

October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Year of Faith **Guidebook**

The Twelve Articles of Faith

A month-by-month plan to enrich and deepen our understanding of the fundamental beliefs of the Catholic Faith



**Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Secretariat for Evangelization
Office of Life, Family and Laity**

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

The 12 Articles of Faith

Introduction

"We want this Year [of Faith] to arouse in every believer the aspiration to profess the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope...Knowledge of faith opens a door into the fullness of the saving mystery revealed by God."

- Pope Benedict XVI, *Porta Fidei*

The Year of Faith begins October 11, 2012 and culminates on November 24, 2013 with a Solemn Profession of Faith during the Closing Mass. This Solemn Profession of Faith unites the entire universal Church in giving witness to the ancient and apostolic faith of the Catholic Church. To prepare the faithful to proclaim their faith with full minds and hearts, we invite parishes to devote the Year of Faith to the re-discovery of the content of the Creed, the fundamental beliefs of Catholicism. Traditionally, these fundamental beliefs have been called "12 articles of faith" (CCC 191).

The following guide progresses through the Creed by month, beginning November 2012 and ending September 2013. The monthly outline includes:

- ◆ simple teaching points with citations from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- ◆ Suggested resources to supplement your study:
 - a lesson from Fr. Robert Barron's DVD, *Catholicism*
 - an *I Believe* handout from Franciscan Media
 - a lesson from Ascension Press' *Bible Timeline* or *Pillars* Catechism series
 - *One Faith, One Story* book titles (see the Year of Faith website)

We encourage parishes to use one or more of these resources to supplement reflection on the Creed. Be creative. Some possible ways to use this guide in your parish:

- ◆ small group gatherings (*see suggested model*)
- ◆ homily helps
- ◆ parish bulletin
- ◆ parish web site

Please feel free to share your ideas with us as you form your own plans as we would love to share them with others! May the Lord bless us this year with the great gift of faith!



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More Information on Resources

Choose one of these resources to serve as a supplement to your study of the 12 Articles of Faith.

The links below are "live links" and when clicked, will automatically direct you to the webpage. If this procedure fails, copy and paste the web address into your web browser to find these resources.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

[http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/
epub/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/epub/index.cfm)

Ascension Press Catechism Series, *Pillar I: The Creed*

<http://ascensionpress.com/t/category/study-programs/catechism/pillar-i-the-creed>

Fr. Robert Barron's DVD, *Catholicism*

<http://catholicismseries.com/>

Franciscan Media's *I Believe* bulletin insert series for the Year of Faith

www.franciscanmedia.org/IBelieve

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Suggested Small Group Format

Have participants bring a copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church or provide copies so participants can look up Catechism references.

10 min Prayer

30 min Potluck Supper (during the last 15 minutes of supper, read over the Article of Faith and discuss teaching points)

45 min Resource: watch an episode from one of the suggested resources or read from the *Catechism* or *I Believe* series to supplement reflection on the Article of Faith

15 min Use discussion questions from resources to enhance comprehension and foster conversation

Close by praying the Nicene Creed together and consider how the study of the Article has increased awareness of the Truth that is being prayed.

God the Father

November 2012

ARTICLE 1

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

Teaching points:

all citations are from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* unless stated otherwise

- Faith is man's response to God's initiative (26, 143, 166)
- God is one (200)
- God is our Father (239, 240)
- God created the world out of nothing-*ex nihilo* (296-298, 301)
- God created the material and spiritual world (326, 327)
- The human person is a body-soul unity (*Theology of the Body* 7)

Choose one of the following resources to supplement your study:

Ascension Press, *Pillar 1: The Creed* - Session 4

Fr. Barron, *Catholicism*: Lesson 3 - The Ineffable Mystery of God - That Than Which Nothing Greater Can Be Thought

Franciscan Media, *I Believe* series - One God and Father

One Faith, One Story: *Edith Stein: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*, by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda

Liturgical Connection: Christ the King, beginning of Advent

God the Son

December 2012

ARTICLE 2

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

Teaching points:

- God is Three Persons in one God - The Trinity (221, 234, 253, 254)
- The Divinity of Jesus Christ, Second Person of the Trinity (454)
- The world was created in and for Christ (280)
- Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord (430, 432, 455, 457)
- Jesus Christ is the center and heart of Christianity (426)

Ascension Press, *Pillar 1: The Creed* - Session 6

Fr. Barron, *Catholicism* Lesson 1, part 1 (tracks 1-4) - Amazed and Afraid - The Revelation of God become Man

Franciscan Media, *I Believe* series - One Lord and Begotten Not Made

One Faith, One Story: *St. Gianna Molla*, by Pietro Molla

Liturgical Connection: Advent, Christmas

The Incarnation

January 2013

ARTICLE 3

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

Teaching points:

- The Incarnation: God the Son becomes man (461)
- In the person of Jesus Christ, God reveals himself definitively and in fullness (456-460)
- The Incarnation is a work of all three Persons of the Trinity (258, 485)
- Jesus is fully God, fully man (464)
- The dogmas of the Blessed Virgin reveal Christ (487)
 - The Immaculate Conception of Mary (490, 491)
 - The Perpetual Virginity of Mary (495, 496, 497)
 - The Virginal Marriage of Mary and Joseph (*Theology of the Body* 75)

Ascension Press, *Pillar 1: The Creed* - Session 7

Fr. Barron, *Catholicism: Lesson 4* - Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast - Mary, the Mother of God

Franciscan Media, *I Believe* series - He Came Down From Heaven

One Faith, One Story: *A Memory for Wonders: A True Story*, by Mother Veronica Namoyo Le Goulard, PCC

Liturgical Connection: January 1, Mary, Mother of God

The Passion and Death of Christ

February 2013

ARTICLE 4

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death, and was buried,

Teaching points:

- Christ suffered and died at a real time in history (423)
- Christ truly suffered and truly died (624, 627)
- Through his death, Christ “loved us to the end” (616)
- He atoned for our sins and destroyed our death (602, 636)
- Christ’s death is unique and definitive (613, 614)

Ascension Press, *Pillar 1: The Creed* - Session 8

Fr. Barron, *Catholicism: Lesson 1, part 2* (tracks 5-8) - Amazed and Afraid - The Revelation of God Become Man

Franciscan Media, *I Believe* series - Crucified, Died, Risen

One Faith, One Story: *Padre Pio: Man of Hope*, by Renzo Allegri

The Resurrection of Christ

March 2013

ARTICLE 5

and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Teaching points:

- The Paschal Mystery is the central event of our Faith (542, 571)
- The Sacraments are an extension of the Paschal Mystery through time and space until the end of time (1085, 1113, 1127)
- Christ descended into Hell to deliver all the faithful from the beginning of time (632, 633)
- Christ conquered the power of Satan (636)
- Christ opened the gates of Heaven (637)
- The resurrection is the definitive victory over sin and death and a new participation in grace for the human race (654)
- The resurrection of Christ is the crowning of our Faith (638, 651)

Ascension Press, *Pillar 1: The Creed* - Session 9 (includes articles 5-8)

Fr. Barron, *Catholicism: Lesson 7* - Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven - The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist

(explanation: the link between this lesson and the article of the month is that the death and resurrection of Christ is forever made present for us in the Eucharist; this is the reason for its centrality in the Christian life)

Franciscan Media, *I Believe* series - Crucified, Died, Risen

One Faith, One Story: *Come Be My Light: The Private Writings of the Saint of Calcutta*, by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Liturgical Connection: Holy Saturday

The Ascension of Christ

April 2013

ARTICLE 6

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Teaching points:

- Christ ascends body, soul, divinity into Heaven; his humanity is taken up into the Godhead (665)
- Where he has gone, we hope to follow (666)
- Christ reigns over all creation (663, 664)
- Christ intercedes for us at the Father's right hand (667)
- The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin into Heaven (966)
- The Church's holiness and infallibility is grounded in the Body of Christ now glorified in the Trinity (828, 829, 1029)

Ascension Press, *Pillar 1: The Creed* - Session 9 (includes articles 5-8)

Fr. Barron, *Catholicism: Lesson 6 - A Body Both Suffering and Glorious - The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church*

(explanation: the link between this lesson and the article of the month is that the Church is the Body of Christ; what happens in Christ's Body is also what happens in the Church; thus, like Christ, who both suffered and is now seated at the right hand of the Father in glory, the Church is both suffering and glorious)

Franciscan Media, *I Believe* series - Ascended Into Heaven

One Faith, One Story: *Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati: An Ordinary Christian*, by Maria De Lorenzo

Liturgical Connection: Easter Season, Ascension

The Second Coming of Christ

May 2013

ARTICLE 7

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

Teaching points:

- The Particular Judgment - each person will be judged by their thoughts, words, actions and omissions at the moment of their death (1022, 1051)
- The General or Final Judgment - God will also judge us at the end of time once the full ramifications of our actions are completed with the end of history (678, 1039, 1040)
- The Church awaits the Second Coming of Christ, which will also be the end of time (681, 670)
- The “already, but not yet” of the Kingdom of Heaven: the Church on earth dwells in an interim period in which the Kingdom of Heaven, having truly entered human history in Christ, is advancing, but is never complete until the Second Coming of Christ (669, 670)

Ascension Press, *Pillar 1: The Creed* - Session 9 (includes articles 5-8)

Fr. Barron, *Catholicism: Lesson 2* - Happy are We - The Teachings of Jesus

(explanation: the final section of this *Catholicism* lesson reflects on Matthew 25, the great parable of the Final Judgment of mankind)

Franciscan Media, *I Believe* series - Judge and King

One Faith, One Story: *Kolbe*, by Br. Francis Mary Kalvelage, FFI

The Holy Spirit

June 2013

ARTICLE 8

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

Teaching points:

- The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity (244, 248, 685, 689)
- God is an Eternal Exchange of Love (221, 733)
- The Holy Spirit is active in the entire history of salvation (743-747)
- The Holy Spirit is the animating principle of the Church (688)
- The Holy Spirit draws us into the life of the Trinity and makes us children of God (683, 742)

Ascension Press, *Pillar 1: The Creed* - Session 9 (includes articles 5-8)

Fr. Barron, *Catholicism: Lesson 9* - The Fire of His Love - Prayer and the Life of the Spirit

Franciscan Media, *I Believe* series - The Holy Spirit

One Faith, One Story: *St. Monica: The Power of a Mother's Love*,
by Giovanni Falbo

The Church

July 2013

ARTICLE 9

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Teaching points:

- The Church is Christ's Body, both divine and human (771)
- The Church is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic (811 ff)
- The Church is Universal Sacrament of Salvation (775)
- The Communion of Saints are those united to Christ on earth, in Purgatory, and in Heaven (953, 954)
- The Blessed Virgin Mary is the archetype of the Church (972)

Ascension Press, *Pillar 1: The Creed* - Session 10

Fr. Barron, *Catholicism*: Lesson 8 - A Vast Company of Witnesses - The Communion of Saints

Franciscan Media, *I Believe* series - One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic

One Faith, One Story: *For Greater Glory: The True Story of Cristiada - The Cristero War and Mexico's Struggle for Religious Freedom*, by Ruben Quezada (story of Blessed Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio)

The Forgiveness of Sins

August 2013

ARTICLE 10

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

Teaching points:

- Christ died “once for all” (571)
- There is no sin that cannot be forgiven if sincerely repented (982)
- Christ gave the power to bind and loose sins to the apostles (553)
- All of the sacraments forgive sins & the sacrament of Confession is necessary for the forgiveness of mortal sins committed after Baptism (985, 986)
- Man has been created with free will to enable him to participate in the life of God (1731)
- There are degrees of gravity in sin: mortal and venial (1854, 1855)
- Man’s historical condition is subject to Original Sin; The Sacrament of Baptism removes Original sin and all sin (402-410)

Ascension Press, *Pillar 1: The Creed* - Session 12 (includes articles 10-12)

Fr. Barron, *Catholicism: Lesson 5* - The Indispensable Men - Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure

(explanation: the link between this lesson and the article of the month is that it is to the apostles - represented by Peter and Paul - that that Lord gave the power to forgive sins)

Franciscan Media, *I Believe* series - One Baptism

One Faith, One Story: *To Whom Shall We Go? Lessons from the Apostle Peter*, by Timothy Cardinal Dolan

The Life of the World to Come

September 2013

ARTICLE 11

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

ARTICLE 12

and the life of the world to come.

Teaching points:

- At the end of time, our bodies will rise from the dead and be reunited with our souls (989-990, 997-998)
 - the spiritualization of the body (*Theology of the Body* 67.1)
 - the divinization of the body (*Theology of the Body* 67.3-4)
- The vocation to celibacy for the Kingdom of Heaven anticipates the resurrection of the body (*Theology of the Body* 75; CCC 916)
- Hell is the state of definitive and everlasting self-exclusion from God; It is chosen by those who persist in mortal sin without repentance (1033)
- Purgatory is the state of purification after death in which souls are cleansed from all remaining stain of sin in preparation for union with God in Heaven (1030, 1031)
- Heaven is the state of perfect and everlasting union with God and all those who are united to Christ (1023, 1024)

Ascension Press, *Pillar 1: The Creed* - Session 12 (includes articles 10-12)

Fr. Barron, *Catholicism*: Lesson 10 - World Without End - The Last Things

Franciscan Media, *I Believe* series - The Life of the World to Come

One Faith, One Story : *The Secret Diary of Elizabeth Leseur: The Woman Whose Goodness Changed Her Husband from Atheist to Priest*, by Elizabeth Leseur

Amen.