

St Johns' spiritual council notes July 1, 2025

We looked at a handout of the demographics of all the popes. Very interesting to see how short/long and how young/old the popes have been through our Catholic Church history.

On page 42 we discussed the idea of is the Nicene creed being just abstract Doctrinal catalog (i.e. it articulates the essential beliefs of a group, often defining their understanding of God, humanity, salvation, and other fundamental theological concepts)

Discussion of how the Holy Spirit was defined fully through at a later time. First God the Father was introduced to humankind, and the Son came down to us to reveal himself. Finally, the holy spirit was revealed to us via Christ. But the Holy spirit was also revealed in earlier times but was not realized recognized, two most prominent mentions of the holy spirit were at the conception of Mary and the Baptism of Jesus.

We discussed Why in the Nicene creed does it have the Son is consubstantial (Of the same substance or essence) with the Father but the Holy Spirit proceeds (To come forth from or originate from) from the Father and the Son. IS not the Holy Spirit also consubstantial with the father and the son?

The question was asked how we communicate with God/Who do you pray to. Do you pray to God, or to the Father, to the son or to the holy spirit. It seems that we pray to each depending on our needs, feelings, and emotions at the time.

We looked at the Monothelite controversy that maintained that Jesus had two natures but only one will vs Dyothelitism the doctrine, which states that Jesus, being fully God and fully man, possesses two distinct wills – one divine and one human. The Monothelite doctrine was considered a heresy and was condemned at the Third Council of Constantinople (680-681).

Do we have a divine nature? What does that mean, is it to be Christ like, when our will fully cooperates with the Father and we give our best. How do we merge our will with God? We need a method of humility.

A discussion on the 2 natures of Jesus that come together in Him without confusion or change, without division or separation. Jonathan made a very excellent analogy of the 2 persons of Christ. It is like 2 transparencies that that when put together, one behind the other, it allows the light to shine thru both of them (sorry Johnathan, I am sure I didn't do justice to how you presented this)

Since God became man and we are sons and daughters of God, we as humans it implies that divination is for all of us a real possibility.

We got into a discussion of what is sin. Is it relative or objective? This led to a very serious discussion around the table that went very deep into sin, and good versus evil. Sin is not relative, but it does exist

Our next meeting will be July 15 at 5:30 pm in the church hall. We will continue reading from Bishop Barron's book "What Christians Believe, Understanding the Nicene Creed" pgs. 54-68.

Blessings and thanks for the deep thoughts and discussions our group is having.

Norbert