**New City Catechism Class  
Week Thirty-one**

**Q31:** What do we believe by true faith?

**A31:** Everything taught to us in the gospel. The Apostles’ Creed expresses what we believe in these words: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

**Jude 3** "I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.” (ESV)

Discuss the question (Introductory questions):

* Review previous two questions (faith).
* Who is included in “we”?
* Why is this question important or essential in the Catechism?
* History of creeds and their use in the church.
* What is the difference between holding to an orthodox creed(s) and having genuine Christian faith?

Discuss the Scripture:

* What does it mean to *contend*?
* Why does Jude find it *necessary* to “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints”? (see Jude 4)
* What is “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints”?
* How does Jude’s letter to believers in the first century relate to the believer’s experience today?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

* What is “the gospel”?
* What does this creed teach us?
  + Who is God? Who is the Father? Who is Jesus Christ? Who is the Holy Spirit?
  + What is the Church? What is the Gospel?
  + What can we anticipate about the Future?
* Is there anything in the Creed that you may have overlooked if you were writing down the essentials of the faith?
* Is there anything missing in the Creed that you would expect to find there?