

BALTIMORE CATECHISM VOLUME 1

OFFICIAL DIOCESAN VERSION

FOR USE WITHIN ALL PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF PATERSON

**Those to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation should have at least the most basic knowledge of the Catholic Faith found in this first volume of the catechism.*

***This electronic version of the Baltimore Catechism is public domain, and was adapted/updated from <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/balt/balt1.htm>.*

LESSON FIRST: ON THE END OF MAN

1. Q. Who made the world?

A. God made the world.

2. Q. Who is God?

A. God is the Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things.

3. Q. What is man?

A. Man is a creature composed of body and soul, and made to the image and likeness of God.

6. Q. Why did God make you?

A. God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in heaven.

9. Q. What must we do to save our souls?

A. To save our souls, we must worship God by faith, hope, and charity; that is, we must believe in Him, hope in Him, and love Him with all our heart.

10. Q. How shall we know the things which we are to believe?

A. We shall know the things which we are to believe from the Catholic Church, through which God speaks to us.

11. Q. Where shall we find the chief truths which the Church teaches?

A. We shall find the chief truths which the Church teaches in the Apostles' Creed.

12. Q. Say the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He arose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

23. Q. How many Persons are there in God?

A. In God there are three Divine Persons, really distinct, and equal in all things - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

24. Q. Is the Father God?

A. The Father is God and the first Person of the Blessed Trinity.

25. Q. Is the Son God?

A. The Son is God and the second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

26. Q. Is the Holy Spirit God?

A. The Holy Spirit is God and the third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

27. Q. What is the Blessed Trinity?

A. The Blessed Trinity is one God in three Divine Persons.

29. Q. Are the three Divine Persons one and the same God?

A. The three Divine Persons are one and the same God, having one and the same Divine nature.

LESSON FOURTH: ON THE ANGELS AND OUR FIRST PARENTS

34. Q. Which are the chief creatures of God?

A. The chief creatures of God are men and angels.

35. Q. What are angels?

A. Angels are bodiless spirits created to adore and enjoy God in heaven.

39. Q. Who were the first man and woman?

A. The first man and woman were Adam and Eve.

40. Q. Were Adam and Eve innocent and holy when they came from the hand of God?

A. Adam and Eve were innocent and holy when they came from the hand of God.

57. Q. What is venial sin?

A. Venial sin is a slight offense against the law of God in matters of less importance; or in matters of great importance it is an offence committed without sufficient reflection or full consent of the will.

59. Q. Which are the chief sources of sin?

A. The chief sources of sin are seven: Pride, Covetousness, Lust, Anger, Gluttony, Envy, and Sloth; and they are commonly called capital sins.

LESSON SIXTH: ON THE INCARNATION AND REDEMPTION

60. Q. Did God abandon man after he fell into sin?

A. God did not abandon man after he fell into sin, but promised him a Redeemer, who was to satisfy for man's sin and reopen to him the gates of heaven.

61. Q. Who is the Redeemer?

A. Our Blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of mankind.

62. Q. What do you believe of Jesus Christ?

A. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, true God and true man.

69. Q. What do you mean by the Incarnation?

A. By the Incarnation I mean that the Son of God was made man.

70. Q. How was the Son of God made man?

A. The Son of God was conceived and made man by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

74. Q. On what day was the Son of God conceived and made man?

A. The Son of God was conceived and made man on Annunciation day - the day on which the angel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she was to be the Mother of God.

75. Q. On what day was Christ born?

A. Christ was born on Christmas day in a stable at Bethlehem, over two thousand years ago.

94. Q. Who is the Holy Spirit?

A. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

97. Q. On what day did the Holy Spirit come down upon the Apostles?

A. The Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles ten days after the Ascension of our Lord; and the day on which He came down upon the Apostles is called Pentecost (or Whitsunday).

99. Q. Who sent the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles?

A. Our Lord Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.

100. Q. Why did Christ send the Holy Spirit?

A. Christ sent the Holy Spirit to sanctify His Church, to enlighten and strengthen the Apostles, and to enable them to preach the Gospel.