

The Profession of Faith: A Further Reflection on A Further Response

Last week we considered how the Creed is part of our conversational response to God's word spoken to us in the Liturgy of the Word, and how it is a summary statement of our Christian belief. Two other features of it I would like to note are the structure of its content, and the bow we do during it. Not surprisingly, the Creed as a profession of our baptism and Trinitarian faith *in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*, is made up of three parts. The first part speaks of God the Father, the first of the divine persons, and the work of creation. The second part speaks of God the Son, Jesus Christ, and the mystery of our redemption. The third part speaks of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity and our sanctifier. These three parts, though distinct from one another, are integrally connected, and have traditionally been subdivided into twelve *articles* to symbolize the fullness of the faith that comes to us from the twelve apostles. The verses of the Creed that say *by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary and became man* speak of the mystery of the Incarnation, which is the very foundation of our Christian faith. As noted in a previous WAWDAW?, our Catholic liturgical prayer uses many gestures and actions as well as words, and this bow at this point in the Creed is such a symbolic gesture, and part of our prayer itself. Because of the importance of this article of our faith we bow our heads as an expression of our reverence, gratitude, and awe before this great mystery.

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

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