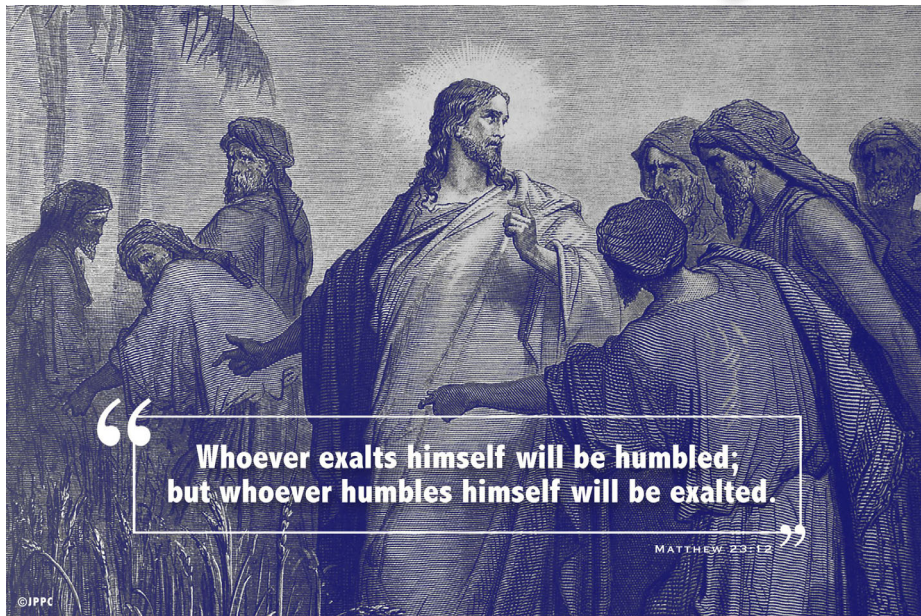


Holy Family

CHURCH OF THE
We are a
Titling Parish



**THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
NOVEMBER 5, 2017**

Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am,
12:00 pm, 7:30 pm

Daily Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday 8:15 am,
Saturday 8:15 am

Holy Day Schedule

Vigil Mass, 7:30 pm
7:00, 8:15 am, 12:10, 7:30 pm

Sacrament or Reconciliation

Saturdays, 4:30 to 5:15pm

PARISH DIRECTORY

Rev. Thomas Rekiel, Pastor
Rev. Krzysztof Liwarski, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Frederick Walters, Pastor Emeritus
Deacon Peter M. Fiore
Deacon William Ward, Retired
Virginia Akhoury, Pastoral Minister
Mary Smith, Director Holy Family School
School Secretary, Toni Fiore
School Bookkeeper Tammy Zebick
Director of Faith Formation,
Dr. Suzanne Herold
CCD Director, Anne Giedlinski
Youth Coordinator, Daniel Wikstrom
Director of Music Ministry, Randy Hertzog
Parish Bookkeeper, Robyn Morris
Parish Secretary, Celeste Walsh

MAINTENANCE COUNCIL

Ralph Aurilia - 973-951-6508
Gene Miranda - 973-583-2469
Roger Siara - 973-822-1661

FINANCE COUNCIL

Ralph Aurilia 973-951-6508
Bob Cottam 973-887-1232
*Anne Feith 973-966-1314
Peter Fiore 917-880-9601
Gene Miranda 973-583-2469
Roger Siara 973-822-1661
*Michael Prokop 973-301-0678
Bob Scirocco 973-377-1387
Fred Summa 973-822-3362
*Parish Trustee

RECTORY
rectory@holymfamilyfp.org
Phone 973-377-1817
Fax 973-377-6350
www.holymfamilyfp.org

1 Lloyd Avenue
Florham Park,
New Jersey 07932

**The office is open Monday-Thursday,
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

MASSES AROUND THE COUNTRY - To find
the closest church in the U.S., go to
www.masstimes.org



HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S CORNER

"You are the salt of the earth..." Matthew 5:13

Introducing a new ministry here at Holy Family: SALT

SALT MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT

The SALT (Sharing And Learning Together) Ministry at Holy Family strives to help women strengthen their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. Women can apply what they learn to their daily lives, to support their own families and our community.

Coming soon in January - Keep Checking this Women's Corner for more information.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - Sundays of each month at 1:15pm. Baptism preparation for parents first Tuesday of the month. Phone rectory for details and information.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE—Please call the rectory at least one year in advance to make arrangements for a wedding.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL - An environment for growth in faith, values and knowledge. Tiny Tots (2 1/2 yrs. old), Pre K 3 & 4, & K. For further information, please call the school office, **973-377-4181**, www.holy-family-school.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - A program of religious instruction for grades 1 through 8. Confirmation preparation for high school students. For further information, call the Religious Education Office, **973-377-3101**, hfreducation@gmail.com

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Ministry to the Homebound: Mary Scirocco, **973-377-1387**

Ministry to the Hungry: Anne Platoff, **973-822-0430**

Sharon Carr, **973-568-5932**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - Dr. McDowell Council - For information, call Joe Guerin **973-615-1635**. For Hall rentals, call Ralph Aurilia at **973-301-0297**.

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY - Frank and Barbara Tinari, **973-822-0084**. Important Contact Information: New Jersey Right to Life (njrtl.org) 732-562-0562.

CENTERING PRAYER meets at 7:30 p.m. in the K of C Hall on Monday nights.

ROSARY is prayed each day at 7:50 a.m. (before the 8:15 Mass).

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA is prayed on Mondays after the 8:15 a.m. Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for veneration on the First Friday, after the 8:15 mass until 9:45 a.m., (including confessions) and every Thursday after the 8:15 mass.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER those serving in the military:

LTC Timothy Renahan USA; Matthew Manzione, USA
AS1 Brian Schramm, USN; Capt Stephen Scirocco, USMC
LCpl. Stephen Hanily, USMC; Sgt. Chad Jennings, USA
PFC Patrick Montuore, USMC; Sgt. Jared K. Nucci, USA;

PRO LIFE NEWS *Respect Life Mass* will be held at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Paterson on November 18th at 10:00 AM followed by a light reception. Let Frank & Barbara Tinari know if you plan to attend and if you want to car pool with others 973-822-0084. **Legal Center for Defense of Life** brunch Sunday, November 12th at 11:00 am at the Madison Hotel. The guest speaker will be Fr. Frank Pavone. For more information please call Adele Gilhooly at adelemg@aol.com.

FOOD PANTRY Thank you for your support of the Food Pantry. With Thanksgiving approaching, we have a request. For those of you thinking of donating a turkey or a ham, we prefer the ham. We have limited freezer space to store turkeys and ham can be stored in the refrigerator. If you would like to make a monetary donation please make checks out to Holy Family Florham Park Food Pantry. You can drop it in the collection basket at Sunday mass. Sharon @973-568-5932, Anne @ 973-822-0430.



THE 44TH ANNUAL ROSARY SOCIETY CRAFT FAIR will be held on Saturday, December 2nd from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, November 6, 2017

Weekday

8:15 - Marlene Rossi, *1st Anniversary*
- All Souls

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

Weekday

8:15 - Lillian Baseil, *1st Anniversary*
- All Souls

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

Weekdays

8:15 - All Souls

THURSDAY, November 9, 2017

**Dedication of
Lateran Basilica**

8:15 - All Souls

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017

**St. Leo Great
Pope/Doctor**

8:15 - All Souls

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017

**St. Martin of Tours
Bishop**

8:15 - Leslie Walters

5:30 - People of Holy Family

- Gerald Valvano

- Richard Rose, Sr.

SUNDAY, November 12, 2017

**32nd Sunday
Ordinary Time**

7:30 - Carl Krah

- Evelyn Walsh, *3rd Anniversary*

- Theresa McDevitt

9:00 - Marina Del Presto

- Josephine Ferrer

- Cordell Cobbs

10:30 - Protection of Babies in the Womb
and Their Families

- Camilo Sanchez

- George Hoferer

12: 00 - Jerry Palombo

- Melchor Gonzales

- Marcelina Lusara

7:30

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED:
Milton Leighton, Henrietta Amico.

PRAY FOR THE SICK Please pray for our parishioners, relatives and friends who are ill: Alison Walters Soderburg, James Connolly Sr., Fr. Fred, Alyssa Blatt, Peggy Schneyer, John Mahoney, Kate Monteforte, John Schneyer, Stephen Matuszek, Theresa Veverka, Steven Reich, John Veverka, Dave Kreutzer, Curt Price, Ted Gleichmann, Bedley Byers, Mary O'Connor, George Padkowsky, Marilyn Reilly, Peter and Antonette Sena, Martin Chiarolanzio, Sr., Sloane Dyer, Anne D'Innocenzio, Ken Eberle, Betty O'Connor, Angel Prado, Jonathan Tagorda, Orie McMorrow, Barbara Froetscher, Francesca Champion, Gene Taylo, Barbara Leighton, Esther Walsh, Judith Prestage, Nick Bergamotto, Steven Pilla, Denise Bergamotto.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING, Saturday, December 2nd at 6:30 pm in the Church Hall. This group is open to 11th, & 12th graders and beyond. Come and see what we are all about!





TITHING

Last week's collection was \$8,260.00, (last year was \$9,589.00).

Thank you for your continued generosity to Holy Family.

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

Nov. 5	Coffee & Cake Sunday Grade 10 Confirmation 6:00pm
Nov. 6	Centering Prayer K/C Hall 7:30pm
Nov. 7	Prayer Shawl Ministry Saints Study Fr. Krzys 7:00pm CH K/C Meeting 8:00pm
Nov. 8	Bible Study Fr. Thomas 7:00pm CH CYO Basketball G
Nov. 9	CYO Basketball G
Nov. 10	Bible Study Fr. Krzys 9:30am CH
Nov. 11	CYO Basketball G Parish Dinner CH 6:30pm
Nov. 13	Centering Prayer K/C Hall 7:30pm
Nov. 14	Prayer Shawl Ministry Clothing Drive HFS Saints Study Fr. Krzys 7:00pm CH
Nov. 15/16	CYO Basketball G
Nov. 17	Bible Study Fr. Krzys 9:30am CH
Nov. 18/19	CYO Basketball G
Nov. 19	Grade 9 Confirmation 6:00pm
Nov. 20	Centering Prayer K/C Hall 7:30pm
Nov. 21	Saints Study Fr. Krzys 7:00pm CH
Nov. 22	CYO Basketball G Children's Christmas Choir Practice
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Mass 9:00 am
Nov. 24	Bible Study Fr. Krzys 9:30am CH
Nov. 25/26	CYO Basketball G
Nov. 27	Centering Prayer K/C Hall 7:30pm
Nov. 28	Saints Study Fr. Krzys 7:00pm CH
Nov. 29	CYO Basketball G Children's Choir Practice
Nov. 30	CYO Basketball G

HOLY FAMILY PARISH DINNER

NOVEMBER 11TH, AT 6:30 PM

This is a wonderful opportunity for adults and children to share together an evening of fun, fellowship and great food!

Our menu will include:
Appetizers,
Turkey, Duck,
Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes
Vegetables & Dessert

Adults: \$25.00

Children (under 12 years) \$10.00

Name of guest (s)

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....

Please fill out and return to the rectory with payment
(check payable to Holy Family)
no later than Monday, November 6.



FALL CLEANUP DON'T THROW IT AWAY: SAVE IT FOR HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL'S FALL CLOTHING DRIVE

Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017; **Time:** 2:00pm- 5:30pm; **Place:** Holy Family School Gym

CLOTHES AND SO MUCH MORE...

Shoes, Belts, Ties, Scarves, Handbags, Hats, Linens, Towels, Tablecloths, Bedding, Curtains, Stuffed Animals, Toys, Small Appliances, Books (no school text books)
Clothing is not shredded for rags.

Please NO LARGE furniture or car seats

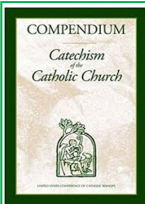
Holy Family School will receive a donation for the total poundage collected.

Please put donated items in **Well-Tied** plastic garbage bags



If you have any questions please contact Natalie @ natalie.ardisson@yahoo.com





31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOVEMBER 4/5

MAN'S RESPONSE TO GOD *I BELIEVE*

25. How does man RESPOND to God who reveals himself?

Sustained by divine grace, we respond to God with the obedience of faith, which means the full surrender of ourselves to God and the acceptance of his truth insofar as it is guaranteed by the One who is Truth itself.

26. Who are the principal witnesses of the obedience of faith in the Sacred Scriptures?

There are many such witnesses, two in particular: One is *Abraham who when put to the test "believed in God" (Romans 4:3) and always obeyed his call. For this reason he is called "the Father of all who believe" (Romans 4:11-18). The other is the Virgin Mary who, throughout her entire life, embodied in a perfect way the obedience of faith: "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).*

27. What does it mean in practice for a person to believe in God?

It means to adhere to God himself, entrusting oneself to him and giving assent to all the truths which God has revealed because God is Truth. It means to believe in one God in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

28. What are the characteristics of faith?

Faith is the supernatural virtue which is *necessary for salvation. It is a free gift of God and is accessible to all who humbly seek it. The act of faith is a human act, that is, an act of the intellect of a person - prompted by the will moved by God - who freely assents to divine truth.*

Faith is also certain because it is founded on the Word of God; it works "through charity" (Galatians 5:6); and it continually grows through listening to the Word of God and through prayer. It is, even now, a foretaste of the joys of heaven.

29. Why is there no contradiction between faith and science?

Though faith is above reason, there can never be a contradiction between faith and science because both originate in God. It is God himself who gives to us the light both of reason and of faith. *"I believe, in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe."* (Saint Augustine)

30. Why is faith a personal act, and at the same time ecclesial?

Faith is a personal act insofar as it is the free response of the human person to God who reveals himself. But at the same time it is an ecclesial act which expresses itself in the proclamation, *"We believe"*. It is in fact the Church that believes: and thus by the grace of the Holy Spirit precedes, engenders and nourishes the faith of each Christian. For this reason the Church is Mother and Teacher.

"No one can have God as Father who does not have the Church as Mother." (Saint Cyprian)

31. Why are the formulas of faith important?

The formulas of faith are important because they permit one to express, assimilate, celebrate, and share together with others the truths of the faith through a common language.

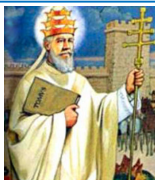
32. In what way is the faith of the Church one faith alone?

The Church, although made up of persons who have diverse languages, cultures, and rites, nonetheless professes with a united voice the one faith that was received from the one Lord and that was passed on by the one Apostolic Tradition. She confesses one God alone, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and points to one way of salvation. Therefore we believe with one heart and one soul all that is contained in the Word of God, handed down *or written, and which is proposed by the Church as divinely revealed.*

Saint of the Week

Ordinary Time: November 10th

**Memorial of St. Leo the Great,
Pope & Doctor of the Church**



Leo I, Pope and Doctor of the Church, ruled from 440 to 461. He is surnamed "the Great" and ranks among the most illustrious popes that ever sat on the throne of St. Peter. Of his life, we know little; with him the man seems to disappear before the Pope. He saw most clearly that one of his greatest tasks was to defend the primacy of the Roman bishop, St. Peter's successor, and to raise the prestige of the Holy See before the entire world. Hardly any Pope in history has occupied a like position in the ecclesiastical and political world.

As a writer, too, his name is famous. His sermons, which occur frequently in the Divine Office, belong to the finest and most profound in patristic literature.

The Council of Chalcedon was held under his direction (451), during which pope defined that Christ is one divine person with two natures, divine and human.

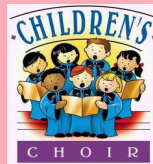
He vigorously defended the unity of the Church. Leo I, ruled the Church at the time when Attila, King of the Huns, who was called the Scourge of God, invaded Italy. Attila was stopped by Leo in 452. With God-given eloquence, the Pope persuaded him to turn back. After that, Leo returned to Rome, and was received with universal rejoicing. Some time later, the Vandals entered the city, and again Leo, by the power of his eloquence and the authority of his holy life, persuaded them to desist from attacking the city (455). Leo was also active in matters liturgical. The so-called Leonine sacramentary, a compendium of Missal prayers, contains many of his compositions; some liturgists give him credit for the beautiful offices of Advent.

Symbols: Image of the Virgin; pick-axe; model of St. Maria Maggiore; horse; Attila kneeling.

Prayer: O God, who never allow the gates of hell to prevail against your Church, firmly founded on the apostolic rock, grant her, we pray, that through the intercession of Pope Saint Leo, she may stand firm in your truth and know the protection of lasting peace.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR

It's that time of year again! Holy Family Children's Choir is joyfully, enthusiastically accepting new members and welcoming back our wonderful singers to perform at the most widely attended Christmas Celebration in all of Florham Park, the 4 PM Christmas Eve Family Mass. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 pm (Nov. 22 & 29, Dec. 6 & 20). *Since we are having only 4 rehearsals it is important that you are able to attend all practices.* All children Grade 3 (except by special permission) and up-including college and beyond are invited to join us. We will meet downstairs in Holy Family School. Please bring a friend! Can't wait to see you.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

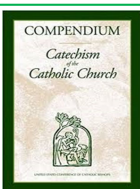
We will meet on Nov. 7th & 14th (no meeting on Nov. 21st or 28th) at 9:30 am at the home of Barbara Tinari, 17 Cathedral Ave., Florham Park. We knit or crochet shawls for those in our community who are going through a difficult time.



2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal In Giving, We Receive

It is important that when you give to any charitable organization, you are confident that the funds are used wisely. Be assured that your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal supports four causes: our Catholic Charities agencies, seminarian education, our inner city area elementary schools and our priests' retirement residence. In addition, 50% of all funds received over a parish's goal is returned to the parish directly for its own needs. Please know that Appeal funds are used for no other purpose and serve only those who live in Morris, Passaic and Sussex counties. Please make a pledge to the Bishop's Annual Appeal today. For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2017appeal.org. Thank you.

On behalf of our Pro-Life Ministry we wish to thank all the people who made our Baby Shower a huge success. Your many gifts, including beautiful handmade items, clothing, baby shoes, diapers, and so many other things as well as your cash donations, will be greatly welcomed and appreciated by the mothers at Good Counsel Homes. God bless you all for your generosity.



32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOV. 11/12

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER

THE SYMBOLS OF FAITH

33. What are the symbols of faith?

The symbols of faith are composite formulas, also called "professions of faith" or "Creeds", with which the Church from her very beginning has set forth synthetically and handed on her own faith in a language that is normative and common to all the faithful.

34. What are the most ancient symbols (professions) of faith?

The most ancient symbols of faith are the *baptismal* creeds. Because Baptism is conferred "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (*Matthew* 28:19), the truths of faith professed at Baptism are articulated in reference to the three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity.

35. What are the most important symbols of the faith?

They are the *Apostles' Creed* which is the ancient baptismal symbol of the Church of Rome and the *Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed* which stems from the first two ecumenical Councils, that of Nicea (325 A.D.) and that of Constantinople (381 A.D.) and which even to this day are common to all the great Churches of the East and the West.

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, □ Creator of heaven and earth."

36. Why does the Profession of Faith begin with the words, "I believe in God"?

The Profession of Faith begins with these words because the affirmation "I believe in God" is the most important, the source of all the other truths about man and about the world, and about the entire life of every one who believes in God.

37. Why does one profess belief that there is only one God?

Belief in the one God is professed because he has revealed himself to the people of Israel as the only One when he said, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord" (*Deuteronomy* 6:4) and "there is no other" (*Isaiah* 45:22).

Jesus himself confirmed that God is "the one Lord" (*Mark* 12:29). To confess that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are also God and Lord does not introduce any division into the one God.

38. With what name does God reveal Himself?

God revealed himself to Moses as the living God, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob" (*Exodus* 3:6). God also revealed to Moses his mysterious name "I Am Who I Am (YHWH)". Already in Old Testament times this ineffable name of God was replaced by the divine title *Lord*. Thus in the New Testament, Jesus who was called *Lord* is seen as true God.

39. Is God the only One who "is"?

Since creatures have received everything they are and have from God, only God in himself *is* the fullness of being and of every perfection. God is "He who is" without origin and without end. Jesus also reveals that he bears the divine name "I Am" (*John* 8:28).

40. Why is the revelation of God's name important?

In revealing his name, God makes known the riches contained in the ineffable mystery of his being. He alone is from everlasting to everlasting. He is the One who transcends the world and history. It is he who made heaven and earth. He is the faithful God, always close to his people, in order to save them. He is the highest holiness, "rich in mercy" (*Ephesians* 2:4), always ready to forgive. He is the One who is spiritual, transcendent, omnipotent, eternal, personal, and perfect. He is truth and love.

"God is the infinitely perfect being who is the most Holy Trinity." (Saint Turibius of Montenegro)

41. In what way is God the truth?

God is Truth itself and as such he can neither deceive nor be deceived. He is "light, and in him there is no darkness" (*1 John* 1:5). The eternal Son of God, the incarnation of wisdom, was sent into the world "to bear witness to the Truth" (*John* 18:37).

42. In what way does God reveal that he is love?

God revealed himself to Israel as the One who has a stronger love than that of parents for their children or of husbands and wives for their spouses. God in himself "is love" (*1 John* 4: 8.16), who gives himself completely and gratuitously, who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that the world might be saved through him" (*John* 3:16-17). By sending his Son and the Holy Spirit, God reveals that he himself is an eternal exchange of love.

43. What does it mean to believe in only one God?

To believe in the one and only God involves coming to know his greatness and majesty. It involves living in thanksgiving and trusting always in him, even in adversity. It involves knowing the unity and true dignity of all human beings, created in his image. It involves making good use of the things which he has created.

44. What is the central mystery of Christian faith and life?

The central mystery of Christian faith and life is the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity. Christians are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

45. Can the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity be known by the light of human reason alone?

God has left some traces of his trinitarian being in creation and in the Old Testament but his inmost being as the Holy Trinity is a mystery which is inaccessible to reason alone or even to Israel's faith before the Incarnation of the Son of God and the sending of the Holy Spirit. This mystery was revealed by Jesus Christ and it is the source of all the other mysteries.

46. What did Jesus Christ reveal to us about the mystery of the Father?

Jesus Christ revealed to us that God is "Father", not only insofar as he created the universe and the mankind, but above all because he eternally generated in his bosom the Son who is his Word, "the radiance of the glory of God and the very stamp of his nature" (*Hebrews* 1:3).

47. Who is the Holy Spirit revealed to us by Jesus Christ?

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Most Blessed Trinity. He is God, one and equal with the Father and the Son. He "proceeds from the Father" (*John* 15:26) who is the principle without a principle and the origin of all trinitarian life. He proceeds also from the Son (*Filioque*) by the eternal Gift which the Father makes of him to the Son. Sent by the Father and the Incarnate Son, the Holy Spirit guides the Church "to know all truth" (*John* 16:13).

48. How does the Church express her trinitarian faith?

The Church expresses her trinitarian faith by professing a belief in the oneness of God in whom there are three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The three divine Persons are only one God because each of them equally possesses the fullness of the one and indivisible divine nature. They are really distinct from each other by reason of the relations which place them in correspondence to each other. The Father generates the Son; the Son is generated by the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

49. How do the three divine Persons work?

Inseparable in their one substance, the three divine Persons are also inseparable in their activity. The Trinity has one operation, sole and the same. In this one divine action, however, each Person is present according to the mode which is proper to him in the Trinity.

"O my God, Trinity whom I adore...grant my soul peace; make it your heaven, your beloved dwelling, and the place of your rest. May I never abandon you there, but may I be there, whole and entire, completely vigilant in my faith, entirely adoring, and wholly given over to your creative action." (Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity)

50. What does it mean to say that God is almighty?

God reveals himself as "the strong One, the mighty One" (*Psalms* 24:8), as the One "to whom nothing is impossible" (*Luke* 1:37). His omnipotence is universal, mysterious and shows itself in the creation of the world out of nothing and humanity out of love; but above all it shows itself in the Incarnation and the Resurrection of his Son, in the gift of filial adoption and in the forgiveness of sins. For this reason, the Church directs her prayers to the "almighty and eternal God" (*"Omnipotens sempiterna Deus..."*).

51. What is the importance of affirming "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (*Genesis* 1:1)?

The significance is that creation is the foundation of all God's saving plans. It shows forth the almighty and wise love of God, and it is the first step toward the covenant of the one God with his people. It is the beginning of the history of salvation which culminates in Christ; and it is the first answer to our fundamental questions regarding our very origin and destiny.

52. Who created the world?

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the one and indivisible principle of creation even though the work of creating the world is particularly attributed to God the Father.

53. Why was the world created?

The world was created for the glory of God who wished to show forth and communicate his goodness, truth and beauty. The ultimate end of creation is that God, in Christ, might be "all in all" (*1 Corinthians* 15:28) for his glory and for our happiness.

"The glory of God is man fully alive; moreover man's life is the vision of God." (Saint Irenaeus)

54. How did God create the universe?

God created the universe freely with wisdom and love. The world is not the result of any necessity, nor of blind fate, nor of chance. God created "out of nothing" (*ex nihilo*) (*2 Maccabees* 7:28) a world which is ordered and good and which he infinitely transcends. God preserves his creation in being and sustains it, giving it the capacity to act and leading it toward its fulfillment through his Son and the Holy Spirit.

55. What is divine providence?

Divine Providence consists in the dispositions with which God leads his creatures toward their ultimate end. God is the sovereign Master of his own plan. To carry it out, however, he also makes use of the cooperation of his creatures. For God grants his creatures the dignity of acting on their own and of being causes for each other.

56. How do we collaborate with divine Providence?

While respecting our freedom, God asks us to cooperate with him and gives us the ability to do so through actions, prayers and sufferings, thus awakening in us the desire "to will and to work for his good pleasure" (*Philippians* 2:13).

57. If God is omnipotent and provident, why then does evil exist?

To this question, as painful and mysterious as it is, only the *whole* of Christian faith can constitute a response. God is not in any way - directly or indirectly - the cause of evil. He illuminates the mystery of evil in his Son Jesus Christ who died and rose in order to vanquish that great moral evil, human sin, which is at the root of all other evils.

58. Why does God permit evil?

Faith gives us the certainty that God would not permit evil if he did not cause a good to come from that very evil. This was realized in a wondrous way by God in the death and resurrection of Christ. In fact, from the greatest of all moral evils (the murder of his Son) he has brought forth the greatest of all goods (the glorification of Christ and our redemption).