

BEING CATHOLIC

# *Our Need for God*

BY  
DEACON BILL  
TURNER



When you take a moment to look at what you really want from life, what do you think about? Most people name things like a happy family, success at work, a comfortable life, good health, and so on.

**Even when we have everything, we could possibly want we can still be unsatisfied. We seek something more and we desire more. We may not recognize that this longing for more comes from God.**

Our hearts search for God and yet we use that desire to give our hearts to other things because we do not recognize our desire's origin. The simple truth is that we are by nature religious beings, and each of us has an empty place—a God shaped hole—that can never be filled by anything less than God. We are made to live in spiritual union with him, in whom we can find true happiness. God's love and mercy draws us to him. Saint Augustine said it best when he said,

**“For you have made me for yourself, (God) and my heart is restless until I rest in you.”**

Christ and the Holy Spirit revealed the fullness of religious truth to the Apostles establishing the Catholic Church. Our response to God's love is our Catholic faith.

Being Catholic means different things to different people. For some people it means a way of living in the world. Maybe it means Friday fish fries, advent wreaths, crucifixes, and saying rosaries. For folks like these, being Catholic is a wonderful way of experiencing God and following Jesus Christ. Reading this you may say to yourself Yes! That is what I am looking for. It is time, I want to follow him. You may be thinking what do I do and how can I follow him? Well, you can start by reading the Bible. More about that in the coming weeks, stay tuned.

Some people that you know may understand the Catholic Faith by only what they see and hear in popular media.

**The popular image of Catholicism formed by the media is filled with stereotypes and misinformation and is an inadequate source of**

## **truly understanding what we Catholics are all about.**

If you ask a dozen different Catholics what the most compelling thing about their faith is, you will get a dozen different answers. This is one of the wonderful things about the Catholic faith.

## **The rich tradition of the Catholic Church provides something for everyone no matter what their personality or spiritual need may be.**

God IS love. He wants to share that love. He created us to share that perfect love. Here are some of the core Catholic beliefs that can start the journey to bring us closer to Him.

- God created human beings to be in perfect union with Him and one another. Yet, the sin of our first parents called Original Sin and its consequence was to remove humanity from paradise and the result was death.
- Throughout human history, God worked to restore the relationship of love and trust that was lost by original sin. He did this by entering into covenants—special relationships based on mutual promises with Noah, Abraham and Sarah, and the people of Israel. But the people often broke their covenant promises.
- Ultimately, God sent his only son, Jesus Christ as the savior of humanity. Christ overcame death through his resurrection and opened the gates of heaven.
- Christ established the Catholic Church, Catholic meaning (Universal) on the foundation of the apostles. The fullness of God's revealed truth is called Sacred Tradition. That Tradition is entrusted to the Apostles successors who are the bishops of the church.
- The Bible or sacred scripture is another source of God's revealed truth. The Bible is closely

connected to Sacred Tradition. The Holy Spirit inspired the authors of the Bible to write what God wants us to know for our salvation.

- As Catholics we have the profession of Faith the Apostles' Creed or Nicene Creed. The word Creed comes from the Latin credo ("I believe"). In our profession of faith, our faith and belief are proclaimed at Mass. Our profession of faith is a reminder of what we believe as Catholic Christians. We must believe in one God: The Father the Son and the Holy Spirit. Faith is necessary for Salvation.

Even with all these shared beliefs doubts can creep into our thoughts.

## **We can help to overcome our doubts by opening our hearts in prayer, reading God's word in the Bible, and participating in the Eucharist.**

Our Catholic faith has a 2000-year history. With that history comes a richness and depth that when entered into brings us ever closer to God. This is part of being Catholic.

Amen. Ever wondered what that really means? The word Amen means YES! Or "so be it" we say "yes" to the goodness of life in the Church today; and "yes" to the promise of eternal life in the world to come.

## **Let us pray.**

**Heavenly Father, as we continue our journey through Lent and move towards the Glory of Easter we ask for strength, wisdom and courage. We ask for the grace to hear your voice to guide us to become closer to you. Our lives are yours; our hearts are yours. WE submit ourselves to your Holy will, which is love and mercy Itself.**