

FAITH

* **NOUN** — Faith is **WHAT** we believe.

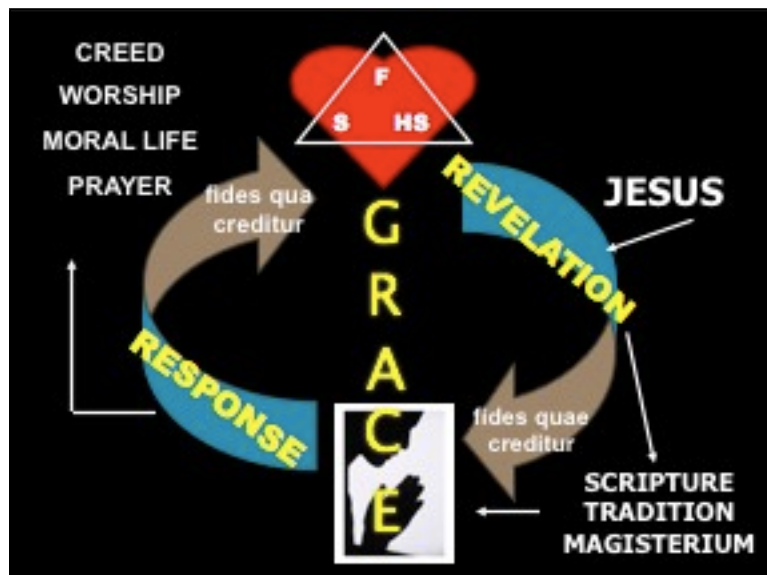
- Objective Revelation
- **Fides quae creditur**

* **VERB** — Faith is **BY WHICH** we believe and adhere to God's Revelation.

- Subjective* acts & disposition
- **Fides qua creditur**

(*meaning by a person-a "subject")

Faith is God's
REVELATION
and our
RESPONSE
to Him.



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REVELATION

- * WHAT? > Tenets of TRUTH
Who HE is & Who WE are
- * HOW? > Deeds & Words
- * WHY? > Because He thought
we might want to know!

**AND because we never would have figured
it all out on our own!**

REVELATION

- * Gradual & in stages
 - Divine Pedagogy
- * Deeds and in words
 - Old & New Testament
- * Complete & perfect in Jesus
 - Trinity
- * Not fully explicit
 - “development of doctrine”

REVELATION

“By this revelation then, the deepest truth about God and the salvation of man shines out for our sake in Christ, who is both the mediator and the fullness of all revelation.”

(Dei Verbum 2)

RESPONSE



RESPONSE

- * CREED > What I believe
- * SACRAMENTS > How I worship
- * MORALITY > How I live
- * PRAYER > How I pray

- * "Everything is yours, only do not eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil" . . .
- * God said to Noah, . . . "Make yourself an ark out of resinous wood. . . This is how to make it: . . ." Noah did this; exactly as God commanded him, he did.
- * Yahweh said to Abram, "Leave your country, your kindred and your father's house. . . So Abram went as Yahweh told him. . . .
- * "Behold, I am the Handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me as you say."



San Angelino,
San Pietro Martire dipinto
1420/25

FAITH IS REASONABLE

- "Always be ready when they ask you for the reason for your hope." -1 Peter 3:15
- We can not understand God but we **can** with the **help of the Holy Spirit** understand **truths** which He has revealed to us. ST II.Q8.art.2
- "Faith & Reason are like two wings with which man soars to God." -Fides et Ratio

FAITH IS CERTAIN

Thus the **miracles** of Christ and the saints, **prophecies**, the Church's growth and **holiness**, and her fruitfulness and stability "are the **most certain signs of divine Revelation**, adapted to the intelligence of all"; they are "**motives of credibility**" (*motiva credibilitatis*), which show that the **assent of faith** is "**by no means a blind impulse of the mind.**" (Dei Filius 3)

MYSTERY OF FAITH

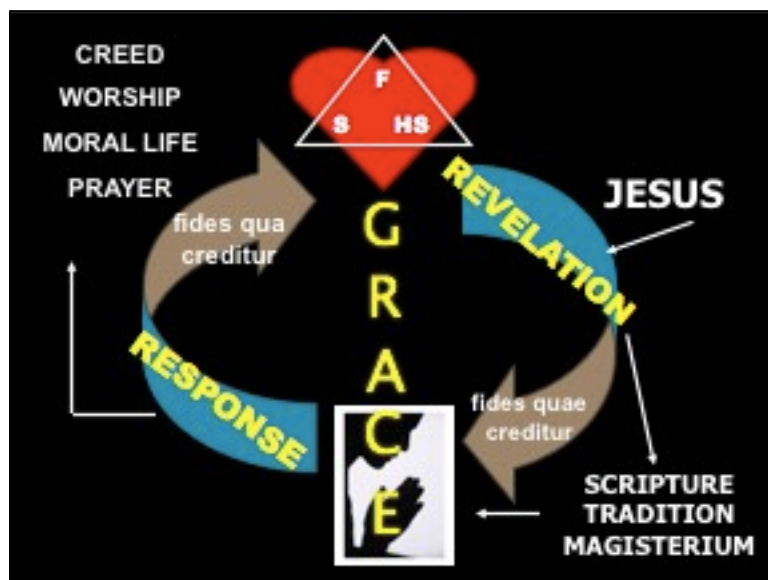
- Faith binds us to accept many truths beyond imagination's reach.
- "Culture of disbelief."
 - Pilate's "Veritas?! Quod veritas est?!"
- We bow before the Mystery.
- "A thousand difficulties do not add up to one doubt."
(Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman)



"It's not true because I believe it. I believe it because... it is true!"

RESPONSE

By faith, man completely submits his intellect and his will to God. With his whole being man gives his assent to God the revealer. Sacred Scripture calls this human response to God, the author of revelation, "the obedience of faith."



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RECEIVING FAITH

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. **He who believes and is baptized will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Mk 16:15

It is **through the Church** that we receive faith and new life in Christ by Baptism.

In the *Rituale Romanum*, the minister of Baptism asks the catechumen:

"What do you ask of God's Church?"

And the answer is: "Faith."

"What does faith offer you?"

"Eternal life."

CCC 168, 1226, 1236, 1253 *ff*

TRANSMISSION of REVELATION

JESUS



ME!

MAGISTERIUM

- **Living** teaching office of the Church
(Mt.16:18-20)
- Authentic **interpreter** of Sacred Scripture and Tradition
- **Guards** the Deposit of Faith (DV 10)
- Charism of **infallibility**
- God's **gift** to us!

INFALLIBILITY

is the Holy Spirit's Charism
given to the Church's
Magisterium:



- * to **preserve God's people** from deviations and defections and
- * to **guarantee them** the objective possibility of **professing the true faith without error**

MAGISTERIUM

EXTRAORDINARY
CCC 891

Pope
"Ex Cathedra"

Ecumenical
Councils

ORDINARY
CCC 892

Universal

Non-Universal

"obedience of faith"

Rom. 10:9; 1 Cor 15:3-5; 2 Thes. 2:15

- Teachings in faith and morals **entrusted to the Church** by Christ through the Apostles and given for the **sake of our salvation.**



- **What is gained by doubt or challenge?**

ATTACKS on FAITH

- Heresy
- Schism
- Atheism
- Agnosticism
- Apostasy

CCC 817-819, 2089, 2123 ff

LOSS of FAITH

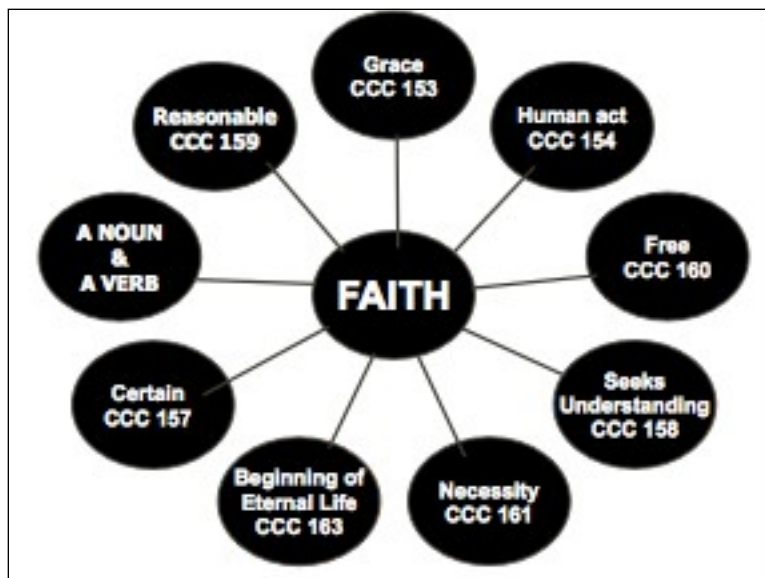
The gift of faith remains in one who has not sinned against it. But "**faith apart from works is dead;**" (James 2:26) when it is **deprived of hope and love**, faith does not fully unite the believer to Christ and does **not** make him a living member of his Body.

CCC 1815, 162, 2088, 808, 1037

PRESERVING FAITH

- The Holy Spirit gives Faith.
- Prayer, Scripture, Study, Sacraments, Acts of Faith, Works of Mercy, Humility, Perseverance, Patience
- "Nothing is more apt to confirm our faith and hope than holding it fixed in our minds that **nothing is impossible with God.**"

CCC 274, 2849, 2612, 162



“I BELIEVE” The Ultimate Witness

- Peter, the Apostles
- Stephen, Paul
- Roman Martyrs, Cecilia
- Peter Martyr, OP
- Isaac Jogues, SJ
- Paul Miki & Companions
- Miguel Pro
- Fr. Ragheed Ganni



I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. And in Jesus Christ His Son, Our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. **AMEN!**
