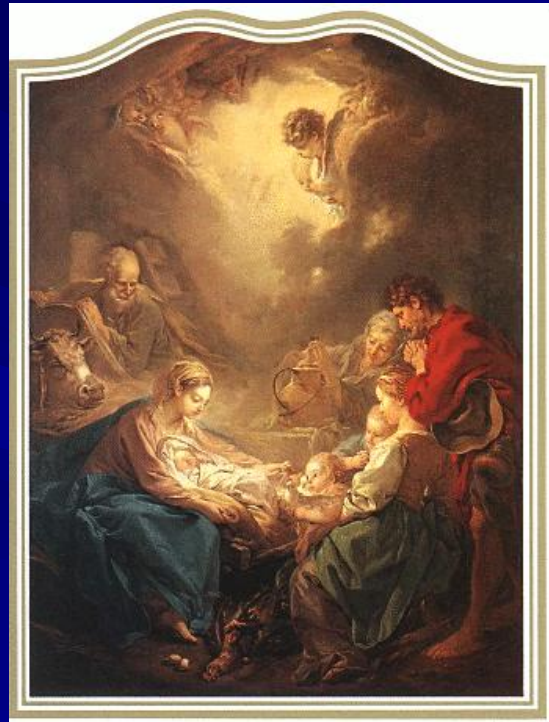


The Meaning of the Incarnation



RCIA December 14, 2011

Creed

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

Nicene Creed A.D. 325, 381

Summary

- The word ‘incarnation’ comes from the Latin word “incarno,” which means “to make into flesh”
- The Incarnation is the belief that Jesus became flesh after conception and is both man and God.
- Jesus took upon Himself the nature of man, and He became like us in all things except sin
- The Incarnation implies three facts:
 1. The Divine Nature of Jesus
 2. The Human Nature of Jesus
 3. The “Hypostatic Union”

Jesus is God

His divine nature is the same as that of the Father. The Council of Nicea in 325 AD defined that He is "one in substance [homoousios] with the Father".

Jesus is Man

His human nature is the same as ours, for he had a human body and a human soul. He was like us in all things except that He was without sin, even though He was tempted as we are (Hebrews 4:15).

“Hypostatic Union”

- The Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD concluded after long debates that Jesus is one Person with two natures: divine and human. These two natures remain distinct after the union in the one Person.
- We call this union "hypostatic union" from the Greek [hypostasis] which means “that which lies beneath” - two natures joined within one Person.



Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart of Jesus, filled with infinite love, broken by my ingratitude, pierced by my sins, yet loving me still, accept the consecration that I make to You, of all that I am and all that I have. Take every faculty of my soul and body, and draw me, day by day, nearer and nearer to Your Sacred Side, and there, as I can bear the lesson, teach me Your blessed ways. Amen.

