

Day 130 - (Sunday, July 26)

This article is from the Catholic Update:

https://www.liguori.org/amfile/file/download/file_id/121/product_id/8104/

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

*I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.*

By Jesus' time, Israel's belief in one God was well established. And so it challenged many to accept Jesus as divine. In Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin, the high priest accuses Jesus of blasphemy because he claims divine sonship. Professing faith in the "Only Begotten Son of God" shook the faith of many of Jesus' contemporaries.

As Christians moved into the world of Greek philosophers, understanding Jesus as divine remained a challenge. Arius, a fourth-century priest, denied Christ's divinity and lit a theological wildfire that swept through the Christian world. Arius held that the Son of God didn't exist "before all ages," that Jesus was a created being, not divine.

The Arian heresy divided the Church. The Council of Nicaea (325) issued a statement of faith, or creed. It proclaims that "the Son of God is 'begotten, not made, of the same substance ... as the Father'" (CCC 465). The Greek expression for "of the same substance" is translated into Latin in a word that, translated exactly, is *consubstantial*. The tongue-twister "consubstantial with the Father," then, describes Jesus. We profess that "through him all things were made." Creation testifies to how much God is in love with us, as fully revealed in Jesus.

For us men and for our salvation

*For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.*

We bow as we profess our faith in the Incarnation, indicating its centrality to Christianity. Jesus "is truly the Son of God who, without ceasing to be God and Lord, became a man and our brother" (CCC 469). The Love that created everything entered our world and became part of it.

If we're ever tempted to discount our humanity, this action of God makes us stop and reevaluate. The Incarnation tells us how much God loves us. By becoming one of us, God gives us the chance to share in divinity. We discover in Jesus what, with God's grace, we can become. No wonder we bow in respect at these words!

*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