

WHY CATHOLIC?

For the purposes of this informational presentation, we propose an abbreviated version of a typical session. The approximate timings that would be dedicated to each part in a normal sharing are indicated below:

- 10 minutes
- Sharing the Good News
5 minutes
- 10 minutes

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH *What We Believe*

Session 1 (abbreviated) Desire for God

LIFTING OUR HEARTS (Opening Prayer)

EXPLORING THE CATECHISM

(Invite all to read quietly) (1 minute)

As human beings, we often ask questions such as: Where do I come from and where am I going? What kind of meaning does my life have? Who is God? How does he work in my life and in our world?

As Catholics, we believe that **[t]he desire for God is written in the human heart** because God creates us and constantly draws us to deeper communion (27). There is within each person an internal desire for God, a deep yearning for the holy.

Reflect together on these words of Jesus.



- 15 minutes

SCRIPTURE: PONDERING THE WORD

Luke 12:32-34 (2 minutes)

SHARING QUESTION (5 minutes)

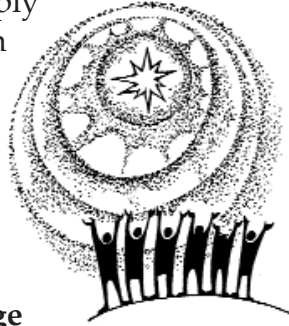
- Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart also will be.” In what ways have I experienced my faith in God as a treasure?

- 10 minutes

EXPLORING THE CATECHISM (continued) (5 minutes)

How can we come to know God? Our *Catechism* describes the **proofs for the existence of God, not in the sense of proofs in the natural sciences, but rather in the sense of “converging and convincing arguments,” which allow us to attain certainty about the truth (31).** We can look to the physical world—the message of creation, and the human person, the voice of conscience—and **arrive at certainty about the existence of God... (46)...**

Physicists tell us that it is becoming apparent that each particle in the universe has a way of “knowing” every other particle. Rather than science simply explaining away the creation of the world in solely scientific terms, we see more and more scientists recognizing that faith is not dead, but very much alive. As more scientific discoveries are made, scientists are seeing—through the eyes of faith—the great miracle God has created. **[T]he world’s order and beauty can give us the knowledge of God as the origin and the end of the universe** (32).



SHARING OUR FAITH (5 minutes)

• 25 minutes

- How do we see “proof” for the existence of God in our physical world?

LIVING THE GOOD NEWS (5 minutes)

• 10 minutes

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. This should be your primary consideration. The following are secondary suggestions:

- Keep a journal, and each day, write the ways you yearn for God.
- Write down the ways you see the power of God at work in our world today. Share them next week with your group.
- Share your belief in the existence of a loving God with a co-worker, neighbor, or relative.

LIFTING UP OUR HEARTS

• 5 minutes

Pray together.

Share a sign of peace.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Prepare for your next session by prayerfully reading and studying Session 2, **God’s Revelation: Tradition and Scripture** and paragraphs 50-141 of the *Catechism*.

To be done after the present session, and before the next session