



# Archdiocesan Program

## WHY CATHOLIC?

STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



## THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

### *GOD COMES TO MEET MAN*

#### **Biblical Reflection: Rm 1:19-20**

By natural reason man can know God with certainty, on the basis of his work. But there is another order of knowledge, which man cannot possibly arrive at by his own powers: the order of divine Revelation. Through an utterly free decision, God has revealed himself and given himself to man. This he does by revealing the mystery, his plan of loving goodness, formed from all eternity in Christ, for the benefit of all men. God has fully revealed this plan by sending us his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. (CCC 50)



... By revealing himself God wishes to make them capable of responding to him, and of knowing him, and of loving him far beyond their own natural capacity. (CCC 52)

This revelation was not broken off by our first parents' sin. "After the fall, [God] buoyed them up with the hope of salvation, by promising redemption; and he has never ceased to show his solicitude for the human race. For he wishes to give eternal life to all those who seek salvation by patience in well-doing." *Dei Verbum* 3 (CCC 55)

...Yet even if Revelation is already complete, it has not been made completely explicit; it remains for Christian faith gradually to grasp its full significance over the course of the centuries. (CCC 66)

God has revealed himself fully by sending his own Son, in whom he has established his covenant forever. The Son is his Father's definitive Word; so there will be no further Revelation after him. (CCC 73)

St. John of the Cross wrote: "In giving us his Son, his only Word (for he possesses no other), he spoke everything to us at once in this sole Word – and he has no more to say... because what he spoke before to the prophets in parts, he has now spoken all at once by giving us the All Who is His Son. Any person questioning God or desiring some vision or revelation would be guilty not only of foolish behavior but also of offending him, by not fixing his eyes entirely upon Christ and by living with the desire for some other novelty", *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*, 2,22,3-5. (CCC 65)

#### **Questions for discussion:**

- What has God revealed us about Himself?
- How would I explain God to a person that does not know him nor have heard about him?
- What difference does it make in my life that God has revealed himself to us?
- Do I really believe that Jesus is the sole Word of God or am I still seeking other revelations and messages in addition to what God has already revealed us?
- Do I consider natural disasters, hurricanes, earthquakes, droughts, etc., God's punishment due to our sins or not? Explain your opinion. How would I tell God what he means to me? to us?

**Further reading:** Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 26-73