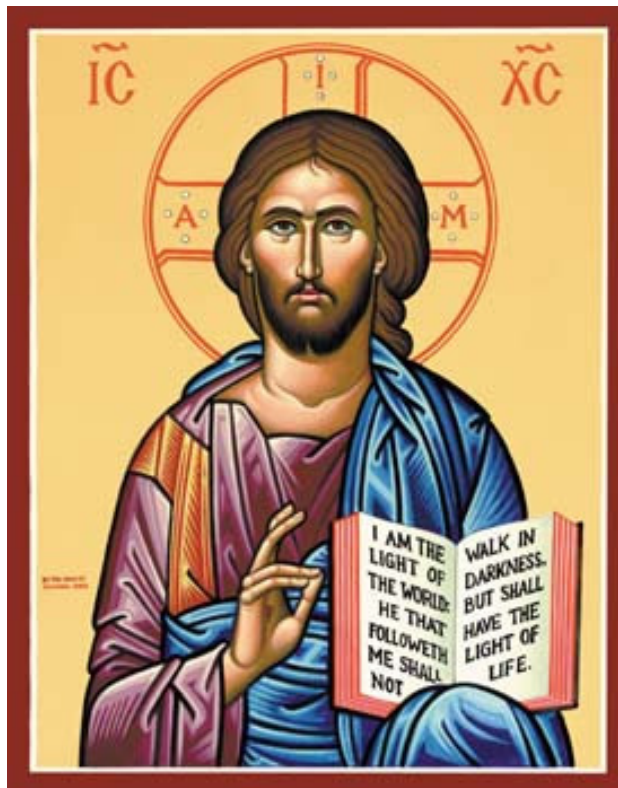


# THE HEART OF CATECHESIS

BACK TO THE BASICS



"At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son from the Father. . . who suffered and died for us and who now, after rising, is living with us forever." To catechize is "to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God's eternal design reaching fulfillment in that Person. It is to seek to understand the meaning of Christ's actions and words and of the signs worked by Him." Catechesis aims at putting "people . . . in communion . . . with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.

In catechesis "Christ, the Incarnate Word and Son of God,. . . is taught- everything else is taught with reference to Him - and it is Christ alone who teaches - anyone else teaches to the extent that he is Christ's spokesman, enabling Christ to teach with his lips. . . Every catechist should be able to apply to himself the mysterious words of Jesus: 'My teaching is not mine, but His who sent me.'"

*Catechism of the Catholic Church #426-427*

In his recent Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum Domini*, Pope Benedict XVI challenges the heralds of the New Evangelization to ponder, “certain fundamental approaches to a rediscovery of God’s Word in the life of the Church as a wellspring of constant renewal.” We should welcome this great opportunity at the dawn of the Third Millennium to assess the effectiveness of our past efforts and to refine and improve our approach and methodology as we proclaim the Word of the Lord in the years to come.

When Our Lord set out to teach and to proclaim the coming of His Kingdom, He knew well His time was limited. He had about 2½ years to manifest the Gospel through His Words and Deeds. As His Public Ministry unfolded, the Son of God revealed the deepest Mysteries of Eternity in a very carefully conceived manner, in particular places and situations. An approach to catechesis which might prove very effective would present the content of the Catechism in a sequence which follows “syllabus” of Christ’s own life.

**OBJECTIVE: TO ENGAGE THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY—ESPECIALLY OUR CHILDREN—IN A PROGRAM OF CATECHETICAL FORMATION WHICH:**

1. **PROVIDES A FIRM INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATION AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR UNDERSTANDING AND REMEMBERING THE BASIC TRUTHS OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH**
2. **FAMILIARIZES STUDENTS WITH THE BIBLE, ITS STRUCTURE, ITS MEANING, AND HOW TO READ, PONDER, AND PRAY WITH THE SACRED SCRIPTURES**
3. **FIRMLY AND CLEARLY FORMS IN THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF THOSE INVOLVED A DEEP SENSE OF THE LOVING COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED WITH THEM BY JESUS CHRIST IN AND THROUGH HIS CHURCH AND SACRAMENTS**

**THE MATERIAL IN THIS BOOKLET [PAGES 3-7] WILL BE GRADUALLY MEMORIZED OVER THE YEARS AND BE THE “COMMON DENOMINATOR” PROVIDING A FOUNDATION FOR TRULY CATHOLIC THOUGHT AND REFLECTION.**

**OVERALL STRUCTURE: 3 YEAR CYCLE**

**YEAR ONE: CHRIST—JESUS...SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN**

WE PONDER THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD... THE STORY OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD AND OUR GOD.

**YEAR TWO: OUR CATHOLIC CHURCH—THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST**

WE STUDY THE GROWTH OF OUR CATHOLIC CHURCH—*THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST*—BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF PETER THE “ROCK.” WE WILL WORK OUR WAY THROUGH THE *ACTS OF THE APOSTLES* AND READ OTHER NEW TESTAMENT WRITINGS AS WELL.

**YEAR THREE: YAHWEH SAVES: SALVATION HISTORY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

WE CONSIDER THE BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE AND OUR FALL. WE WILL READ ABOUT THE ISRAELITES, AND SEE HOW GOD WORKED IN AND THROUGH HISTORY TO PREPARE US FOR THE ADVENT OF HIS ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON, JESUS CHRIST. WE WILL SEE HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT IS HIDDEN IN THE OLD, AND HOW THE OLD TESTAMENT IS MADE MANIFEST IN THE NEW.

# **THE HEART OF CATECHESIS**

## **THE CREED**

### **THE TWO CENTRAL MYSTERIES OF OUR FAITH...**

<b>THE HOLY TRINITY</b>	<b>THERE IS ONE GOD, WHO IS THREE DIVINE PERSONS: GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT</b>
<b>THE INCARNATION</b>	<b>JESUS CHRIST IS GOD AND MAN... THE SON OF GOD BECAME THE SON OF MARY...AND "THE WORD BECAME FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US"</b>

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<b>GOD THE FATHER</b>	THE FIRST PERSON OF THE HOLY TRINITY THE ALMIGHTY CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH
<b>JESUS CHRIST</b>	THE SECOND PERSON OF THE HOLY TRINITY, THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF THE FATHER
<b>THE HOLY SPIRIT</b>	THE THIRD PERSON OF THE HOLY TRINITY, WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON
<b>THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>	MARY IS THE MOTHER OF JESUS CHRIST. SHE WAS IMMACULATELY CONCEIVED, IS FOREVER FULL OF GRACE, AND HELPS US CONSTANTLY BY HER PRAYERS
<b>SALVATION</b>	JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR SINS AND LEADS THOSE WHO FOLLOW HIM TO HEAVEN
<b>RESURRECTION</b>	JESUS CHRIST WAS "CRUCIFIED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, HE SUFFERED DEATH AND WAS BURIED, AND ROSE AGAIN ON THE THIRD DAY," HIS BODY AND SOUL UNITED FOREVER IN A GLORIFIED STATE
<b>THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS</b>	JESUS CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION ARE MADE PRESENT FOR THOSE GATHERED AND WE RECEIVE HIM IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST
<b>CATHOLIC CHURCH</b>	BAPTIZED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS BELIEVE, WORSHIP, AND ARE SANCTIFIED IN HIS MYSTICAL BODY WHICH IS ONE, HOLY, UNIVERSAL AND APOSTOLIC.

## ***THE COMMANDMENTS***

1. YOU SHALL NOT HAVE FALSE GODS BEFORE ME.
  2. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN.
  3. YOU SHALL KEEP THE LORD'S DAY HOLY.
  4. YOU SHALL HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER.
  5. YOU SHALL NOT KILL.
  6. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
  7. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.
  8. YOU SHALL NOT LIE.
  9. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S SPOUSE.
  10. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GOODS.
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### ***RELATED TERMS AND DEFINITIONS***

<b><i>ORIGINAL SIN</i></b>	MAN DISOBEYED GOD IN THE BEGINNING AND BROUGHT SIN, SUFFERING, AND DEATH INTO THE WORLD
<b><i>CONCUPISCENCE</i></b>	A STRONG <b><i>TENDENCY</i></b> TOWARDS SIN AND EVIL WHICH RESULTS FROM ORIGINAL SIN
<b><i>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:</i></b>	MARY WAS PRESERVED FROM ORIGINAL SIN FROM THE FIRST MOMENT OF HER LIFE IN HER MOTHER'S WOMB
<b><i>SIN</i></b>	TO ACT AGAINST GOD'S WILL
<b><i>VENIAL SIN</i></b>	SIN WHICH IS NOT SERIOUS, BUT WHICH WEAKENS OUR LIFE IN CHRIST
<b><i>MORTAL SIN</i></b>	SIN WHICH IS DEATH TO THE SOUL; IT INVOLVES: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><i>SERIOUS MATTER,</i></b></li> <li>2. <b><i>FULLY UNDERSTANDING</i></b> THAT THE SIN IS SERIOUS, AND</li> <li>3. <b><i>FREELY CHOOSING</i></b> TO COMMIT THE SIN</li> </ol>

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***THE GOLDEN RULE:*** DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU

***THE GREAT COMMANDMENT:*** YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR ***HEART*** AND ALL YOUR ***SOUL*** AND ALL YOUR ***MIND*** AND ALL YOUR ***STRENGTH...*** AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

***THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT:*** LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

## **THE SACRAMENTS**

<b>SACRAMENT</b>	AN OUTWARD SIGN FROM JESUS WHICH GIVES GRACE
<b>GRACE</b>	THE LIFE AND LOVE OF GOD WITHIN US
<b>MATTER</b>	WHAT IS <b>USED</b> TO MAKE A SACRAMENT PRESENT
<b>FORM</b>	WHAT IS <b>SAID AND DONE</b> WITH THE <b>MATTER</b> TO MAKE A SACRAMENT PRESENT
<b>EFFECT</b>	WHAT A SACRAMENT DOES FOR THE PERSON RECEIVING IT

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<b>BAPTISM:</b>	<b>THE SACRAMENT IN WHICH THE GUILT OF ORIGINAL SIN IS WASHED AWAY, WE BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD, AND THE INDWELLING PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS BREATHED INTO OUR SOUL</b>
<b>CONFESSION</b>	<b>THE SACRAMENT IN WHICH JESUS FORGIVES THE SINS WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES</b>
<b>HOLY EUCHARIST:</b>	<b>THE SACRAMENT GIVEN TO US BY JESUS AT THE LAST SUPPER AND AT MASS IN HOLY COMMUNION— THE BREAD OF LIFE IS REALLY AND TRULY JESUS' BODY, BLOOD, SOUL, AND DIVINITY</b>
<b>CONFIRMATION:</b>	<b>THE SACRAMENT IN WHICH THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS STRENGTHENED WITHIN US, AND WHICH HELPS US TO BECOME MATURE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH</b>
<b>MARRIAGE:</b>	<b>THE SACRAMENT IN WHICH A MAN AND A WOMAN GIVE THEMSELVES TO EACH OTHER IN A COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIP AND BECOME HUSBAND AND WIFE</b>
<b>HOLY ORDERS:</b>	<b>THE SACRAMENT IN WHICH A MAN IS MADE A PRIEST OF JESUS CHRIST, WITH THE POWER TO FORGIVE SINS AND TO OFFER THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS</b>
<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK:</b>	<b>THE SACRAMENT IN WHICH A PERSON WHO IS SERIOUSLY ILL IS BLESSED WITH HOLY OIL, WHICH HELPS TO STRENGTHEN AND HEAL THEM IN BODY AND SOUL</b>

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### **RELATED TERMS AND DEFINITIONS...**

<b>ACCIDENTS</b>	THE <b>EXTERNAL CHARACTERISTICS</b> OF A PERSON OR A THING WHICH CAN BE KNOWN BY THE SENSES
<b>SUBSTANCE</b>	THE <b>INNER REALITY</b> OF A PERSON OR THING
<b>TRANS-SUBSTANTIATION</b>	THE MIRACLE OF THE MASS IN WHICH THE <b>ACCIDENTS</b> OF THE BREAD AND WINE REMAIN UNCHANGED WHILE THE <b>SUBSTANCE</b> OF THE BREAD AND WINE BECOME THE BODY, BLOOD, SOUL, AND DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST

## ***BASIC TERMS AND DEFINITIONS***

<b><i>ETERNAL</i></b>	WITHOUT BEGINNING OR END; ONLY GOD ALWAYS WAS, AND ALWAYS WILL BE
<b><i>CREATE</i></b>	TO MAKE SOMETHING FROM NOTHING; ONLY GOD CAN CREATE
<b><i>DIVINITY</i></b>	THE QUALITY OF BEING GOD
<b><i>REALITY</i></b>	THAT WHICH IS
<b><i>TRUTH</i></b>	GOD'S UNDERSTANDING OF REALITY
<b><i>NATURE</i></b>	<b><i>WHAT</i></b> A PERSON OR THING IS
<b><i>PERSON</i></b>	ONE WHO IS IN GOD'S IMAGE AND LIKENESS
<b><i>ANGEL</i></b>	A SPIRITUAL BEING IN GOD'S IMAGE AND LIKENESS
<b><i>MAN</i></b>	A UNION OF BODY AND SOUL, IN GOD'S IMAGE AND LIKENESS
<b><i>MIND</i></b>	THE POWER TO KNOW AND BELIEVE THE <b><i>TRUE</i></b>
<b><i>WILL</i></b>	THE POWER TO LOVE AND CHOOSE THE <b><i>GOOD</i></b>
<b><i>MYSTERY</i></b>	A HIDDEN REALITY REVEALED BY GOD
<b><i>FAITH</i></b>	THE ABILITY TO <b><i>BELIEVE</i></b> IN THE MYSTERIES WHICH GOD HAS REVEALED
<b><i>HOPE</i></b>	THE ABILITY TO <b><i>TRUST</i></b> COMPLETELY IN GOD
<b><i>CHARITY</i></b>	THE ABILITY TO <b><i>LOVE</i></b> WITH GOD'S LOVE
<b><i>COVENANT</i></b>	A LOVING, LASTING <b><i>RELATIONSHIP</i></b> BETWEEN PERSONS
<b><i>PRAYER</i></b>	LOVING CONVERSATION WITH GOD
<b><i>HEAVEN</i></b>	EVERLASTING LIFE IN GOD'S PRESENCE
<b><i>PURGATORY</i></b>	A STATE OF EXISTENCE IN WHICH WE ARE "PURGED" OR PURIFIED FROM THE DAMAGE WE HAVE DONE TO OUR SOULS BY OUR SINS
<b><i>HELL</i></b>	A STATE OF <b><i>ETERNAL SEPARATION</i></b> FROM GOD; WE REJECT AND HATE HIM FOREVER
<b><i>REVELATION</i></b>	GOD <b><i>COMMUNICATES</i></b> HIS SAVING TRUTH TO MANKIND
<b><i>BIBLE</i></b>	"THE BOOK"...THE WORD OF GOD, INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WRITTEN BY MEN
<b><i>TRADITION</i></b>	GOD'S SAVING TRUTH REVEALED TO MANKIND WHICH IS NOT CONTAINED IN THE BIBLE
<b><i>MAGISTERIUM</i></b>	THE TEACHING AUTHORITY OF THE SPIRIT-GUIDED CHURCH THROUGHOUT HISTORY
<b><i>INFALLIBILITY</i></b>	THE POPE, GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, CANNOT MAKE A MISTAKE WHEN HE TEACHES ON MATTERS OF FAITH OR MORALITY

## WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

<b>CREATION.....</b>	<b>GEN 1 &amp; 2</b>	
<b>THE FALL OF MAN.....</b>	<b>GEN 3</b>	
<b>I AM!.....</b>	<b>EX 3</b> MOSES/BURNING BUSH	
<b>THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.....</b>	<b>EX 20</b>	
<b>THE HOLY TRINITY.....</b>	<b>LK 3</b> [21ff]	
<b>IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD.....</b>	<b>JOHN 1</b>	
<b>PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH.....</b>	<b>PROTO-EVANGELION GEN 3:15</b>	
	<b>SON OF DAVID</b>	<b>2 SAM 7</b>
	<b>SON OF A VIRGIN:</b>	<b>IS 7:14</b>
	<b>SON OF GOD:</b>	<b>IS 9</b>
	<b>LAMB OF SACRIFICE: IS 53</b>	
<b>INCARNATION.....</b>	<b>LK 1</b> [26ff] ANNUNCIATION	
<b>THE BIRTH OF JESUS.....</b>	<b>LK 2</b> [1-7]	
<b>THE DEATH OF JESUS.....</b>	<b>JN 19</b> [30—42]	
<b>THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.....</b>	<b>JN 20</b>	
<b>THE BLESSED MOTHER.....</b>	<b>FULL OF GRACE:</b>	<b>LK 1</b>
	<b>MOTHER OF GOD:</b>	<b>LK 1 &amp; 2</b>
	<b>MARY INTERCEDES:</b>	<b>JN 2</b>
	<b>QUEEN OF HEAVEN:</b>	<b>REV 12</b>
<b>SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM.....</b>	<b>LK 3</b> <b>MT 28</b> [16ff]	
<b>THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION.....</b>	<b>JN 20</b> [22 ff]	
<b>THE HOLY EUCHARIST.....</b>	<b>JN 6</b> [48ff] AND <b>LK 22</b> [14ff]	
<b>THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.....</b>	<b>ACTS 2</b>	
<b>THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE.....</b>	<b>MT 19</b>	
<b>THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS.....</b>	<b>LK 22</b> [19]	
<b>THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK.....</b>	<b>MK 6</b> & <b>JAMES 5</b>	
<b>HEAVEN &amp; HELL.....</b>	<b>MT 25</b> [31ff]	
<b>PETER AND THE CHURCH.....</b>	<b>MT 16</b> [16ff]	

