



Archdiocese of New York + 2011

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Origins of the Apostles' Creed: The Apostles' Creed is the most ancient of the Creeds in the Church. Another word the Church uses for the Creed is the term *symbol*, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that the Apostles' Creed is *the ancient baptismal symbol (creed) of the Church of Rome* to which St. Ambrose adds: *It is the Creed of the Roman Church, the See of Peter, the first of the apostles, to which he brought the common faith.* (CCC n.194) In the early Church, Lent was a time of intense preparation for those who were to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. During Lent the candidates, referred to as the *chosen*, were brought together often and taught the beliefs of the Church as outlined in the Creed. When the teaching had been completed, the Creed itself was "handed over" to them so that they might learn it by heart. A week later the *chosen* returned and "handed back" the Creed, each person, in the words of the Creed, professing his or her acceptance of the faith.

Recent Use of the Apostles' Creed in Liturgy: For many centuries the Nicene

Creed was the only Profession of Faith used in the Liturgy. Following the Second Vatican Council, however, the Apostles' Creed was permitted in Masses with Children. The current reform of the liturgy has permitted Conferences of Bishops to allow the use of the Apostles' Creed in place of the Nicene Creed provided it is not used to the exclusion of the Nicene Creed. The new edition of the Roman Missal especially encourages its use during Lent and Easter Time because of its close association with the Sacrament of Baptism in the early Church.

Changes in the Translation of the Apostles' Creed: There are very few changes in the translation of the Apostles' Creed, and since this Creed has been used for the most part in private prayer rather than in the celebration of Mass, the minor changes will not be very apparent. The changes that have been made were done for the same reason as those in the *Gloria* and the *Nicene Creed*, that is, to provide a more accurate translation of original Latin text.

The new text of the Apostles' Creed reads:

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord

[At the following words, up to and including : "the Virgin Mary", all bow.]

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and
the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen