



BISHOP THOMAS DONATO
October 1, 1940 — August 25, 2015

NICENE CREED PART IV

One Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son

Drew Stuart continues his exploration of the Creed.

BY **DREW STUART, MA**

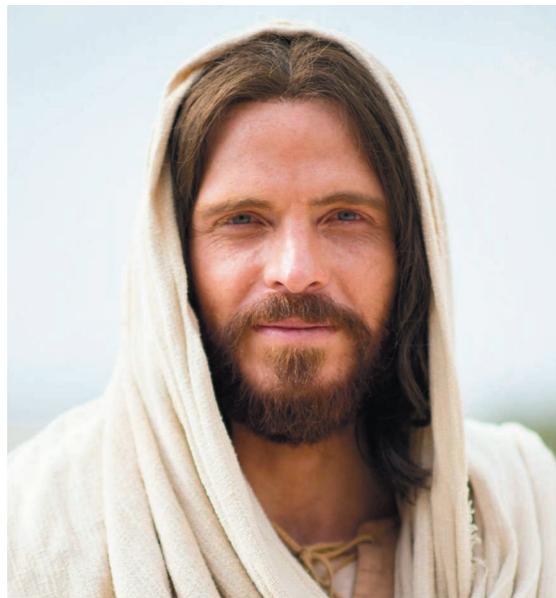
We've all seen the cliché bumper stickers touting the need for Jesus: "Jesus is my Co-pilot" "Try Jesus!," "Jesus saves!," or "Jesus is Lord." While the reality is that we, as Christians, do believe we need Jesus, these stickers turn the Truth into a soundbite while telling us little about who Jesus is and the role he played and continues to play in our lives. The second article of the Nicene Creed addresses the person and role of Jesus Christ, who is both the object (as one of the Three Persons of the Trinity) and source (through his teaching and Passion, death, and Resurrection) of our faith. We begin this part of the Creed by proclaiming "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." In chapter 4 of *The Creed* Berard Marthaler points out that these titles and names point to Jesus role as the messiah promised by the prophets of the Old Testament (Christ) and to his divine nature as the Son of God. With the repeated emphasis that Jesus was God, the those who composed the Nicene Creed wanted to emphasize Jesus divinity as one of three Person in one God (ie the Trinity). While the language used in this part of the creed is highly theological, some historical background will offer clarification.

In the year 325 AD, soon after he issued the Edict of Milan, which legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire, Emperor Constantine called

a Church Council at Nicea to address a conflict that had arisen over Jesus' nature. As Marthaler reveals in chapter 5 of *The Creed*, the conflict came down to the question Jesus asked his apostles, *Who do people say that I am?* (MARK 8:27). The orthodox Christians, who embraced the doctrine of the Trinity, believed Jesus was the Divine Son of God Incarnate as a human being and born of the Virgin Mary. On the other hand the Arians, led by a priest named Arius, claimed that Jesus was merely the greatest of all of God's creations, less than God but greater than humanity (think a demigod or lesser god). In the end, the council condemned the Arian view and affirmed that Jesus was the divine Son of God (it declared he was consubstantial or of the same divine nature, as God the Father). This language was later reaffirmed at the First Council of Constantinople in 381 AD after further challenges from Arians. The bishops from both church councils wished to undoubtedly affirm Jesus divinity. According to Marthaler, it was at this time that the creed, which had been a baptismal profession of faith, became a test to prove that one believed in the orthodox Trinitarian faith passed down from the Apostles.

Having heard this, some would say, *Great, but why does a theological debate from 1,600 years ago still matter today? Why should I care about this abstract concept? It doesn't affect my life.* In answer to this, I want to point out that this language is abstract because we don't fully understand the concepts we're describing. Both the Holy Trinity and the Incarnation (God the Son being born of the Virgin Mary

as the human being Jesus Christ) are referred to as mysteries because while we know they're true based on God's revelation in Scripture and Tradition, we can never fully explain them, as they're beyond human understanding and require an assent of faith. Next, if Jesus were not both human and divine, worshipping him would be arbitrary. We pray to Jesus, asking for help, guidance, healing, etc. Our songs and prayers glorify Jesus by, as Saint Paul says, ascribing to him "the name which is above every name" (Philippians 2:9). However, if Jesus is not the divine Son God, he was merely a human being. In *Mere Christianity*, C S Lewis asserts that Jesus, unlike other great religious figures, pointed people first toward himself and only then toward God the Father (*I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*—JOHN 14:6). He claimed he was sole the means of salvation and eternal life (*Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life*—JOHN 6:53-54)." Even more startling, in JOHN 8:58, Jesus directly says that he is God by claiming the name of God from the Old Testament, I AM or *Yahweh* (*before Abraham came to be, I AM*). Lewis says that by doing this, Jesus leaves us only two options: if he was not God he was either a liar, who deliberately deceived people, or a lunatic who was crazy enough to be believed he was divine. As Christians, we believe the third option that C S Lewis provides: that Jesus is who he claims to be, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Divine Trinity. To



put it all of this simply, if Jesus were not God, our prayers, our worship, prayer and the entirety of the Christian faith would be futile for we would be putting our faith in a liar or a madman, not in the one true God, who alone merits our faith and devotion.

Finally, on a slightly more practical side, if Jesus is not God the Son, then we cannot have a personal relationship with and direct access to God the Father. In *Romans* chapter 8 and *Galatians* chapter 3, St Paul emphasizes that it was Jesus' willing self-sacrifice on the Cross as the Son of God that saved us from our sins and restored us to right relationship with God. Even more so, Paul says this sacrifice has made us *children of God*. Jesus' being both fully human and fully divine made his sacrifice effective and enabled us enter into a close personal relationship with God. While more will be said on this in part five of our series on the Nicene Creed, suffice it to say that our sin created a rift between us and God. Because he was God the Son Incarnate, Jesus' sacri-

fice had the power to heal this rift and enabled us to truly call God our Father. Essentially, Jesus divinity, along with his humanity, is important because it allows to relate to and communicate with the all-powerful and all-knowing God the universe. Jesus assures us that God listens to and cares for each of us to an infinitely greater extent than a human father cares for his children: *Ask and it will be given unto you; seek and you will find... how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him* (MATTHEW 7:7-11).

If Jesus were merely human, the rift created by sin would still be in existence and this close relationship with and access to God would be impossible. However, because we can enter into relationship with Jesus, God the Son, we now have access to God the Father. Along with the other reasons mentioned above, this why the Nicene Creed's assertions about Jesus's divinity and theological debate which spawned them still affect our lives today.

Bishop Thomas A. Donato

Bishop Donato passed away last Tuesday. He had been fighting pancreatic cancer for several months. He was 74. We pray that he may now enjoy the joys of everlasting life.

The Most Reverend Thomas Aldo Donato was born on October 1, 1940, in Jersey City, New Jersey, the son of the late Antonio and Rosa Arturi Donato. He is a member of a close-knit family, one of six children: Mary, Rose, Costantino (married to Christine), John, Gaetano (Thomas) and Robert. He has a nephew, Anthony (married to Donna), and a niece, Toni Ann Sullivan (married to Mike), and two grand nieces, Gianna and Nicole.

Baptized in Holy Rosary Church, Gaetano (Thomas) Donato attended Holy Rosary Elementary School, Jersey City. After completing his secondary school education at Saint Michael High School, Jersey City, he entered the College Seminary at Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey, graduating in 1961. He attended Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, where he received a Masters of Divinity degree, and was ordained to the priesthood by the Most Reverend Thomas A. Boland, second Archbishop of Newark, on May 29, 1965.

Father Donato's parish assignments included Saint John the Baptist, Hillsdale (1965-1973), and Saint Vincent DePaul, Bayonne (1973-1982). He served as pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption, Bayonne (1982-1988), and Saint Paul, Ramsey (1988-2001). Pope John Paul II named him a Prelate of Honor with the title of Reverend Monsignor in 1996.

After 35 years of priestly ministry, Monsignor Donato took a six-month sabbatical to attend the Institute for the Continuing Education of Clergy at the North American College, Rome. Upon his return he



was appointed pastor of Saint Raphael Parish, Livingston (2001-2003), and shortly thereafter was appointed Spiritual Director of Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange.

In addition to parochial assignments, Monsignor Donato was also Regional Director of Religious Education for Bergen County North, served three terms on the Archdiocesan Priests' Personnel Board, and was a member of several committees in the Archdiocesan Offices of Catechetics and Worship. He served as Episcopal Vicar of Bergen County West from 1998 until 2001.

Appointed pastor of Saint Henry Parish, Bayonne, in 2004, he also served as Regional Bishop for Hudson County. The Holy See announced the appointment of Monsignor Thomas A. Donato as Titular Bishop of Jamestown and Auxiliary Bishop of Newark on May 21, 2004. Bishop Donato had recently been fighting cancer. He passed away on August 25, 2015.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Abortion Healing

If the news coverage of Planned Parenthood has caused a revived trauma from your own involvement in abortion or if you are suffering from an abortion experience, if you have feelings of guilt and anxiety or suffer from depression, there is Hope! Heals the pain from abortion — one week-end at a time on September 11-13, 2015 at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center 499 Belgrove Drive, Kearny. Cost: \$150 (includes all retreat materials and meals). **For more information contact the Respect Life Office: Cheryl A Riley 973-497-4350 or via e-mail rileyche@rcan.org All calls and e-mails are confidential. Rachel's Vineyard Retreats rachelsvineyard.org are sponsored by the Newark Archdiocese Respect Life Office.**

Celebration of Marriage Retreat

This weekend is intended for couples married at least 10 years. It honors and celebrates the commitment of marriage. Presentations and small group discussions address (1) how we got to this point in our marriages, (2) where we are now and (3) what the future might hold. We strike a deliberate balance among participation/reflection, liturgy, free time and fun and plenty of "couple time." **The retreat will take place on September 18-20 and the cost is \$260 a couple which includes all meals, room, programs, etc. For more information, or to register, call 609.884.3829 or visit: www.capemaymarianists.org.**

Immaculate Conception Parish Feast Honoring the birth of Mary

September 10-13, 2015. Join the Immaculate Conception Parish in Secaucus for a feast celebration honoring The Mother of God. Take family and friends for an evening or afternoon of fun, with attractions such as games of chance, rides for the kids, food vendors and a grand 50/50 Raffle. The feast will take place at Buchmuller Park in Secaucus. **The church is located at 1219 Paterson Plank Road in Secaucus. For more information, visit www.icsecaucus.com.**

Stand Down NJ—Help for our Vets

Stand Down of North Jersey is organizing a one-day event to assist homeless veterans. Federal, State, Public & Private support agencies will be on hand to offer a broad array of FREE services and assistance. Provisions include: VA Benefit Counseling, PTSD Info, Mental Health Info, Welfare, Social Security, Food Stamps, Addiction Info, Housing Info, Medical, Employment, Unemployment, Haircuts, Clothing and refreshments. The event itself will take place on Saturday October 10, 2015 from 8:30 am to 4 pm at the John F. Kennedy Pool & Recreation Center, 211 W Kinney St, Newark, NJ. **Pick-up is available for the event on Saturday October 10 at 8 am, 115 Christopher Columbus Ave. Jersey City, NJ. Pre-registration is encouraged. Please call 210.223.7787.**

Safeguarding Children and Addressing Abuse

The Archdiocese Has Long Recognized the Pain of Child Sexual Abuse

Since his arrival in 2001 and his participation in the drafting of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, Archbishop Myers has on many occasions either individually or with bishops in the United States, with the Holy Father, and with clergy throughout the world, acknowledged publicly the pain that sexual offenders inside the Church have inflicted on the innocent. At Chrism Masses before the entire presbyterate and parish representatives of the Archdiocese, in media interviews, in statements issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and in essays and columns, Archbishop Myers has stated that "a Church which spends the largest portion of its resources and the largest portion of its personnel in serving children, can never, and will never, condone anything which harms those children... We also extend our apology and our assurance of

support and help to those who have been harmed and who are seeking healing and support."

Beyond words, however, are actions. Assistance to victims, training and background checks of staff and volunteers, reporting accusations to civil authorities, removing clergy with substantiated accusations — these are clear indications that the Archbishop and the Archdiocese abhor child abuse.

What's more, 20 years ago, the Archdiocese was one of the first dioceses in the country to establish a formal Review Board of experts with legal, law enforcement, clinical and investigative background to examine allegations of abuse and recommend to the Archbishop action under Church law.

Bus Trip to Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes



St. Padre Pio bus trip Saturday, September 26, 2015

Come with us to a place in the wooded hills of Connecticut, under a canopy of trees by a stream of flowing water! A place of peace and prayer dedicated to Mary the Mother of Jesus. Pray in a church without walls, stand on holy ground as you follow Jesus and allow Mary's presence to touch your heart.

Bus will leave 8:30 am from in front of St. Anne's Church. For more information, please call Fran Spazian. 201-653-1318.

Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto is located at 83 Montfort Rd, Litchfield, CT 06759

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Become a Community Educator

Are you interested in preventing human trafficking in your community? Become a community educator today!

The Amistad Movement is a national education campaign that works to empower immigrants and local leaders to prevent human trafficking in their communities.

You are all invited to an Amistad Movement training session at St Nicholas, 122 Ferry St, Jersey City, on Saturday, September 12, 2015, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Through the training you will learn how to:

- Identify human trafficking and exploitation in various industries
- Establish partnerships with coalitions and other organizations to combat human trafficking
- Support survivors of human trafficking
- Become an ethical employer and consumer

Please RSVP for the training by texting your name, and "St Nicholas" after it, to 973-866-5393.



Holy Hour

Resumes Tuesday, September 1st!

Holy Hour takes place every Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm in St. Anne's Convent Chapel.



It is an hour of prayer for the priests, religious men and women and an increase of vocations to the religious life of the Church. All are invited to come and spend time with the Lord for these intentions and for any personal requests.

RADIO

Catholic Radio Now On the Air in New Jersey



Relevant Radio, the nation's largest Catholic Radio network, has now brought Catholic broadcasting the New Jersey-New York-Connecticut area on WNSW - 1430 AM. WNSW brings to the area 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week coverage of Catholic news, opinions, catechesis and information. Many of its signature shows — Morning Air, Go Ask Your Father, On Call with Wendy Wiese and The Drew Mariani Show — are call-in programs that bring to listeners a clear and consistent Catholic message to benefit not only Catholic people, but people of all faiths, helping them to understand the Catholic faith more fully and share it with others.

The Archdiocese of Newark has been instrumental in bringing this new source of Catholic information to the area, and we invite everyone to tune in to WNSW-AM 1430 every day for informative and entertaining Catholic viewpoints on today's issues of importance, and clear understanding of Catholic teaching and tradition.



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| Fr. Nigel | Parish Priest |
| Fr. J. Ranieri | Weekend Assistant |
| Msr. L.J. Miller | Weekend Assistant |
| Fr. D.X. Stump, S.J. | Weekday Assistant |
| Mrs. J. Waddleton & Lt. J. Carroll | Trustee |

Weekly Planner

SUNDAY 8/30 • 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

MONDAY 8/31

3:30-4:30 PM Legion of Mary *Convent*

TUESDAY 9/1

12:15 PM BINGO *Cent Hall*

3-4 PM Holy Hour for Priests *Convent*

WEDNESDAY 9/2

6-8 PM ALL Girl Scout Mtg *Cent Hall*

THURSDAY 9/3

7-9 PM OLG Choir *Convent*

FRIDAY 9/4

10 AM H.N.S. Board Mtg *Cent Hall*

12:15 PM BINGO *Cent Hall*

SATURDAY 9/5

4 PM Baptism Instruction *Church*

SUNDAY 9/6 • 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10 AM or 12 PM Baptism *Church*

Liturgies

Saturday Evening Church English 5:30 PM

(anticipating Sunday) Misa Español 7 PM

Sunday Church 8 AM, 10 AM, 12 Noon

Monday ▶ Saturday: Mass *Church* 9 AM

Wednesday: Mass *Church* 7 PM

Holy Hour

Holy Hour will be suspended during July & August

Sacrament of Penance

Saturdays *Church* (Or by Appointment) 5 PM

Schedule of Masses Aug 31st - Sept 6th, 2015

Monday, August 31

9 AM † Lyda & Doris Cullen *Ruth Cullen*

Tuesday, September 1

9 AM Novena

Wednesday, September 2

9 AM Novena

7 PM Special Intention *OL Perpetual Help Group*

Thursday, September 3

9 AM Novena

Friday, September 4

9 AM Novena

Saturday, September 5

9 AM Novena

5:30 PM † Concepcion Samson *Samson Family*

7 PM † Gloria Perez *Parish Intention*

Sunday, September 6

8 AM Novena

10 AM † Giuseppe Belfiore *Daughter-in-Law, Toni*

12 PM † Christina Burke *Debby & John Faherty*

Giving

Financial figures will be posted at a later date.

Sunday Readings

First Reading: **Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8**

Psalm: **Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5**

Second Reading: **James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27**

Gospel: **Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

Weekday Readings

Monday

1 Th 4:13-18 / Ps 96:1 & 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13 / Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday

1 Th 5:1-6, 9-11 / Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 / Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday

Co 1:1-8 / Ps 52:10, 11 / Lk 4:38-44

Thursday *St Gregory the Great*

Co 1:9-14 / Ps 98:2-3AB, 3CD-4, 5-6 / Lk 5:1-11

Friday

Co 1:15-20 / Ps 100:1B-2, 3, 4, 5 / Lk 5:33-39

Saturday

Co 1:21-23 / Ps 54:3-4, 6 & 8 / Lk 6:1-5

Sanctuary Gifts for Aug 30th - Sept 5th

Gift In Memory/honor of Requested By

Altar Wine † **Charles Kaufman** Frances Spazian

Altar Bread † **Charles Kaufman** Frances Spazian

Sanct. Lamp † **Alma DeBenedetto** Fusco Family

Altar Candles † **Mona Tortora** Parish Intention

Sick List

Let us pray for the sick (People will remain on sick list for 2 weeks unless otherwise notified):

Frances Kearns
● Nicholas Zegular ● Frances Wise ● Vicky Aguilon
● Marie Foley ● Josephine Cermak Rowan ● Steve & Rachel Mastin ● Diane Shea ● Joseph Callandrillo ● Humberto Quintana ● Julia Annicchiarico ● Javier Vega ● Jennifer Moloughney ● Antoinette Maddi ● Carol Jordan ● Anthony Biggio ● Sammy DeLeon ● Shane Quinn ● Alice Daly ● Sadie Krieger ● Dolores DelMonte ● Dianne O'Sullivan ● Carl Carlson ● Larry Bello ● Miyuki Campbell ● Diane Albert ● Meghan Connaughton ● Lupe Pena

Ministry to the Sick

We hope to give to all the sick and aged in our parish the opportunity to receive the Eucharist. If you or someone you know can no longer get to church, and would like a Eucharistic Minister to bring you Communion, *please call St. Anne's Rectory at 201-360-0838 or email: Webmaster@stannesjc.com*

September Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis

General intention: That opportunities for education and employment may increase for all young people.

Missionary intention: That catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.

Novena of Masses - July 2015

Requested for

† Alfred Dentale

† Lillian Link

1st Anniv. in Heaven

† John Zielenski

1st Anniv. in Heaven

Lawrence Shin

Tony & Dawn Roda

Anniversary

† Lucy Bironi Merritt

Mary Bironi Masi

† Teresa Fusco

† Esterina Manzi-Zuanetti

† Mercian Travasso

† Cristina V. Jumamil

† Pantaleon D. Sandal

† Frank Sheehan

† Anthony & Nettie Guarini

† Thomas Lang

Lang & McAlinden

Families

Olga Borusso

Father David Stump

† Teresa Fusco

Regina & John Lullo

Claire Maglori

Belle Fasani

Michelle Fasani

Jo-Jo & Leah Stella

Nora Browne

Clara Stella

Donna

† Lucy & James Merritt

Mary Masi

Mary & Buddie Kaufman

Isabella

† Jessie Toong

† Jessie Toong

† Jessie Toong

Requested by

Panjikunnel Family

Parish Intention

Parish Intention

Mary Shin

Pat Roda

Loretta & Heather

Loretta & Heather

Padre Pio Prayer Grp.

Angelo & Giovanna

Tango & Family

Piedad Mascarenhas

Jocelyn R. Sandal

Jocelyn R. Sandal

Joan & Family

Joan & Family

Lang Family

Lang Family

St Joe's Prayer Grp

St Joe's Prayer Grp

Pat Roda & Family

St Joe's Prayer Grp

St Joe's Prayer Grp

Family

Grandma

Aunt Pat & Family

St Joe's Prayer Grp

Roda, Stella & Fasani

Families

Aunt Pat & Family

Loretta & Heather

Loretta & Heather

Loretta Dempsey

Loretta Dempsey

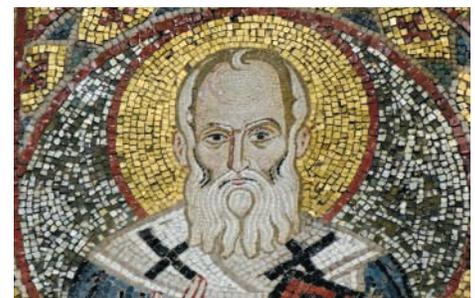
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Catherine Pelletreau

Marie Van Beuren

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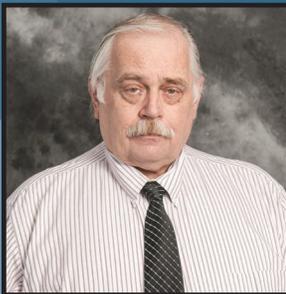
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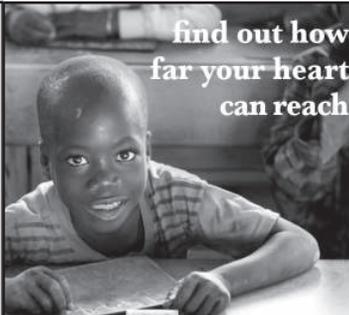
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