

“Clear, brief and easily assimilated by all”

Creed or Chaos ?

Who Christ is — it's in the APOSTLES' CREED — also what He did

CATECHETICS with content is revealed by God, so-
never chew cotton wool flavoured with fairy floss.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

In Whom do you believe?

- ¹ I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
- ² and in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord,
- ³ Who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
- ⁴ suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
- ⁵ He descended into hell;
- ⁶ on the third day He rose again from the dead;
- ⁷ He ascended into Heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
- ⁸ from there He will come
to judge the living and the dead.
- ⁹ I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
- ¹⁰ the forgiveness of sins,
- ¹¹ the resurrection of the body,
- ¹² and life everlasting. Amen.

Superscripts 1 to 12 are the twelve articles in the Creed as in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. In medieval churches, catechetical art conveniently attributed one article to each of the Twelve Apostles, who displayed its text on a banner or scroll. The text is from *Parts of the Order of Mass*, n. 19, mandated by Cardinal Arinze, Congregation for Divine Worship, 23-6-2008.

ACTION — NOW !

Can Catholic school graduates tell you what Jesus did, or why He did it, or what benefit it is to our lives now, and how we know all this?

Remedial teaching can begin at once. We do not have to wait for the Plenary Council. Teachers in our schools can **reinstate the Creed** and help students see its **relevance** to faith and to life, since the Apostles' Creed summarizes the whole Bible:-

- “Jesus”, that is, ‘Saviour from sin’ (Matthew 1:21) recalls the **Old Testament** history of preparations for Him.
- “Suffered under Pontius Pilate” recalls His **Public Life** proclaiming God's Kingdom and Himself Son of God, for which His accusers got Him executed.
- Gradually He taught the Trinity, Paschal Mystery, the Holy Spirit and the Church, as in the Creed.
- “Communion of Saints” for the Seven Sacraments etc.

NON-BELIEVERS at our Catholic Schools

For non-believing pupils, the Creed is an ancient **historical document**, important for understanding many ideas, behaviours and diversities of our day:-

- **dignity** of man in image of God with personal rights;
- **duty** to God and to honour the rights of others;
- **destiny** beyond death, with eternal consequences.

CHAOS WITHOUT THE CREED

“Progressive Anglicans” of the 1940s¹³ were sure it was the Creed's “dull doctrines” that kept people from coming to church.

Since the late 1960s, “progressive Catholics” have felt the same, hence the endless catechetical novelties of sociology and psychology (see *Handouts* n. 89).

Their “experts” **confused** the Bishops, **bamboozled** the parish priests, and **betrayed** the ancient loyalties of the faithful, who had to pay for experts to destroy their children's faith, morals and the Church's future.

Hand in hand with trendy **catechetics** went trendy **liturgy** and trendy family **morality** (farmyard morals). Sunday Mass attendance fell from 60% to 10%, since neither youngsters nor Protestants wanted any scoring of the Sense of the Sacredness of God and worship.

Chaos has been the outcome from abandoning the Creed, the Sacraments, the Covenant Commandments and Prayer. **So for a start, reinstate the Creed.**

The Creed has the most intriguing ideas ever to enter the mind of man, and the most exciting events in all human history, to make life on earth worth living, for *our hearts are restless till they rest in God.*

HISTORY

There is **no shortage of written records** for historians. Separate documents were written by eight writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul, James and Jude, treating Christ's history, His teaching and its outcomes. Only later were they collected as part of a one-volume Christian Bible.

Their substantial agreement is **corroboratory**; the historians can check any **conspiracy** theories.

It is rather that **rejection of the written records** that suggests a **conspiracy of suppression** by today's scholars. Have they surrendered to the thought police and become traitors to intellectual integrity out of a craven fear of unpopularity? Is this why modern academics scorn it as unworthy of study? Have they thrown away a key to decode present enigmas?

Jesus Christ is the man you can't ignore! He's the most vital contributor ever to world history. His life 2000 years ago still inspires us, with one Christian in every nine persecuted, the most yet!

His religion is the **hardest** to practise yet the most **ennobling**. Followers who failed Him have been little credit to themselves or anyone else. Those who choose to disregard Him have missed out on so much.

Was it errors of catechetical experts that lead so many into today's atheism, amorality and immorality?

REJECTION of INTELLECT and HISTORY

The Ramsey Foundation is offering billions for a university to set up a **Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilization**. Yet academics in Australia want to erase it from history — and not even money will move them. The reasons their spokesmen give lack any plausibility.

BETRAYAL

OUR VALUES are under attack, and have been intensely so since the 1960s. Our catechetics has served only to weaken them further. Catechetical fads have impoverished or perverted several generations of Catholics who were left weaponless and naked to the enemies of God and commandments and conscience.

This failure has also betrayed our beloved Australia. Our politicians, public service, academics and media have surrendered to atheism, amorality and immorality. We might have saved some of them if the faithful generally and the youth in particular had been properly evangelized and catechized.

POPULAR AGNOSTICISM which we oppose

- “One religion is as good as another.”
- “It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you’re sincere,” often with a corollary, “As long as you’re happy.”

These are also turned upside-down:-

- “One religion is as **bad** as another.”
- “What matters is **never** believe anything definite, defined, doctrinal, dogmatic, but get liberated and drift about in the dark like us and everyone else.”

The SEVEN Rs for a good upbringing

Religion + Respect

Reason + Responsibility

Reading + 'Riting + 'Rithmetic

THEOLOGY relates the mysteries one to another

When reason, enlightened by faith, seeks diligently, piously and modestly, it obtains, by God’s gift, some understanding of mysteries, and that very profitable one. It does so partly from the analogy of those things it knows naturally, partly **from the interrelationship of mysteries with one another and with the last end of man**. But never is reason rendered capable of penetrating mysteries as it penetrates truths that constitute its proper object. For by their nature, divine mysteries so far surpass the created intellect that, even when transmitted by revelation and received by faith, they remain covered with the veil of faith itself, and shrouded in a certain obscurity as long as, in this mortal life, “... we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:6-7)

From Vatican Council I in 1870, *Dei Filius* chapter 4, Denzinger-Schönmetzger n. 3013 (old Denziger-Bannwart n. 1796)

Meaning of Dogmas cannot change

For the teaching of the faith, which God has revealed, has not been proposed as a philosophical discovery to be perfected by human ingenuity, but as a divine deposit handed over to the Spouse of Christ to be guarded faithfully and to be explained infallibly. **Hence that meaning of sacred dogmas must perpetually be retained which Holy Mother Church has once declared**; nor is that meaning ever to be abandoned under the pretext and name of a more profound comprehension. “Let, then, understanding, knowledge, and wisdom grow and advance mightily and strongly in individuals as well as in the community, in one man as well as in the Church as a whole, according to the degree proper to each age and each time; but only within their own domain, that is, with the same dogmas, the same meaning, the same sense.

Vatican Council I in 1870, *Dei Filius* chapter 4 DS n. 3020 (DB n. 1800)

NEWMAN’S ANSWER as an Anglican, 1833 — apostolic succession and continuity

There are some who rest their divine mission on their own **unsupported assertion**; others who rest it on their **popularity**; others on their **success**; and others again on their **temporal distinctions**. I fear we have neglected the **real ground on which our authority is built — our apostolical descent**.

then as Catholic priest made a cardinal, 1879

when described what we call Trendies, Modernists or Dissenters as *Liberals* (i.e. not political but religious liberals):

...to one great mischief I have from the first opposed myself. For thirty, forty, fifty years [i.e. back in his Anglican days] I have resisted to the best of my powers the spirit of Liberalism in religion. Never did Holy Church need champions against it more sorely than now, when alas, it is an error overspreading, as a snare, the whole earth... **Liberalism in religion is the doctrine that there is no positive truth in religion but that one creed is as good as another...** It is **inconsistent with any recognition of any religion as true**. It teaches that all are to be tolerated, for **all are matters of opinion**. Revealed religion is not a truth but a sentiment and a taste and it is the right of each individual to make it say just what strikes his fancy...

SCRIPTURE

These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high.

Luke 24:44-49

... preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths. As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:2-5

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and turning to a different gospel — not that there is another gospel, but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Talk to priests and write to Bishops — ask them to check the facts for themselves:

1. Do pupils in our schools know **WHAT** Our Lord did and **WHY** He did it?
2. Do they **ADORE** God at Sunday Mass and practise a daily routine of prayer and good works?
3. How might the rest of us co-operate with God to help the students and their peers, the teachers and their religion lessons, to be vibrant with faith, hope and charity — and never work against these virtues?

Father James Tierney