

## What A Catholic's Faith Should Be Like

(11) How are you to know what God has revealed?

*I am to know what God has revealed by the testimony, teaching, and authority of the Catholic Church.*

- ⇒ God's revelation must be guaranteed by an *objective* authority which He establishes.
- ⇒ God's revelation must be *unchanging*.
- ⇒ God's revelation never goes against *reason*. Both Faith and Reason, used correctly, lead to Truth.
- ⇒ God's revelation is supported by witnesses, such as prophecy, miracles, reason, history, and the holiness of the saints.

(12) Who gave the Catholic Church divine authority to teach?

*Jesus Christ gave the Catholic Church divine authority to teach, when He said, 'Going therefore teach ye all nations. (Mt 28:19).*

- ⇒ Error has no rights. No one has the *moral right* to teach error.
- ⇒ *Only* the Catholic Church has the commission *from God* to teach ALL nations.
- ⇒ Christ gives His authority to Church leaders so they may hand on His teaching (faithfully preserve, propagate, and defend them). They do not have authority to reject, mitigate or change His teaching.

(13) What are the chief things which God has revealed?

*The chief things which God has revealed are contained in the Apostles Creed.*

### ***Important Infallible Creeds of the Catholic Church***

- † *Apostles' Creed*: Used in Rome at baptisms in the 2nd century; yet the Creed predates this.
- † *Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed* (325 & 381AD): Clearly defines Jesus is God.
- † *Athanasian Creed*: Clearly defines the Blessed Trinity: one God, three Persons.
- † *Symbol of Chalcedon*: (451 AD) Clearly defines Jesus is one divine Person with two natures.
- † *Tridentine Creed*: (1563 AD) Includes important dogmas to defend against Protestant errors.

Taken from: *This Is the Faith* by Canon Francis Ripley (© 1951), TAN Books, 2002, pp. 46-50.

### **Supernatural Faith includes the following principles:**

- God is our First Beginning and our Last End.
- God has supreme dominion over us.
- We owe God due services which we express in religion.
- True religion is the true worship of the true God.
- God has told us how He wants to be worshipped.
- Man must obey this teaching of God.
- Man has no right to practice a religion of his own making against God's will.
- God alone can declare to us in what true religion consists.
- This declaration of God contains the body of revealed truths.
- We are bound to believe them (place faith in them).
- No one can be *indifferent* about such vital matters.

### **Thus, a Catholic's faith should be:**

- ⇒ **Entire**: It must embrace every article of Faith, *without exception!*
- ⇒ **Firm**: It is not accepted as one would accept a mere opinion or even the teaching of an expert, rather as one believing with *absolute certainty* and without hesitation.
- ⇒ **Steadfast**: Faith is accepted in spite of *all* difficulties and opposition, and at the very cost of any sacrifice.
- ⇒ **Living**: Faith is active and effective. It is foundational for one's life (thoughts, words, and deeds). It is the basis for piety, virtue, and spiritual and corporal works of mercy.
- ⇒ **Supernatural**: Faith has God as its source, its end, and its motive.