

# CATECHISM

according to the Tradition  
of the Gospel and the Church



**Editions Magnificat**

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*The asterisk \* indicates the questions suitable for little children and those who have a poor memory.*

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## LESSON 1

### THE END OF MAN

**\*1. Who created heaven and earth?**

— God created heaven and earth, all things visible and invisible.

**\*2. What is man?**

— Man is a creature composed of body and soul, and created by God in His image and likeness.

**3. How does our soul resemble God?**

— Our soul resembles God because it is a spirit that will never die, and because it is endowed with understanding and free will.

**\*4. Why did God create us?**

— God created us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy through Him in this life, and with Him in heaven throughout eternity.

**5. Should we take more care of our soul than of our body?**

- Yes, we should take more care of our soul than of our body because it is of a nature far superior to our body, and because in losing it, we lose God and eternal happiness.

**\*6. What must we do to be saved?**

- To be saved, we must adore God by faith, hope and charity; that is, we must believe in Him, hope in Him, and love Him with all our heart.

**\*7. How shall we know the things that we must believe and practice?**

- We shall know the things that we must believe and practice by receiving the teachings of the true Church of Jesus Christ, through which God speaks to us.

**\*8. Where shall we find the principal truths that the Church teaches us?**

- We shall find the principal truths that the Church teaches in the Apostles' Creed.

**\*9. Recite 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Church of Jesus Christ, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

## LESSON 2

# GOD AND HIS PERFECTIONS

**\*10. Who is God?**

— God is an infinitely perfect spirit.

**\*11. Did God have a beginning?**

— God had no beginning, for He is eternal. He always was, and He always will be.

**\*12. Where is God?**

— God is everywhere.

**\*13. If God is everywhere, why do we not see Him?**

— We do not see God because He is a pure spirit and cannot be seen with bodily eyes.

**\*14. Does God see us?**

— Yes, God sees us and watches over us.

**\*15. Does God know all things?**

— Yes, God knows all things: even our most secret thoughts, words, and actions.

**\*16. Can God do all things?**

— Yes, God is almighty, and nothing is impossible to Him.

**\*17. Is God just, holy and merciful?**

— Yes, God is infinitely just, infinitely holy, infinitely merciful, because He is infinitely perfect.

## LESSON 3

# THE UNITY AND TRINITY OF GOD

**\*18. Is there only one God?**

— Yes, there is only one God.

**\*19. Why can there be only one God?**

— There can be only one God because God, the supreme and infinitely perfect Being, cannot have an equal.

**\*20. How many Persons are there in God?**

— In God there are three divine Persons, really distinct and equal in all things: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**\*21. Is the Father God?**

— Yes, the Father is God; He is the first Person of the Holy Trinity.

**\*22. Is the Son God?**

— Yes, the Son is God; He is the second Person of the Holy Trinity.

**\*23. Is the Holy Spirit God?**

— Yes, the Holy Spirit is God; He is the third Person of the Holy Trinity.

**\*24. What do we mean by the Holy Trinity?**

— By the Holy Trinity, we mean the mystery of one God in three Persons.

**25. Are the three divine Persons equal in all things?**

— Yes, the three divine Persons are equal in all things.

**\*26. Why are the three divine Persons one and the same God?**

— The three divine Persons are one and the same God because They have one and the same divine nature.

**27. Can we understand how the three divine Persons are one and the same God?**

— No, we cannot understand how the three divine Persons are one and the same God, because it is a mystery.

**\*28. What is a mystery?**

— A mystery is a truth which we cannot understand, but which we must believe, because it is God who revealed it.

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**LESSON 4**

**CREATION**

**\*29. Who created heaven and earth?**

— God created heaven and earth, all things visible and invisible.

**\*30. How did God create heaven and earth?**

— God created heaven and earth out of nothing, by His word alone, that is, by a single act of His almighty will.

**\*31. Which are the chief beings that God created?**

— The chief beings that God created are Angels and men.

**\*32. Why did God create all the things that we see?**

— God created all the things that we see to manifest His power, His wisdom, and His goodness.

**\*33. What use does God want us to make of all created things?**

— God wants the use we make of all created things to turn to His glory, the end for which they were created.

**\*34. What are Angels?**

— Angels are pure spirits, created in the image and likeness of God, to adore Him and serve Him.

**\*35. Do the Angels concern themselves with us?**

— Yes, the Angels concern themselves with us; they have often been sent as messengers by God to man, and have also been appointed our guardians and protectors.

**\*36. Has God given a Guardian Angel to each of us?**

— Yes, God has given a Guardian Angel to each of us, to protect us from evil and to help us be good Christians.

**37. What are our duties toward our Guardian Angel?**

— We should:

1. Respect the presence of our Guardian Angel.
2. Show him our gratitude for his loving care for us.
3. Invoke him with confidence in temptation.
4. Avoid everything that might displease God and cause him to leave us.

**38. Were the Angels, such as God created them, good and happy?**

— Yes, the Angels, such as God created them, were good and happy.

**39. Did all the Angels remain good and happy?**

— No, all the Angels did not remain good and happy; many of them sinned through pride and were driven into hell; they are called the bad angels or devils.

## LESSON 5

### OUR FIRST PARENTS AND THEIR FALL

**\*40. Who were the first man and the first woman created by God?**

— The first man and the first woman created by God were Adam and Eve, our first parents.

**41. Do we all descend from Adam and Eve?**

— Yes, we all descend from Adam and Eve, and consequently we are all brothers.

**\*42. Were Adam and Eve innocent and holy at the moment of their creation?**

— Yes, Adam and Eve were innocent and holy at the moment of their creation.

**43. What particular command did God give Adam and Eve to test their obedience?**

— To test the obedience of Adam and Eve, God forbade them to eat of a certain fruit which grew in the Garden of Paradise.

**\*44. How were Adam and Eve punished for their disobedience?**

— As punishment for their disobedience, Adam and Eve lost their innocence and holiness, were cast out of the Garden of Paradise and condemned to suffering and death.

**\*45. — What is the consequence for us of the sin of our first parents?**

— The consequence of the sin of our first parents is that we all share in their sin and in their punishment.

**46. Did the sin of our first parents darken our understanding and weaken our will?**

— Yes, the sin of our first parents darkened our understanding and weakened our will by giving us an inclination to evil.



**\*-47. What do we call the sin of which all men are born guilty?**

— The sin of which all men are born guilty is called original sin, because we are all born with its stain on our soul.

**48. Do the effects of original sin upon our understanding and our will remain in us after Baptism has cleansed us from original sin?**

— Yes, the darkness of our understanding and the weakness of our will remain, even after Baptism has cleansed us from original sin.

**49. Did God preserve anyone from original sin?**

— Yes, God preserved the Most Blessed Virgin Mary from original sin, in view of Her divine maternity.

**50. What do we call this privilege of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary?**

— This privilege of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary is called the Immaculate Conception.

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**LESSON 6**

**SIN AND THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SIN**

**\*51. What is sin?**

— Sin is a willful transgression of the law of God; it is whatever turns us away from God and His holy will.

**52. How many kinds of sin are there?**

— There are two kinds of sin: original sin, which we are born with; and actual sin, which we commit by an act of our own will.

**\*53. How can we commit actual sin?**

— We can commit actual sin by thought, word, deed and omission.

**\*54. How many kinds of actual sin are there?**

— There are two kinds of actual sin: mortal sin and venial sin.

**\*55. What is mortal sin?**

— Mortal sin is a sin which kills the soul by depriving it of sanctifying grace, and which makes it deserving of the pains of hell.

**\*56. When is a sin mortal?**

— A sin is mortal when God is disobeyed in a grievous matter, with sufficient reflection and full consent of the will.

**\*57. What is the fate of the soul of a person who dies in the state of mortal sin?**

— The soul of a person who dies in the state of mortal sin is condemned to hell.

**\*58. What is venial sin?**

— Venial sin is an act of disobedience to God in a slight matter, or if in a grievous matter, one committed without sufficient reflection or without full consent of the will.

**\*59. What are the effects of venial sin?**

— Venial sin weakens the life of grace in us, lessens the love of God in our heart, and renders us deserving of temporal punishment in this life and in the next.

**60. Should we greatly dread venial sin?**

— Yes, we should greatly dread venial sin, because it offends God and often leads us to mortal sin.

## LESSON 7

### THE CAPITAL SINS AND OPPOSED VIRTUES

**\*61. Name the seven capital sins, which are the principal sources of sin.**

— The seven capital sins are: pride, covetousness, lust, envy, gluttony, anger, and sloth.

**62. What is pride?**

— Pride is an inordinate self-esteem which makes us attribute to ourselves that which we have received from God, and makes us seek to raise ourselves above others.

**63. What is the virtue opposed to pride?**

— The virtue opposed to pride is humility, the source and root of all virtue. It produces obedience, simplicity, self-forgetfulness, and meekness.

**64. What is covetousness?**

— Covetousness is an inordinate attachment to earthly goods, and chiefly to money.

**65. What are the virtues opposed to covetousness?**

— The virtues opposed to covetousness are detachment from earthly goods, charity by almsgiving, and generosity.

**66. What is lust?**

— Lust is an intemperate love of carnal pleasures.

**67. What is the virtue opposed to lust?**

— The virtue opposed to lust is chastity. In its highest degree, it is called continence and virginity.

**68. What is envy?**

— Envy, which proceeds from pride, consists in feeling joy over our neighbor's adversity, and sadness over his blessings.

**69. What is the virtue opposed to envy?**

— The virtue opposed to envy is brotherly love, the characteristic virtue of Christianity.

**70. What is gluttony?**

— Gluttony is an inordinate love of eating and drinking.

**71. What are the most dangerous kinds of gluttony?**

— The most dangerous kinds of gluttony are drunkenness and drug abuse.

**72. What are the sins ordinarily caused by drunkenness and drug abuse?**

— The sins ordinarily caused by drunkenness and drug abuse are: neglect of duty, anger, acts of violence, cursing, blasphemy, evil talk and indecent acts.

**73. What are the virtues opposed to gluttony?**

— The virtues opposed to gluttony are temperance, sobriety, and mortification of the senses.

**74. What is anger?**

— Anger is an inordinate movement of the soul which inclines us to revenge, or to violent rejection of what is displeasing to us.

**75. What are the virtues opposed to anger?**

— The virtues opposed to anger are meekness, patience, forgiveness of offenses, and the spirit of peacemaking.

**76. What is sloth?**

- Sloth is an inordinate love of ease, which makes us neglect the duties of our state of life and of religion rather than do violence to our personal inclinations.

**77. What are the virtues opposed to sloth?**

- The virtues opposed to sloth are diligence, exactitude, fervor, and Christian courage in the accomplishment of duty.

**\*78. What are the means to take against temptations?**

- The means to take against temptations are:
  1. Vigilance and avoidance of dangerous occasions, especially bad company.
  2. Prayer, and frequent confession and Communion.
  3. Remembrance of our last ends.
  4. Openness of soul to a good director.

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**LESSON 8**

**THE INCARNATION  
AND THE REDEMPTION**

**\*79. Did God abandon man after his fall into sin?**

- No, God did not abandon man after his fall into sin, but He promised him a Redeemer, who was to satisfy for man's sin and open the gates of heaven to him.

**\*80. Who is this Redeemer promised by God to the human race?**

- The Redeemer promised by God to the human race is Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**\*81. Who is Our Lord Jesus Christ?**

— Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, true God and true man.

**82. Why do we say that Jesus Christ is true God?**

— We say that Jesus Christ is true God because He is the only-begotten Son of God, equal to His Father in all things, and consequently possesses divine nature.

**83. Why do we say that Jesus Christ is true man?**

— We say that Jesus Christ is true man because He chose to be born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to have a body and a soul like ours.

**84. Why do we say that Jesus Christ is Our Lord?**

— We say that Jesus Christ is Our Lord because He redeemed us, and because His Father gave us to Him.

**85. Are there two natures in Jesus Christ?**

— Yes, there are two natures in Jesus Christ: divine nature and human nature.

**86. Are there several persons in Jesus Christ?**

— No; in Jesus Christ there is only one person, who is the divine Person of the Son of God.

**87. Was Jesus Christ always God?**

— Yes, Jesus Christ was always God, for He is the second Person of the Holy Trinity, and equal to His Father from all eternity.

**88. Was Jesus Christ always man?**

— No, Jesus Christ was not always man; He became man at the moment of His Incarnation.

**\*89. What is the mystery of the Incarnation?**

— The mystery of the Incarnation is the mystery of the union of human nature with divine nature in the Person of the Son of God.

**\*90. How was the mystery of the Incarnation effected?**

— The mystery of the Incarnation was effected in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, that is, by a miracle of divine omnipotence.

**\*91. Is the Most Blessed Virgin truly the Mother of God?**

— Yes, the Most Blessed Virgin is truly the Mother of God because She is the Mother of Jesus Christ.

**92. Who was the foster father of Our Lord Jesus Christ?**

— The foster father of Our Lord Jesus Christ was Saint Joseph, the virginal spouse of the Virgin Mary and the head of the Holy Family.

**93. Why did the Son of God become man?**

— The Son of God became man to redeem us from the slavery of sin, to deliver us from the pains of hell, and to merit eternal life for us.

**94. Did the Son of God become man immediately after the sin of our first parents?**

— No, the Son of God did not become man immediately after the sin of our first parents; at that time, He was only promised to them as the Redeemer.

**95. How could those who lived before the Incarnation of the Son of God be saved?**

— Those who lived before the Incarnation of the Son of God could be saved by believing in the Redeemer to come, by observing the natural law written in their heart, by practicing the Commandments of God and the teachings of the pro-

phets, and by the grace granted to them through the merits of the future Redeemer.

**\*96. On what day did the Son of God become man?**

— The Son of God became man in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at Nazareth, on the day of the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin that She would be the Mother of God.

**\*97. On what day and where was Jesus Christ born?**

— Jesus Christ was born on Christmas Day, in a stable, at Bethlehem.

**98. Why did Jesus Christ remain thirty-three years on earth?**

— Jesus Christ remained thirty-three years on earth to show us the way to heaven by His examples and teachings, and to merit graces for us.

**99. What is the meaning of the word Gospel?**

— The word Gospel means Good Tidings.

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## LESSON 9

# THE PASSION, DEATH, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

**\*100. What did Jesus Christ suffer for us?**

— After His agony in the Garden of Olives, Jesus Christ was betrayed by Judas, abandoned by His Apostles, covered with opprobrium, scourged, crowned with thorns, and nailed to the cross, upon which He died.



**\*101. What day did Jesus Christ die?**

— Jesus Christ died on Good Friday, at about three o'clock in the afternoon.

**102. Why do we call good the day on which Jesus Christ died such a cruel death?**

— We call it good because on that day Jesus Christ, by His death, showed His great love for man, and merited every grace for him.

**\*103. Where and how did Jesus Christ die?**

— Jesus Christ died nailed to a cross, on Calvary, in Jerusalem, between two thieves.

**\*104. Why did Jesus Christ die?**

— Jesus Christ died to redeem all men.

**\*105. How did Jesus Christ redeem us?**

— Jesus Christ redeemed us by suffering death for us as man, and as God, by giving infinite value to His sufferings and death.

**\*106. What lessons do we learn from the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ?**

— The sufferings and death of Jesus Christ teach us the great evil of sin, God's hatred of it, and the necessity of satisfying for our sins.

**\*107. What do we call the mystery of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross for us?**

— The mystery of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross for us is called the mystery of the Redemption.

**108. What became of the soul of Jesus Christ after His death?**

— After the death of Jesus Christ, His soul, separated from His body, descended into hell, that is, into limbo, where the souls

of all the just who had died since the creation of the world were detained.

**109. Why did Jesus Christ descend into limbo?**

— Jesus Christ descended into limbo to manifest His power there, and to impart the fruits of His Passion to the souls of the just who were imprisoned there.

**110. Where was the body of Jesus Christ while His soul was in limbo?**

— While the soul of Jesus Christ was in limbo, His body was in the Holy Sepulcher.

**\*111. What day did Jesus Christ rise from the dead?**

— Jesus Christ rose from the dead, glorious and immortal, on Easter Sunday, the third day after His death.

**112. How did Jesus Christ rise from the dead?**

— Jesus Christ rose from the dead by His omnipotence, as He had predicted.

**\*113. How long did Jesus Christ remain on earth after His Resurrection?**

— After His Resurrection, Jesus Christ frequently appeared to His Apostles during forty days, to show that He was truly risen, and to finish teaching them.

**\*114. What did Jesus Christ do on the fortieth day after His Resurrection?**

— On the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus Christ ascended into heaven by His own power, in the presence of a great number of His disciples; that day is called Ascension Day.

**115. Where is Jesus Christ in heaven?**

— In heaven, Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

**116. What do we mean by the words: Sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty?**

- These words mean that Jesus Christ, as God, is equal to His Father in all things, and that, as man, He is in the highest place next to God.

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**LESSON 10**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT, HIS DESCENT UPON  
THE APOSTLES**

**\*117. Who is the Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit?**

- The Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit, is the third Person of the Holy Trinity.

**118. From whom does the Holy Spirit proceed?**

- The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

**119. Is the Holy Spirit equal to the Father and the Son?**

- Yes, the Holy Spirit is equal to the Father and the Son, and He is God, like the Father and the Son, since He possesses the same infinite perfections.

**\*120. What day did the Holy Spirit come down upon the Apostles?**

- The Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles on Pentecost Sunday, ten days after the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**121. In what form did the Holy Spirit come down upon the Apostles?**

- The Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles in the form of tongues of fire.

**122. Who sent the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles?**

- The Holy Spirit was sent upon the Apostles by God the Father and God the Son.

**\*123. Why was the Holy Spirit sent upon the Apostles?**

- The Holy Spirit was sent upon the Apostles to enlighten them, to strengthen them, and to enable them to preach the Gospel and sanctify the Church.

**124. Will the Holy Spirit abide with the Church forever?**

- The Holy Spirit will abide with the Church forever, to guide it in the way of holiness and truth.

**125. Does the Holy Spirit also communicate Himself to us?**

- Yes, the Holy Spirit also communicates Himself to each one of us by the graces we need, and chiefly in the sacrament of Confirmation.