

But both “typical Catholics” would be wrong! You see, ever since the Council of Trent, the Church has had *four* authorized Creeds, the fourth being the “Profession of Faith of the Council of Trent,” a.k.a., “Creed of Pope Pius IV.” A *Catholic Dictionary*, edited by Donald Attwater, and originally published in 1958 by The MacMillan Company, then republished in 1997 by TAN Books, says the following about this Creed:

The Creed of Pope Pius IV is a profession of faith set out by that pope in a bull *Injunctum nobis* in 1564. It affirms all the articles of the Nicene Creed, the traditions of the Apostles, the sacraments, the sacrifice of the Mass, Purgatory, indulgences, the invocation of the saints, and the Holy See. It is used in England in the rite of reception of converts, an article concerning the Vatican Council I being added.”

The article added, of course, is that of Papal Infallibility, which Pius IX defined at the conclusion of Vatican Council I. (*Nota bene*: The Council itself did *not* define this doctrine, as we often hear. Councils cannot define doctrine. They can only *recommend* that specific doctrines be defined. The final decision always rests with the reigning pope, for only popes can define doctrine.)

For a long time after Trent, the Church used this Creed as a loyalty / orthodoxy oath for theologians, converts to the Faith, and (perhaps especially) returning heretics. As you can see, it is written in the format of a personal oath (“I, N, with firm faith believe ...”). Today, however, the Church apparently doesn’t use it for any purpose. What a pity! Since this particular Creed addresses so specifically the errors of Protestantism, the Church needs it as much today as She did after Trent, perhaps even more. After all, the current Modernist heresy has roots in

Protestantism. But the Protestant Revolt produced a much better class of heretics than the current and on-going “Modernist implosion.” Protestant heretics were sufficiently honest and honorable to leave the Catholic Church when they could no longer accept Her teachings. Not so, today’s Modernist heretics! Intent on destroying the Church from within, they refuse to leave. In fact, for at least the past forty years they have sought (and obtained) positions of ecclesiastical authority at every level. In the aftermath of Vatican Council II, Modernists somehow pricked a series of tiny holes along the waterline of the Barque of Peter. Through these holes, collectively called “ecumenism,” the errors of Protestantism began to seep in. As wear enlarged the holes, the seepage grew into a steady flow. But even at this late date, the Creed of Pius IV, if widely used, could patch the hull and pump out the ever-deepening bilge water.

Read this Creed slowly and reflectively, noting how it refutes the many errors of Protestantism that have been sloshing around within the Church since Vatican II.

First, it reaffirms the ancient Nicene Creed.

Next, it proclaims the Church’s authoritative role in the interpretation of Scriptures, a role universally denied by Protestant sects and, sadly, a role with which many current “Catholic” scripture scholars seem unfamiliar.

Next, it reaffirms the seven Sacraments, some of which every Protestant sect denies, and some of which Modernists within the Church would prefer to ignore or redefine into something meaningless.