

my catholicism

The Catholic Church is many things to many people. Few are the same. Some venerate Mary, Mother of the Church; others exalt the Saints. But, for me it's about Jesus Christ...Lord and Saviour. It's about His Passion and Crucifixion for and because of me. It's about God's Grace and Jesus' Divinity.

Yes, Mary by accepting the Holy Spirit and conforming to God's divine will is amazing when you put things into context, historical context. An unwed Hasidic Jew could have been stoned-to-death for becoming pregnant out of wedlock. Yet, she humbly submitted to God's will and became impregnated by the Holy Spirit. What Grace, Strength and Courage!

Paragraph 5 of the Apostle's Creed adds "The Communion of the Saints." Basically, a Saint is someone who is in Heaven. So, what is the Church if not an assembly of Saints?

I tend to personalize the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus. Some blame the "Jews". Some blame the "Romans". But, it is in reality my fault! And that of every believer in Jesus Christ? In John 17:20, Jesus prayed, "...I ask not only on behalf of these [Disciples], but also on behalf of those who will believe who will believe in me through their word." Knowing full well what was to come: The horror of the humiliation, torture and execution; followed by descending into Hell for 3 days...only to rise again.

God's grace? An omnipotent God created Mankind to Love and Worship Him. But instead of forcing man to do this, God gave us FREE will. Free will to choose what we do, where we go, and who we worship. And when the necessity arose from our (my) own sin, He sent His only Son to pay the wages for us.

Hypostatic Union...is hard to explain. It took the church centuries of councils, in-fighting, and declaration to define. I..."I" believe it to be: Jesus was a man in human form; conceived by the Holy Spirit; thus, making Him fully Divine. He was both man and God!

From these basic tenets all Catholic rituals and beliefs are based. Everything from the Pontifical Infallacy to the taking of Communion, and the examination of conscience (confession)...to the anointing of the sick.

Everything...it all comes down to "I"... "We" believe
...Amen!

~~Richard Gamache~~
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