



Responding to “I Believe”



Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

*People: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

*Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ,
the Son of God?*

*People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only 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 to the dead.

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.*

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.*





Read back over Paul's comforting words that you copied during the first session. Think about times and circumstances when, even in the face of adversity, you have been particularly aware of God's love. Write about those times:

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How did God's love show itself during those times? How did you know that God was with you?

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In what ways is your awareness of God's love responsible for your participation in this journey of renewal?

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Describe or draw the stone you selected:

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Sit with the stone for a few minutes. What made you choose that particular stone? In what (if any) ways does it speak to you? Are there ways you resemble your stone?

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Jesus is the chief cornerstone of the Church, and all baptized Christians are part of the structure, each of us a stone in the foundation of faith. Thinking in this metaphor, where in the Church do you see yourself? As what part of the “building”? (Again, feel free to draw rather than write your response.)

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Moving beyond the concrete “stone” metaphor, where do you see your ministry within the wider context of “Church”? In what ways do you feel called to live out your life of faith: at home? at work? within your parish? within the wider community or the world?

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For what have you thanked God today?

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The word “creed” comes from the Latin *credere*, which means “what I put my heart and my trust into.” Where do you put your heart and your trust?

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Write down your “personal creed.” (If you had time to do this during the first session, you can copy it here or even tape it in):

I believe:

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How does your life show that you put your heart and trust into that creed? How could you act on your creed more clearly in your daily life?

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In the space below, recreate the trinitarian drawing from the session in which you named the three things that give balance, stability and strength to your life:

Before the next session, keep track of advertisements or editorials that try to convince you to “believe” a particular platitude or to “believe in” the efficacy of a particular product. Write down lines and phrases that are particularly memorable, either because they are persuasive or because they seem outrageous, or cut them out and paste them on the facing page. If they are too big, fold them up and tuck them in here. Try to listen consciously to what contemporary American culture tells us to believe in. Bring these lines/phrases/ads with you to the next session.





A Prayer

from Austin Farrer:

*God above me, Father from whence my being descends, on
whom my existence hangs, to whom I turn up my face, to
whom I stretch out my hands:*

*God beside me, God in a [hu]man like me, Jesus Christ in the
world with me, whose hand lays hold of me, presenting me,
with yourself, to God:*

*God within me, soul of my soul, root of my will, inexhaustible
fountain, Holy [Spirit]:*

*Threefold Love, one in yourself, unite your forces in me, come
together in the citadel of my conquered heart.*

You have loved me with everlasting love. Teach me to care.

Amen.

Sermon Notes

Over the course of preparing to renew your Baptismal Covenant, be especially attentive to the sermons you hear. Protestant theologian Karl Barth says that the sermon can be the Word of God spoken for us here and now, so be open to the Holy Spirit's presence in the spoken word, Sunday by Sunday. Write down notes as you listen, or record your reactions after you've had time to ponder, or to ask questions about something in the sermons. You may wish to use the space at the back of this journal on page 64.