

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Confirmation Class #1 – Grace  
11/22/2020

1. What is our Purpose?

- a. Have you ever asked or thought about why you are here? What's the purpose?
- b. Our ultimate destination is \_\_\_\_\_, the place of eternal joy, bliss, peace, union, fulfillment of all the desires of your heart.
- c. By knowing where we are headed we can create a plan for \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Why Did God Create Us?

- a. You were created by \_\_\_\_\_ out of His \_\_\_\_\_ for you.
- b. You were created for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, which ultimately can only be found through union with \_\_\_\_\_ Himself.
- c. You are 'hardwired' for God!
  - i. The three transcendentals (properties of being):
    - 1.
    - 2.
    3. ‘
  - ii. The promise of \_\_\_\_\_ responds, beyond all hope, to these desires.

3. Where are we?

- a. God's image and likeness (Gen. 1:26-27)
  - i. An image looks like the original – we can understand more fully who we are by understanding in whose image we are made.
- b. Who is God?
  - i. Omni\_\_\_\_\_, meaning God is all \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ii. Omni\_\_\_\_\_, meaning God is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iii. Omni\_\_\_\_\_, meaning God is all \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iv. Most of all God is \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Whereas we have the potential to \_\_\_\_\_, God is \_\_\_\_\_ itself.
  2. God's \_\_\_\_\_ is pure and \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. God is a Trinity
1. Three persons, one Essence (Substance).
    - a. The Father is \_\_\_\_\_, the Son is \_\_\_\_\_, the Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. Distinction is in their \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.
  2. Ultimately God is a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of three persons.
    - a. Made in his image and likeness means we are made for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, or we are made for relationship with both God and one another.
- c. Original Harmony
- i. We were created with the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God.
  - ii. You are created \_\_\_\_\_!!!
    1. Called to be holy and set apart with the Lord (Eph 1:3-6)
- d. Original Sin (Genesis 3)
- i. Because of Adam and Eve's \_\_\_\_\_ mankind's original harmony with God is destroyed.
  - ii. We inherit this \_\_\_\_\_ (original sin) through our human nature.
- e. Concupiscence
- i. We now have an \_\_\_\_\_ toward sin.
  - ii. We are created \_\_\_\_\_, but we have been deeply \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. God sends help
- i. The chasm created between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by original \_\_\_\_\_ cannot be breached or healed by mankind.
  - ii. God does not abandon us after Adam and Eve, instead He promises us a \_\_\_\_\_ (Protoevangelium – Genesis 3:15)
  - iii. God sends His only Son, \_\_\_\_\_ to offer the sacrifice and pay the price of this sin and our own sins and open the gates of Heaven to mankind once again.
  - iv. We participate in this offering every \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Where are we going and how do we get there?
- a. How can we be unified to God? Through \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. What is Grace?
    - i. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's own life.
    - ii. Grace is the \_\_\_\_\_ in the life of God.
    - iii. God's free initiative demands man's free \_\_\_\_\_.
    - iv. The soul only enters \_\_\_\_\_ into the communion of love.
    - v. Grace begins the \_\_\_\_\_ of human nature from the effects of original sin.
    - vi. God desires not only to heal your human nature, but also to elevate you into the divine life of God himself. We call this \_\_\_\_\_ grace.
    - vii. The first time you received this grace was when you were \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Relational Prayer-A.R.R.R.**

*For mental prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us. - St. Theresa of Avila*

The A-R-R-R Prayer is a simple method of coming to the Lord as you are. It can be used almost any time of the day and in just about any circumstance. It can also be used within any other method of prayer, such as Lectio Divina or Ignatian Contemplation, as a way of conversing with the Lord. The “A-R-R-R” stands for different movements within the prayer: Acknowledge, Relate, Receive, Respond. Below are brief explanations of how these movements work in prayer.

### **The Four Steps to Relational Prayer**

#### **Acknowledge**

Openly and honestly, without prejudice, acknowledge how you are before God. What is moving in your heart? What are the thoughts, feelings, or desires you are experiencing at this time?

#### **Relate**

Bring yourself as you are into relationship with God by relating your experience to Him. Speak to him from your heart. Relating all that we feel and all that we experience opens us to receive what God desires to give us. Pay attention to what you do not want to talk about. Keep in mind that a recurring distraction during prayer may be exactly the “thing” that God wants to discuss with you.

#### **Receive**

Enter into the silence and listen to what God is doing with the movements of your heart. Listen with your spiritual senses. Images, a voice, a song, a memory, a scriptural passage, a sensation in your body, emotions such as joy, sadness, or tears, are all possibilities and ways in which God communicates. Other times you may not experience anything at all! Let God take charge of this time and receive his presence and the constancy of his love!

#### **Respond**

Simply respond to what you have received. This could mean more conversation, more laughter, more tears. Keep in mind that the order of these steps is not a systematic checklist, but like any human interaction and conversation, vibrant and dynamic. Therefore, the prayerful experience may flow back and forth and back again between the four steps.

#### **Scripture to Reflect Upon: John 10:7-15**

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.” - John 10:7-15