

## #20 Significance of the Creed

July 21, 2019

### **What is the significance of the Creed?**

Following the Homily, we stand to recite either the Nicene or Apostles' Creed, the "I believe..." Here, the posture of standing together as one body indicates our unity of spirit in what we are about to profess the same as when we stand to sing our national anthem. We recite the Creed together, professing the beliefs we share as Catholics. It follows the Homily because it is our affirmative response to the Word of God in the readings and the explanation of the Homily. We are saying "Yes! I do believe in all that Scripture and the Catholic Church teaches."

There are several creeds in the Church, but the Nicene and Apostles' Creed are the most common and hold special place. The Apostles' Creed is the oldest summary of our faith. It is impossible to accurately confirm its date of origin because according to ancient tradition the Creed was to be learned by heart and never to be set in writing. Early Church Father, Tertullian, insists that the Creed was instituted by Christ and delivered to us by the Apostles.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church uses the Apostles' Creed for its presentation with many references to the Nicene Creed. The two creeds are complimentary and contain the same truths of faith. During Sunday Mass either Creed may be used.

The Nicene Creed, written in 325 AD, added more details to the Apostles' Creed to counter the Arian heresy that argued Jesus was not God. A Heresy is a belief or opinion that is contrary to dogma which is unchangeable Church teaching. Within the Creeds are some of the most important dogmas of our faith. If we profess ourselves to be Catholic, we are obliged to accept as truth all that the Creed says, if not we would be considered a heretic. This should not alarm us. As Venerable Fulton J. Sheen says, "There are not one hundred people in [this country] who hate the Catholic Church, but there are millions who hate what they wrongly perceive the Catholic Church to be."

Over the next few weeks we will take a closer look at what the articles of the Creed actually mean so that we may profess with confidence "I BELIEVE!"

#### Sources:

CCC 194-197

GIRM 67

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01629a.htm>