

The Profession of Faith: A Further Response

The Profession of Faith at Mass, or the Creed, is yet another way we respond to the Word of God proclaimed and heard in the readings and homily. It is also a way for us to be reminded of the central truths of our faith in words as we prepare to remember them in the actions of the Liturgy of the Eucharistic. As we move toward celebrating and sharing sacramental communion in Christ, we also profess our communion in the ancient words of the Creed. {The word ‘creed’, used to refer to the Profession of Faith, is taken from the Latin word *credo*, which means “I believe.”} The essential elements of the Church’s faith have been expressed in this summary form since early on in our history, with such professions or ‘symbols’ of faith intended especially for candidates for Baptism. Our first personal profession of faith was made during our Baptism, either on our behalf by our parents or other adults if we were baptized as young children, or by ourselves if older. Throughout history there have been many different such summary formulations or professions of faith, written in response to the needs of different times and places. Among these many creeds two occupy a special place in our present Church’s life, the *Apostles’ Creed*, and the *Nicene Creed*. The *Apostles’ Creed* is so named because it has traditionally been considered to be a faithful summary of the first apostles’ own faith. It was the ancient baptismal symbol of the Church of Rome. The *Nicene Creed* is so named because it has its origin at the Council of Nicea in the year 325. This *Nicene Creed* is what we pray regularly at Sunday Mass. To pray the *Profession of Faith* is to intend to enter into communion with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and with the whole Church which has handed down the faith over generations, in whose midst we now stand to pray in profession of our faith.

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about.
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