

I Believe In . . .

As we are all aware, these are the first three words of the Nicene Creed. Each Sunday, we make a personal and public commitment of our faith in the presence of our neighbors. These are the truths of our faith and yes they are demanding. They are more than words or a check off list of what we believe. As Catholics, they are our living truths and are meant to make a difference in our lives. The words we speak must not remain on our lips but must truly come from our heart and soul. The Nicene Creed was originally formulated at the 1st Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church held in Nicea in AD 325 and was later authorized as a true expression of the Faith at the 2nd Ecumenical Council in Constantinople in AD 381. The Nicene Creed was built upon the profession of faith in the Apostles' Creed, defending against many of the heresies of the time. The primary and most prominent of which was Arianism. Arianism was a Christian heresy of the 4th century that denied the full divinity of Jesus Christ. The Creed gave a firm theological basis for universal Christian faith and doctrine so that as the faith spread globally its core beliefs would stay firm. What we believe in is about our union with God. When we live what we believe, a great adventure awaits us. This is our starting point in our faith. It goes way beyond the rules, it is about our relationship with God. Our faith is not an object; it is alive and growing. We never stop learning. We can never say that we know all about our faith or what we do know is sufficient. To live as a Catholic is also to be alive as a Catholic. As we further appreciate what we believe in, we are able to grow in knowledge and holiness. This is not always easy for the world surrounding us often chokes us and smothers us with falsehoods. We need to take advantage of the depth and beauty of Catholicism and what the Church has to offer us. "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty . . ." That is our starting point; that is our Creed. —*Sherrie Clutts DRE*