

Faith Tidbits..

*a little food for thought,
and some knowledge,
about your
Catholic faith*

This monthly series will answer questions you always wondered about or questions you never even thought to ask... all about our Catholic Faith.

If you have a question you want answered, call Diane Hardick at 633-3672.

When did celibacy become mandatory in our Church for all priests?

The first general law in the church obliging the clergy to a celibate life appeared in the later part of the fourth century. This occurred through the decree of several popes beginning with Pope Damasus (366-384). In the 12th Century at the First and Second Lateran Councils, marriage of priests were considered not only illicit, but also invalid. At the Council of Trent in 1563 the law of clerical celibacy was reaffirmed. This council, against enormous opposition, declared that priestly celibacy was a matter of Church law, not divine law. This means that the Church could change its law. The Church did this for deacons at Vatican Council II when it instituted a married permanent diaconate.

When and why was the Sabbath changed from Saturday to Sunday?

The first Christians changed the "Sabbath" day to Sunday for a variety of reasons. First, the resurrection of Jesus is recorded in Scripture as occurring on the first day of the week. Christians also changed other days of observation, including fast days, from those prescribed by Jewish law to emphasize their departure from the traditions of Israel. The special day of Sunday was reckoned by early Christians from sunset to sunset, as were all days according to Jewish custom.

Are all Catholic doctrines and what we believe found in the Bible?

All are beliefs are rooted in Scripture. Some are explicit; others are implicit. Some are obvious; some are obscure. One of the glories of our Church, as the Holy Spirit guides it into all truth, is its capacity to grow in knowledge of Scripture and discover truths from the pages of Scripture that previously were obscure. Catholics **do** reject any doctrines that are contrary to Scripture.

Then how can we believe in the Trinity if the word "Trinity" is not in the Bible?

The word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible. In fact, the Bible is insistent that there is but one God. The New Testament, however, presents to us three Persons who are called "God." Among other places, you find all three Divine Persons at the Baptism of Jesus. The Church grappled with the problem and concluded that three Divine Persons must subsist as the one God.

What is Canon Law?

Canon Law is the official body of laws for the Catholic Church covering faith, morals, and discipline. These laws assist the Church in carrying out her mission to the world and govern the various relationships between persons, offices and groups within the Catholic Church. Canon Law covers things such as how to celebrate the sacraments, administer church property, resolve formal conflicts and organize official groups such as religious orders and lay associations of the faithful. The first full-scale Code of Canon Law was issued in 1917. Pope John XXIII, when he announced his intention to call the Second Vatican Council in 1959, also announced a new revision of Canon Law which was completed in 1983. Only a pope or an ecumenical council has the authority to create canon law or interpret it for the universal Church.