

Why the New Catechism?



Scripture: *'Father This is eternal life, that they may know You'* Jn 17:3



Prayer: Father, may the truth of the Gospel shine forth in your Church so that all are led by its beauty to seek you, the one God, and find everlasting life in your eternal Kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen

Catechism

A catechism is a text which contains the fundamental Christian truths formulated in a way that facilitates their understanding.

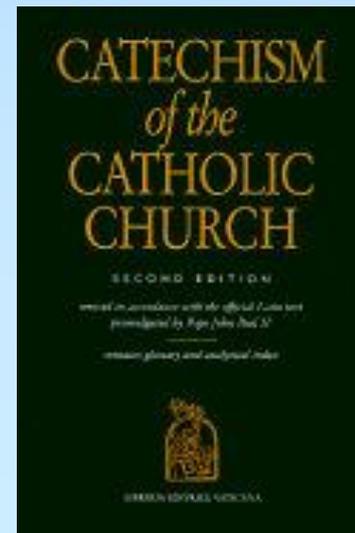


Catechesis

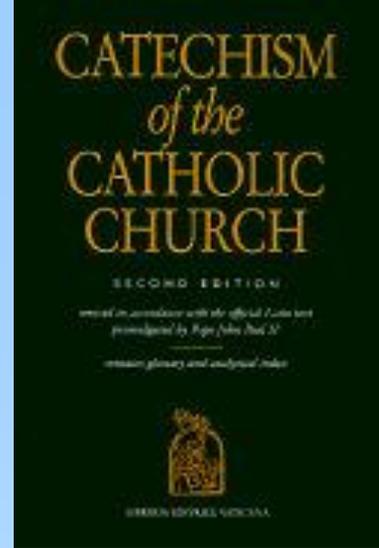
The whole introduction into our faith is not only about teaching catechism but also living Christian life, celebrating sacraments, praying with others, all this is part of catechesis, handing on the faith.



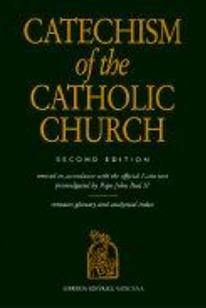
This has been re-presented for our times in the *new Catechism of the Catholic Church*



Aim

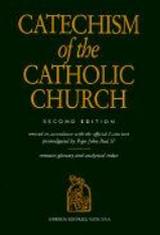


- What is the CCC about
- Look at the purpose of the CCC
- How to use it for learning about the faith
- How to use it for teaching the faith



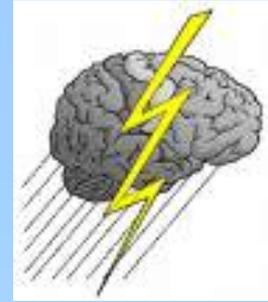
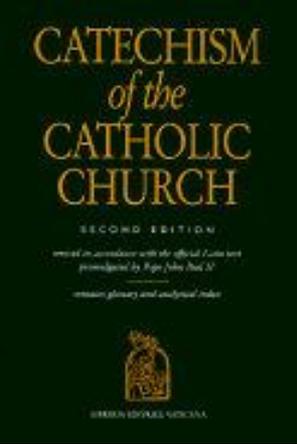
What is the CCC?

- contains the essential and fundamental content of the Catholic faith and morals in a complete and summary way.
- It presents what Catholics throughout the world believe in common
- It presents these truths in a way that facilitates their understanding
- It presents Catholic doctrine within the context of the Church's history and tradition.
- It has frequent references to Scripture and other Church documents



History of the CCC

- In 1985, the CCC originated with a recommendation made at the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops
- In 1986, the Holy father appointed a Commission of Cardinals and Bishops to develop a Compendium of Catholic doctrine
- In 1989, the Commission sent the text to all the Bishops of the world for consultation
- In 1990 the Commission examined and evaluated 24,000 amendments suggested by world's bishops
- In 1991, the Commission prepared the text for the Holy Father's official approval
- On 25/06/92, the Holy Father approved the CCC and on 08/12/92 he declared the CCC with an apostolic Constitution



Why CCC ?

Interpretation of faith

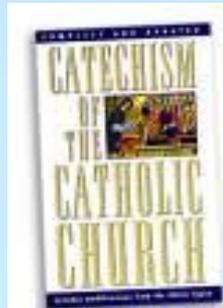
Search for positive statements

Clear & rational presentation

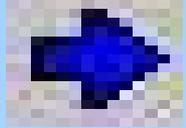
Consolidate teachings

Foster ecumenical activity

Present in a compelling way



Purpose of the CCC



Sure reference guide



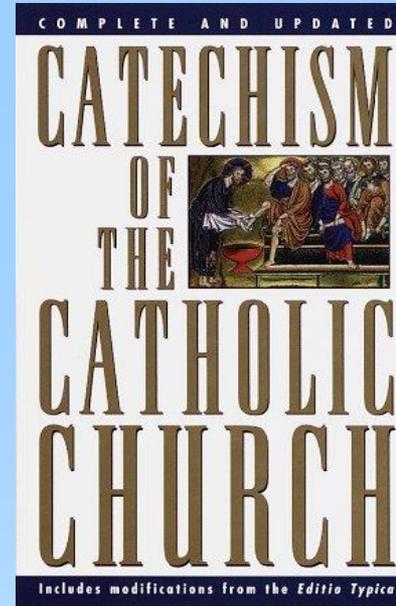
Proclaims faith



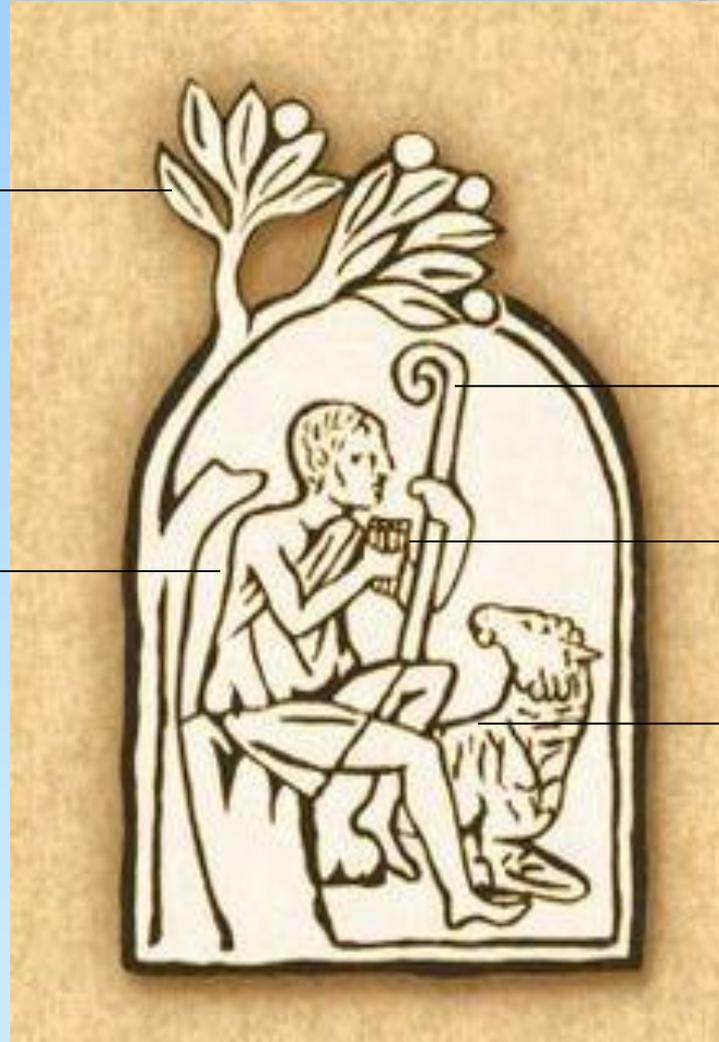
Calls us to the Gospel life, to Christ



For teachers



CCC Logo (on the front cover)



Tree of Life - Cross ←

→ Staff -
authority

← Shepherd - Christ

→ Panpipes -
symphony

→ Lamb - faithful

Psalm 23



Here the shepherd boy David plays a flute, reading not so much the book of music before him, but the “book” of the internal music within him, an exalted and celestial flow of language given to him as a gift from God.

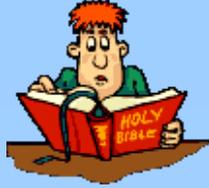




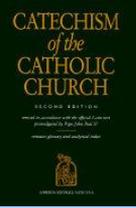
SYMPHONY



- ♪ is derived from the Greek words 'syn' (together) and 'phone' (sounding)
- ♪ has four movements
- ♪ a movement is a self contained work separated by silence within a larger work
- ♪ is satisfying when it is experienced as a unified piece



Structure



The CCC has four parts

Corresponds to the 4 'parts' or dimensions of the life of the Church and of every Christian

Part I – Profession of Faith

faith



Part 2 – Celebration of the Christian

Mystery

worship



Part 3 – Life in Christ

the way we live

Part 4 – Christian Prayer

prayer



God's revelation & work – plan of salvation

Our response to God – our life in Christ and prayer

323 pages

192 pages



Structure



Each of the four parts have 2 sections

Part 1 – Profession of Faith

- I believe/We believe (*faith*)
- Profession of Ch. faith (*creed*)

Part 2 – Celebration of the Christian



Mystery

- Sacramental Economy (*worship*)
- Seven Sacraments (*sacraments*)



Part 3 – Life in Christ

- Life in the Spirit (*morality*)
- Ten Commandments (*commandments*)

Part 4 – Christian Prayer

- Prayer in Christian Life (*prayer*)
- The Lord's Prayer (*Our Father*)

Layout and Themes

Symphony

1. Is satisfying when it is experienced as a unified piece
2. Is written in a particular musical key to achieve a certain unity
3. Musical themes heard in one movement often recur in other movements
4. Each movement is distinguished by its tempo, key, rhythm & harmony.

CCC

1. It is an organic presentation of entire Catholic faith & should be seen as a unified whole
2. Is written so that we are introduced to the fullness of faith
3. CCC has cross reference to help see connection between faith & life and has recurring 'themes' that run through each part of the CCC
4. Each part of the CCC has 4 central truths – Holy Trinity, Christ, Paschal Mystery & Human Dignity

What's on a page

This tells you which of the four parts of the Catechism you are in.

64

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

history, governing hearts and events in keeping with his will: 'It is always in your power to show great strength, and who can withstand the strength of your arm?'¹⁰⁷

'You are merciful to all, for you can do all things'¹⁰⁸

270 God is the *Father Almighty*, whose fatherhood and power shed light on one another: God reveals his fatherly omnipotence by the way he takes care of our needs; by the filial adoption that he gives us ('I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty');¹⁰⁹ finally by his infinite mercy, for he displays his power at its height by freely forgiving sins.

141 271 God's almighty power is in no way arbitrary: 'In God, power, essence, will, intellect, wisdom, and justice are all identical. Nothing therefore can be in God's power which could not be in his just will or his wise intellect.'¹¹⁰

The mystery of God's apparent powerlessness

272 Faith in God the Father Almighty can be put to the test by the experience of evil and suffering. God can sometimes seem to be absent and incapable of stopping evil. But in the most *mysterious* way God the Father has revealed his almighty power in the voluntary humiliation and Resurrection of his Son, by which he conquered evil. Christ crucified is thus 'the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.'¹¹¹ It is in Christ's Resurrection and exaltation that the Father has shown forth 'the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe'.¹¹²

648 273 Only faith can embrace the mysterious ways of God's almighty power. This faith glories in its weaknesses in order to draw to itself Christ's power.¹¹³ The Virgin Mary is the supreme model of this faith, for she believed that 'nothing will be impossible with God', and was able to magnify the Lord: 'For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.'¹¹⁴

1814, 1817 274 'Nothing is more apt to confirm our faith and hope than holding it fixed in our minds that nothing is impossible with God. Once our reason has grasped the idea of God's almighty power, it

Italicised words identify key teaching points, as do the bold sub-headings in the text.

When you are given a reference number for the Catechism, it is not the page number, but the paragraph number. All Church documents use this method of referencing. 'CCC' is the abbreviation used for the Catechism, so 'CCC 271' is paragraph number 271 in the Catechism.

The central truths of the faith stand at the heart of every part of the Catechism: Christ, the Paschal Mystery, the Holy Trinity, the Church and the dignity of every human person.

The Catechism emphasises the implications for our lives of the faith we profess, and provides models for us to contemplate.

These numbers point us to the sources which are listed at the foot of the page. Notice how the majority are from the Scriptures. Catechists can use these references for study, for memorisation and for prayer.

¹⁰⁷ Wis 11:21; cf. Esth 4:17b; Prov 21:1; Tob 13:2.

¹⁰⁸ Wis 11:23.

¹⁰⁹ 2 Cor 6:18; cf. Mt 6:32.

¹¹⁰ St Thomas Aquinas, STT 1, 25, 5, ad 1.

¹¹¹ 1 Cor 1:24-25.

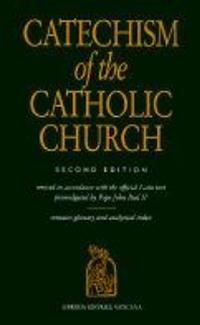
¹¹² Eph 1:19-22.

¹¹³ Cf. 2 Cor 12:9; Phil 4:13.

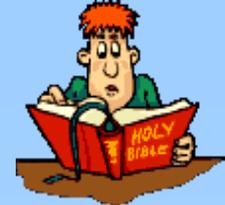
¹¹⁴ Lk 1:37, 49.

The numbers in italics at the side of the paragraphs are cross-references to other paragraphs. These shed more light on the topic you are considering. They expand on points, link the parts together, and help to deepen our understanding of the topic we are investigating.

Look for these words - 'therefore', 'because', 'thus', 'for', and so on - which indicate that reasons are being given for the statement which has just been made. The Catechism explains the Faith as well as presenting it.



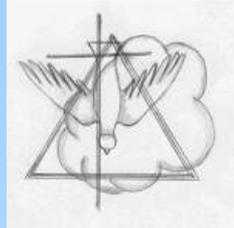
What's on a page



- Which of the four parts *(1st part – Faith & Revelation / Creed) – Section about God as Almighty*
- Find another italicized word *'mysterious'*
- What is the reference number? *Paragraph number*
- The central truths of the faith
- Emphasis on the implications for our lives *quotes from saints*
- Numbers point us to the sources *Study, memorize, prayer*
- Look for these words.....'thus', 'for', 'therefore' *reason*
- Numbers in italics on the side of a page *References in CCC*

The foundational truths of faith

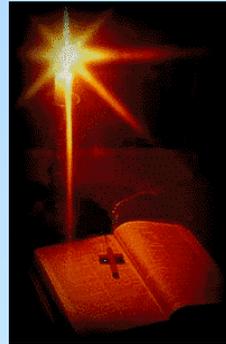
Holy Trinity



Person of Christ – true God and true man



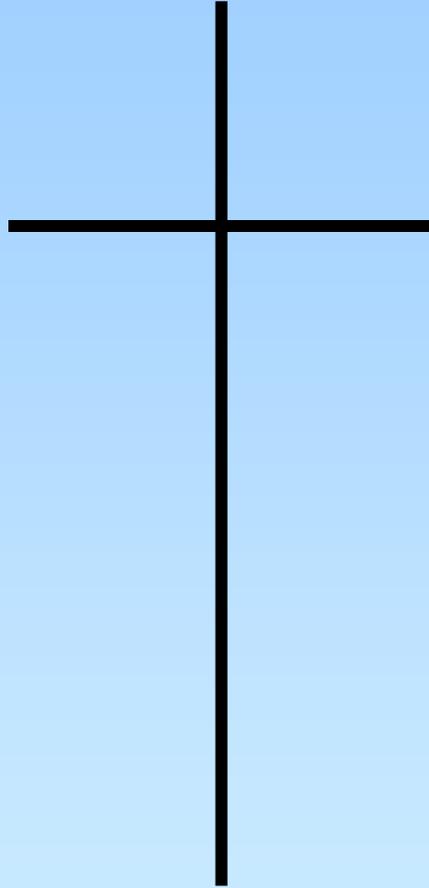
Paschal Mystery



Dignity of the human person

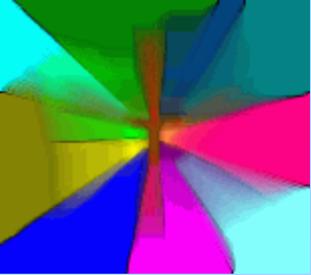


Handout 1





<p>Parts of CCC</p> <p>Truths of Faith</p>	<p><i>Profession</i></p>	<p><i>Celebration</i></p>	<p><i>Way of life</i></p>	<p><i>Prayer</i></p>
<p><i>Trinity</i></p>				
<p><i>Christ</i></p>				
<p><i>Paschal Mystery</i></p>				<p>FRUIT OF LOVE</p> 
<p><i>Dignity of human person</i></p>				



ACTIVITY



How do I adopt / practice each of these in my life?

Profession of faith / Creed



Celebration of faith / sacraments



Life in Christ / Commandments



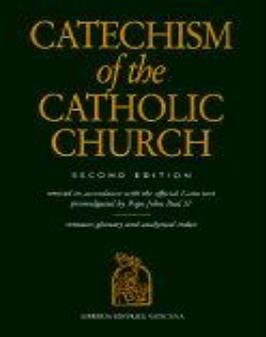
Christian Prayer / Our Father



ACTIVITY



The Cross is a symbol of our faith and the four parts together make up the fullness of our faith



PRAYER



"Lord Jesus, you have given us the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to bring light to those who are walking in darkness and supernatural life to those who are sitting in the shadow of death.

"Enlighten our minds with your revealed truth and inspire our hearts with your divine love — so that by our courageous witness to your Name here on earth we may bring countless souls with us to that heavenly Kingdom for which we were made. Amen."

GOD BLESS YOU ALL