

Creeds, Worship, and Apostolic Succession

The bond of love undergirds all other signs of unity in the Church, including the creeds, worship, and Apostolic Succession. Using your student book as a reference, discuss and answer the following questions with your group on a separate sheet of paper.

Creeds

1. What is a creed?
2. Name one of your most important beliefs and explain how it helps to guide your life.
3. Name what your group considers to be two of the most important beliefs stated in either the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed, and give an explanation for each of your choices.
4. Statements of belief, or perceptions about such statements, can also cause divisions between people. What are some ways that such divisions can be overcome?
5. Which parts of either creed are confusing to you and which parts would you like explained?

Worship

1. Briefly describe several different forms of worship in the Catholic Church.
2. Name all of the ways (that you can think of) that the celebration of the Eucharist is a source of unity in the Catholic Church.
3. Why are the Eucharist and some other Catholic Sacraments perceived by some other Christians to be a sign of division rather than unity?
4. How might divisions that are caused by different understandings of worship and Sacraments be overcome?
5. What questions about the Eucharist or other forms of Catholic worship do you have?



Apostolic Succession

1. What do Catholics mean by the term *Apostolic Succession*?
2. Why is it important to have a continuous connection to Jesus and his Apostles through an ordained ministry?
3. Why is the Pope as the successor of Peter a symbol of unity in the Church? In what way can the Pope be a symbol of unity for all Christians?
4. Why do Protestants consider the Catholic Church's strict interpretation of Apostolic Succession to be a source of disunity?
5. What can Catholics and other Christians do to overcome the disunity that occurs due to different understandings and perceptions of Apostolic Succession? What can you do to make a difference?
6. Which questions about Apostolic Succession concern you the most?

Concluding Discussion

What do you think can be done by Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, and others in order to build bonds of unity and cooperation?

How important is unity and cooperation in the world today? Explain.

What can ordinary Catholics do to promote bonds of love and unity in the world?

