

The purpose of this folder is to lay out the basic beliefs of the Catholic faith as they were gradually formulated in the first three or four centuries in order to encourage the man to study more fully at a later time.

Pointers for Folder 8

The facilitator will find a much fuller explanation of the articles of the Creed as well as possible answers to questions that may be asked about it in the Catechism of the Catholic Church #146-1065. At this time avoid getting into a lengthy discussion of any particular article such as God as creator of all things. Questions such as these can be dealt with at a later time. The purpose now is to have the man understand that the Creed is a prayer, but an important type of prayer that is expressing where he stands in his beliefs about the Trinity and the Church. Answers to some of the commonly asked dissenting questions about the Creed can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions Manual.

Scripture is the basis of our Catholic belief. This Creed and subsequent official ones are the expression of the way the Church has understood the ideas found in the Scriptures. The articles of the Creed throw light on how Scriptures have been understood by the Church over the centuries.

In the short time the facilitator has with an individual it is impossible to give more than a light dusting to the depth and beauty of the ideas outlined in the Creed. It is important to stress the need for clear fundamental ideas as a foundation for walking the talk. A good many people will say that it does not make any difference about what you believe as long as you believe in God. They will say that we are all going to the same place each in our own way. The question is, "Who is this God? Is this the God Jesus showed us, and who the early Christians believed in? Are we really going the same way?" The way we picture God and especially Jesus as well as the way the early Christians understood the Way to be followed will either smooth our path or put obstacles in it.

Another point to stress is that belief implies doing certain types of actions and avoiding other forms of activity. What we believe is the foundation, like that of a house, of our lives. What we really and truly believe, not what we say we believe, determines the way we see life and the way we live it. The articles of the Creed light the way we are to walk the talk.