

Short Confirmation Catechism

1. Who is God?

God is the Supreme Being who created all things.

2. What do we mean when we say God is the Supreme Being?

We mean that He is above all creatures.

3. What is a spirit?

A spirit is a being that has understanding and free will, but no body, and who will never die.

4. What do we mean when we say that God is self existing?

We mean that he does not owe His existence any other being.

5. What do we mean when we say that God is infinitely perfect?

He has perfections without limit.

6. What do we mean when we say God is eternal?

He always was and always will be and that he always remains the same.

7. What do we mean when we say that God is all good?

He is infinitely lovable in himself and that from His fatherly love every good comes to us.

8. What do we mean when we say that God is all knowing?

He knows all things past, present and future and even our most secret thoughts, words, actions and deeds.

9. What do we mean when we say that God is all present?

It means that He is everywhere.

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10. Is there only one God?

There is only God who is the Blessed Trinity, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the Father is the First person, the Son is the Second person, the Holy Spirit is the Third person.

11. What do we mean by the Blessed Trinity?

We mean one and the same God in three Divine Persons.

12. How are the three Divine Persons, though distinct from one another, one and the same God?

Because all have one and the same divine nature.

13. What do we mean when we say that God is the creator of heaven and earth?

He made all things by His almighty power.

14. Who are the chief creatures of God?

The chief creatures of God are angels and men.

15. What is man?

Man is a creature composed of body and soul and made in the image and likeness of God. The first man and woman were Adam and Eve; they are called the parents of the human race.

16. What is THE original sin and were its consequences?

THE original sin was a sin of pride; as a result Adam and Eve lost sanctifying grace and the right to heaven. We inherit the same judgement, the remedy for which we have Baptism.

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17. Was any human being ever preserved from original sin?

The Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from original sin from the very first moment of her conception. This is the reason for her being called the Immaculate Conception.

18. What is actual sin?

It is man making a choice to separate himself from God.

19. How are sins classified?

All sins can be classified as venial (slight) or mortal (serious).

20. What is required for a sin to be serious?

First, the thought, the desire, word, action or omission must be seriously wrong or considered to be seriously wrong.

Second, the sinner must know it is seriously wrong.

Third, the sinner must fully consent to it.

21. Who is the savior of all men and women?

Jesus Christ, the God man.

22. What is the chief teaching of our Holy Catholic Church about Jesus Christ?

It is that Jesus the Christ is that He is God made man.

23. Why is Jesus Christ God?

Because He is the Son of God, having the same Divine Nature as the Father and the Holy Spirit.

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24. Why is Jesus Christ man?

Because He is the Son of God, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, from whom He took flesh, giving Him a human nature in addition to His Divine Nature.

25. Is Jesus Christ more than one person?

Jesus is only one person and that person is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

26. How many natures does Jesus Christ have?

He has two natures, one human and one divine.

27. What do we mean by the Incarnation?

The Incarnation means that God(in Jesus Christ) took a whole and complete human nature(that is a human body and soul)and united it with a complete divine nature of the Son, making one, single person, the second person of the Blessed Trinity.

28. What do we mean by the Redemption?

It means that sinful man is reunited with God through Jesus Christ.

29. When did Christ ascend into heaven?

Jesus ascended into heaven, body and soul on Ascencion Day, 40 days after His resurrection from the dead.

30. What do we mean when we say that "He(Jesus) will come from there to judge the living and the dead?"

We mean that on the last day Our Lord Jesus will come to judge those who lived in this world.

31. What is grace?

Grace is God's life in us; grace is called actual grace or sanctifying grace.

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32. What is sanctifying grace?

It is that grace which confers on our souls a sharing in the life of God Himself.

33. What are the chief effects of sanctifying grace?

First, it makes us holy and pleasing to God.

Second, it makes us children of God with all that childhood implies.

Third, it makes us temples of the Holy Spirit.

Fourth, it confers the right to heaven upon us.

34. What is actual grace?

It is a supernatural help of God which enlightens our minds and strengthens our will to do good and to avoid evil.

35. Can we resist the grace of God?

We have free will and God does not force us to accept His grace.

36. Why is sanctifying grace necessary for salvation?

Because sanctifying grace is the supernatural life which alone enables us to attain the supernatural happiness of heaven.

37. What is a virtue of any kind?

A practice or practices by which we attain excellence. Virtues can be based in religious practice or in non religious practices. For our purposes, the supernatural virtues are religious in nature:

-Faith, by which we firmly believe on the word of God all that He has revealed to us.

-Hope, by which we firmly trust that God will give us eternal happiness and the means to obtain it.

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-Charity, by which we love God above all things for His own sake and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.

38. What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit?

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are, Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord.

39. How is the Church enabled to lead men to salvation?

By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which when He came down upon the Apostles on Pentecost in the form of flaming tongues of fire.

40. What does the indwelling of the Holy Spirit enable the Church to do?

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit enables the Church to teach, to sanctify and to lead the faithful in the name of Christ.

41. What is meant by teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in the name of Christ?

It means that the Church does the will of Christ, its Divine Founder, in doing what He commanded it to do on the day of His Ascension.

42. Why is the Catholic Church called the One True Church?

Because it was founded by Jesus Christ in order to bring all men to eternal salvation through the forgiveness of sin.

43. What are the chief marks of the Church?

It is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic(Creed).

44. Which are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. These gifts help us by making us more alert to discern the will of God for each of us; they further make us more ready to do His will.

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45. What is necessary to receive Confirmation properly?

One must be in the state of grace and to know the chief truths and duties of our church.

46. Which are the commandments of God?

They are ten in number:

1. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange Gods before me.,
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain.
3. Remember to keep Holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor thy father and mother.
5. Thou shalt not kill.
6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
7. Thou shalt not steal.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.
10. Thou shalt not covet they neighbor's goods.

47. Which are the chief laws of the Church?

They are:

1. To attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Holy Days of obligation in the United States are Christmas(12/25),the Solemnity of Mary(1/1), Ascension Thursday(40 days after Easter). Assumption of Mary(8/15), All Saints Day(11/1), Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary(12/8).
2. To fast and abstain on the days appointed(Ash Wednesday and Good Friday).

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3. To confess our sins at least once a year.

4. To receive Holy Communion during the Easter time.

5. To contribute to the support of the Church.

6. To observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage.

48. What is meant by the "Resurrection of the Body"? (Creed)

At the end of the world the bodies of all men and women will rise again from the earth and be united again to their souls, nevermore to be separated, and to dwell with the Blessed Trinity forever.