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| **Nature and Purpose of Beliefs:**  Across time and cultures, humanity has sought to understand the why and how of existence. In this quest humans have consistently posed big questions of life such as: Where did we come from? Is there someone or something greater than us – an ultimate reality? What is the purpose of our existence? How should we live? Why do we die? Is there anything beyond death?  In response to this quest for meaning, religions have developed systems of belief that have offered ways of establishing meaning and purpose – not only for human existence but also for all that exists. Such religious beliefs have also attempted to explain the nature of relationships between humans, between humans and the rest of the natural world, and between humans and ultimate reality.  The religious beliefs of any religion arise from the beliefs held about ultimate reality, and these in turn inform particular beliefs about human existence; about its meaning, purpose and destiny. | | | | | |
| **Belief in the Roman Catholic Tradition** | | | | | |
| Ultimate Reality | The Nature And Purpose Of Human Life | The Meaning Of Life And Death | The Relationship Between Ultimate Reality And Humanity | The Relationship Between Humans | The Relationship Between Human Life And The Rest Of The Natural World |
| The primary cause and the concluding actuality of all things; the dynamic power that creates and controls space, time, interconnection, differentiation. That in which everything finds its reason and nature and purpose and in which everything is held to be authentic and in which ultimate truth can be known | The raison d'etre for human existence; the justification for human life in terms of ultimate reality; human salvation and redemption are significant categories. It includes ideas about the emergence of humankind and the basic characteristics of humankind. | The ways that the beginning, processes and the conclusion human life may be understood in terms of ultimate realty. It includes the nature of goodness and evil and the possibilities for human knowledge of ultimate reality. Includes eschatological and apocalyptical thinking. | The ways that human being are able to know, communicate and explain and react in the light of ultimate reality. It concerns the immanent and transcendent aspects of the relationship which may be personal or non-personal. | How and why human beings ought to treat each other in the light of beliefs about the nature and purpose of human life. It includes the nature of goodness and evil and how life decisions should be made and even guidelines for human behaviour. It can include exclusivist claims. | How and why human beings ought to treat the natural world in the light of beliefs about the nature and purpose of human life. |
| Roman Catholics believe that …  God exists as Trinity (Three persons, One God)  God is Omnipotent, omniscient, Omnipresent Creator and First Cause of all | Roman Catholics believe that …  Human beings are created in the image of God as spirit flesh to know, love and serve God and find a home within God forever. | Roman Catholics believe that …  Death is not the end of human existence. Life is changed, not taken away  Jesus is the Paschal Mystery (CCCC #112)  That we live and die in Christ | Roman Catholics believe that …  The dignity of the human person resides in the person's intimate relationship with God.  God is love reaching out in love to the created in grace and blessing  God’s love is a mediation through relationships and creation | Roman Catholics believe that …  Humans are created with rights and responsibilities  Human existence is social existence.  The Kingdom of God seeks right relationship between all people  Humanity needs reconciliation | Roman Catholics believe that …  Humans are the most important of all God’s creation.  We are called to stewardship of the natural world.(Genesis 1:28) |
| Expressed in Scripture and Tradition guaranteed by the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church: Lex Orandi Lex Credendi | | | | | |
| Genesis 1:1and John 1:1; 1:14  Creeds (Nicea & Apostles)  Sign of the Cross  Baptism Ceremony  The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (MASS) | Created in the image of God – Genesis 1:27  Body and Spirit CCCC#69  to know, serve and love God CCCC#67  “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.” (MASS) | Nicene Creed: resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come (MASS)  To carry the death and resurrection of Christ (Paul in Philippians 3:10-11)  Baptism and life in Christ CCCC#263  Original Sin Genesis 3:  Do this in memory of me. (MASS – Luke 22:19)  The Lamb of God(MASS) | Sacraments are the key expression of the relationship with the divine  Gloria: and on earth peace to people of good will (MASS)  Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God. Micah 6: 8  Seven sacraments:  Baptism; Confirmation; Eucharist; Reconciliation; Anointing of the Sick; Marriage; Holy Orders.  Lords Prayer (MASS) | Ten Commandments (Exodus)  Love one another as I have loved you (John 13:34)  The Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3-12)  Catholic Social Teaching  Human Dignity; Common Good; Solidarity; Subsidiarity | Caring for the garden (Genesis 2:15)  Ecological Theology  The Church has a responsibility towards creation (Caritas In Veritate #53)  If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation  (World Day Of Peace 2010) |
| The Way Members Of The Religious Tradition Are To Lead Their Lives | | | | | |
| Christians life begins in a Trinitarian prayer  Trinitarian prayer is Catholic prayer | To acknowledge the dignity of every human life  To promote human flourishing  To love one another - to serve the other (The poor and the needy) in justice. | To lead a life patterned on Paschal Mystery  To live the new commandment: love one another John13:34  To support pro-life movements | To pray always  Member of the worshiping community at Eucharist | To live the values of the kingdom including peace, ecumenism, reconciliation, healing, social justice and mercy | To live in communion with nature  Healing & Forgiveness  To consider our ecological footprint |