

## What is Truth?

- **Why are you Catholic?**

- I wonder how many of you are here only because your parents are dropping you off...
- I wonder how many of you will fall away at the first opportunity...
  - After confirmation?
  - Will you make it through High School?
  - Will you make it through College?
  - Will you make it through a tough line of questioning from
    - A non-Catholic Christian?
    - A Jehova Witness or Mormon? Knocking at your door?
    - An atheist teacher or friend?
- What is the point to all of this?
  - Is this your parents faith... Or yours?
    - If it were to become illegal,,, again,,, Could you be convicted of having faith?
    - Are you guilty of Christianity?
    - If Christ returned right now... Will you be found among the faithful?
      - Luke 18:8 - when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?"
  - Imagine for a second you lived in a county where Catholics are dieing for their faith... we suffer some harsh criticisms... they face death...
    - Nigeria
    - Sudan
    - Pakistan
    - Iraq
    - Iran
    - Afghanistan
    - China
    - Or many other countries
      - Christians are dieing for the faith... literally

- Christians are being imprisoned for the faith
  - Would you be found among those who witness for Christ in the face of persecution?
- **Why are you Catholic? Why not some Protestant denomination? Or nothing at all?**
  - **Because its True!**
    - what is “Truth?”
      - Can’t I invent my own.... who are you to tell me what “Truth” is?
        - What’s “true” for you, may not be “true” for me...
  - **Truth is a person... John 18:37-38**
    - 37 Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. **For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice.**” 38 Pilate said to him, “**What is truth?**” After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again, and told them, “I find no crime in him.”
  - Truth is NOT some abstract concept that changes with the times
    - Truth is Jesus Christ
      - Who was put to death because he claimed to be God! **Mark 14:60–64** (RSVCE)
        - 60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” 61 But he was silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” 62 **And Jesus said, “I am; and you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”** 63 And the high priest

tore his garments, and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? 64 You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death.

- Who never changes **Hebrews 13:8** (RSVCE) 8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.*
  - Therefore TRUTH never changes!
- Jesus is either...
  - telling a lie - which means the whole thing is bunk
  - a crazy person - which means the whole thing is bunk
  - telling the truth - which means we MUST follow him!
    - **John 14:15** (RSVCE) 15 *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*
    - **Matthew 28:19–20** (RSVCE) 19 *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."*
- Do you have a personal relationship with TRUTH? With the God of the Universe?
  - Some will tell you He hates religion... is this true?
  - Who is He? Do you know?
    - **He is the one whom St. Paul calls the "Last Adam" in 1 Cor. 15:42-50**
      - The one whom, unlike the First Adam...
        - Cried out to the one who was able to save him in the Garden of Gethsemane
        - Rejected the temptations of Satan
        - took on the covenant curses of
          - Nakedness
          - Thorns

- Shedding of blood
    - laboring to bring forth bread
  - Gave up His flesh to save our souls
  - Commanded the sword be put away to open the way to the tree of life...
  - Was hung on the tree, the fruit of the womb of the immaculate virgin, raised up to draw all men to Himself... that we might come to the tree, eat, and have LIFE!
- **He is the one whom St. Peter tells us** we enter into His death & Resurrection through baptism... which NOW saves us... just a Noah and the family of God were saved through the flood waters in 1 Peter 3:18-22!
- **He is the one whom LIKE Issac in Gen 22.**
  - Carries the wood of the sacrifice up Mount Morriah
  - Allows Himself to be bound to the wood as an offering to God
  - UNLIKE Issac...
    - Christ is sacrificed for the sins of the world!
    - With his head caught in the thicket... the thorns!
- **He is the one whom like Moses in Exodus**
  - His life is threatened by an evil King as an infant/todler
  - Is the Prince of Peace who leads out of slavery, but of sin
  - Stands on a mountain and gives us the law, proclaiming it! Mt. 5
  - Reconstitutes Israel's hierarchy
    - Moses had his 2nd in command - Aaron
      - Jesus has his... - St. Peter
    - Moses had his 3 closest - Aaron, Nadab & Abihu - Ex 24:9

- Jesus has his... - Sts. Peter, James & John - Mt 17:1 (both sets go up a Mountain)
  - Moses had his 12 Priest/Princes - Ex 24:3-8
    - Jesus has his... 12 Priests/Princes Luke 22:14-30
  - Moses had his 70 elders assisting him - Num. 11:16
    - Jesus sent out his 70 disciples... Luke 10:1
- **He is the one whom is GREATER than Wise King Solomon who Built the House of God upon the Rock which Issac was bound...**
  - Like Solomon who reigned over the Kingdom of David... Jesus is...
    - Both the Son of David & the Son of God
      - 2 Sam 7:14 / Luke 1:32
    - Will sit on the Throne of David... over the house of Jacob (Israel) not for a lifetime... for ALL TIME - Luke 1:33
  - Re-establishes the hierarchy of the Kingdom...
    - Solomon has 12 ministers over all Israel providing food for the house... 1 Kings 4:7
      - Jesus constitutes 12 Ministers to RULE over the House of Israel... providing FOOD - for the inhabitants - Mt. 14:19 & 20
    - Solomon established the office of the “Over-The-House” , in Hebrew, the “All-HI-EYE-BYE-EAT”... to be in charge of the Palace and second in the Kingdom -1 Kings 4:6
      - This man would... Is. 22:15-25
        - Wear liturgical vestments - Vs. 21

- Bear the Keys of the Kingdom - vs.22
- He shall open and none shall shut, and he shall shut and none shall open -vs. 22
- Shall be a FATHER to the inhabitants of the Kingdom - Vs. 21
- Jesus too would install an “Over-The-House” in His Kingdom Mt.16
  - Like a WISE Master Builder, He would BUILD HIS HOUSE upon a Rock - Vs. 18
  - Give the Keys to the Kingdom Vs. 19
  - What ever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and what you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven - vs 19
  - He would be a Father figure for Christ to the inhabitants of the Kingdom -
    - Strengthening his Brother Bishops - Lk 22:32
    - Feeding the Sheep - Jn 21:15-19
    - Ordaining NEW Bishops - Acts 1:15-26
    - Declaring the final word at councils Acts 15:6-12
    - Being the ROCK that ties all the faithful to the Head... Christ!
- Solomon established the office of the “Gib-ber-raaa” - Queen -in 1 Kings 2:19-20

- The Queen is ALWAYS the Mother of the King... never his wife
- The King rises when SHE enters the room and bows down to her - vs 19
- He has a throne brought in and she sits at His right hand - vs. 19
- She intercedes for the needs of the inhabitants of the Kingdom to her son the King. - vs. 20
- The King can NEVER deny his Mother's request... vs. 20
- So Jesus establishes His own "Queen Mother" in the Kingdom of God
  - The Angel proclaims Mary to be the "Full Of Grace" - Luke 1:28
  - She is arrayed in Her Son's glory... with the moon under her feet and a crown of 12 stars on her head - Rev. 12:1
  - She intercedes for the people to Her son the King - Jn 2:3&4
- **The One Whom Salvation History has pointed too...**
  - **Luke 24:25–27** (RSVCE) 25 And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.
    - Do you see the design?
  - It is the **Church** that TRUTH itself established upon the ROCK that is the...
    - **1 Timothy 3:15** (RSVCE) 15 if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of

God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth.

- **Ephesians 3:10** (RSVCE) 10 that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

- **What TRUTH is willing to do for you...**

- Truth was...
  - Arrested
  - Dragged before false Priests, Kings, and corrupt politicians
  - Beaten severely
  - Mocked and derided
  - Spat upon and treated as garbage
  - Stripped naked before all
  - Had his flesh ripped from his body in the lashes of the flagellum
  - Crowned with the BUSH of Thorns... piercing his skull
  - Lost his only election... to Bar-Abbas (Son of the Father) a murder
  - Marched through the streets carrying the wood of his execution
  - Nailed to the tree... and lifted up... naked... bloody... bruised!
  - Slowly drowning as the fluids begin to fill his lungs...
  - Dieing an utterly miserable death
- Yet... from the cross he lifts himself up on the nails...
  - Father forgive them... for they know not what they do...
  - Behold your Mother...
  - I thirst!
- Truth was willing to do all this... For YOU!
  - **John 12:27–28** (RSVCE) 27 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify thy name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”



- **What are YOU willing to do for TRUTH?**
  - We are all called to be Witnesses for Christ... we are given the graces in Baptism and Confirmation for this very purpose!
  - You are all called to stand ready... to give a reason for the hope that lies within you - **1 Peter 3:15**
  - You have a personal relationship with the King of the Universe
    - Who is upon His Throne before the Father
    - Has established HIS Ministers to Serve in HIS Church
    - Has Died, Resurrected, and Ascended into Heaven to give YOU the Sacraments which bestow HIS grace, HIS Life upon you....
  - What are YOU going to do for your Lord?
    - Will you be found with Faith when he returns? Or will you be like the rest of the world... Turing their backs and serving themselves?
    - **1 John 2:15–17 (RSVCE) 15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides for ever.
  - It can NOT be your parents faith... it MUST be your own.
    - Like Mary... give YOUR Yes to God and be His disciple
    - Like the Disciple Whom Jesus Loves in John's Gospel...
      - If you are to follow Jesus... you are too
        - Take Mary into your home - Jn 19:26-27
        - Follow Peter as your Shepherd - Jn 21-19-25
      - And of course... take up your Cross DAILY and follow him... Luke 9:23
- **Give your Heart to Christ and His Church today, tomorrow, and forever!**
  - Why?
    - Because its True!