

We Believe: The Catholic Faith Re-Presented
Session 1: Who Is God?

1. Is it reasonable to believe in God?
 - a. Beauty and order of the universe

 - b. Our desire for justice

 - c. Our desire for “something more”

2. Human reason and divine revelation

3. The Blessed Trinity: Central mystery of the Christian faith

4. The Blessed Trinity in the Bible?
 - a. “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.” (Deuteronomy 6:4)

 - b. “I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God.” (Isaiah 45:5)

 - c. “The Father and I are one.” (John 10:30)

 - d. “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it...I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:16-18)

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5. Development of trinitarian doctrine
 - a. Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.): *Homoousios*, consubstantial, “of the same substance”
 - b. Later councils: One substance, three distinct persons
 - c. BONUS: The divine processions

6. Why does belief in the Trinity matter?
 - a. “God in his deepest mystery is not a solitude, but a family, since he has in himself fatherhood, sonship, and the essence of the family, which is love.” (Pope Saint John Paul II)
 - b. “Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.” (1 John 4:8)

7. The response of faith: A gift of the whole person
 - a. Assent of the intellect
 - b. Assent of the will

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.***