

May 20 2020-Wednesday, Sixth Week of Easter

Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed

The Apostles' Creed: Various creeds were used for catechetical instruction as early as the second century. Gradually one fixed form developed from the ancient baptismal profession of faith used in Rome. It is called the "Apostles' Creed" because it is considered to be a faithful summary of what the apostles believed.

The Nicene Creed (officially, the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed): The Council of Nicaea convened in the early fourth century to deal with questions about the divinity of Christ, and issued a summary of faith known as the "Nicene Creed." Several additions regarding the Holy Spirit were added to the creed at the First Council of Constantinople in 381. The Nicene Creed is the creed commonly used at Mass.

The First Council of Nicaea (which was the first ecumenical council of the Christian Church) opened on this day in 325 A.D.

Jesus said: "But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:17-18)

Jesus has just promised his disciples a special gift. Jesus will not leave them. He will give them another paraclete/advocate...namely, his Spirit.

Jesus made the same promise to me. I don't always expect God to do that, to be *right there* for me. That's a role people often grow up assigning to their guardian angels.

But, to tell the truth, a lot of what folks thought was the role of guardian angels actually belongs to the Spirit. And the Spirit is not just a messenger from God—the Spirit *is* God.

The Spirit is always with me, protecting, helping, strengthening, supporting.

I have received that gift of the Spirit. It's a gift that I have received through my baptism and confirmation. It's a gift I celebrate in this Easter season. It's a gift I celebrate throughout the year. It's one of the reasons why we gather at the Eucharistic table—not only to celebrate the presence of the risen Christ in the Eucharist, but also his ongoing presence with us every step of the way through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

"I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you."

Imagine how much that meant to the disciples.

Imagine how much it should mean to me.

Spend some quiet time with the Lord