An Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church
What is a Catechism?

• “A catechism is a text which contains the fundamental Christian truths formulated in a way that facilitates their understanding.” – USCCB
• It conveys the essential teachings of the Catholic Church in a summary.
• A Catechism is not a “how-to” manual or a list of laws/rules.
A Partial History of the Catechism

- Roman Catechism: 1566
- Baltimore Catechism: 1884
- Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1992
- Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2005
- United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: 2006
- Youcat: 2011
The Catechism of the Catholic Church

- A universal or major catechism
- Intended as the “standard” or basis for all other catechisms
- It is a point of reference
- References Sacred Scripture, the Church Fathers, popes, church documents, and the writings of the saints
- Can be difficult to read
- Full Text online:
  - http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM
Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Q & A format
- A concise summary of the CCC
- References the CCC
- Shorter and easier to read than the CCC
- Full Text online at
United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

- Created by the USCCB and intended for use in the US
- Minor catechism
- Easier to read than the CCC
- Full text online at
The Four Parts of the CCC

- The Profession of Faith
- The Celebration of the Christian Mystery
- Life in Christ
- Christian Prayer
Part 1: The Profession of Faith

- I believe...
- An in-depth analysis of the Nicene Creed
  - The Revelation of God and man’s response
  - The Holy Trinity
  - The Incarnation, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
  - The four marks of the Church
Part 2: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery

• The Liturgy
  • What is Liturgy?

• The Seven Sacraments of the Church
  • Why did Christ give us the Sacraments?
  • What are the Sacraments?
  • What do they “do”? 
Part 3: Life in Christ

- Christian morality and free will
- The virtues
- Sin - venial and mortal
- Living in society and social justice
- Moral law
- Grace and justification
- The Ten Commandments
Part 4: Christian Prayer

• The universal call to prayer
• The different types and ways to pray
• The Our Father
How To Use a Catechism

• Index
• Small Faith Sharing Groups
• Catechism in a year
  • https://flocknote.com/catechism
Wait! One more Catechism...

- https://www.storytel.org/catechism
Conclusion

• Every Catholic Household should have at least two books...
• Verify
• Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition
• When Referenced: (CCC 1996)
• CCC Tabs: https://www.amazon.com/Catechism-Tabs-Coming-Home-Network/dp/0980006619