

## CHANCELLOR'S REFLECTIONS – K of C Council 7115 Meeting JULY 2023

### AMEN

Last month after the talk about the “shortest prayer” being the “Sign of the Cross” – mental telepathy heard some voices for something even “SHORTER”. So tonight, let’s look at just one word – AMEN. The background comes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church in eight Paragraphs which conclude with our requirement to include an AMEN to certain gestures and prayers as our acclamation that we truly believe what was just said!

1061 The Creed, like the last book of the Bible, ends with the Hebrew word amen. This word frequently concludes prayers in the New Testament. The Church likewise ends her prayers with “Amen.”

1062 In Hebrew, amen comes from the same root as the word “believe.” This root expresses solidity, trustworthiness, faithfulness. And so, we can understand why “Amen” may express both God’s faithfulness towards us and our trust in Him.

1063 In the book of the prophet Isaiah, we find the expression “God of truth” (literally -- “God of the Amen”), that is, the God who is faithful to His promises: “He who blesses himself in the land shall bless himself by the God of truth [amen]. Our Lord often used the word “Amen,” sometimes repeated, to emphasize the trustworthiness of His teaching, His authority founded on God’s truth.

1064 Thus the creed’s final “Amen” repeats and confirms its first words: “I believe.” To believe is to say “Amen” to God’s words, promises and commandments; to entrust oneself completely to Him who is the “Amen” of infinite love and perfect faithfulness. The Christian’s everyday life will then be the “Amen” to the “I believe” of our baptismal profession of faith.

1065 Jesus Christ Himself is the “Amen.” He is the definitive “Amen” of the Father’s love for us. He takes up and completes our “Amen” to the Father; “For all the promises of God find their Yes to Him. That is why we utter the Amen through Him, to the glory of God”.

These preceding paragraphs describe what the Church defines as the origins of the word and its intent in the use of the word Amen. The Catechism then describes the words used in today's life and our additional required acclamations -- particularly in the Mass, as follows.

First is the Amen that concludes the Eucharistic Prayer in the, sometimes called the "Great Amen" in which we respond with our belief in the "Miracle" that just happened.

Second at the end of the recital of the "Lord's Prayer", the Church adds the "Final Doxology". This verse was added in later years to the Mass. Originally it was quite often mistakenly interpreted as being added because it was ordinarily included the body of the Protestant "Lords Prayer"; however, this is not true as it was added so that we can affirm that we do believe in the words spoken by Christ similar to the Creed.

2586 "Then, after the prayer is over you say 'Amen,' which means 'So be it,' thus ratifying, with our 'Amen', to what is contained in the prayer that God has taught us."

2865 By the final "Amen," we express our "fiat" concerning the seven petitions: "So be it."

Third is our affirmation that we believe in the "true-presence-of-Christ" and that we are worthy in our reception of the Most Holy Eucharist.

1396 If you are the body and members of Christ, then it is your sacrament that is placed on the table of the lord; it is your sacrament that you receive. To that which you are to respond "Amen" ("yes, it is true!") and by responding to it - you assent to it. For you hear the words, "the Body *and/or the Blood* of Christ" and respond "Amen." Be then a member of the Body of Christ that your *Amen* may be true.

Lastly, as Father blesses us both in the Prayers of Baptism, the other Sacraments, and specifically in the Final Blessings of the Mass --- we openly state that we believe and understand his blessings by saying Amen.

Yes, a simple WORD; but, with great meaning and another thing that we should never make "light-of" in our faithfulness! May God Bless you all as well. AMEN.