

The Incarnation – God becoming Man

Catechetical Preparation

Consider the following statement: God always intended for us to be in communion with Him. And so, ‘in the fullness of time,’ He sent His only begotten Son – Jesus Christ, to reunite God & mankind, so that we might share in the life of the Blessed Trinity.

Keeping the above statement in mind, read and meditate on the following passages:

Scripture:

- Jn 1:1-14 “ In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God and the Word was God.”
“ And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth..”
- Mt. 16:13-17 “..You are the Messiah.....the son of the living God!”
- Mt. 28:18-19 “ All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
- Jn. 3:16 “ For God so loved the world that whosoever believes in Him shall no perish,..”
- Jn 14:6 “ I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one come unto the Father, but by me.”
- Jn. 15:12-27 Jesus became man in order to model holiness and the Christian life for all who would follow him.
- Phil. 2:5-11 “...at Jesus’ name every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth...”
- II Pet. 1:3-4 The Word became flesh to make us partakers of the divine nature.
- I Jn. 4:10 “..not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His son”

Catechism:

- CCC, 457 Word became Flesh to reconcile us with God
- CCC, 458 Incarnation - so we might know God’s love
- CCC, 459 Word became Flesh to become a model for our holiness
- CCC, 460 Incarnation – to make us partakers of the Divine Nature
- CCC, 464-469 Jesus is true God and true Man
- CCC, 470-477 How is the Son of God Man
- CCC, 478, 2669 Devotion to the Sacred Heart

Key Terms:

(See Glossary p.867f)

Incarnation – The fact that the Son of God assumed human nature and became man in order to accomplish our salvation in that same human nature.

Hypostatic Union – The union of the divine and human natures in the one divine person (Gk. hypostasis) of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ – The eternal Son of God, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered crucifixion and death, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, and will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. “Jesus,” which means “God saves” in Hebrew, was the name given to him at the Annunciation; “Christ” is a title which comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew *Messiah* and means *anointed*.

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Catechetical Session

Preparation :

Hymn: *O' Come, O' Come Emmanuel* or *A Child is Born*

First Reading: Phil 2:5-11

Psalm: Psalm 37

Gospel: John 1:1-14

Proclamation: God always intended for us to be in communion with Him. And so, 'in the fullness of time,' He sent His only begotten Son – Jesus Christ, to reunite God & mankind, so that we might share in the life of the Blessed Trinity.

Explanantion:

I. Who is Jesus?

- He is 2nd Person of the Blessed Trinity
- Matthew 16:5 – Peter confesses that Jesus is the Son of God
- Council of Ephesus (431) – fully God & fully man
- Transcendence/immanence

II. What is the Incarnation?

- the act by which God became man

III. Why did Jesus need to become Man – what are the 4 reasons for the Incarnation?

1. Word became Flesh in order to save us by reconciling us with God – dying on the cross so our sins could be forgiven and we could be reunited with God (CCC, 457)– I John 4:10
2. So we might know God's love (CCC, 458) – John 3:16
3. To become a model for our holiness (CCC, 459) – John 14:6
4. To receive His Divine Life within our soul (sanctifying grace) through the sacraments. (CCC, 460) – II Peter 1:3-4

IV. Four truths about Jesus, the Divine Son of God (CCC, 464-469)

1. Jesus has a Divine Nature – equal to God the Father
2nd Person of the Blessed Trinity.
2. Jesus has a human nature. He is truly God becoming truly man.
(not part God/part man)
And not a confused mixture of the divine and human.
3. Jesus is fully human – sharing our human nature/human nature of Mary.

Jesus is one Person, not two persons. He unites His Divine Nature with a human nature. However He is only a Divine Person not a human person.

- 4.. The Divine Person of the Son of God received His human nature from Mary. He did not receive His divinity from Mary. He was born as to His humanity of the Virgin Mary. He has human intellect, human will, a human body with human knowledge. However He did not sin. “ He was like us in all things but sin.” Heb 4:15

V. How should Jesus be the center of my life?

1. By devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (CCC, 478, 2669)
 - the heart is the symbol of God’s love for us
 - Sacred Heart of Jesus is the fountain of God’s mercy & forgiveness
2. By cultivating a relationship with Christ in prayer and through the sacraments.
3. By meeting Jesus in His humanity and adoring Him in His Divinity.
 - Most especially by receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.

Application :

1. What is meant by the Incarnation?
2. How do we know and believe that Jesus Christ is God?
3. Why did Jesus become man?
4. Is Jesus a Divine Person, a human person, or both?
5. List two of the four reasons for the Incarnation.
6. List two ways to make Jesus more the center of your life.
7. How will my life change as a result of this teaching about who Jesus is and what He has done for me?

Conclusion :

Closing Prayer

Hymn (Vs. 3-4): *O’ Come, O’ Come Emmanuel* or *A Child is Born*

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Outline

God always intended for us to be in communion with Him. And so, ‘in the fullness of time,’ He sent His only begotten Son – Jesus Christ, to reunite God & mankind, so that we might share in the life of the Blessed Trinity.

(CCC 422, 426) (Gal 4:45, Heb 1:1-2)

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He is a Divine Person not a human person.
- 4) The Divine Person of the Son of God received His human nature from Mary.

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