

Jesus; Who and Why!

“...We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through him all things were made.” Nicene Creed – circa 381 AD

My last two letters were about God the Father, next the Nicene Creed turns our attention to Jesus; God the Son. I spoke to a person once who didn't believe that Jesus was God incarnate, only a really enlightened man. This person didn't read the bible or the catechism and didn't attend mass regularly. As you might expect, that person's idea of Catholicism was all over the map. If having fragile or unreliable faith is what you want then don't read the bible or the catechism and don't go mass or avail yourself of the sacraments. But we do attend mass and every Sunday we recite this passage from the Nicene Creed which reminds us that Jesus is; *“the only Son of God, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, one in being with the Father.”*

Jesus was not created as the creed reminds us He was *“begotten, not made,”* and He is *“one in being with the Father.”* Wow, if I listened to the words of the creed how could I question the deity of Jesus?

Someone who isn't a believer or doesn't share our faith might ask; what is a creed and why is it important? Briefly, Merriam-webster.com defines it this way:

1. *A brief authoritative formula of religious belief.*
2. *A set of fundamental beliefs; also: a guiding principle.*

So the creed is a short outline of our fundamental beliefs. I remember many years ago a young lady told me that an evangelical Christian had cornered her about what Catholics believe, so, flustered and not knowing how to respond, she recited the Nicene Creed. The evangelical Christian was able to agree with all but one line (*...one, holy, Catholic and apostolic.*) and she answered the question. Bravo.

Does all this really matter? Yes, this is why; Jesus came to restore mankind to the dignity of God's original plan. God created us in His own image and likeness but the serpent brought disobedience and chaos into that original pristine state. Throughout human history God interacted with men through several covenantal relationships but each time mankind didn't honor his end of the bargain. As we who are married know; a covenant can only end with the death of one of the parties. So Jesus through whom *“all things were made”* entered into His own creation to bring the old covenant to an end and give us (mankind) a new beginning and a new hope. Both parties to the old covenant were present at the sacrifice on the cross; God and man though God could not die. There is now a new covenant in the body and blood of Jesus through whom *“all things were made.”* St John the apostle quotes Jesus *“behold, I make all things new.” Rev 21: 5.* And so He does.

Knowing the price of our salvation do we honor our part of the bargain? The confessional is so convenient at St Joseph's; do we make use of it? Do we pray and prepare ourselves adequately for the holy sacrifice of the mass? Do we pray for the grace to love and serve God in this life and in the life to come?

July business meeting is on Tuesday July 5th at 7:00pm. Mass for the deceased Knights of this council is on Friday, June 8th at 5:45pm followed by adoration and confession. Let's all make a good confession this month and pray that God give us the grace to seek Him and do His will in July and throughout the year. Pray for the intentions of the Pope. Pray that Catholics be drawn to the Cross and conversion of heart. Pray that brothers who are sick and dying will seek God's peace.

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