

God the Father

Review the Four Parts of the Catechism:

1. The Creed
 - a. The Apostles' Creed
 - b. The Nicene Creed
2. Sacraments
 - a. Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation)
 - b. Service (Matrimony, Holy Orders)
 - c. Healing (Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick)
3. Life in Christ
 - a. Ten Commandments
 - i. Love of God (First Three)
 - ii. Love of Neighbor (Last Seven)
4. Prayer
 - a. The Lord's Prayer (Our Father...)
 - i. First three petitions (glory of God, sanctification of His name, coming of the kingdom)
 - ii. Remaining four petitions (our wants to God)

God the Father ("I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.")

1. God is the Supreme Being who is his own existence and is infinitely perfect.
2. God can accomplish all things; in him nothing is impossible.
3. God made all things out of nothing by his own power (*creatio ex nihilo*). He is all knowing and sees all things.
4. There is only one God and there can never be another.
5. Blessed Trinity – three persons in the one Godhead, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
6. God the Father is the first person of the Blessed Trinity.
7. Atheist – a person who does not believe in God.
8. Agnostic – a person who claims not to know whether God exists or not.

- Attributes of God
 - God is One
 - God is Eternal
 - Transcendent – exists outside of time.
 - Never changing – ever faithful.
 - God is Almighty (Omnipotent)
 - “In God, power, essence, will, intellect, wisdom, and justice are all identical” (CCC 271).
 - His power is infinite.
 - God is Holy and Good
 - God is Truth
 - God keeps His promises.
 - The
 - God is Love
 - The only limitation to his power is our freedom.
- The Almighty (nothing will be impossible with God)
- The Creator of Heaven and Earth (all things)
- Hierarchy of Creation:
 1. Inanimate Objects (rocks, minerals) – No life.
 2. Animate Objects (plants, trees) – Have life.
 3. Animals (birds, fish) – Have bodies, life and the power to move about.
 4. Human Beings – Have bodies, intellects and free wills.
 5. Angels (highest creatures) – Spirits without bodies. Angels have intellects and wills.

Creation Out of Nothing

- How did God create heaven and earth?
God created heaven and earth from nothing, by His word only; that is, by a single act of His all-powerful will.

- Why did God create us?
God made us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.
- In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth (“ex nihilo”, “out of nothing”).

Angels & Devils

- The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls “angels” is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition. (CCC 328)
- “Angel” is the name of their office (servants and messengers of God), not of their nature (spirits).
- Angels are intelligent and free beings whose glory surpasses that of human beings until we achieve Heaven (see Luke 20:35-36).
- Angels made their choice to serve God at the very moment they were created.
- Devils (demons) are those angels who rejected God and fell from his presence for all eternity.
- The devil (Satan) is “the serpent” (Genesis 3:1) – also called “the father of lies” (John 8:44) and “the deceiver of the whole world” (Revelation 12:9).

World, Universe, and Man

- Everything that *is* owes its being to the Creator who brought it into existence out of nothing, without any help whatsoever, and holds it in existence from moment to moment by nothing other than his own loving and abiding will (see 2 Maccabees 7:28).
- “The world was made for the glory of God... not to increase his glory, but to show it forth and to communicate it” (CCC 293).
- God creates out of his goodness and superabundant love.
- No creature is self-sufficient; all, in some way, complete and serve one another.
- God is our Creator – we owe him everything and are bound in justice to obey him and to give him an account of our lives.
- We are utterly in God’s power and are entirely dependent upon him both now and forever.
- We participate in God’s creative work through the use of our sexual gifts.

- The family – husband, wife, and children – are a reflection of the Holy Trinity.
- We live in a fallen world – sin, suffering, and death were brought by the disobedience of our first parents.
- God did not create evil and does not will it, but can bring good even from evil, for “we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him” (Romans 8:38).