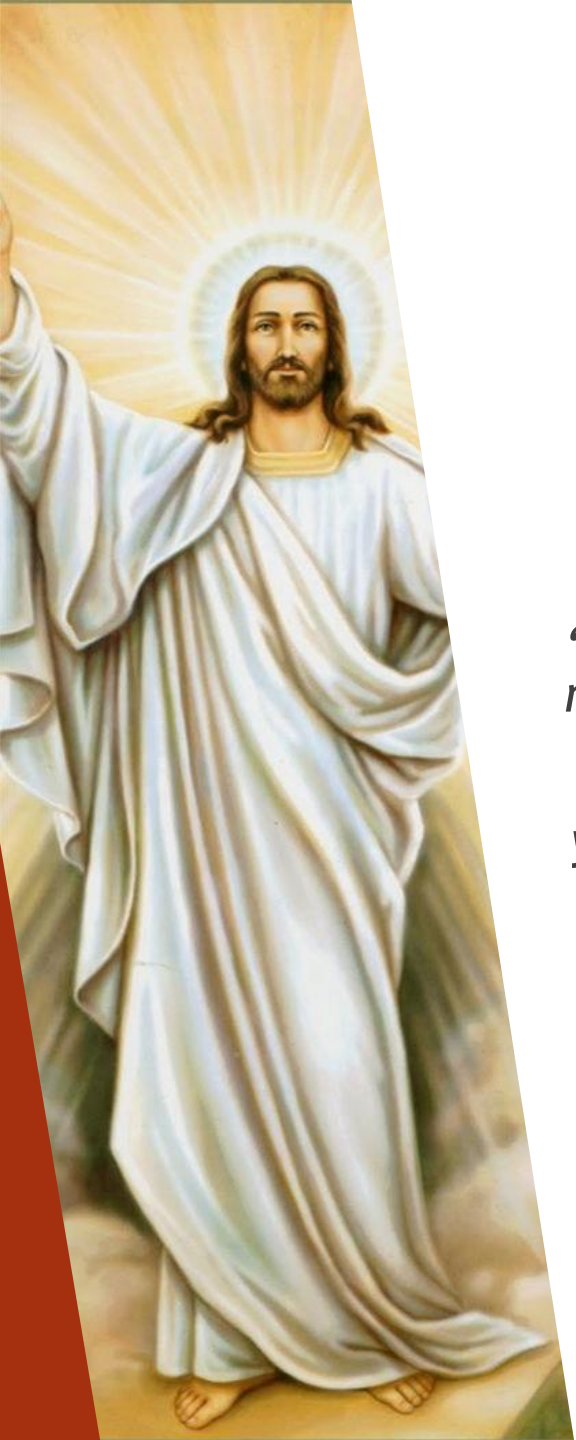
*“One of the gravest errors of our time is the split between the faith which many profess and the practice of their daily lives. As far back as the Old Testament the prophets vehemently denounced this scandal, and in the New Testament Christ himself with greater force threatened it with severe punishment. Let there, then, be no such pernicious opposition between professional and social activity on the one hand and religious life on the other. The Christian who shirks his temporal duties shirks his duties towards his neighbor, neglects God himself, and endangers his eternal salvation.”*

*Gaudium et Spes #43*

*“...This faith should show its fruitfulness by penetrating the whole life, even the worldly activities, of those who believe.” Pope John Paul II*

# Mission of Communion





# The Mission of Jesus Christ

*“My food is to do the will of him who sent me...” (4:34)*

*I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.” (5:30)*

*I have not spoken on my own authority; the Father who sent me has himself given me commandment what to say and what to speak.” (12:49)*

*“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.” (24-26)*

*“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (20:21)*

*“As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.” (Jn 17:18)*

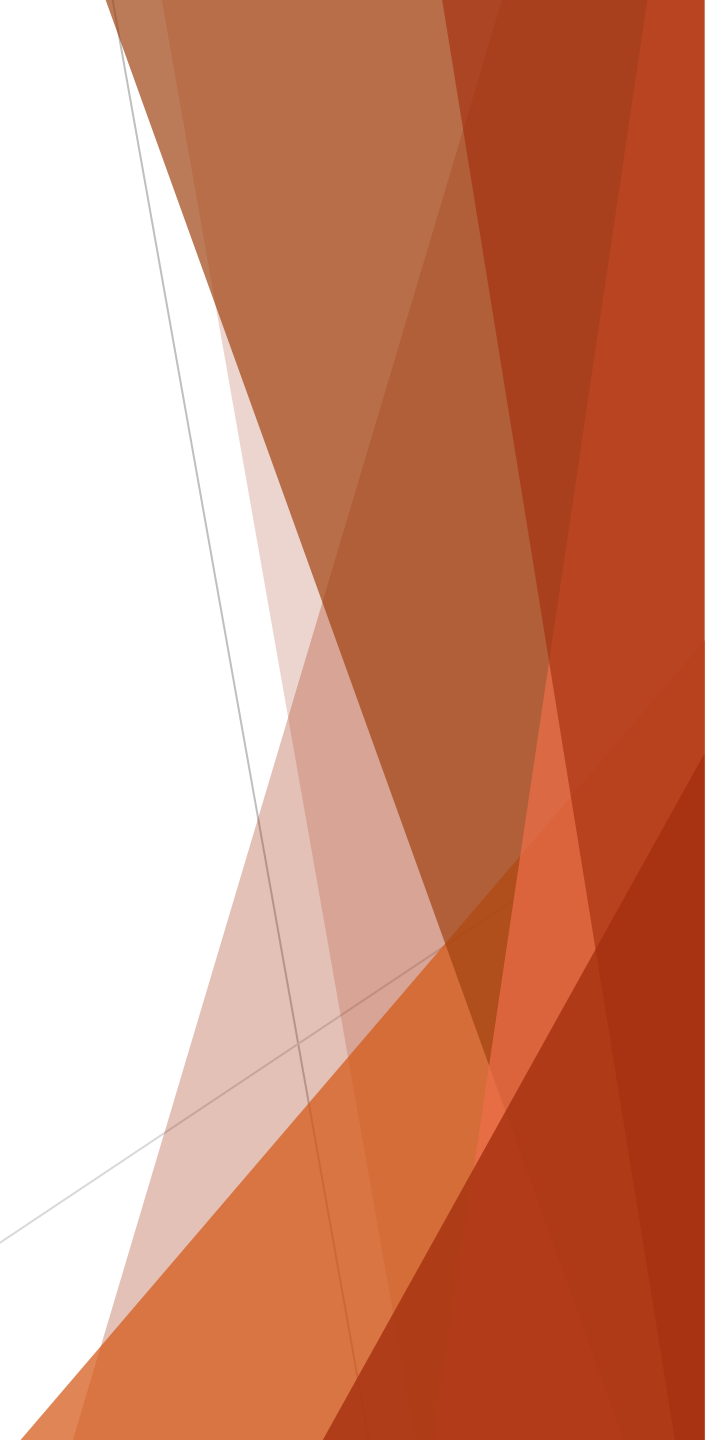
*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Mt 28:19)*



# The Kingly Mission of Communion

## The Church is...

- ▶ Jesus carrying out his Mission of Communion.
- ▶ The visible Body of Christ.
- ▶ Communion.





The Visible Structure of the Kingdom

# The Hierarchy of the Church

The Ordained

Men and Women in Consecrated Life

The Lay Faithful

# Christ's Kingly Service

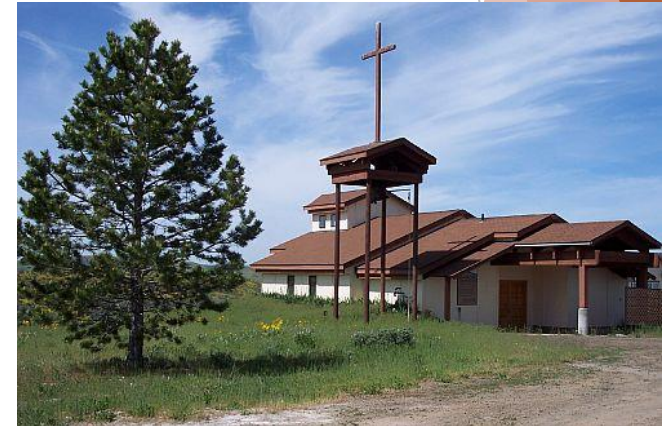


- ▶ The Pope
- ▶ Bishops
- ▶ Priests
- ▶ Deacons

# Christ's Kingly Service



# Consecrated Men and Women



# Christ's Kingly Service

## The Lay Faithful

*“The term ‘laity’ is here understood to mean all the faithful except those in Holy Orders and those who belong to a religious state approved by the Church. That is, the faithful who by Baptism are incorporated into Christ, are placed in the People of God, and in their own way share the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ, and to the best of their ability carry on the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world.”*

*Lumen Gentium #31*

# All the Christian Faithful

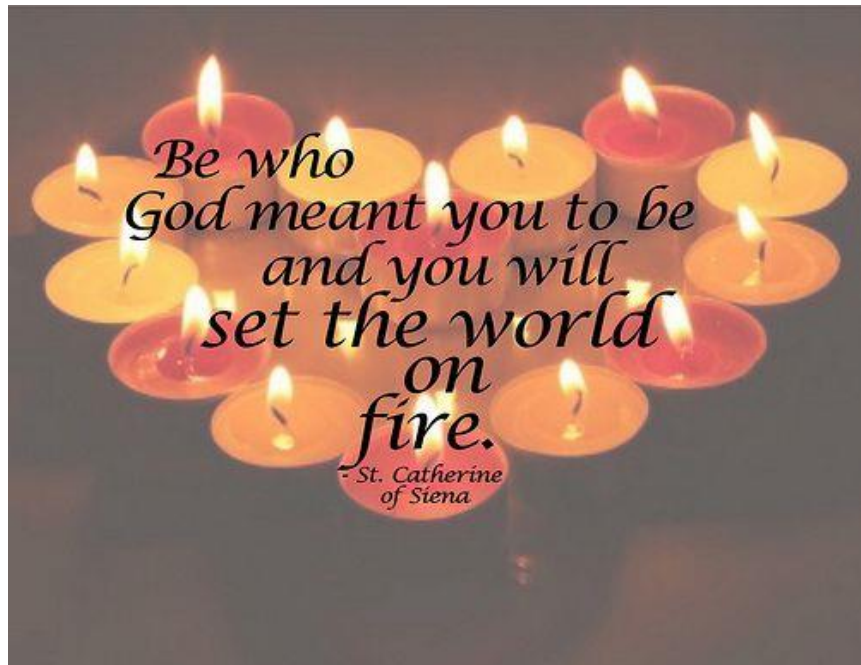
## *Works of Mercy*

### THE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

- 1. Feed the hungry.*
- 2. Give drink to the thirsty.*
- 3. Clothe the naked.*
- 4. Shelter the homeless.*
- 5. Visit the sick.*
- 6. Visit the imprisoned.*
- 7. Bury the dead.*

### THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

- 1. Counsel the doubtful.*
- 2. Instruct the ignorant.*
- 3. Admonish sinners.*
- 4. Comfort the afflicted.*
- 5. Forgive offenses.*
- 6. Bear wrongs patiently.*
- 7. Pray for the living and the dead.*



## The Prophetic Mission of Communion

*“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” 1 John 3:1*

*“As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.”  
John 20:21*

# Evangelization and the Church



The Church is missionary by nature and her principal task is evangelization, which aims to proclaim and to witness to Christ and to promote his Gospel of peace and love in every environment and culture.

— *Pope Benedict XVI* —

AZ QUOTES



## Specific Missionary Activity

*“Missionary activity proper, namely the mission ad gentes, is directed to “peoples or groups who do not yet believe in Christ,” “who are far from Christ,” in whom the Church “has not yet taken root” and whose culture has not yet been influenced by the Gospel. It is distinct from other ecclesial activities inasmuch as it is addressed to groups and settings which are non-Christian because the preaching of the Gospel and the presence of the Church are either absent or insufficient. It can thus be characterized as the work of proclaiming Christ and his Gospel, building up the local Church and promoting the values of the kingdom.”*

*Redemptoris Missio #34 (Pope John Paul II)*





## Inter-Religious Dialogue

*“This first proclamation is also addressed to the immense sections of mankind who practice non-Christian religions. The Church respects and esteems these non Christian religions because they are the living expression of the soul of vast groups of people. They carry within them the echo of thousands of years of searching for God, a quest which is incomplete but often made with great sincerity and righteousness of heart. They possess an impressive patrimony of deeply religious texts. They have taught generations of people how to pray. They are all impregnated with innumerable "seeds of the Word" and can constitute a true "preparation for the Gospel.” Pope Paul VI*

# Pastoral Care of the Faithful



# The New Evangelization



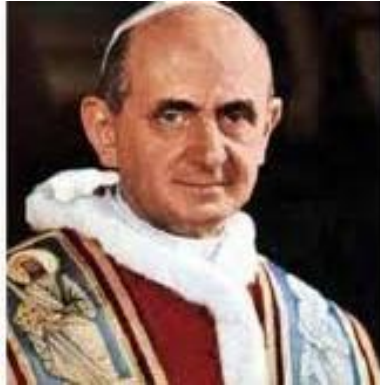
# The Mission of Communion and Evangelization



*“For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”*

*Romans 12: 4-8*

# The Specific Call of the Laity



“The Council, then, makes an earnest plea in the Lord’s name that all lay people give a glad, generous, and prompt response to the impulse of the Holy Spirit and to the voice of Christ, who is giving them an especially urgent invitation at this moment.” Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People

”Their own field of evangelizing activity is the vast and complicated world of politics, society and economics, but also the world of culture, of the sciences and the arts, of international life, of the mass media. It also includes other realities which are open to evangelization, such as human love, the family, the education of children and adolescents, professional work, suffering.” Pope Paul VI

“Since the work that awaits everyone in the vineyard of the Lord is so great there is no place for idleness. With even greater urgency the "householder" repeats his invitation: "You go into my vineyard too".” Pope John Paul II

# St. Ignatius of Loyola



# The First Principle and Foundation

- ▶ Man is created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by this means to save his soul.
- ▶ The other things on the face of the earth are created to help him in attaining the end for which he is created.
- ▶ Hence, man is to make use of them in as far as they help him in the attainment of his end, and he must rid himself of them in as far as they prove a hindrance to him.
- ▶ Therefore, we must make ourselves indifferent to all created things, as far as we are allowed free choice, and are not under any prohibition. Consequently, as far as we are concerned, we should not prefer health to sickness, riches to poverty, honor to dishonor, a long life to a short life. The same holds for all other things.
- ▶ Our one desire and choice should be what is more conducive to the end for which we are created.

# Spiritual Gasoline





# The Picture of the Big Picture



# The Trinity



# Creation



# The Fall



# Redemption



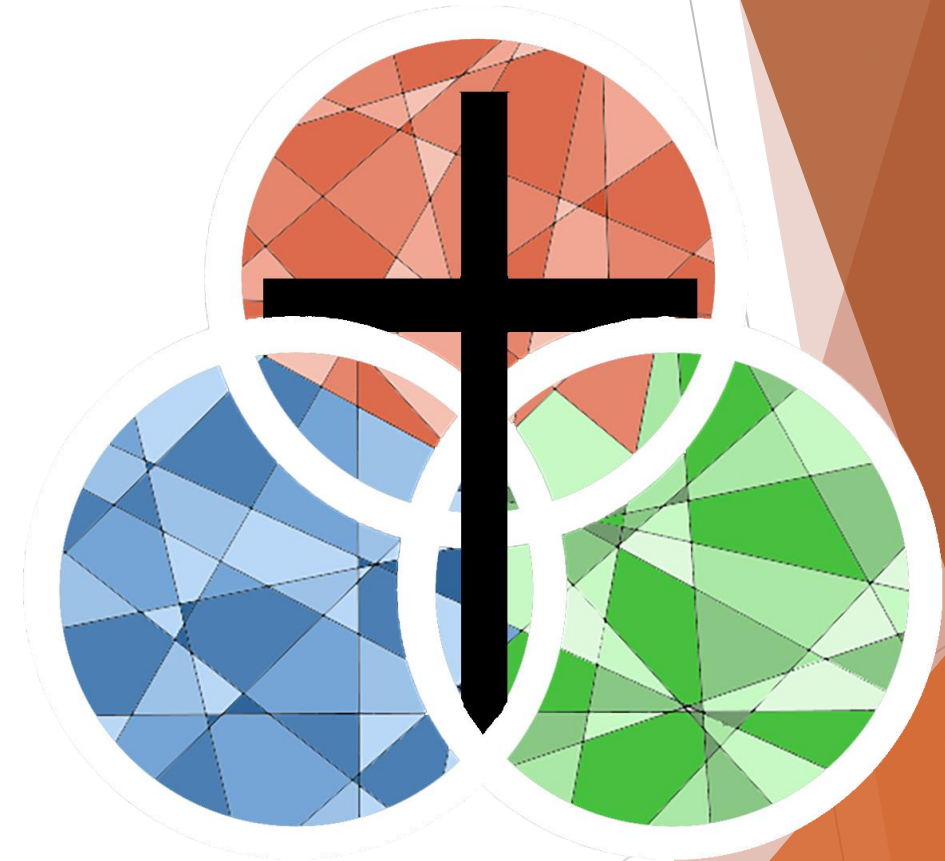
# Glorification





# Living a Trinitarian Faith

- ▶ Orthodoxy: as faith that is alive as the right perception of the glory of God.
- ▶ Orthopraxis: as the living out of this faith.
  
- ▶ Living together in harmony and communion with every other creature in the common household of God.
- ▶ Doing all things to the praise and glory of God.
- ▶ Adhering to the gospel of liberation from sin and fractured relationship.





# Living God's Life



**Living from and for God, from  
and for others.**

# Living as Jesus Christ, *in persona Christi*

- + Preaching the gospel.
- + Relying totally on God.
- + Offering healing and reconciliation.
- + Rejecting laws, customs, conventions that place persons beneath rules.
- + Resisting temptation.
- + Praying constantly.
- + Eating with modern-day lepers and other outcasts.
- + Embracing the enemy and the sinner.
- + Dying for the sake of the gospel if it is God's will.

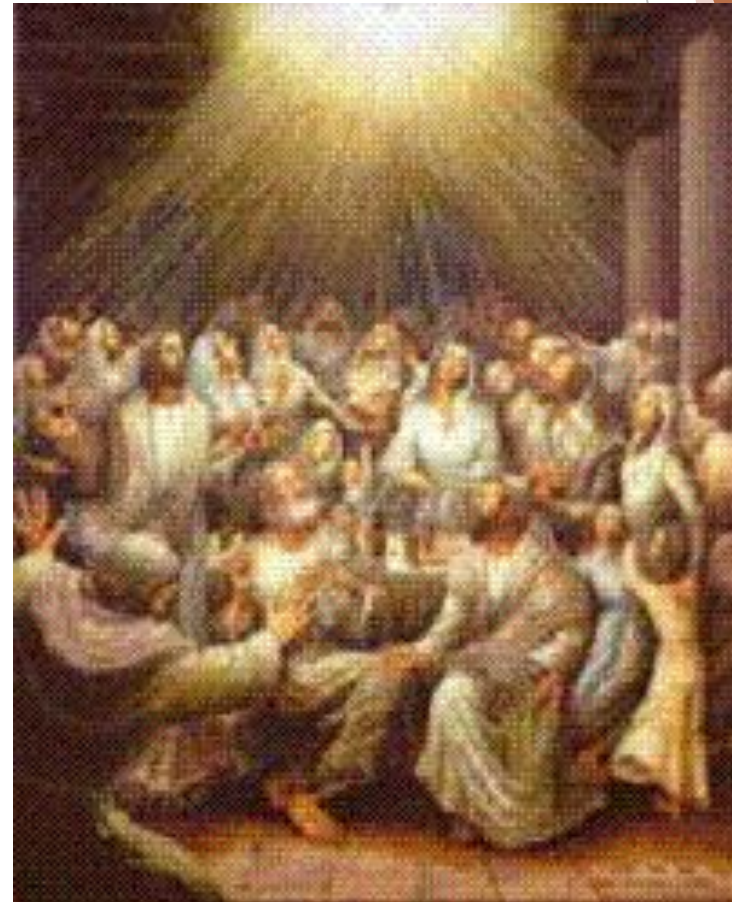


# Living According to the Power and Presence of the Holy Spirit

Training the eyes of our heart  
on God's face.

Responding to God in Faith,  
Hope and Love.

Become unrestrictedly united  
with God.



# The Three Points of Communion

# Communion with the Trinity



*I am created in the image of God, the Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Therefore, my heart is restless until I enjoy eternal communion with God, which is my final end. Because I am a sinner, I try (and fail) to satisfy my restless heart with creatures rather than the Creator. All the While, God calls me to be totally for him and to return to communion with him. Yet, without his merciful help, I can do nothing and would remain forever separated from him, which is hell.*

# Transforming Communion with Christ



*The Second Person of the Trinity, the eternal Son, became man, lived in the world, suffered, died, resurrected, and ascended into heaven to bring me back in communion with God.*

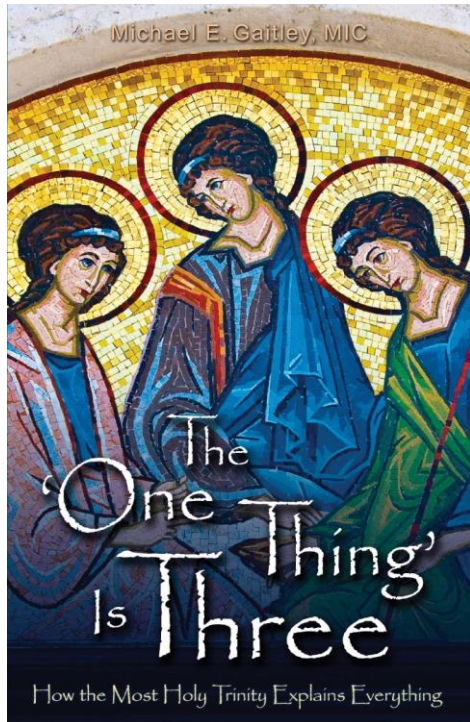
*Through faith and the Sacraments, I receive the saving power of his Paschal mystery. Specifically, Jesus Christ redeems me by forgiving me of my sins and giving me the grace to avoid sin. He “glorifies” me by transforming me into his very Body, the Church. This transformation in Christ, begun in my Baptism and nourished by the Eucharist, is an ongoing process. It aims to make me fully “through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,” in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father.*

# Mission of Communion

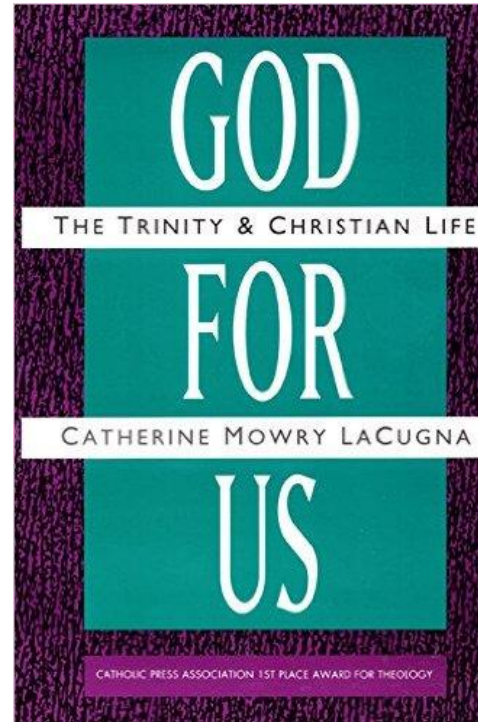


*Filled with gratitude for the gift of salvation and as a member of Christ's Body, I should desire with Christ, the Head of the Body, "that all may be one" in the communion of love of the Most Holy Trinity. This desire should spur me on to action, to a mission of communion, a mission of bringing others and all of creation back to God through, with, and in Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. I fulfill this mission as a priest, prophet, and king according to my state of life and personal vocation in Christ.*

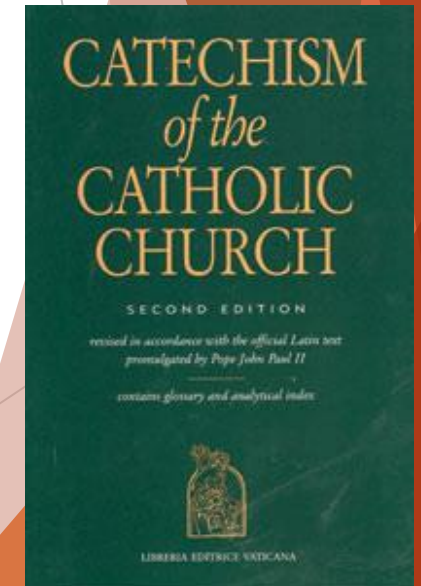
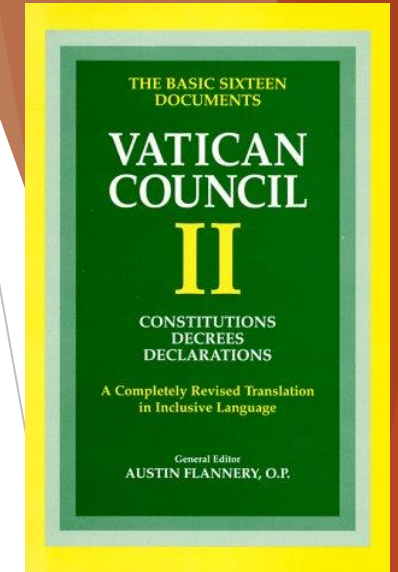
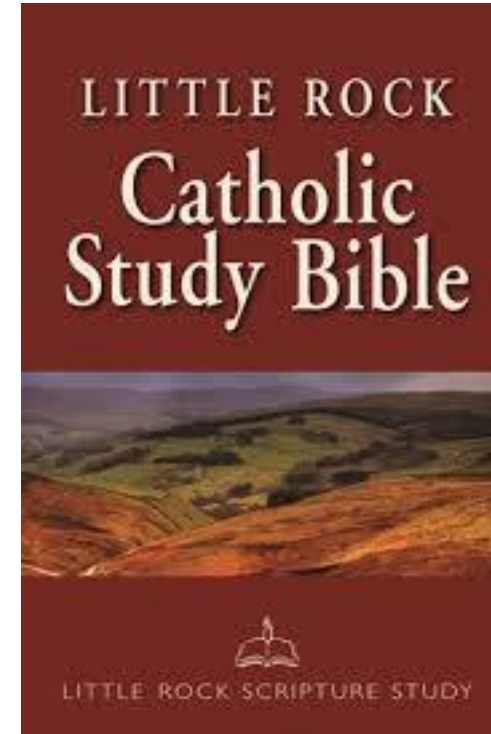
# Resources for The Trinity



The One Thing is Three: How the Most Holy Trinity Explains Everything, Michael E. Gaitley, MIC, Marian Press



God For Us: Trinity & Christian Life  
Catherine Mowry Lacugna,  
Harper Collins





Diocese of Boise  
Office of Religious Education and  
Catechetical Leadership



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# Reflection Questions

- ▶ How would you explain this quote: “Justification is the excellent work of God’s love?”
- ▶ Explain the Trinity as an eternal exchange of love.
- ▶ What is the “Divinization” of Man?
- ▶ How does the Trinity prepare us for our Final End?
- ▶ How would you explain the Great Circle of Being? What is it likened to?
- ▶ What is Man’s role in creation?
- ▶ How does St. Paul provide hope in spite of how our sinfulness often breaks the circle of being?
- ▶ How does Thomas Aquinas explain how we are transformed in Christ?
- ▶ How does the “Power” of Faith, Hope and Charity bring us into Communion with Christ?
- ▶ In what ways do we meet Christ in the Sacraments?
- ▶ What are the ways we are called to participate in the Mission of Christ?