

Catholic Beliefs

Summary of Key Beliefs from
*Compendium: Catechism of the
Catholic Church*

Sources

- Busse, Heidi. "Reinforcing the Call of Baptism." *Our Sunday Visitor*. (January 2007). Retrieved 2/11/2012 from <http://www.osv.com/ParishNav/ParishResources/AdultEducation/January2007/tabid/2357/Default.aspx>.
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- Wuerl, Donald W. *The Catholic Way*. New York: Doubleday, 2001.

Terms

- Liturgy: The entire church service, which includes “proclaiming and listening to the Word of God” and the Eucharist.
- Eucharist: Lord’s Supper, Holy Mass, Breaking of the Bread, Memorial of the Passion, Holy Communion
- Rosary: “Marian” prayers; a compendium of the whole Gospel

Christ: God's Revelation

- The full and definitive stage of God's revelation is accomplished in his Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, the mediator and fullness of Revelation.

Seven Sacraments

- Initiation
 - Baptism
 - Confirmation
 - Holy Eucharist
- Healing
 - Penance
 - Anointing of the Sick
- Service Communion and Mission
 - Holy Orders
 - Matrimony

The Plan of God

- What is the plan of God for man?
 - God...freely created man to share in his own blessed life.
 - God...has written upon [man's] heart the desire to see him.

Initiation

- Right of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
“immersion”
- Non-Catholic Christians “are incorporated into Christ by Baptism and we so we [sic] recognize them as brothers.”
- Baptism is the “first and chief sacrament for the forgiveness of sins.”
- Strengthened by Confirmation; nourished by the Eucharist

Liturgy

- “The realities of prayer, community, and sacramentality converge in the liturgy.”
- (Vatican Council) “The liturgy is the summit towards which the activity of the Church is directed: At the same time, it is the font from which all her powers flow.”
- “It is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to draw the true Christian spirit.”

Liturgy

- Liturgy of the Word (preaching)
- Liturgy of the Eucharist (wheat bread and wine)

Man's Response to God

- “Sustained by divine grace, we respond to God with the obedience of faith, which means the full surrender of ourselves to God and the acceptance of his truth insofar as it is guaranteed by the One who is Truth itself.

Witnesses of Faith

- Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.
- The Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

Symbols of Faith

- Apostle's Creed (baptismal)
- Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (Councils of Nicea [A.D. 325] and Constantinople [A.D. 381])

Rosary

- Prayers on the Mysteries of the Life of Christ
 - Joyful Mysteries (Monday, Saturday)
 - Events surrounding birth and early life of Jesus
 - Mysteries of Light (Thursday)
 - Events revealing the nature and mission of Jesus
 - The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday, Friday)
 - Events surrounding the crucifixion
 - The Glorious Mysteries (Wednesday, Sunday)
 - Events surrounding resurrection and assumption of Mary

Pope

- “The perpetual, visible source and foundation of the unity of the Church....[having] full, supreme, immediate, and universal power [over the Church]”
- “The College of Bishops in union with the Pope, and never without him, also exercises supreme and full authority over the Church.”
- Pope & College of Bishops = Magisterium

Mary

- Mother of God and Mother of the Church, because she is the mother of Jesus (John 19:27)
- An example of holiness, along with the saints
- An intercessor in prayer, along with the saints
- “The faithful see in Mary an image and an anticipation of the resurrection that awaits them and they invoke her as advocate, helper, benefactress and mediatrix.”
- Not considered equal to the Trinity