

## **THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN . . . . VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY**

### **THE CREED: COMPOSED BY THE ANCIENT FATHERS**

**This day on the Church calendar is known as the SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.**

They assembled in the year 325 in the ancient city of Nicea (now a village called Lznik in Turkey.) This Church Council compiled the Creed that is recited at every Divine Liturgy. Actually, the Fathers dealt with the first part of the Creed that speaks of the Person of Christ. The section on the Holy Spirit to the conclusion, was compiled at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council in the year 381 at Constantinople.

The Creed is nearly 1,700 years old and has been recited unchanged through all the centuries of the Faith. It contains the basic statement of Christian beliefs. There were 318 Fathers of the Church at the *first Council in Nicea*. The fine icon of our bulletin depict some of them, holding the Greed version of the Statement of Faith.

The Creed begins with the words “I believe . . . . “ This is somewhat unusual, since invariably in the church’s worship the plural form of “we” is used. Thus, we pray ‘Our Father . . .’and “Let us pray to the Lord . . . “ and “Let us lay aside all earthly care . . .” This is so, because we are gathered together as Christ’s family, as the Church, the people of God, the body of Christ.

We say “I believe . . . “ becaue faith is a personal matter. No one can believe for me; I must believe. What does it mean, to believe? This goes to the heart of religion. We cannot “prove” the articles of faith; we cannot see them, touch them or feel them. We believe they are real and they are true. St. Paul put it in this way, we “walk by faith, and not by sight.” Let us honor those Fathers osf Nicea today.