

On the Revised Translation of the Mass  
Bulletin Insert 14  
“The Creed 5”

When we say that the Father is, “maker of heaven and earth,” we echo Genesis 1:1, which says “In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth.” One slight change will be to what is now “of all that is seen and unseen.” The new translation will say, “of all things visible and invisible.” These are the words of Colossians 1:16.

“Visible and invisible” are meant to better distinguish between the bodily and spiritual worlds. A shark in the depths of the ocean is unseen by us, but the sea creatures see it. Angles and the moral law exist to people of faith, but remain invisible.

In the section about Jesus Christ we currently say He is “the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father” but we will say “the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.” Begot is a term found prominently in Psalm 110:3, where God says, “before the daystar, like dew I begot you.”

Early Christians saw this as a description of the relationship between the Father and the Son. Before there was even time itself, Christ existed with the Father. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus says, “I am the first and the Last and the one who lives.”

Where we now say Jesus, “suffered, died and was buried,” and, “on the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures,” will change to “He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.” “Suffered death” is from Hebrews 2:9 – “He suffered death, He who for a little while was made lower than the angels.”

“On the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,” is a direct quote of 1 Corinthians 15:4. The Lord’s Resurrection is not just the fulfillment of the Scriptures, but is rather mandated by them.

The Creed is loaded with references from the Biblical witness and they give clear expression to the eternal truths of our faith. There is no

better way to express our Christian faith than to quote the Scriptures that give birth to it.