

## RCIA: Symbolon Lesson 1: The Journey of Faith We Believe, Chapter 1 – Our World and Our God

### - Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless us tonight as we come together to grow in our knowledge and love for You. Open our hearts and our minds to understand the great love You have for us as You call us here tonight to learn more about You and how You call each of us into a relationship with You. Through this knowledge, help us grow in love for You and for each other.

*“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me!  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O Lord, you know it completely.  
For it was you who formed my inward parts,  
you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”*

- Psalm 139:1-4, 13-14

### - Song: Open My Eyes

- Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 26: Faith is man’s response to God, who reveals himself and gives himself to man, at the same time bringing man a superabundant light as he searches for the ultimate meaning of his life.

- CCC 27: The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for...

*“You have made us and drawn us to yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”*

- St . Augustine

### • Catechism references for further reflection:

- The Life of Man – to Know and Love God: CCC 1-5
- Man’s Capacity to Know God: CCC 26-30
- Ways of Coming to Know God: CCC 31-38
- Faith is a Grace: CCC 153-165
- Faith as our response to God: CCC 166
- God the Father: CCC 203-227
- The Trinity: CCC 238-248
- Why God made Us: CCC 293-295, 301-302
- God’s Providence and the Scandal of Evil: 309-314

- **Questions for Discussion:**

- How would you describe God? What image do you have of Him? What do we mean by the “Holy Trinity?”
- Tell us about a time when you knew God was present in your life.
- What is a “Creed” and why does the Church have one?
- What difference does it make that Christianity professes that God is Love? How does this affect our lives? Where have you seen Christians live out this love?
- What does faith mean to you? What challenge(s) does faith present to you?
- What questions do you have about God or the Catholic Church that you would like to have answered in RCIA?

- **Weekly Gospel Reading: 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt. 7:31-37)**

Again Jesus left the district of Tyre  
and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee,  
into the district of the Decapolis.  
And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment  
and begged him to lay his hand on him.  
He took him off by himself away from the crowd.  
He put his finger into the man’s ears  
and, spitting, touched his tongue;  
then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him,  
*“Ephphatha!”*— that is, *“Be opened!”* —  
And immediately the man’s ears were opened,  
his speech impediment was removed,  
and he spoke plainly.  
He ordered them not to tell anyone.  
But the more he ordered them not to,  
the more they proclaimed it.  
They were exceedingly astonished and they said,  
“He has done all things well.  
He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

- **Closing Prayer:** Our Father...