

## Day 119 (Wednesday, July 15)

To my readers. I found this article on the Creed which I will send to you over the next few days.

This article can be found at

<https://www.liguori.org/the-creed-gateway-to-grace.html>

### **The Creed: Gateway to Grace**

The Creed is both a prayer at Catholic Mass, and a basic catechetical instruction. It's the statement of Catholic beliefs. What is a creed? Why do Catholics and other Christians need a creed? Here's a look at how the creed developed and how it is crucial for Catholics [today](#).

Singer-songwriter Rich Mullins won lasting fame with a series of contemporary Christian hits in the 1980s and 1990s. In less than a decade, he won a dozen Dove Awards. His anthem "Awesome God" remains a staple of evangelical praise. Mullins's early music was influenced by his Quaker upbringing, which was austere and anti-dogmatic, and his nondenominational young adulthood. The Bible college he attended grew out of a movement whose foundational slogans touted "No creed but Christ."

Reading in Christian history, he found a hero in St. Francis of Assisi, another poet given to spontaneous praise, a lover of spiritual freedom.

Yet, as Mullins learned, Francis drew his poetry from a deep well of Catholic doctrine and liturgy—from a tradition crystallized in its creeds. Mullins's study led him to love the creeds, so much, in fact, that he enrolled in RCIA classes in 1997. He died in an automobile accident that September, on the very eve of the day he was to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. The music he produced in that home stretch shows the change in his interior life. Among his most mature works is the song "Creed," with its mighty chorus:

And I believe what I believe  
is what makes me what I am.  
I did not make it. No, it is  
    making me.  
It is the very truth of God and  
not the invention of any man.  
I believe it, I believe.

What you and I believe is making us what we are—and what we hope to be for all eternity. What we believe is a grace from God. You and I and Rich Mullins and St. Francis have been pleased to pledge it, to confess it, in the Church's creeds.

### **What is a creed?**

A creed is an authoritative summary of Christianity's basic beliefs. In the articles of the creed, we profess our faith in mysteries—doctrines that could never be known apart from divine revelation: that God is a Trinity of persons, that God the Son took flesh and was born of a virgin, and so on. If God had not revealed the mysteries of Christianity, the mysteries we rehearse in the creed, we could never have figured them out on our own.

A creed is not the totality of Christian faith. It's a summary that stands for everything that is taught by the Catholic Church, which is itself one of the mysteries we proclaim in the creed. A creed is a symbol of something larger—and, ultimately, of Someone we love, Someone who loves us and makes us who we are, by means of creeds and other graces.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it eloquently when it says that our faith does not rest ultimately in formulas, but in the realities expressed by those formulas, which faith allows us to touch (see CCC, #170). Faith is our personal clinging to God and to his truth in its entirety (see CCC, #150). It is our act of trust in everything God is and says and asks of us. Our object is not a proposition, but a Person. Yet we cannot love someone whom we do not know. The propositions of the creed help us along the way of knowledge, which is our way to love.

*In the light of eternity, we're here for a very short time, really. We're here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. - James Finley*

Sincerely,  
Fr. Jim Kaptein