



A FAMILY OF *Faith*

September Adult Meeting

Let Us Pray

Lord Jesus Christ, being subject to Mary and Joseph, You sanctified family life by Your beautiful virtues. Grant that we, with the help of Mary and Joseph, may be taught by the example of Your holy Family, and may after death enjoy its everlasting companionship. Amen.



Video (linked on the main page)

[“Watching You” by Rodney Atkins video](#)



Raise Your Hand if You Agree....

Teaching requires special skills you can only get
in college classes.

How many of you think you could never be a
teacher?



Opening Questions

Who is your child(ren)'s first teacher?

Who is their most important teacher?



Familiaris Consortio

The example and witness of parents “leave an impression that the future events in their children’s lives will not be able to efface.”

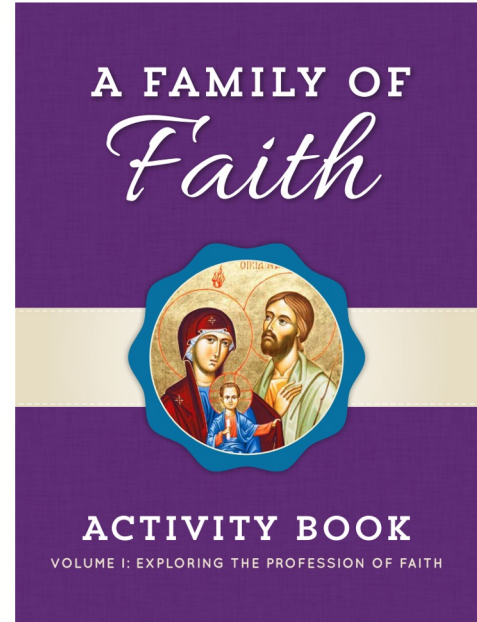
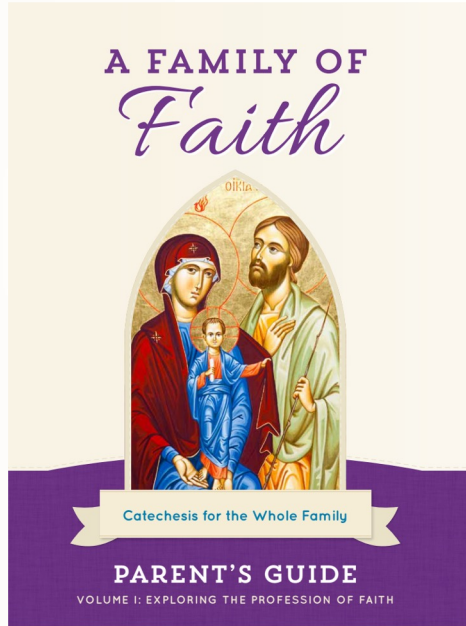


Familiaris Consortio

“The ministry of evangelization carried out by Christian parents is original and irreplaceable. It assumes the characteristics typical of family life itself, which should be interwoven with love, simplicity, practicality and daily witness.”



Introduction to Volume I: The Profession of Faith



Contents :

An outline of the topics that will be covered each month:



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Quick Start Guide iii
Making the Most of Activities iv

SEPTEMBER 1
The role of parents in education, becoming more familiar with your Bible, basic Catholic prayers
 > **Your Catholic Home:** Praying before Meals

OCTOBER 8
What is Faith? Who is God, and how can we know Him?
 > **Your Catholic Home:** The Sign of the Cross
 > **Saint of the Month:** St. Francis of Assisi

NOVEMBER 42
What does it mean to be created in the image and likeness of God? The Fall and God's promise of a Savior
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 > **Your Catholic Home:** Ways to Observe Lent
 > **Saint of the Month:** St. Brigid of Ireland

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The Holy Spirit and the Church
 > **Your Catholic Home:** Come, Holy Spirit
 > **Saint of the Month:** St. Peter

APRIL 204
The four marks of the Church, the Communion of Saints, A New Heaven and a New Earth
 > **Your Catholic Home:** Divine Mercy Chaplet
 > **Saint of the Month:** St. Catherine of Siena

ESSAY APPENDIX 238

Getting Started Guide

- Before teaching each month, read the “what you need to know” sections in each activity, and the background essays
- Do the activities with your children.
- Interact and integrate discussions. Read saint stories, have conversations both in the car and over dinner, etc.
- Re-evaluate each month.

QUICK START GUIDE

Follow the steps below to get the most out of *A Family of Faith*.

STEP 1: Read the “getting started” information in September and do the activities.

STEP 2: Before teaching each month, read the “what you need to know” sections in each activity. Make notes as you read and underline or highlight words to help you think through the content.

STEP 3: Do the activities with your children.

STEP 4: Look for ways to integrate discussions into the rhythms of your family life. Read saint stories at bedtime, talk about some of the topics in the car, while waiting in line at the store, or over dinner.

STEP 5: Reevaluate each month. Space is provided for you to make notes about what went well and what didn't. Remember that you can change your approach at any time!

A note on age-level suggestions

Every child is different. Take into account each child's reading ability as well as his or her maturity level when deciding which activities and “words to know” you will do. In this guide, activities are marked with a suggested age level. Feel free to ignore these suggestions and do the activities that work best for your children.



Overview Pages

- A scripture verse
- Concepts
- Saint of the month
- References to the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Words your children should know at the end of the month

October OVERVIEW
EXPLORING THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

VERSE OF THE MONTH
HEBREWS 11:1
Faith is the realization of what we hope for and evidence of things not seen.

SAINT OF THE MONTH
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

LESSON 1
I BELIEVE

Overview
The aim of the first part of this lesson is for children to learn what faith is and about their faith in God. In the second lesson, your children learn that summarized the great mysteries of the Apostles' Creed.

Catechism Articles to Read

- > 26-49
- > 142-197

Words to Know

- > B
- > T
- > F
- > T
- > V
- > C
- > C
- > A

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OCTOBER

LESSON 2
IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY

Overview
Children begin to understand the mystery of God and how we can know Him, His divine attributes, and the Trinity. Your children also begin to enter into the "story" of God's great plan as we examine God the Creator and His creation.

Catechism Articles to Read

- > 31-53
- > 232- 267
- > 297-354

Words to Know

- > Divine Revelation
- > Mystery
- > Trinity
- > Sign of the Cross
- > Creator

BY THE END OF THIS MONTH, YOUR CHILDREN SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

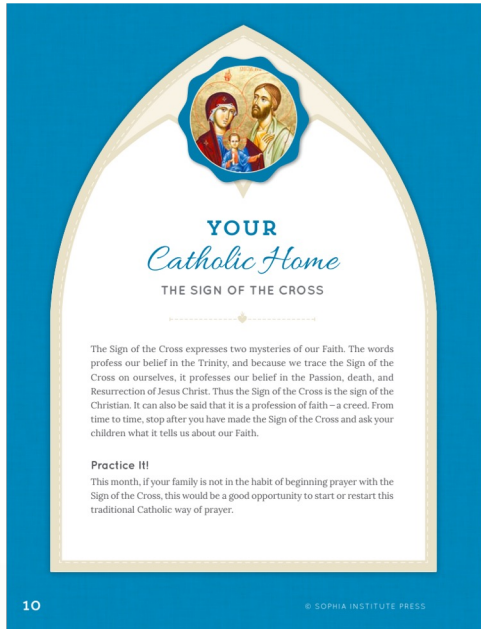
- ✓ Recite this month's Scripture Memorization and define this month's Words to Know
- ✓ Tell you about St. Francis of Assisi
- ✓ Make the Sign of the Cross and explain what it means
- ✓ List the attributes of God (older children)
- ✓ Recite from memory the following section of the Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth

EXPLORING THE PROFESSION OF FAITH, OCTOBER

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Your Catholic Home: includes suggested catholic prayers Liturgical feast days/seasons family projects.



Monthly Fridge Page: “Celebrate”

Things to do during the month to celebrate your faith and other little reminders.

Celebrate!
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
OCTOBER 4

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures
—St. Francis of Assisi

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH:

- 1 Bring your pets to your parish's blessing of the animals on _____.
- 2 Go on a nature walk and experience the beauty of God's Creation.

VERSE OF THE MONTH
HEBREWS 11:1
Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.

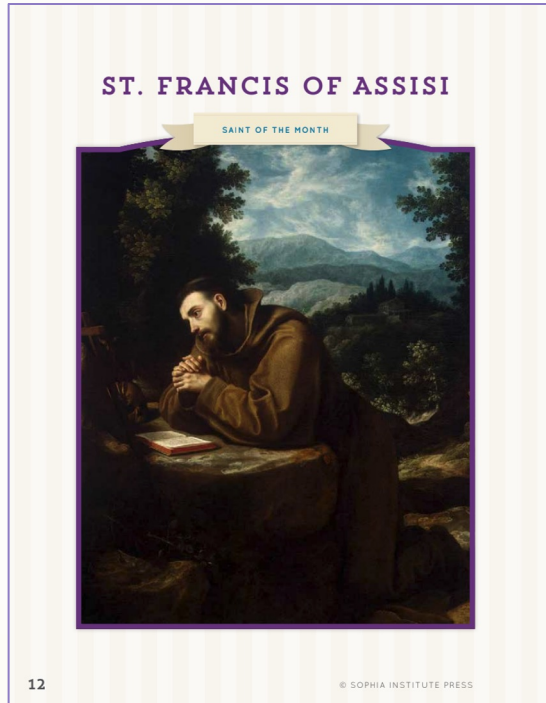
REMEMBER!
Always begin and end your prayers with the Sign of the Cross:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

MEMORIZE! **THE APOSTLES' CREED**
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth...

EXPLORING THE PROFESSION OF FAITH, OCTOBER 11



Saint of the Month and Car Conversations



Casual family conversations in the car. (Hang tag in the car)

Let them be intentional but spontaneous!



Lesson Overview

OCTOBER

LESSON 1
"I BELIEVE"

Activities and Key Concepts

Activities you will do with your children	Key concepts the activity will teach	Recommended age and time
What Does It Mean to Believe? Trust walk and discussion	To believe means to have faith. Faith is not a blind leap.	Ages: All ages Time: 10 minutes
What Is Faith? Reading and discussion	Faith is a gift from God and our response to believe in Him.	Ages: All ages Time: 10 minutes
Faith Is Necessary for Salvation Scripture search activity	We must believe in God to go to Heaven.	Ages: Ages 8 and up Time: 15 minutes
Faith Requires Obedience Family discussion	Believing in God means keeping His commandments.	Ages: All ages Time: 5 minutes
A Summary of Faith: The Apostles' Creed Discussion and activity	The Apostles' Creed includes 12 doctrines.	Ages: All ages Time: 15 minutes

EXPLORING THE PROFESSION OF FAITH, OCTOBER

Activities and Key Concepts

Activities you will do with your children	Key concepts the activity will teach	Recommended age and time
How Can We Know God? Reading and discussion	We can know God through reason, Divine Revelation, and His creation.	Ages: All ages Time: 10 minutes
Who Is God? Discussion and activities	God is holy, almighty, omniscient, eternal, and omnipresent.	Ages: All ages Time: 10 minutes
The Blessed Trinity Discussion and activities	God is one God in three Divine Persons.	Ages: All ages Time: 15 minutes
The Story of Creation Scripture reading and creative activity	God created everything good.	Ages: All ages Time: 20 minutes
Your Family Genesis Story Storybook activity	God has a plan for each one of us.	Ages: All ages Time: 15 minutes

Includes icons that demonstrate types of activities.

The icons appear at the top of each activity



Words to Know

OCTOBER

LESSON 1 WORDS TO KNOW

The Words to Know are words that you and your children should know and understand at the end of this month. Use your best judgment about which words to expect each of your children to learn. For older children, you may want to have them create flashcards to help them remember what they have learned.

Believe To accept as the truth.

Trust To rely on someone.

Faith A gift from God as well as our free response to believe what God tells us about Himself and about the world He made.

Theological Virtues Faith, hope, and love; these virtues come from God and point to Him.

Obey To do what God tells us to do (and to do what God's representatives – parents, priests, teachers, and so forth – tell us to do).

Creed All the things that we believe in.

Apostles' Creed The most important truths about our Catholic Faith written down together. These include many of the truths God wants us to have faith in.

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LESSON 2 WORDS TO KNOW

The Words to Know are words that you and your children should know and understand at the end of this month. Use your best judgment about which words to expect each of your children to learn. For older children, you may want to have them create flashcards to help them remember what they have learned.

Divine Revelation Truths about God that we could never know on our own and that God has chosen to reveal to us.

Mystery A truth that is above our ability to understand on our own. We believe in a mystery because God has revealed it to us.

Trinity A mystery that tells us that there are Three Persons in one God.

Sign of the Cross A Catholic way to begin prayer; it reminds us of our belief in the Trinity of God and in the Passion and death of His Son, Jesus.

Creator God, who made all things. Only God can make something out of nothing.


EXPLORING THE PROFESSION OF FAITH, OCTOBER

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Year Project: Storybook Activity

OCTOBER



ACTIVITY 5

Your Family Genesis story

STORYBOOK ACTIVITY

Age Level: All ages
Recommended time: 15 minutes
What you need: Family photos, markers and/or crayons

Activity

A. Together with your family, write a "Book of Genesis" for your family. To introduce the activity, tell your children: "We have learned about God's marvelous act of creation. But creation did not stop with the story of Genesis. Each time a baby is conceived, God creates an immortal soul that gives life to that child. God's awesome plan for creation continues, and we are all a part of it. God has a special plan for each one of us and has given us each unique gifts so that we can cooperate with His plan."

B. Then spend time telling your children (and having them tell you) about how God has worked in your family's life. You may wish to include:

- › how God brought you and your spouse together
- › the arrival of your child(ren)
- › the special and unique person that each one is
- › how God has had His hand in each one of your lives
- › the lessons that you have learned about God as He directs you along His path

NOTE There may be parts of your story that are too painful to reflect on. Include only what you are comfortable with.

C. After your reflection and sharing time, put your story in writing. If you have pictures of the events described, use them to enhance your story. When you are finished, put your Genesis Story in your Storybook. Have fun and ask God to help you to see His hand in your lives.

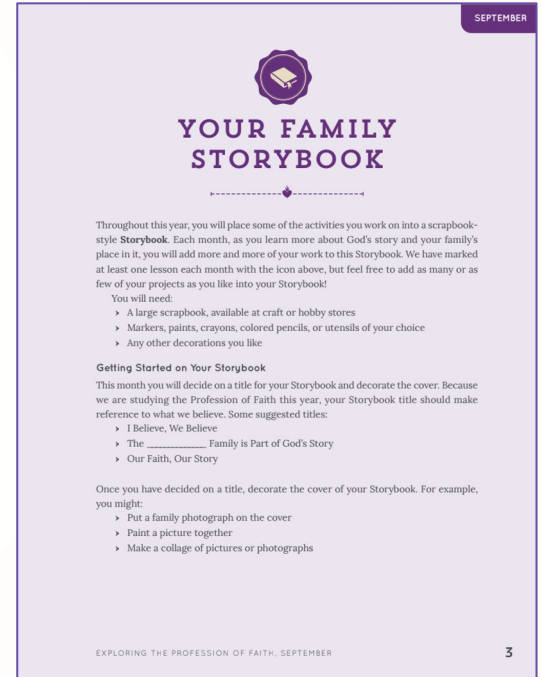
38 © SOPHIA INSTITUTE PRESS

Each month features at least one Storybook project activity that will be built on throughout the year.



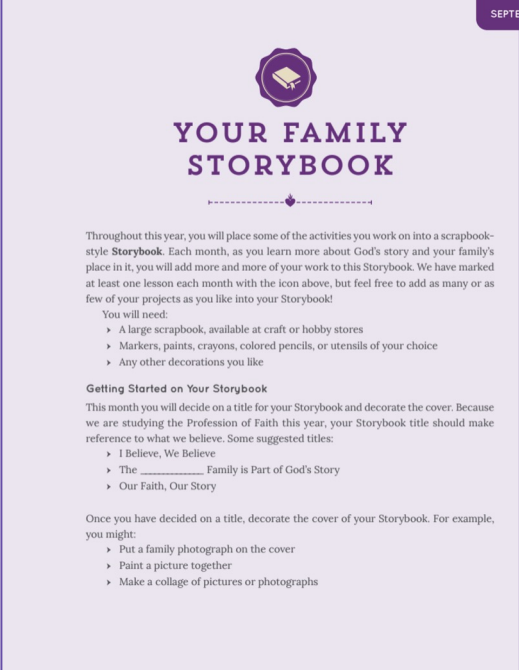
Your Family Storybook

- Each month you will find at least one lesson with the title: “Storybook Activity”.
- You will need:
 - A large scrapbook
 - Markers, paints, crayons, colored pencils
 - Any other decorations you like



Your Family Storybook

- Decide on a title for your scrapbook
- Once you decide on a title, decorate the cover of your Storybook!



SEPTEMBER

YOUR FAMILY STORYBOOK

Throughout this year, you will place some of the activities you work on into a scrapbook-style **Storybook**. Each month, as you learn more about God's story and your family's place in it, you will add more and more of your work to this Storybook. We have marked at least one lesson each month with the icon above, but feel free to add as many or as few of your projects as you like into your Storybook!

You will need:

- › A large scrapbook, available at craft or hobby stores
- › Markers, paints, crayons, colored pencils, or utensils of your choice
- › Any other decorations you like

Getting Started on Your Storybook

This month you will decide on a title for your Storybook and decorate the cover. Because we are studying the Profession of Faith this year, your Storybook title should make reference to what we believe. Some suggested titles:

- › I Believe, We Believe
- › The _____ Family is Part of God's Story
- › Our Faith, Our Story

Once you have decided on a title, decorate the cover of your Storybook. For example, you might:

- › Put a family photograph on the cover
- › Paint a picture together
- › Make a collage of pictures or photographs




Activity Pages

OCTOBER

Please choose from the activities for the month.

It is not necessary to complete every activity. We offer a wealth of activities to choose from because each child learns differently, so select the activities that best suit the learning needs of your family. Feel free to shorten or improvise on each activity as necessary. You know best what your family needs!



ACTIVITY 1

What Does It Mean to Believe?

TRUST WALK AND DISCUSSION

Age Level: All ages
Recommended time: 10 minutes

What you need to know before you begin:

Believing is another word for trusting or for having faith. To “believe” means:

- › To accept as the truth.
- › To expect or hope for with confidence.
- › To have trust.
- › To have faith.

Activity and Discussion

A. Explain to your children what to “believe” means using the points above. When we accept something as true or trust something to be true, we say we believe it. Believing is another word for trusting.

EXPLORING THE PROFESSION OF FAITH, OCTOBER

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There are about 4 or 5 activities per lesson.

Pick activities based on the age of your children

Most pages begin with a short “**What you need to know before you begin**” section.



Saint Biography

Learn about the extraordinary holy life of the featured saint of the month




OCTOBER

St. Francis of Assisi

SAINT OF THE MONTH

Age Level: All ages
Recommended time: 10 minutes
What you need: St. Francis of Assisi (page 34 in the children's activity book), markers and/or crayons



Activity

- Tell your children that this month, we are learning about St. Francis of Assisi, who is known for his love of God and God's creation.
- Have your children turn to **Saint of the Month: St. Francis of Assisi (page 34 in the children's activity book)**. Read aloud the biography of this month's saint and have your children complete the coloring page while they listen.
- When you are finished, discuss as a family how the life of St. Francis can inspire us to love God more deeply. What are some things that we can do to follow his saintly example?

Biography of St. Francis of Assisi

ST. FRANCIS was a man who lived 700 years ago in a city called Assisi. Assisi is in a country called Italy, which is on the continent of Europe. Francis did not always live like a saint. When he was a young man, he liked to spend lots of money having parties with his friends.

Francis went to fight in a war called the Crusades. He was a good and courageous soldier, but one day the enemy caught him. They put him in jail. Francis became very sick and almost died. Soon Francis was allowed to go home, but he was still sick. While he was getting better, he began

to feel very sad that he had spent so much time just having parties and spending money. Then Jesus began to speak in Francis's heart. He began to see that his life would be much better if he listened to Jesus and tried to do God's will.

Francis began to love Jesus with all his heart. God made him so joyful that he didn't need to own any possessions to be happy. He gave all of his fancy clothes and other expensive things back to his father. Then he went outside the city to live by himself. He prayed a lot, and listened in his heart to what Jesus wanted him to

EXPLORING THE PROFESSION OF FAITH, OCTOBER

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Month In Review

A summary of the main ideas in each month's lessons, questions and some space to reflect on your learning.



The image shows a page titled "October in Review" with a decorative border. At the top center is a blue circular icon containing a white heart with a flame above it. Below the icon, the title "October in Review" is written in a blue cursive font. Underneath the title, the text reads "THIS MONTH YOU EXPLORED AS A FAMILY THE QUESTIONS:". This is followed by three questions: "What does it mean to believe?", "Who is God?", and "How can we know Him?". Below these questions are two columns of text. The left column is titled "In Lesson 1 your children learned that faith:" and lists five bullet points: "is a gift from God and our free response to God's grace", "is certain", "requires trust", "requires obedience", and "is summarized in the 12 articles of the Apostles' Creed". The right column is titled "In Lesson 2 your children learned that we can know God:" and lists four bullet points: "through reason", "through Divine Revelation", "through Creation", and "and that God is the Blessed Trinity - One God in Three Divine Persons". At the bottom of the page, there is a large white rectangular area for reflection, with the text: "In this space below, write some reflections about the past month. What was your favorite activity? What didn't go as well? Will you adjust anything about what you're doing? What special intentions do you have for next month?". At the very bottom of the page, the text "EXPLORING THE PROFESSION OF FAITH, OCTOBER" is written in small capital letters on the left, and the number "41" is on the right.



Essay Appendix

There is a background essay for every lesson.

We suggest that you read the essay before you teach from the activities.



LESSON 1

“I BELIEVE”

BACKGROUND READING

What is Faith?

Faith is a gift from God, as well as our free response to believe what God tells us about Himself and about the world He made.

Faith is a gift

If faith is a gift, how do we receive it? We first receive the gift of faith in the Sacrament of Baptism. The Sacraments are the chief means of receiving of God's grace in our lives. Thus, whenever we properly receive the Sacraments, we receive an increase in our faith. We must also ask God, in prayer, to increase our faith. “The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’” (Luke 17:5).

Faith is necessary for salvation. Jesus tells us many times, and the Catholic Church teaches that “Believing in Jesus Christ and in the One who sent him for our salvation is necessary for obtaining that salvation” (CCC 161).

Our faith can be increased, but it also can be lost. We are free to accept or to reject God. We can deny His presence through our fear or doubt, and we can choose to lose His presence by our own mortal sin. God is always calling us to Himself, but He never coerces us. We must

choose to believe in Him and we must live our lives according to His revealed truth.

Faith is a theological virtue

There are three theological virtues—faith, hope, and love. They are called theological virtues because they come from and point us toward God. “Faith is the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that He has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because He is truth itself” (CCC 1814).

Faith is certain

Unlike human beings who sin, or who fall despite their best intentions, God never sins or fails. For this reason, faith is certain. We can be surer of our faith in God than we can be in any human knowledge.

Our faith is not a blind leap, even though the truths that have been revealed to us are sometimes not clear to our human understanding. We believe because it is God who has revealed the truth to us. Scripture tells us: “Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1).

Since all human beings can and will fall at one time or another, we would be foolish

to place all our trust in any human being. There is only One in whom we should completely trust—God. God can never fail. He alone is completely trustworthy and faithful.

Faith requires obedience

Jesus told us that those who love Him keep His commandments, and it is true that the appropriate response to authentic faith is to obey. If by faith we believe that God is who He says He is, we must respond to that revelation with lives lived in obedience to the truth that He has revealed. St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, calls this “the obedience of faith” (Romans 1:5).

By faith “man freely commits his entire self to God.” For this reason the believer seeks to know and do God's will (CCC 1814).

Faith means the body of truths we believe

Faith also means the body of truths, revealed to us by God, which we believe.

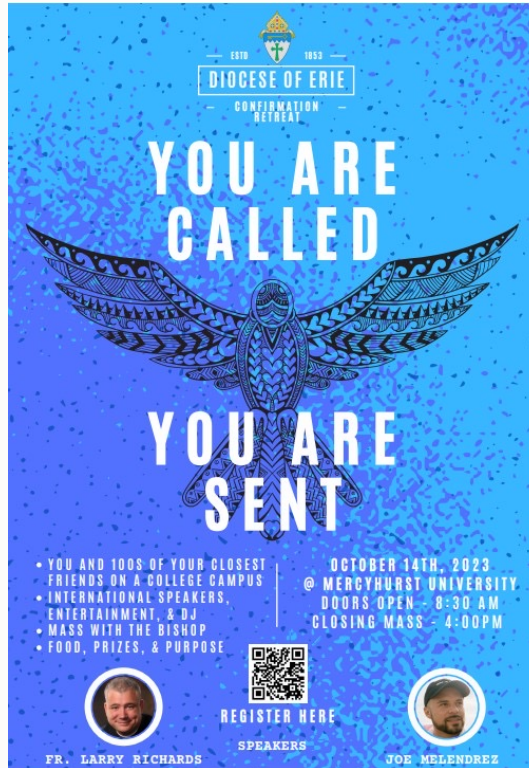
These truths are summarized for us in creeds. The word *creed* comes from the Latin word *credo*, which means “I believe.”

Creeds, as summaries of our faith, gather together the essential truths that we profess and were originally used as teaching tools for those preparing for Baptism.

In the history of the Church, many professions of faith (creeds) were articulated in response to the different needs of each era. One creed, however, does not supersede or “overrule” another. Rather, each helps us to understand our Faith in a special and deeper way.

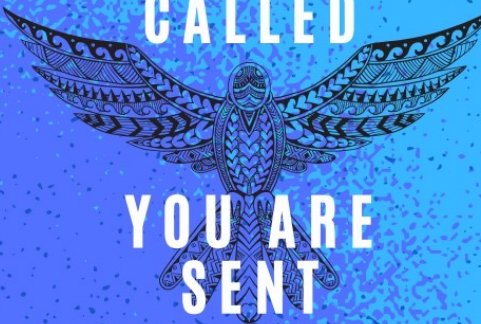
One creed has a special place in the life of the Church: the Apostles' Creed. This creed was not written by the Apostles themselves, but is a faithful summary of their Faith. The Apostles' Creed is used at Baptism and is the basis of the Catechism's presentation of our profession of faith.

Church and Area Events



ESTD 1852
DIOCESE OF ERIE
CONFIRMATION
RETREAT


YOU ARE CALLED




YOU ARE SENT

- YOU AND 100S OF YOUR CLOSEST FRIENDS ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS
- INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS, ENTERTAINMENT, & DJ
- MASS WITH THE BISHOP
- FOOD, PRIZES, & PURPOSE


OCTOBER 14TH, 2023
@ MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY
DOORS OPEN - 8:30 AM
CLOSING MASS - 4:00PM



REGISTER HERE



FR. LARRY RICHARDS



JOE MELENDRIZ

SPEAKERS



DIOCESE OF ERIE
MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

**Jesus is Alive!
True Presence**

Jesus. Friends. Food.

29th  Oct




St Brigid Church
383 Arch St, Meadville, PA 16335



Register at: 10am to 3:15pm
<https://www.ericcd.org/youth> LED BY NET MINISTRIES



Church and Area Events



NOVEMBER 16-18, 2023 | INDIANAPOLIS, IN

iNCYC
NOVEMBER 16-18, 2023 | INDIANAPOLIS, IN


FULLY ALIVE

The young church needs you. (National Catholic Youth Conference) is calling pastoral ministry leaders and parents to accompany the young Church as they encounter Christ in a groundbreaking way.

Purposefully and Wonderfully Made

HOSTS


Sr. Josephine Garrett, CSN


Mari Pablo

LEARN MORE

SAINT JUDE
the APOSTLE



SAINT JUDE
the APOSTLE



Pasta Dinner Volunteers

\$17 Pasta Dinner

Your Choice of Meatballs or Chicken Parmesan

Volunteers are to email Mr. Jesse at jesse@saintjude.church for a shift. All volunteers for the day of the pasta dinner are asked to wear black and will be treated to a pasta dinner with one meatball before or after their shift.

10.21 Saturday Prep Shift 4pm-7pm

10.22 Pasta Dinner 1st Shift (10:15am-3pm)

2nd Shift (2:30pm-7pm)

Cleanup Crew (6:30pm-9pm)

606 Lowell Ave St. Jude School Gym





A FAMILY OF *Faith*

Thank you!
Holy Family, pray for us!