

WHY STUDY THE FAITH?

- (1) **The Meaning of Life.** Man must ask *the* meaningful questions. We must think critically about who we are, why we exist, where we came from, and where we are headed. Few people today are thinking about these issues correctly. Thus, we are living in a time of great evil and chaos. The Faith has the answers to these all-important questions.
- (2) **Man Desires Love.** We seek to love and to be loved. Above all man seeks union with God. Yet we can't love what we don't know. It is all too easy to create and desire a false conception of God. As we study the Faith, we will be able to grow in our love for God and, through Him, for our neighbor.
- (3) **Man Desires the Good.** Everyone seeks that which is good, even though one may be mistaken about the good. To know the good we must turn to God and learn from Him. God is All Good. Apart from God, man does not know what is truly good (cf. Lk 18:18-20).
- (4) **Man Desires the Truth.** God is Absolute Truth. Ignorance, error, deception, and half-truths are at the root of every evil. Christ calls us to continue in His word (study the Faith) so that we can know the truth and be free. Christ Himself is the Truth (cf. Jn 8:31-32; 14:6).
- (5) **Man Desires Salvation.** Salvation not only depends on what we do, but also on what we believe. All of man, body and soul, requires salvation. The soul includes the mind (its end is to know truth) and the will (its end is to choose the good). *"Without faith it is impossible to please God"* (Heb 11:6). See also the *Athanasian Creed*.
- (6) **For Love Our Neighbor.** To love is to desire the good for another, no matter the cost (sacrifice) to myself. The highest good is eternal life, therefore to love someone we must do what we can to help them gain eternal life. Sharing the True Faith with others is an essential way of loving them. But we can't give what we don't have, so we need to study the Faith and always be ready to give a reason for the hope which is in us (cf. 1 Peter 3:5).
- (7) **To Survive the Crisis.** We are living through a terrible crisis, a *diabolical disorientation*, which is ultimately a crisis of faith! As the Faith is being lost, many souls are falling into hell. Our Lady of Fatima came to warn us of this and of not losing the dogma of the Faith which brings salvation. We must study to avoid the shifting sands of modernism (synthesis of all heresies) and instead build upon a firm foundation (cf. Mt 7:24-27).

Summary: We wish to study our Catholic Faith to better know God, Who is Truth itself - and hence be able to love Him, and through Him love others. This is the very meaning of life and the path by which one, with God's grace, attains eternal life.

"Now this is eternal life: That they may *know* Thee, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent" (Jn 17:3).