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## Introduction

The Nicene Creed is a religious summary statement. The Creed states the foundational beliefs of the Christian faith and reveals God's saving plan for creation.

St. Irenaeus once said, *"The glory of God is man fully alive."* The Creed communicates this same message, that God became man so that man might be redeemed and glorify God. But the Creed goes further to explain how God redeems man from his own demise so that he may be fully alive. The Creed speaks the basic truths of the Christian faith and the truths of the human person.

Believing is a human act, conscious and free,  
corresponding to the dignity of the human person.

– Catechism of the Catholic Church, 180

Truths contained within the Creed:

- The universe was created by God with meaning and purpose
  - The human person was created in the image and likeness of God
  - God created the human person for communion with Him
  - The human is material & spiritual, body & soul (intellect & will)
  - God reveals Himself through the physical world, the human person in particular, Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture
  - Human language, written and oral, is used by God for revelation
  - Time (Human History) is centered in Christ
  - Heaven (Eternity) exists as does sin
  - The natural law (order) is definable
  - Good and evil are real. Man is free to choose either one
  - Moral truth is made for man. Man has a fallen nature
  - God's Church on earth was entrusted to a visible human person, the Apostle Peter and his successors
  - The human is favored by God above all visible creation
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I believe  
in one God,  
the Father,  
almighty,  
maker of  
heaven  
and earth, of  
all things  
visible and  
invisible.



*Creation of Adam by Michaelangelo*

## **Social Implications**

God created all things and a universe with meaning and purpose which the human person can come to understand because God made the person in His image and likeness. All Catholic Social Teaching originates from this fundamental truth concerning the inherent sacred dignity of the human person. All people are created in the image of God.

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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;



*The Transfiguration, by Beato Angelico*

## **Social Implications**

God was not created but has always been. God, the Father, sent the Son to become incarnate (Jesus Christ) so that man could be in communion with God again. For this end, all human persons were created and redeemed in Christ.

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...through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.



*The Annunciation by Fra Angelico*

## **Social Implications**

God has a special love for the human person. God reveals Himself to man through creation, natural law, and even the human person himself. God draws all creation, but especially man, to Himself. Though humanity is broken and wounded by sin, man is loved by God. It is in the person of Jesus Christ that God demonstrates this enduring love for man. Through the person of the Virgin Mary, the Son of God entered into the created world as a human being.

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



## **Social Implications**

From eternity, in a plan of sheer goodness, God planned to enter into human history, in the Person of Jesus Christ, to reveal His loving plan of salvation and redemption. This plan was made known in history through Jesus. He transformed human suffering in His redemptive work on the Cross. Now, the human person, both physical (material) and spiritual (soul) can be transformed through Christ, even in the midst of his sufferings.

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

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



*The Resurrection of Christ, by Peter Paul Rubens*

## **Social Implications**

The human person has the unique ability to learn and interact through language. God reveals Himself in words and deeds. Much of this Divine Revelation is recorded in the Scriptures. Revelation is both spoken (Oral Tradition) and written (Scripture).

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



## **Social Implications**

Time, human history, is centered in Christ. It has a beginning and an end in accordance with a plan. All creation has a determined conclusion. God is eternal and has no beginning or end. Originally created immortal in time, man fell, and physical death entered human experience. Though subject to death, the human person must still freely choose heaven through the grace of faith, hope, and charity in Jesus Christ.

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I believe  
in the  
Holy  
Spirit,  
the Lord,  
the giver  
of life,



*Window at St Peter's, Vatican City, Rome, Italy*

## **Social Implications**

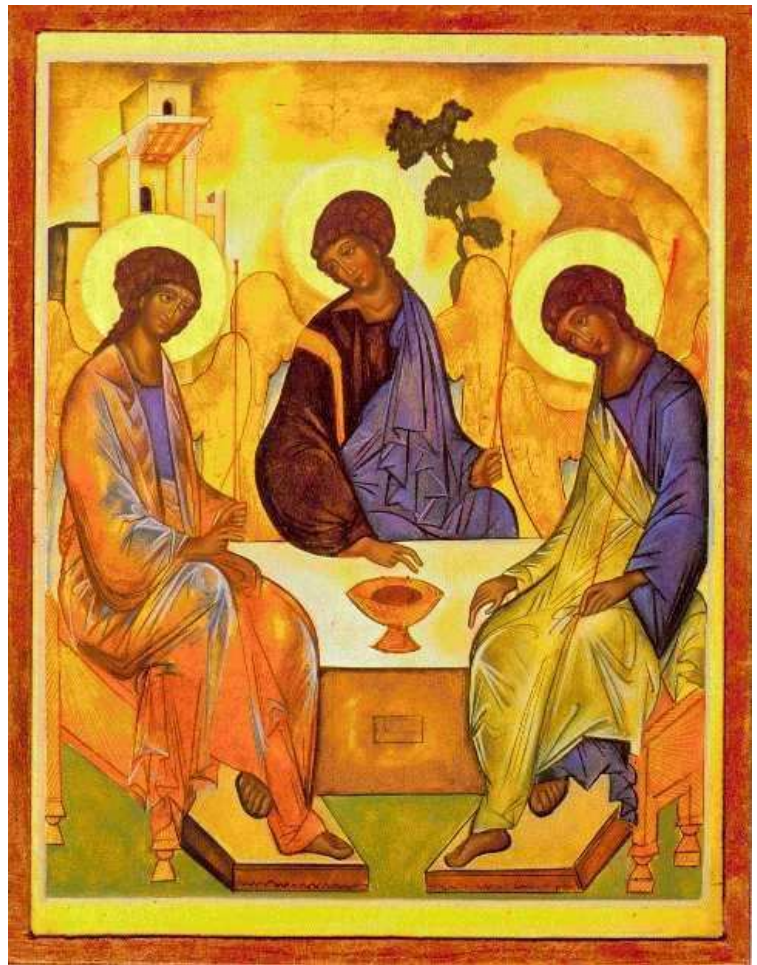
God is the author of all human life and sacred human dignity. Man has an intellect and is capable of reason. Man is also capable of being irrational. Because humanity is fallen, humans are apt to deceive and lie, even to themselves, because sin has wounded the nature of the human person. Through grace, Christ mends human nature so that man can clearly understand morality and freely choose the good.

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Who proceeds  
from the  
Father and the  
Son, who with  
the Father and  
the Son is  
adored and  
glorified,



## **Social Implications**

God, in the Trinity, is one and complete love, distinct in the relationship between the persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Humans are created to love God, to love their neighbor, and themselves (three, yet one). Of all visible creatures only man was created to understand morality and the natural law, to choose good and to avoid evil. Man is made to know the difference between good (truth) and evil (non-truth), to truly love and be loved.

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...who has spoken through the prophets.



## **Social Implications**

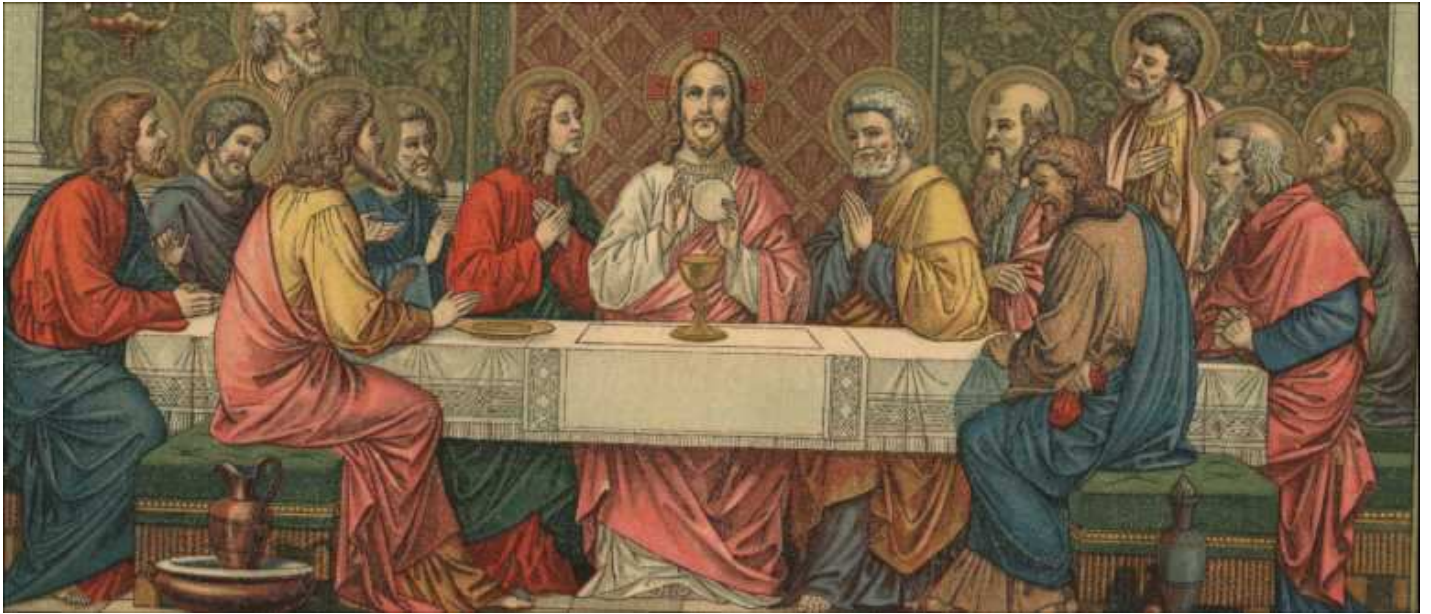
The Prophets speak the truth of God, by the Holy Spirit. The Prophet is human and can be heard and understood. Although comprehended, the Prophet may be rejected. Man is a conscious being, able to know himself and make a gift of himself in love. When man does not choose love he feels guilt. God yearns to forgive and remove guilt of sin. Humans too are able, by grace, to forgive.

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



*Image Source: <http://catholicchurch.homestead.com/>?*

## **Social Implications**

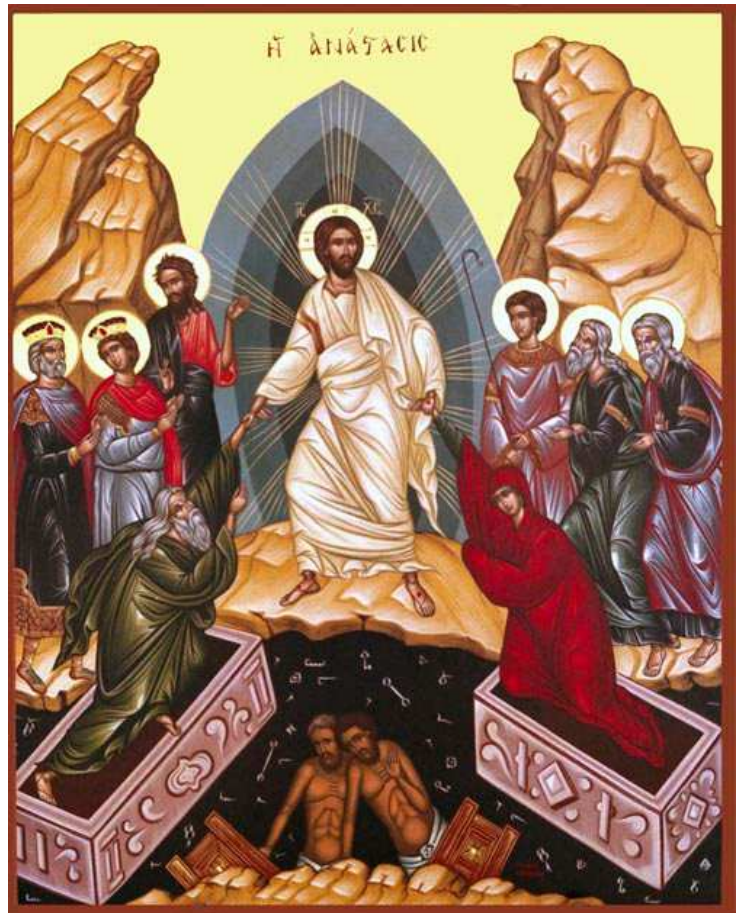
The physical world, tangible and real, is God's instrument. Both the physical and spiritual worlds are subject to God's Word. Men and women can understand and communicate God's Word in a limited way. To assist mankind, Jesus entrusted Peter and his successors with the keys to God's Kingdom, God's Church on earth. Sacraments are entrusted to the Church. They are the visible means by which God's Spirit is manifested.

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I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



## **Social Implications**

God is love. His will is always for life and that which is good and true. God permitted human evil to scourge and kill His Son so eternal life could be secured for man. God did not create death, but humanity suffers physical death because of sin. Despite the realities of sin and death, man is still called to be a co-creator in God's plan for the life of the world and the world to come.

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