

# 1 – The Journey of Faith

Your desire to know and understand the Catholic faith is *your* journey toward God through his Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Your desire for God is also an invitation to join in *our* common journey within the Church, the Body of Christ experienced as a living community of believers.

## **All of us desire to live a fully human life.**

As human beings, we are religious beings with a longing for the infinite, This desire for God is written on every human heart because we are created by God for communion with God

The dignity of every human being rests on the fact that we not only seek God but that God out of divine love invites us to enter into a personal relationship with him.

Only in God do we find the full truth and happiness we continue searching for. To find truth and happiness in God is to find the complete fulfillment of our human desire for truth, love, and happiness,

The Creed - Sign of unity, the symbolon

Why did God make us?

Who is God?

The Creed “I believe”

## **Why did God make us?**

God, who is infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, did not create us to increase his own happiness. He freely chose to create us out of his own love and goodness, so that we could share in his blessed life (CCC 1, 293).

At every moment of our lives, God draws near to us, calling us to seek him, to know him, and to love him (CCC 1).

We were created by the God who is love and we are made for his love. As St. Augustine says, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in him” (CCC 27–30).

Lovers always seek to disclose themselves to their beloved.

Revelation is the self-disclosure of the living God and his plan to save us.

Revelation shows us that God desires to have an intimate and loving relationship with everyone.

The process of Revelation took centuries to unfold. God gradually communicated the divine mystery by words and deeds.

## Who is God?

There is only one God (CCC 200–202),

but this one God has revealed himself as a communion of three persons:

Father,

Son,

and Holy Spirit (CCC 221).

By sending the Son and the Holy Spirit to us, God has revealed his “inmost secret”—

**that his very being is a communion of love.** As the Catechism teaches,

***“God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange”*** (CCC 221).

The Holy Trinity is Three Persons in One God. As the Catechism teaches,

“We worship one God in the Trinity and

the Trinity in unity,

without either confusing the persons or dividing the substance;

for the person of the Father is one,

the Son’s is another and

the Holy Spirit’s another;

but the Godhead of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit is one,

their glory equal, their majesty coeternal” (CCC 266).



## The mystery of the Holy Trinity

God is all knowing, he knows everything perfectly, he knows himself perfectly. God's knowledge of himself is so real, it embodies himself, it is himself, and that is the second person of the Trinity, Jesus, the son of God.

But God isn't just all knowing, he is also all loving. So the Father looks upon the Son with love and He pours himself out in love to the son. And the Son in return gives himself totally, all that He is in love to the Father. That very outpouring of love between the Father and the Son is so real, it is embodied by a third person, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the bond of love between the Father and the Son. (confirmation)

This theological concept has been studied for centuries and even the greatest theologians, students of the Catholic faith, have struggled with it.

Example of a husband and wife. Name

Each of the three divine persons express the same divine nature, each of the three divine persons have their own personal properties. God is the Father, he is not the Son or the Holy Spirit....

So what?

To be human is to search for God.

Throughout history, to the present moment, religious beliefs and practices express the human search for God. As creatures made in God's image and likeness, each one of us has been given a **mind** to search for the truth and a **heart** that longs for unconditional, forgiving love.

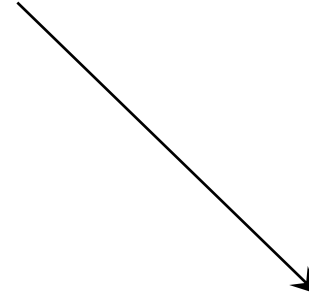
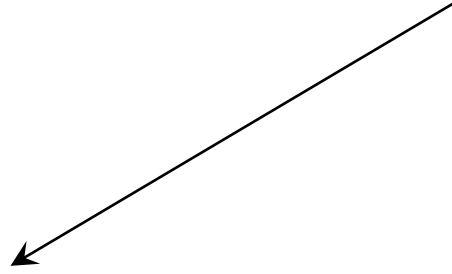
These basic human desires are ultimately fulfilled in God, who is truth and love.

**Faith** is our response to God who has made himself known to us. Faith has two key aspects.

On one hand, it is an **assent of our minds** to all that he has revealed.

On the other hand, it is a personal adherence through **the will** to God in which we entrust our lives to him (CCC 150).

FAITH



INTELLECT  
(believing)

WILL  
(entrusting ourselves)

which governs our passions  
appetites and feelings

So how do I begin?

As Jesus called his disciples, “Come follow me”, he calls every one of us.

And we are afraid, is God going to ask me to do something I cannot do, will he give me suffering?

“Be not afraid!”

**Set aside time to pray... like children relating to their father.**

Focus on God... Our father who art in heaven, holy is your name, thy kingdom come, your will be done... God is in control; he is ordering everything in our lives for our good.

Ask God to supply our needs... give us this day our daily bread

Ask for forgiveness in the ways we have failed... forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us.