

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE PRAXIS (9-16-18)

ACT OF FAITH

O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe that Your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because You have revealed them, Who are eternal truth and wisdom, Who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.

PRAXIS: PRACTICE OF OUR BELIEF—CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

- I. The Liturgy: Public worship in Spirit and Truth on Earth by the members of the Body of Christ (Bride of Christ/Church Militant) by the power of the Holy Spirit and of grace through, with, and in Christ our Head and Priest to God the Father in Heaven
 - A. Liturgical celebration = our “work” of thanksgiving as pilgrims walking the narrow and straight way of the Cross
 - B. Eucharist: Thanksgiving—“It is truly right and just, our duty and salvation always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.” (The Roman Missal)
 - C. Eternal Love from Heaven is marvelously exchanged with sanctified Love on Earth.
 1. Sorrow and Joy become one in Love: Passion, Death, Resurrection
 2. Wedding Feast of the Lamb: Supper and Sacrifice
 - a. Institution: The Last Supper and The Sacrifice on Calvary’s Cross
 - b. Now on Earth: Holy Communion at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
- II. Examples of Liturgy: The Eucharist/Seven Sacraments/The Divine Office
 - A. The Eucharistic Supper and Sacrifice
 1. The Source of Christian life
 2. The Summit of Christian life
 3. The Center of Christian life
 - B. The Seven Sacraments
 1. Instituted by Christ and entrusted to His Bride, the Church
 2. Signs of grace that make real and actual what they signify
 3. Perceptible to the senses
 - a. Form: The Sign or Words
 - b. Matter: For example, water, Chrism, bread and wine
 - C. Divine Office: The Liturgy of the Hours (mandatory of clergy and religious)
- III. Division of the Sacraments
 - A. Christian Initiation
 1. Baptism: Re-Creation, Re-birth, and Cleansing from sin
 2. Confirmation: Sealing, Strengthening, Sending
 3. Eucharistic Supper and Sacrifice: Nourishing, Offering, Accepting, Giving
- IV. Christian Mystery: “Mysterium Fidei” or “The Mystery of Faith”
 - A. Divinely revealed truth

- B. Is inconceivable using right reason before its revelation
- C. Can be partially understood and described but never completely comprehended

DIALOGUE QUESTIONS (T/F)

True Love:

- 1. Is whatever a person believes love is for him or her. ____
- 2. Can be commanded by a person. ____
- 3. Could never involve suffering or sorrow. ____
- 4. Must always be holy. ____
- 5. Can include anger. ____
- 6. Can include punishment. ____
- 7. Cannot include hatred. ____
- 8. Is owed to every person, even our enemies. ____
- 9. God gives to all His angelic and human creatures, even to those in Hell. ____
- 10. Is only a strong feeling. ____

MISSION

I. Morning Prayer: "Act of Faith," "Spiritual Communion"

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

II. Mental Prayer During the Day (20-35 minutes)

- A. The Rosary
- B. Journal Meditation
 - 1. 5-10 Minutes of Scriptural or spiritual reading
 - 2. 5-10 Minutes writing to either the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit
 - 3. 5-10 Minutes recording what you believe God is saying to you

III. Examination of Conscience

- A. Have I allowed trials, suffering, and evil 1) to perfect and increase my faith, or 2) to make me discouraged and hopeless?
- B. Have I worked to increase my faith today through 1) study, 2) an actual or spiritual Holy Communion, 3) bringing Christ to others in word and deed, and 4) praying?