

CATECHISM

according to the Tradition
of the Gospel and the Church



Editions Magnificat
PO Box 4478, Mont-Tremblant, Quebec
J8E 1A1 Canada
– 2022 –

You can take the full course online:

Catholic Catechism

© All rights reserved.

You may print this manual for your personal use.

If you need more than one copy,
please contact Editions Magnificat:

apostles@magnificat.ca

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

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.

Glossary

Creator: “Creator” is the name given to someone who creates – one who makes something out of nothing. This name can only be given to God.

To know God: To know that God IS; to know what His perfections are and what He wants us to do.

To love God: To unite with Him and seek to please Him.

To serve God: To obey His holy Will by doing what He commands.

Eternity: A duration that never ends. More exactly, an infinite relationship with God.

LESSON 2

GOD AND HIS PERFECTIONS

***10. — What 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.

Glossary

Spirit: A being that has no body and cannot be perceived by the senses. A spirit cannot be seen with the eyes, heard with the ears, smelled with the nose, tasted with the mouth, or touched with the hands.

Infinitely perfect: There is no flaw in God. Every imaginable quality is in Him, to absolute perfection.

God is everywhere: He is not confined to any place, no matter how great we can imagine it. He is in Heaven, on earth, in all places.

God is just: God gives to each one what is due to him, without causing harm to anyone and by a free effect of His Infinite Love.

God is merciful: God has a heart that has mercy on the unfortunate. He loves us and seeks to forgive us. He does everything to save us.

God is holy: God is infinitely perfect. He is the source of all love and Holiness. All that is evil is not, nor does it exist in God. God is infinite Goodness, Truth, Life and Beauty.

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.

Glossary

Supreme Being: God is the Supreme Being because He is superior to all other beings, since He is their Creator.

Infinite: Without any limit.

We say that the three divine Persons are **distinct** to show that They cannot be intermingled. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Father, and the Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son.

The three divine Persons are **equal** in all things. This means that

They have the same qualities, the same attributes. One is not more God than the Other.

The three divine Persons have ***one and the same nature***. This means that They are one single Being and that They are not each an independent, separate Being. In other words, they are one and the same Essence.

Sovereign: One who is above all; supreme.

Christian: One who believes in Christ and keeps His Word.

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.

Glossary

Angel: This word means “sent” or “messenger”. Angels are spirits, which means that they have no body.

Evil: Here the word “evil” means sin, which is the greatest of all evils. It can also mean illnesses and accidents which can affect us in our body or our mind, and which the Guardian Angels often ward off.

To respect the presence of our Guardian Angel: Do nothing wrong out of respect for our good Angel who assists us.

To show our gratitude to our Guardian Angel: Thank him for the good he does to us.

To invoke our Guardian Angel: Pray to him to come to our help in our needs of soul and body.

Temptation: The desire or thought of doing a bad, sinful thing. It becomes a sin when we consent to it.

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.

Glossary

Adam: This name means “made of earth”.

Eve: This name means “mother of the living”.

Descendants: We are all descendants of Adam and Eve, meaning they are the ancestors of all human beings from the beginning of the world to the present day.

To test their obedience: God wanted to give Adam and Eve the opportunity to show the measure of their love for Him by being faithful and docile to His commands. God also wanted them to understand that they had a superior Master in Him, who had all rights over them.

Original: This word means “at the same time as our origin”, that is, at the beginning of Creation.

This is how we may summarize the chastisements inflicted on Adam and Eve as punishment for their sin of pride, disobedience and insubordination:

1. They lost the **state of grace** and the privilege of being called children of God.
2. They were banished from **earthly Paradise**.
3. They were condemned to **suffer and die**.
4. They were **condemned to transmit their sin and its evil consequences to all their children**.
5. They lost **order**, that is, **harmony** in their **intelligence**, their **will** and their **senses**.
6. From the moment sin was committed, all human beings are **inclined to evil**.

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.

Glossary

Sin: Sin is any disobedience to God. It is necessarily a lack of love.

Mortal: The word mortal here means “death-dealing”. Saying that mortal sin gives death to the soul does not mean that a soul in the state of mortal sin is actually dead; our soul is immortal, so it cannot cease to live or exist. By this word, we understand that mortal sin deprives the soul of the state of grace and makes it incapable of performing meritorious works for Heaven, like a dead person who can no longer act on earth.

State of grace: Having no mortal sin in one’s soul. Living by the life of God; grace is the supernatural “life” of the soul.

Grave matter: Involving something very serious, an important point of the Law of God.

Light matter: A less important point of the Law of God.

With reflection: Knowing that what one is doing is very wrong.

With full consent of the will: Doing evil on purpose, though it is possible not to do it.

Age of reason: The age when one becomes capable of distinguishing between good and evil.

Sin of thought: A sin that takes place only in the mind without manifesting itself externally through actions – a thought of pride, jealousy, etc.

Sin of word: A sin that one commits by saying things which offend God and neighbor – lying, blasphemy, backbiting, etc.

Sin of deed: A sin that one commits by doing outwardly something which offends God and neighbor – injuring, killing, stealing, etc.

Sin of omission: A sin that one commits by not doing something which God commands – not loving one’s parents, not praying, not defending the rights of God, etc.

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 **continnence** 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.

Glossary

Capital: The term “capital” given to each of these sins does not mean that these sins are in themselves more serious than the others. By this word, which means “head” or “chief”, we understand that a capital sin is one which leads to other sins.

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 prophets, 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.

Glossary

Incarnation: This term comes from two Latin words which mean “in the flesh”.

Miracle: A sensible phenomenon which is beyond the power of nature and which only God can do.

Bethlehem: This name means “House of Bread”.

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.

Glossary

Agony of Jesus: This is the sorrowful state in which He found Himself in the Garden of Olives, also called the Garden of Gethsemani.

Garden of Olives: A garden or grove planted with olive trees near the city of Jerusalem.

Opprobrium: Insults, offenses, coarse remarks, indignities, abuse. Covered with opprobrium means to receive countless insults, etc.

Scourging: Flogging, beating with whips or rods.

Descended into hell: This does not refer to the place inhabited by the demons and the damned. Here the term hell refers to the lower parts of the earth (*infern* in Latin), also called limbo (in Latin *edge*, meaning “the edge of hell”), where the souls of the Just who died before Jesus Christ awaited the grace of redemption. By His suffering and death, Christ reopened the gates of Heaven, into which He brought the souls of the Just.

Resurrected: Having come back from death to life; risen.

Pasch: Derived from a word meaning passage. The Jews celebrated the Pasch, or Passover, in remembrance of the passage of the Exterminating Angel which was the sign of their deliverance from captivity. The Apostles established the Christian feast of Easter (called *Pascha* in Aramaic) in remembrance of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, of His passage from death to life, the sign of our salvation.

Jesus Christ rose on the third day: Not three days after His death.

Resurrected by His almighty power: Our Lord resurrected Himself without needing anyone, because He is God Almighty.

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.

Glossary

Proceed from: To “come from”.

Pentecost: Derived from a Greek word meaning “fiftieth”. This term was given to the day of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Blessed Virgin and the Apostles because that event took place fifty days after the Resurrection of Our Lord.

Strengthen the Apostles: The Holy Spirit increased (strengthened) the courage of the Apostles, because before they received the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were fearful and cowardly. After the death of Jesus they had remained hidden for fear of being mistreated and put to death like their Master.

Sanctify the Church: The Holy Spirit endowed the Apostles with the grace of moving men to love the virtues taught by Our Lord which sanctify them, make them holy.

LESSON 11

THE EFFECTS OF THE REDEMPTION

***126. — What is the mystery of the Redemption?**

— The mystery of the Redemption is the mystery of the Son of God suffering and dying to redeem us.

***127. — What are the chief effects of the Redemption?**

— The chief effects of the Redemption are:

1. The satisfaction made to divine justice for our sins, by the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ.
2. The gaining of grace for men.

***128. — What is grace?**

— Grace is a supernatural gift which God grants us, out of pure goodness and in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, to help us work out our salvation.

129. — How many kinds of grace are there?

— There are two kinds of grace: sanctifying or habitual grace, and actual grace.

***130. — What is sanctifying grace?**

— Sanctifying grace is the supernatural gift of the divine Presence in the soul, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This presence makes the soul holy and pleasing to God.

***131. — When do we receive sanctifying grace for the first time?**

— We receive sanctifying grace for the first time through the sacrament of Baptism.

***132. — Can we lose sanctifying grace?**

— Yes, unfortunately, we can lose sanctifying grace through mortal sin.

133. — What is actual grace?

— Actual grace is a passing help by which God enlightens our understanding and prompts our will to avoid evil and to do good.

***134. — Is grace necessary for salvation?**

— Yes, grace is absolutely necessary for salvation; without it, we can do nothing to merit Heaven.

135. — Can we resist the grace of God?

— Yes, we can resist grace, and unfortunately we resist it all too often.

136. — What is the grace of perseverance?

— The grace of perseverance is a special gift of God which keeps us or places us in the state of grace at the moment of death.

Glossary

Virtue: from the Latin “vir”, which means “energetic man”. Virtue is a good disposition of the soul acquired often by great efforts, which becomes a healthy habit of our heart, and inspires our actions, attitudes, reactions. It is in the trial that true virtue manifests itself.

Grace: from the Latin “gratia” which means “favor”. Grace is a free gift that God gives us; we do not deserve it.

LESSON 12

THE EFFECTS OF THE REDEMPTION (*cont.*) – THE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES

***137. — Which virtues does God infuse into the soul with sanctifying grace?**

— With sanctifying grace, God infuses into the soul the theological virtues, or divine virtues, of faith, hope and charity.

138. — Why are these three virtues called theological or divine?

— These three virtues are called theological or divine because God is their immediate object; they refer directly to God.

***139. — What is faith?**

— Faith is a divine virtue by which we firmly believe the truths God has revealed to us, and which He teaches us through His Church.

140. — How do we sin against faith?

— We sin against faith when we:

1. Refuse to believe what God teaches us through His Church.
2. Willfully doubt any revealed truth.
3. Are ashamed or afraid to pass for a Christian, or formally deny the faith.
4. Neglect to learn Christian doctrine sufficiently.
5. Follow a way of life that is not in conformity with Christian beliefs.

141. — What do we call the sin of those who deny or who deliberately doubt a truth of faith?

— The sin of those who deny or who deliberately doubt a truth of faith is called the sin of heresy.

142. — What do we call the sin of those who deny all the truths of faith?

— The sin of those who deny all the truths of faith is called apostasy.

143. — Is it a serious sin not to openly profess our faith in the true Church if we believe in it interiorly?

— Yes, it is a serious sin not to openly profess our faith in the true Church if we believe in it interiorly, because Our Lord said, *Whoever is ashamed of Me and denies Me before men, I in turn will deny him before My Father in Heaven.* St. Matthew 10:33; St. Luke 9:26

144. — Are we often obliged to make an open profession of our faith?

— We are obliged to make an open profession of our faith as often as the glory of God, our spiritual good or that of our neighbor requires it. Jesus Christ says, *Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge him before My Father in Heaven.* St. Matthew 10:32

145. — How does faith diminish in the soul, and even reach the point of being lost?

— Faith diminishes in the soul, and even reaches the point of being lost, by:

1. Neglect of religious duties.
2. Bad morals.
3. Reading literature or holding conversations which attack or question Catholic beliefs or which advocate neutrality.

146. — To accomplish the unity desired by Christ, must we not have an attitude of tolerance and openness to all religions?

— The unity desired by Christ will be achieved in charity, certainly, but also in the truth.

***147. — What is hope?**

— Hope is a divine virtue by which we firmly trust that God, through His goodness, will give us eternal life and the necessary graces to obtain it.

***148. — Why do we hope for eternal life and the graces necessary to obtain it?**

— We hope for eternal life and the graces necessary to obtain it because God has promised them to us and Jesus Christ has merited them for us.

149. — What are the sins against hope?

— The sins against hope are presumption and despair.

150. — What is presumption?

— Presumption is a rash expectation of salvation, by which:

1. We rely on the mercy of God as a license to commit sin and to delay our conversion.
2. We rely too much on our own strength to win Heaven, without the grace of God, or without performing good works.

151. — What is despair?

— Despair is the loss of hope in the mercy of God regarding our conversion and eternal salvation.

Glossary

Theological: This qualifier given to the virtues of faith, hope and charity, comes from two Greek words, one meaning “God” and the other “speech”. The theological virtues are the virtues that have God as their object.

Faith: from the Latin “fides”, the word “faith” means “belief”. Faith is called divine or supernatural because it is a virtue that we cannot obtain by our own strength. And also because its object is supernatural, divine: God.

Hope: from the Latin “sperare”, which means “to hope”. God being the only object worthy of all our hope, and who alone can fill it perfectly, the virtue of hope makes us expect from Him supernatural goods and especially eternal happiness.

LESSON 13

THE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES (*cont.*)

***152. — What is charity?**

— Charity is a divine virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.

***153. — How do we show that we love God?**

— We show that we love God by:

1. Observing His commandments.
2. Being disposed to lose everything rather than offend Him.
3. Loving our neighbor as ourselves.

***154. — What is meant by the word neighbor?**

By the word neighbor we mean all men, even our enemies.

***155. — Why must we love our neighbor?**

— We must love our neighbor because he is a child of God our Father, and because God commands us to love him.

***156. — Must we love even our enemies?**

— Yes, we are obliged to love our enemies, to pray for them, to do good to them, and because Jesus Christ has given us the example of this.

***157. — What does it mean to love our neighbor as oneself?**

— To love our neighbor as oneself means to provide him with, or at least wish him, the same good as for oneself; it means to treat him as we would want him to treat us.

***158. — How can we recognize that we love our neighbor?**

— We can recognize that we love our neighbor if we regard him as a child of God, if we respect his reputation and honor, and if we practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy toward him.

***159. — What are the spiritual works of mercy?**

— The spiritual works of mercy are:

1. To instruct the ignorant in the truths of religion.
2. To give good advice and good example.
3. To comfort the sorrowful.
4. To admonish sinners.
5. To forgive offenses.
6. To patiently bear our neighbor's faults.
7. To pray for the living and the dead.

***160. — What are the corporal works of mercy?**

— The corporal works of mercy are:

1. To feed the hungry.
2. To give drink to the thirsty.
3. To clothe the naked.
4. To ransom captives.
5. To give hospitality to strangers.
6. To visit the sick and the prisoners.
7. To bury the dead.

Glossary

Charity: from the Latin “caritas”, which means “tenderness”. Saint John the Evangelist described God with these words: Deus caritas est, God is charity. God is the only object worthy of all our love and He alone can fulfill every need of our heart and soul. Saint Augustine says, “You created us for You O God, and our hearts are restless until they rest all in You.”

The more we are filled with **Christian charity**, the more we become like God. The word **charity** is synonymous with the word **love**. The virtue of charity is the queen of all virtues and all virtues are worthless if they are not inspired by love.

LESSON 14

THE CHURCH

***161. — What means are given men to enable them to share in the fruits of the Redemption?**

— The means given men to enable them to share in the fruits of the Redemption are the Church and the sacraments.

***162. — What is the Church?**

— The Church is the society of all those who profess faith in Jesus Christ, partake of the same sacraments, and are governed by their legitimate pastors under one visible Head.

***163. — Who established the Church?**

— Jesus Christ established the Church.

***164. — Who is the invisible Head of the Church?**

— Jesus Christ is the invisible Head of the Church.

***165. — Who is the visible Head of the Church?**

— The visible Head of the Church is the Successor of Saint Peter, who is also called the Father of Christianity, the Sovereign Pontiff, or the Vicar of Christ.

166. — Why is the Father of Christianity the visible Head of the Church?

— The Father of Christianity is the visible Head of the Church because he is the Successor of Saint Peter, whom Christ Himself established as Head of the Apostles and of the visible Church.

167. — Who are the successors of the other Apostles?

— The successors of the other Apostles are the bishops of the true Church of Jesus Christ.

168. — Are there several Churches established by Jesus Christ?

— No, there is only one Church established by Jesus Christ, just as there is only one true God, one Faith and one Baptism.

169. — Why did Jesus Christ found His Church?

— Jesus Christ founded His Church to teach, govern, sanctify and save all men.

170. — Are all men obliged to belong to this one Church founded by Jesus Christ?

— Yes, all men are obliged to belong to this one Church founded by Jesus Christ, and whoever knows that it is the true Church and refuses to belong to it cannot be saved.

Glossary

Church: from the Latin “eclesia”, which means “assembly of the faithful”.

Society: In this context, the word means “together, meeting”.

To profess the faith of Jesus Christ is to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God made man; and to believe all the truths that He has taught us. It is to live according to the examples and maxims He has given us in His Gospel.

Legitimate Pastors are those who have received from God the right to lead us in the fulfillment of Christian duties. They are: **The Father of Christianity, the bishops and the priests.**

The **Supreme Pontiff** is the head of all pontiffs or bishops.

The word **bishop** comes from the Christian Latin “episcopus” and means “head of a diocese”. The word “episkopos”, from the ancient Greek, means “one who watches over”. For the bishop must be a vigilant watchman to watch over the priests, the faithful, and guard them as a good shepherd guards his flock.

LESSON 15

THE ATTRIBUTES AND POWERS OF THE CHURCH

171. — What are the attributes of the Church?

— The attributes of the Church are: authority, infallibility, and indefectibility.

172. — What do we mean by the authority of the Church?

— By the authority of the Church, we mean the mission, the right and the power which the Head of the Church and the bishops, successors of the Apostles, have received from Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel and to govern the faithful.

173. — What do we mean by the infallibility of the Church?

— The infallibility of the Church means the prerogative which Jesus Christ gave to His Church, which renders it free from error when it teaches a doctrine of faith or morals to all the faithful.

174. — When is the teaching of the Church infallible?

— The teaching of the Church is infallible when the Father of Christianity, alone or with the bishops, addressing all the faithful, defines and proclaims a doctrine of faith or morals.

175. — What do we mean by the indefectibility of the Church?

— By the indefectibility of the Church, we mean that the Church, as Jesus Christ founded it, will last till the end of time.

176. — In which person are these three attributes of the Church found?

— These three attributes of the Church are found, in their fullness, in the person of the Successor of Peter, whose authority and whose indefectibility in the faith will last till the end of time.

***177. — What are the marks by which one may recognize the Church?**

— The Church has four marks by which it may be recognized: it is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. – Moreover, like her Master Jesus Christ, the true Church is persecuted by Satan and his henchmen.

178. — How is the Church one?

— The Church is one because all its members share one and the same Faith, the same sacraments, and are all subject to the same head.

179. — How is the Church holy?

— The Church is holy because Jesus Christ, its Head, is holy, and because it can sanctify us by its doctrine and its sacraments.

180. — How is the Church universal or catholic?

— The Church is universal or catholic because it will not cease to exist till the end of time, and because it teaches all nations, and maintains all the truths necessary for salvation.

181. — How is the Church apostolic?

— The Church is apostolic because it was founded by Jesus Christ upon the Apostles, because it is governed by their legitimate successors, and because it has taught and will always teach their doctrine.

Glossary

Infallibility comes from a Latin word and designates the impossibility of deceiving oneself and others.

Truths of faith are truths that we are obliged to believe in order to be saved.

Truths of morality are those truths that have to do with what we must do or avoid in order to be saved.

By **marks of the Church**, it is necessary to understand the signs with which one can distinguish the Church founded by Jesus Christ, from the Churches founded by men

LESSON 16

THE SACRAMENTS IN GENERAL

***182. — What is a sacrament?**

— A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Jesus Christ to give us grace.

***183. — How many sacraments are there?**

— There are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.

***184. — From what source do the sacraments receive the power to give grace?**

— The sacraments receive the power to give grace from the merits of Jesus Christ.

185. — What graces do the sacraments give?

— Certain sacraments give sanctifying grace, which justifies the soul and brings it from the death of sin to the life of grace; the other sacraments increase sanctifying grace in souls which already possess supernatural life.

186. — Which sacraments give sinners the grace of justification?

— The sacraments which give sinners the grace of justification are Baptism and Penance.

187. — Why are Baptism and Penance called sacraments of the dead?

— Baptism and Penance are called sacraments of the dead because they take away sin, which is the death of the soul, and give grace which is its life.

188. — Which sacraments increase sanctifying grace in our soul?

— The sacraments which increase sanctifying grace in our soul are: Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. They are called sacraments of the living.

189. — Why are these five sacraments called sacraments of the living?

— These five sacraments are called sacraments of the living because to receive them worthily, we must be in the state of grace.

190. — What sin do we commit if we receive a sacrament of the living when in the state of grievous sin?

— If we voluntarily receive a sacrament of the living when in the state of grievous sin, we commit a sacrilege, which is a very great sin, because it is a profanation of a sacred thing.

***191. — Do the sacraments give another grace besides sanctifying grace?**

— Yes, besides sanctifying grace, the sacraments give another grace, called sacramental grace.

192. — What is sacramental grace?

— Sacramental grace is a special help given by God to attain the end for which He instituted each sacrament.

193. — Do the sacraments always give grace?

— Yes, the sacraments always give grace, provided we receive them with good dispositions.

***194. — Which sacraments imprint an indelible mark in the soul?**

— Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders imprint in the soul an indelible spiritual mark which is called a character.

195. — Why does this character remain in the soul even after death?

— This character remains in the soul even after death for the

honor and glory of those who are saved, and for the shame and punishment of those who are damned.

Glossary

The word **sacrament** is borrowed from the religious Latin “sacramentum” which means “sacred thing”.

A **sensible sign** is a sign that falls under our senses, that is to say that we perceive easily by our physical faculties.

Instituted means: established.

The word **virtue** here means: power, might.

To give sinners the grace of justification means to make them righteous or holy by restoring to them the sanctifying grace which they had lost through sin.

Sacramental means: proper to the sacrament.

LESSON 17

BAPTISM

***196. — What is Baptism?**

— Baptism is a sacrament which cleanses us from original sin, makes us Christians, children of God and of the Church, and heirs of Heaven.

***197. — Are actual sins remitted by Baptism?**

— Baptism remits actual sins and all the punishment due to them, provided we sincerely regret them.

***198. — Is Baptism necessary for salvation?**

— Yes, Baptism is necessary for salvation.

***199. — Who can administer Baptism?**

— The priest is the ordinary minister of Baptism; but in case of necessity, anyone who has the use of reason can and must baptize.

***200. — How is Baptism given?**

— Baptism is given by pouring natural water over the head of the person to be baptized, saying at the same time: I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

201. — How many kinds of Baptism are there?

— There are three kinds of Baptism: Baptism of water, Baptism of desire, and Baptism of blood.

202. — When Baptism of water cannot be received, may Baptism of desire compensate for it?

— Yes, when Baptism of water cannot be received, the desire of receiving it as soon as possible, with sincere regret for one's sins and the resolution to observe the law of God, may compensate for it.

203. — What is Baptism of blood?

— Baptism of blood is martyrdom suffered for one's faith in Jesus Christ, or for some Christian virtue, with sincere sorrow for one's sins.

204. — Do Baptism of desire and Baptism of blood produce the same effects as Baptism of water?

— Baptism of desire and Baptism of blood render us worthy of entering Heaven, but do not imprint a character on the soul.

205. — What have we renounced by Baptism?

— By Baptism, we have forever renounced the devil, his works and his pomps, that is, the world and every kind of sin and false maxim.

206. — Why is the name of a Saint given to the one who receives Baptism?

— The name of a Saint is given to the one who receives Baptism

so that he may imitate the Saint's virtues and have him as a protector.

207. — Why are a godfather and godmother given to the one who is baptized?

— A godfather and godmother are given to the one who is baptized so that they may promise, in his name, what he himself would promise if he had the use of reason.

208. — What are the obligations of the godfather and godmother?

— The obligations of the godfather and godmother are:

1. To instruct the child in his religious duties, if the parents neglect to do so or if they die.
2. To see, if necessary, that the child fulfills the promises made at Baptism.

Glossary

The word **“baptism”** comes from the Christian Greek “baptismos” which means: the action of plunging into water to wash away original sin.

By **natural water**, we mean water as it is found in nature. Rainwater, sea water, river water, pond water, spring water, melted snow, is natural water.

By **“the works of the devil”**, it is necessary to understand all kinds of sins, because evil is the work of the devil as much as good is the work of God. And also it is necessary to imply all that comes from the pride of the man.

By **“the pomps of the devil”**, we must understand the vanities of the world, that is to say all that distracts men from the service and love of God, such as the attachment to riches and honors.

Maxims are **wrong** if what they command is wrong, e.g., “Above all, one must become rich.” “One must enjoy life and give oneself all possible pleasures to be happy.” etc.

The names **godfather** and **godmother** mean: spiritual parents.

LESSON 18

CONFIRMATION

***209. — What is Confirmation?**

— Confirmation is a sacrament by which we receive the Holy Spirit, who gives us strength to confess our faith without fear, and to lead a holy life in spite of all obstacles.

***210. — By whom is Confirmation administered?**

— Confirmation is administered by a bishop, or by a priest to whom the Father of Christianity has granted special powers.

***211. — How is Confirmation administered?**

— The bishop extends his hands over those who are to be confirmed, prays the Holy Spirit to descend upon them, anoints the forehead of each with holy chrism in the form of a cross, and gives each a slight blow on the cheek, saying: Peace be with you.

212. — What is meant by anointing, in the form of a cross, the forehead of the persons confirmed?

— Anointing, in the form of a cross, the forehead of the persons confirmed means that the Christian who is confirmed must openly profess and practice his faith, never be ashamed of it, and die rather than deny it.

213. — Why does the bishop give the person he confirms a slight blow on the cheek?

— The bishop gives the person he confirms a slight blow on the cheek to remind him that he must be ready to suffer outrages and even death for the love of Jesus Christ.

***214. — Is it necessary to be in the state of grace to receive Confirmation worthily?**

— Yes, it is necessary to be in the state of grace to receive Confirmation worthily.

215. — What special preparation should be made to receive Confirmation?

— To receive Confirmation, persons should know, as well as possible, the chief mysteries of the Faith, the duties of a Christian, and especially what relates to the nature and effects of the sacrament of Confirmation.

*216. — Is it wrong to neglect to receive Confirmation?

— Yes, it is wrong to neglect to receive Confirmation, especially in times such as ours, when faith and morals are exposed to such great dangers.

Glossary

See: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

See: The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The word “**confirmation**” comes from the Christian Latin “*confirmatio*” which means “strengthening”. This name designates well the effect of this sacrament which is to strengthen in souls the grace of baptism.

The **strength** that is given to us by confirmation is a strength of the soul and not of the body.

Peace, a fruit of the Holy Spirit, is the reward for the works accomplished and the sufferings endured for God.

To know the nature of confirmation is to know what it produces in our souls.

LESSON 19

THE EFFECTS OF CONFIRMATION

217. — What are the effects of Confirmation?

— The effects of Confirmation are: an increase of sanctifying grace, a strengthening of faith, and the gifts of the Holy Ghost.

218. — What are the gifts of the Holy Ghost?

— The gifts of the Holy Ghost are seven in number: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

219. — Why do we receive the gift of wisdom?

— We receive the gift of wisdom so that we may relish the things of God, and that we may seek by all our actions only His honor and glory.

220. — What is the effect of the gift of understanding?

— The gift of understanding enables us to know more clearly the truths which we must believe and practice.

221. — Why do we receive the gift of counsel?

— We receive the gift of counsel to forearm us against the deceits of the devil, and against the dangers encountered on the road to salvation.

222. — Why do we receive the gift of fortitude?

— We receive the gift of fortitude so that we may have the courage to do the will of God in all things.

223. — What does the gift of knowledge give us?

— The gift of knowledge enables us to discover the will of God in all things.

224. — What do we mean by the gift of piety?

— By the gift of piety, we mean the gift which helps us love God as a father, and obey Him because we love Him.

225. — What is the effect of the gift of the fear of the Lord?

— The gift of the fear of the Lord fills us with a great horror for sin.

226. — What are the fruits of the Holy Ghost?

— The fruits of the Holy Ghost are: charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, longanimity, mildness, faith, modesty, continence and chastity.

Glossary

By **wisdom**, children usually mean the opposite of dissipation; that is not the meaning of the word here. Wisdom, a gift of the Holy Spirit, means “proper appreciation”. Of the seven gifts, wisdom is the highest because it is the lived balance of the hierarchy of values, and self-knowledge in relation to God.

Intelligence helps us to distinguish good from evil through the teachings and counsels of the Gospel.

The gift of **fortitude** is also a particular grace to be able to persevere in the accomplishment of God’s will. It gives us the courage to overcome obstacles.

The **knowledge** that Confirmation gives us is a supernatural science, not a natural science.

The word **piety** comes from the Latin word “pius” which means: one who diligently fulfills his duties towards God and his neighbor. This piety is based on generosity and honesty of heart.

By **the things of God**, we mean: the truths of the Faith, prayer, religious services, the sacraments, etc.

To savor the things of God is to love them, to seek them, to delight in them, etc.

Conferred means “given”.

LESSON 20

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

***227. — What is the sacrament of Penance?**

— The sacrament of Penance is a sacrament by which God grants the forgiveness of sins committed after Baptism.

228. — Does the sacrament of Penance restore the soul to the friendship of God at the same time it purifies it from sin?

— Yes, the sacrament of Penance restores the soul to the friendship of God at the same time it purifies it from sin.

***229. — When do we receive the sacrament of Penance?**

— We receive the sacrament of Penance when the priest gives absolution.

230. — Do priests have the power to remit sins committed after Baptism?

— Yes, priests have the power to remit sins committed after Baptism because Jesus Christ gave it to them when He said to His Apostles, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained”. St. John 20:22-23

231. — How do priests exercise the power to forgive sins?

— Priests exercise the power to forgive sins by hearing the confession of sins and by giving absolution, as ministers of God and in His name.

***232. — What must we do to prepare ourselves well to receive the sacrament of Penance?**

— To prepare ourselves well to receive the sacrament of Penance, we must do five things:

1. Examine our conscience.

2. Have sorrow for our sins.
3. Make a firm resolution never to offend God again.
4. Confess our sins to the priest.
5. Accept the penance that the priest gives us.

233. — May we sometimes receive absolution for our sins without confessing them?

— If we do not have the opportunity to confess them, we may receive absolution for our sins, even grievous ones, when general absolution is given daily by priests before Mass, provided we have contrition for our sins and the firm intention to accuse them at the next opportunity.

234. — In what does the examination of conscience consist?

— The examination of conscience consists in recalling all the sins we have committed since our last good confession.

***235. — What means must we take to examine our conscience well?**

— To examine our conscience well, we must review, one after the other, the Commandments of God and of the Church, the seven capital sins, and the duties of our particular state of life, in order to discern what sins we have committed.

236. — What should we do before beginning our examination of conscience?

— Before beginning our examination of conscience, we should ask God to give us the grace to know our sins and to detest them.

Glossary

The word “**penance**” comes from the Latin “paenitens” which means: one who feels regret and repentance.

To remit sins means: to erase them, to forgive them.

Absolution comes from the Christian Latin “absolutio”, action of discharging. **To absolve**, from the Latin “solvere”, to dissolve.

To withhold sins is to refuse to grant forgiveness.

To prepare oneself to receive the sacrament of Penance, is to dispose oneself by recollection and contrition, to receive the sacrament of Penance well.

We call “**particular duties of one’s state**” what each one is required to do according to the condition in which he lives and according to the responsibilities with which he is charged.

LESSON 21

CONTRITION

***237. — What is contrition?**

— Contrition is the sincere regret for having offended God, and the firm purpose of never offending Him again.

***238. — Make an act of contrition.**

— O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more, and to avoid the near occasions of sin.

***239. — Is contrition absolutely necessary to obtain the forgiveness of sins?**

— Yes, contrition is absolutely necessary to obtain the forgiveness of sins.

***240. — What must we do to have contrition?**

— To have contrition for our sins, we must humbly ask God for it, and arouse it within ourselves by considering the offense we have committed against the infinite Love of God.

241. — What are the qualities of contrition?

— Contrition for our sins must have four qualities: it must be interior, supernatural, universal, and sovereign.

242. — What do we mean by interior contrition?

— By interior contrition we mean that it must come from the heart, and not merely from the lips.

243. — What do we mean by supernatural contrition?

— By supernatural contrition we mean that it must be inspired by the grace of God and based on motives proceeding from faith, and not on purely natural motives.

244. — What do we mean by universal contrition?

— By universal contrition we mean that we must be sorry for all our sins without exception.

245. — What do we mean by sovereign contrition?

— By sovereign contrition we mean that we must grieve more for having offended God than for all the evil that can befall us.

***246. — Why must we be sorry for our sins?**

— We must be sorry for our sins because:

1. Sin is the greatest of all evils and an offense against God our Creator, Father and Redeemer.
2. Sin caused the death of Jesus Christ.
3. Venial sin weakens the life of grace in us and predisposes the soul to more grievous falls.
4. Mortal sin deprives us of the happiness of heaven and makes us deserving of the eternal torments of hell.

***247. — How many kinds of contrition are there?**

— There are two kinds of contrition: perfect contrition and imperfect contrition.

***248. — What is perfect contrition?**

— Perfect contrition is that which fills us with sorrow and hatred for sin because it offends God, who is infinitely good and deserving of all our love.

***249. — What is imperfect contrition?**

— Imperfect contrition is that which fills us with sorrow and hatred for sin because by it we lose heaven and deserve hell, or because sin is hateful in itself and we must be ashamed to have committed it.

250. — Is imperfect contrition sufficient for a worthy confession?

— Yes, imperfect contrition is sufficient for a worthy confession, but we must endeavor to have perfect contrition, as much as possible.

***251. — What should a person in danger of death do if he feels guilty of mortal sin and cannot obtain a priest to hear his confession?**

— A person in danger of death who feels guilty of mortal sin and cannot obtain a priest to hear his confession should make an act of perfect contrition, with the firm purpose of confessing his sins when it becomes possible.

252. — What do we mean by the firm purpose of sinning no more?

— By the firm purpose of sinning no more we mean a fixed resolve to avoid not only sin, but also all the near occasions of sin.

***253. — What do we mean by the near occasions of sin?**

— By the near occasions of sin we mean all the people, places and things that may easily lead us into sin.

Glossary

The word “**contrition**” comes from the Christian Latin “*contritio*” and means: deep sorrow, crushed heart. This word expresses well the

feeling felt by the Christian who has a sincere repentance for his faults, a great sorrow for offending God.

By the word **“heartily”**, which is used in the Act of Contrition, we express that our regret for having sinned is lively and deep.

Mortal sin is the greatest of all misfortunes because it endangers our eternal salvation.

LESSON 22

CONFESSION AND SATISFACTION

***254. — What is confession?**

— Confession is the accusation of our sins to a priest, to obtain forgiveness for them.

***255. — What sins are we obliged to confess?**

— We are obliged to confess all our mortal sins, if we have had the misfortune to commit any, but it is also good to confess our venial sins.

256. — What are the chief qualities of a good confession?

The chief qualities of a good confession are three: it must be humble, sincere and entire.

257. — When is our confession humble?

Our confession is humble when we accuse ourselves of our sins with a deep sense of shame and sorrow for having offended God.

258. — When is our confession sincere?

Our confession is sincere when we accuse our sins honestly and truthfully, neither exaggerating nor excusing them.

259. — When is our confession entire?

Our confession is entire when we accuse the number and kinds of our sins and the circumstances which change their nature.

260. — What should we do if we cannot remember the number of our sins?

When we cannot remember the number of our sins, we should declare, as accurately as possible, the frequency of such a sin, and also add how long the bad habit has lasted.

***261. — If we forget to confess a grievous offense through no fault of our own, is our confession good?**

If we forget to confess a grievous offense through no fault of our own, our confession is good, and the sin is forgiven; but if it comes to mind later, we must confess it.

***262. — Is it a grievous offense to willfully conceal a mortal sin in confession?**

Yes, it is a grievous offense to willfully conceal a mortal sin in confession because we thereby lie to the Holy Spirit, and in that case the confession is null and sacrilegious.

263. — What must we do if we have willfully concealed a grievous offense in confession?

If we have willfully concealed a grievous offense in confession we must confess the sin we have concealed as well as the sacrilege we have committed, and ask for a new absolution for all the offenses already accused in our previous incomplete confessions.

***264. — Why does the priest give a penance after confession?**

The priest gives a penance after confession so that we may satisfy God for the temporal punishment due to sin, and to deter the penitent from committing it again.

265. — Does the sacrament of Penance remit all punishment due to sin?

The sacrament of Penance always remits the eternal punishment due to sin, but it does not always remit the temporal punishment

which God requires as satisfaction for our sins.

266. — Why does God require a temporal punishment as satisfaction for sin?

God requires a temporal punishment as satisfaction for sin to teach us the great evil of sin and to deter us from committing it again.

267. — What are the means by which we make satisfaction to God for the temporal punishment due to sin?

We may make satisfaction to God for the temporal punishment due to sin chiefly by patiently bearing all the ills of life and the obligations of the duties of our state of life, by prayer, fasting, almsgiving, the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, and the penance given by the confessor.

Glossary

The word **“humble”**, from the Latin “humilis” means: close to the earth. Through humility we recognize that God is everything, and that we are nothing. God is beauty, goodness, infinite Love and we, we are capable of all sins. The good that is in us comes from the pure goodness of God towards us.

The word **“sincere”**, from the Latin “sinceritas” means: purity. Our contrition is sincere when it is not inspired by a selfish motive. Sincere contrition is the sorrow of offending God, infinitely good and lovable.

The word **“whole”** means that our contrition must extend to all our sins.

LESSON 23

HOW TO MAKE A GOOD CONFESSION

***268. — What should we do when we enter the confessional?**

Upon entering the confessional, we should kneel down, make the sign of the cross, and recite, in abbreviated form, the Confiteor...

— See the complete Method:

<https://magnificat.ca/odm/en/method-for-confession/>

***269. — After the Confiteor what is to be done?**

After the Confiteor:

1. we must say how long ago we went to confession, whether we received absolution the last time and whether we have accomplished the penance imposed

2. then accuse all the grievous sins committed since the last absolution and the venial sins which one wishes to mention.

***270. — When we have finished accusing our sins, what should we do?**

When we have finished accusing our sins, we say, “Father, I accuse myself of many more sins that I do not have knowledge of and of those of my whole life; I ask God’s forgiveness for them, and from you, Father, penance and absolution.” Then we listen attentively to the advice which the confessor thinks fit to give.

***271. — When the confessor questions us, how should we answer?**

When the confessor questions us, we must answer sincerely and distinctly.

***272. — Is it permissible to accuse again one or more sins which we have already accused in previous confessions?**

Yes, it is permissible, and sometimes even useful, to repeat the

accusation of certain faults, in order to stimulate ourselves to greater contrition, or to ensure the validity of the sacrament.

***273. — What should we do while the priest is giving us absolution?**

While the priest is giving us absolution, we must make an act of contrition from the bottom of our heart.

***274. — What is to be done after receiving absolution?**

After receiving absolution, we must retire modestly to a remote place, thank God for the forgiveness He has just granted, and do our penance as soon as possible.

Glossary

The word “**Confiteor**” is a Latin word that means “I admit, I confess” my sins.

LESSON 24

INDULGENCES

***275. — What is an indulgence?**

An indulgence is the remission, in whole or in part, of the temporal punishment due to sins that have been forgiven.

276. — Is indulgence a forgiveness of sin, or a permission to commit sin?

Indulgence is neither a forgiveness of sin nor a permission to commit sin, as ignorant people claim; moreover, he who is in a state of mortal sin cannot earn any indulgence.

277. — How many kinds of indulgences are there?

There are two kinds of indulgences: plenary indulgence and partial indulgence.

***278. — What is a plenary indulgence?**

A plenary indulgence is the full remission of the temporal punishment due to sin.

***279. — What is a partial indulgence?**

A partial indulgence is the remission of part of the temporal punishment due to sin.

280. — How does the Church, by means of indulgences, remit the temporal punishment due to sin?

The Church, by means of indulgences, remits the temporal punishment due to sin by applying to us the superabundant merits of Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the Saints; these superabundant satisfactions form the spiritual Treasury of the Church.

***281. — What must we do to gain an indulgence?**

To gain an indulgence we must be in the state of grace and faithfully perform the works prescribed by the one who grants the indulgence.

Glossary

Indulgence, from the Latin “indulgentia” means: forgiveness or remission of sin.

Partial remission means: only a part of the temporal punishment due to the sin is forgiven.

Plenary means: fully remitted. That is, the whole temporal punishment due to the sin is remitted, so that the one who would die immediately after having won a plenary indulgence would not go to purgatory for one moment but would go straight to heaven. But one never knows when an indulgence is earned with this degree of perfection.

The merits of Jesus Christ are the price of the actions of His life, His works, His prayers, His sufferings and His death. It is therefore an infinite price.

The satisfactions of the Blessed Virgin and the Saints are their acts of penance and love of God on earth and generally all their good works.

LESSON 25

THE SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

***282. — What is the Holy Eucharist?**

The Holy Eucharist is a sacrament which really and truly contains the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, under the appearances of bread and wine.

283. — When did Jesus Christ institute the Holy Eucharist?

Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, on Holy Thursday, the eve of His death.

284. — Who was present when Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist?

When Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist, the twelve Apostles were present.

285. — What did Our Lord do to institute the Holy Eucharist?

To institute the Holy Eucharist, Our Lord took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to His Apostles, saying, *Take and eat: This is My Body.* Then He took the cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to them, saying, *All of you drink of this: for this is My Blood which shall be shed for the remission of sins. Do this in remembrance of Me.*

286. — What happened when Our Lord said, This is My Body; this is My Blood?

When Our Lord said, “This is My Body”, the substance of the bread was changed into the substance of His Body; and when He said, “This is My Blood”, the substance of the wine was changed into the substance of His Blood.

287. — Is Jesus Christ whole and entire under the form of bread and whole and entire under the form of wine?

Yes, Jesus Christ is whole and entire under the form of bread and whole and entire under the form of wine; He is even whole and entire in every part of either species.

288. — What remains of the bread and wine after their substance has been changed into the substance of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ?

After the substance of the bread and wine has been changed into the substance of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, only the appearances of bread and wine remain.

***289. — What do we mean by the appearances of bread and wine?**

By the appearances of bread and wine we mean whatever is perceived by our senses, such as form, color and taste.

290. — What is this change of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ called?

This change of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ is called Transubstantiation.

291. — How was the substance of the bread and wine changed into the substance of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ?

The substance of the bread and wine was changed into the substance of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ by His almighty power.

292. — Does this change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ continue to be made in the Church?

Yes, this change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ continues to be made in the Church, on our altars, by Jesus Christ through the ministry of His priests.

***293. — When did Jesus Christ give His priests the power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood?**

Jesus Christ gave His priests the power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood when He said to His Apostles, “Do this in remembrance of Me.”

***294. — When do priests exercise this power to change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ?**

Priests exercise this power to change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ when, during Holy Mass, they pronounce the words of consecration, which are the very words of Jesus Christ: “This is My Body; this is My Blood”.

295. — Must we adore the Body and Blood of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist?

Yes, we must adore the Body and Blood of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, because this Body and this Blood are inseparably united to His Divinity.

296. — Does Jesus Christ leave Heaven to come into the Holy Eucharist?

No, Jesus Christ does not leave Heaven to come into the Holy Eucharist; He is in Heaven and in the Holy Eucharist at the same time.

Glossary

The word **Transubstantiation** means: change of a substance into another substance.

LESSON 26

THE ENDS FOR WHICH THE HOLY EUCHARIST WAS INSTITUTED

***297. — Why did Jesus Christ institute the Holy Eucharist?**

Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist:

1. To unite us to Himself and to prove His love for us.
2. To increase grace in our soul and to strengthen us against evil.
3. To give us a pledge of eternal life and of a glorious resurrection.

298. — How are we united to Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist?

We are united to Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist by means of Holy Communion.

***299. — What is Holy Communion?**

Holy Communion is receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, present in the Sacred Host.

***300. — What is necessary to make a good Communion?**

To make a good Communion, we must be in the state of grace and have a right intention.

***301. — Does the person who receives Communion in the state of mortal sin receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ?**

The person who receives Communion in the state of mortal sin receives the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, but he does not receive grace; moreover, he commits a great sacrilege.

302. — Does it suffice to be free from mortal sin to receive in abundance the graces of Holy Communion?

No, it does not suffice to be free from mortal sin to receive in abundance the graces of Holy Communion; we must also be free from all attachment to venial sin, and make acts of lively faith, firm

hope, and ardent charity.

***303. — What fast is necessary for Holy Communion?**

The fast necessary for Holy Communion consists in abstaining from eating or drinking anything, except water, for one hour. – The sick and the elderly are dispensed from this fast.

304. — When are we obliged to receive Communion?

We are obliged to receive Communion during Easter Time and when we are in danger of death.

305. — Is it good to receive Holy Communion often?

Yes, it is good, and even necessary, to receive Holy Communion often, because it increases grace in us and strengthens us against evil.

***306. — What should we do after Communion?**

After Communion, we should spend some time adoring and thanking Our Lord, and asking Him for the graces we need.

Glossary

The word **Communion**, from the Christian Latin “communio”, means: union with the Body and Blood of Christ. To receive Communion is therefore to be united with Jesus Christ, since it is Jesus Christ whom we receive in the Eucharist through Communion.

To be in a **state of grace** in order to make a good communion does not mean that one must never have committed a mortal sin, but that all the mortal sins that one would have had the misfortune to commit must have been forgiven.

The prayers that are said after communion are called **thanksgiving prayers**.

LESSON 27

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

***307. — What is the Mass?**

The Mass is the mystical and perpetual renewal of the unique sacrifice of Christ on Calvary.

308. — What is a sacrifice?

A sacrifice is the external offering of an object, made to God alone, to acknowledge that God is the Creator and the sovereign Master of all things.

***309. — Is the sacrifice of the Mass the same sacrifice as that of the cross?**

Yes, the sacrifice of the Mass is the same sacrifice as that of the cross.

310. — How is the sacrifice of the Mass the same sacrifice as that of the cross?

The sacrifice of the Mass is the same sacrifice as that of the cross, because the offering and the priest are the same — Our Lord Jesus Christ — and also because the ends for which the sacrifice of the Mass is offered are the same as those of the sacrifice of the cross.

311. — What are the ends for which the sacrifice of the cross was offered?

The sacrifice of the cross was offered:

1. To glorify God.
2. To thank Him for all the graces bestowed upon the whole world.
3. To atone for the sins of men.
4. To obtain graces.

312. — What is the difference between the sacrifice of the cross

and that of the Mass?

The only difference between the sacrifice of the cross and that of the Mass is that on the cross, Jesus Christ offered Himself by shedding His Blood; whereas in the Mass, He offers Himself through the ministry of priests without shedding His Blood and without dying.

313. — How is the death of Jesus Christ on the cross represented in the Mass?

The death of Jesus Christ on the cross is represented in the Mass by the separate consecration which is made of the bread and of the wine.

***314. — How should we attend Mass?**

We should attend Mass with great interior recollection and piety, and with every outward mark of respect and devotion.

315. — What is the best way to attend Mass?

The best way to attend Mass is to offer it to God by uniting ourselves to the sentiments and the intercession of Christ Jesus with His Father, by thinking of the Passion of Our Lord, and by receiving Holy Communion.

316. — To whom do we offer the sacrifice of the Mass?

We offer the sacrifice of the Mass to God alone, because sacrifice is an act of adoration which is due to God alone.

Glossary

An **offering** is a gift of something to someone. In the Mass, the priest **offers** Jesus, sacrificed for us, to His Father.

Interior recollection is the attention we give, the care we take to think only of what is happening at the altar during Holy Mass.

The **intentions of the priest** are the very ends of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. To unite oneself to the intentions of the priest is to adore God with the priest, to thank God for the graces He has granted us, and to ask God's forgiveness for our sins, which is also what the priest does.

LESSON 28

THE SACRAMENT OF EXTREME UNCTION

***317. — What is Extreme Unction?**

Extreme Unction, or the Sacrament of the Sick, is a sacrament which, through holy anointing and the prayer of the priest, gives health and strength to the soul, and sometimes even to the body, when we are in danger of death from sickness or old age.

318. — When should we receive Extreme Unction?

We should receive Extreme Unction when we are in danger of death from sickness, injury or accident, or old age.

319. — Should we wait until we are in extreme danger to receive Extreme Unction?

No, we should not wait until we are in extreme danger to receive Extreme Unction; but if possible we should receive it while we have the use of our senses, so as to receive it with greater benefit and not take the risk of being deprived of it.

***320. — What are the effects of the sacrament of Extreme Unction?**

The effects of the sacrament of Extreme Unction are:

1. To comfort us in our sufferings and to strengthen us against temptations.
2. To remit venial sins and to purify our soul of the remains of sin.
3. To restore us to health if God sees fit.

321. — What do we mean by the remains of sin?

By the remains of sin, we mean:

1. The punishment due to sin.
2. The inclination to evil and the weakness of the will, which

are the result of sin, and which remain even after our sins have been forgiven.

***322. — How should we receive the sacrament of Extreme Unction?**

We should receive the sacrament of Extreme Unction in the state of grace and with lively faith and great resignation to the will of God.

323. — Who are the ministers of Extreme Unction?

Bishops and priests are the ministers of Extreme Unction.

Glossary

Extreme means: which is the very last. By using the word **Extreme-Onction**, we do not mean that the anointing of this sacrament is to be done to Christians only when they are at the moment of death, but we simply mean that Jesus Christ has established this anointing to be the last of all those received by the Christian.

LESSON 29

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS

***324. — What is Holy Orders?**

Holy Orders is a sacrament which gives priests the power to fulfill their sacred duties and the grace to perform them in a holy manner.

325. — When did Jesus Christ institute the sacrament of Holy Orders?

Jesus Christ instituted the sacrament of Holy Orders when He gave His Apostles and their successors the power to offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass and to forgive or retain sins.

326. — What is necessary to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders worthily?

To receive the sacrament of Holy Orders worthily it is necessary to:

1. Be called by God.
2. Have the required learning.
3. Intend to devote one's life to the works of the priesthood.
4. Be in the state of grace.

327. — How should Christians look upon the priests of the Church?

Christians should look upon the priests of the Church as the messengers of God and the dispensers of His doctrine and His graces.

328. — Should parents be happy or sad when God calls one or several of their children to the priesthood?

Parents should be very happy when God calls one or several of their children to the priesthood, because it is a great privilege to cooperate in this way in the establishment of the kingdom of God and the salvation of souls.

329. — Who is the minister of the sacrament of Holy Orders?

The bishop is the ordinary minister of the sacrament of Holy Orders.

Glossary

Order, from the Latin “ordo” means “degree, hierarchy”. Besides bishops and priests, the other sacred ministers are: deacons, subdeacons, (major orders), porters, readers, exorcists, acolytes (minor orders).

Priests are God's envoys, that is, His representatives on earth, those whom He charges with leading souls to Heaven.

A **dispenser** is one who gives, who distributes. The priest is the dispenser of doctrine, i.e. he is the one who is in charge of teaching the faithful the truths of the faith.

The **priest is the dispenser** of God's graces, because it is he who administers the sacraments, which are the principal means God uses to give us grace.

LESSON 30

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

***330. — What is Matrimony?**

Matrimony is a sacrament which sanctifies the lawful union of a Christian man and woman, and establishes between them an indissoluble union.

331. — For what special purpose did God institute marriage?

God instituted marriage for the special purpose of associating spouses to His creative work in the generation of children, and to care for the souls and the bodies of these children.

332. — What does it mean for parents to care for the souls of their children?

To care for the souls of their children means to teach them the Christian Faith, and to give them a constant personal example of fidelity to all religious duties.

333. — Can Christians be united in lawful marriage in any other way than by the sacrament of Matrimony?

No, Christians cannot be united in lawful marriage in any other way than by the sacrament of Matrimony because Jesus Christ raised marriage between Christians to the dignity of a sacrament.

334. — Can the State grant an absolute divorce, with permission to remarry?

No, the State cannot grant an absolute divorce with permission to remarry, for it has neither the right nor the authority to interfere in matters of sacrament, nor to separate what God has united.

335. — What are the effects of the sacrament of Matrimony?

The effects of the sacrament of Matrimony are:

1. To sanctify the mutual love of husband and wife.
2. To give them the grace to be faithful to one another and to

bear each other's weaknesses.

3. To enable them to raise their children in the fear and love of God.

***336. — What is necessary to receive the sacrament of Matrimony worthily?**

To receive the sacrament of Matrimony worthily, it is necessary to be in the state of grace, to be sufficiently instructed in Christian doctrine, and to comply with the laws of the Church.

337. — Why does the Church forbid the marriage of Catholics with persons who have a different religion or no religion at all?

The Church forbids the marriage of Catholics with persons who have a different religion or no religion at all because such marriages generally lead to religious indifference, loss of the Faith, and neglect of the religious education of the children.

338. — Why do many marriages prove unhappy?

Many marriages prove unhappy because:

1. The spouses have entered it without deliberation or for motives unworthy of Christians.
2. They neglect the duties of their state of life.
3. They do not ask God for help in the difficulties of marriage.

339. — How should Christians prepare for a holy and happy marriage?

Christians should prepare for a holy and happy marriage by:

1. Asking God to grant them a pure intention and to direct their choice.
2. Seeking the advice of their parents and of their pastor.
3. Maintaining a chaste courtship.
4. Going to confession and Communion often.

340. — In whose presence must marriage be contracted?

To be valid, marriage must be contracted in the presence of the pastor of the parish in which it is celebrated, or of a priest authorized by him, and of at least two witnesses.

341. — What is meant by the impediment to marriage between relatives to the third degree inclusively?

The impediment to marriage between relatives to the third degree inclusively means that a marriage contracted by persons related to this degree is invalid without a dispensation, which ecclesiastical authority grants only for reasons it judges to be sufficient.

342. — What is the Nuptial Mass?

The Nuptial Mass is the Mass during which the priest, in the name of the Church, prays especially for the newlyweds and gives them a particular blessing.

343. — What practice draws down abundant blessings upon married life?

The practice of family prayer draws down abundant blessings upon a Christian home.

Glossary

The sacrament of marriage is contracted **by both spouses**, but to be legitimate, this contract must be made before a priest and witnesses.

The **mutual love** of the spouses is the love that the spouses owe each other; the husband must love his wife, and the wife must love her husband.

Religious indifference is the disposition of those who do not care about religion, or those who think that all religions are good.

LESSON 31

SACRAMENTALS

***344. — What are sacramentals?**

Sacramentals are certain things set apart or blessed by the Church to prompt good thoughts in us and increase our devotion, and thus obtain for us the remission of our venial sins.

345. — What is the difference between the sacraments and the sacramentals?

The difference between the sacraments and the sacramentals is twofold:

1. The sacraments were instituted by Jesus Christ, whereas sacramentals were instituted by the Church.
2. The sacraments give grace of themselves provided we set no obstacle in the way; whereas sacramentals only prompt in us pious dispositions, by which we may obtain grace.

***346. — Which is the chief sacramental, and the one most in use?**

The chief sacramental, and the one most in use, is the sign of the cross.

***347. — How do we make the sign of the cross?**

We make the sign of the cross, with respect and piety, by touching the right hand to the forehead, then to the chest, from there to the left shoulder, and finally to the right shoulder, while saying: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and of the Mother of God. Amen.

***348. — What do we mean to express by the sign of the cross?**

We make the sign of the cross to show that we are Christians and that we believe in the chief mysteries of our religion.

349. — How is the sign of the cross a profession of faith in the chief mysteries of our religion?

The sign of the cross is a profession of faith in the principal mysteries of our religion, because it expresses the mysteries of the Trinity, the Incarnation and the Redemption.

350. — How does the sign of the cross express the mystery of the Trinity / the mysteries of the Incarnation and Redemption?

The words “in the name” indicate one God; the following words “of the Father,” “and of the Son,” “and of the Holy Spirit,” indicate the three divine Persons. – The sign of the cross expresses the mysteries of the Incarnation and Redemption, reminding us that the Son of God, having become man, suffered death on the cross to redeem us.

351. — When should we make the sign of the cross?

We should make the sign of the cross when rising and when going to bed, before and after our prayers, at the beginning of all the important actions of the day, and whenever we are tempted or in danger. – We should make the sign of the cross often because this sign, made worthily, has the power to strengthen our faith, to drive away the devil and temptation, and to obtain all kinds of graces for us.

***352. — After the sign of the cross, which other sacramental is in most frequent use?**

After the sign of the cross, the sacramental in most frequent use is holy water.

***353. — What is Holy Water?**

Holy Water is water blessed by the priest with prayers to implore God’s blessing upon those who use it, and His protection from the powers of hell.

354. — Are there any other sacramentals besides the sign of the cross and Holy Water?

Yes, there are many other sacramentals, such as: crucifixes, holy

pictures, rosaries, blessed candles, palms, medals, relics of Saints, blessed bread (a symbol of the Eucharist), holy oils, vigil lights, the religious habit which is a first-rate sacramental, etc.

355. — What is the medal *par excellence*?

The medal *par excellence* is the miraculous medal, which was personally requested by the Blessed Virgin, and which is called miraculous because of the countless wonders of healing and conversion it has produced.

356. — How should we use sacramentals?

We should use sacramentals with respect and confidence, without thinking, however, that they possess a sort of almost magical power, in the sense that they would be infallibly efficacious regardless of our dispositions.

Glossary

A **sign** is a mark that makes something known by distinguishing it from another. The sign of the Cross is the distinctive mark that makes a Christian recognized.

LESSON 32

PRAYER

***357. — What is prayer?**

Prayer is an elevation of the mind and heart to God, to adore Him, to thank Him for His benefits, to implore His forgiveness, and to ask of Him the graces we need for soul or body.

***358. — Is prayer necessary for salvation?**

Yes, prayer is necessary for salvation, because without it no one having the use of reason can obtain the necessary graces to do good and avoid evil.

***359. — When should we pray?**

We should pray as often as possible, but particularly on Sundays and holy days; every day, morning and evening; and in dangers, temptations and afflictions.

360. — How must we pray?

We must pray:

1. With attention and recollection.
2. With humility, and with a sense of our own helplessness and dependence upon God.
3. With a great desire and great confidence that we will obtain God's graces.
4. With perseverance.

361. — In whose name should we pray?

We should pray in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who promised us that His Father would grant whatever we asked in His name.

362. — For whom should we pray?

We should pray for everyone without exception, and especially for all those who have authority over us, for our benefactors, our enemies, sinners, the dying, and the deceased.

363. — Does God always answer our prayers?

Yes, God always answers our prayers when they are well said; but He answers them in the way He judges most useful for our salvation.

364. — What above all should we ask of God?

Above all, we should ask God for the things pertaining to His glory, our salvation, and the salvation of our neighbor.

365. — May we ask God for health and other temporal blessings?

Yes, we may ask God for health and other temporal blessings, provided we do so with submission to His holy will.

***366. — What are the most recommended prayers?**

The most recommended prayers are the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Apostles' Creed, the Confiteor, and the Acts of Faith, Hope, Charity, Humility and Contrition.

Glossary

To pray with attention is to think about what we do and what we say while praying.

To pray with humility is to have a sense of our own misery and of the majesty of the One we are praying to; it is to recognize that we can do nothing without God's help.

To pray with perseverance is to renew our prayers until they are answered, if God judges that the request we make to Him is good.

To pray with confidence is to address God with the assurance that He listens with goodness to our prayers and that He is willing to grant us everything we need.

To grant means: to hear favorably, and to give what is asked for.

LESSON 33

THE LORD'S PRAYER

367. — Who taught us the Our Father, or the Lord's Prayer?

Jesus Christ Himself taught us the Our Father, or the Lord's Prayer.

***368. — Recite the Lord's Prayer.**

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

***369. — Why do we say “Our Father”, and not “My Father”?**

We say “Our Father”, and not “My Father”, because God is the Creator and the Redeemer of all men and, consequently, we are all children in the same family.

370. — Why did Our Lord add “who art in Heaven”?

Our Lord added “who art in Heaven” to lift up our hearts toward Heaven, where God reigns in His glory, and where we hope to possess Him someday.

***371. — What do we ask of God in the Lord’s Prayer?**

In the Lord’s Prayer, we ask God for all that can contribute to His glory, and all that is needed for the life of the soul and of the body.

372. — What do we ask for the glory of God?

We ask for the glory of God:

1. That His holy name may be known and blessed.
2. That He may reign in all hearts by His grace.
3. That men may obey Him on earth as the Angels and the Saints obey Him in Heaven.

373. — What do we ask for ourselves in the Lord’s Prayer?

In the Lord’s Prayer we ask four things for ourselves:

1. Our daily bread, that is, all that we need for the soul and the body.
2. Forgiveness of our trespasses, recalling that we must forgive our neighbor if we want God to forgive us.
3. The grace to overcome temptations.
4. The favor of being preserved from all evil, especially sin and eternal damnation.

374. — What does the word “Amen” express?

The word “Amen” expresses a more ardent desire to obtain what we have requested, and that is why it concludes almost every prayer.

Glossary

“**The Lord’s Prayer**” is also called the “Pater” because this is the word with which it begins in Latin.

By **the glory of God**, we mean sometimes the Majesty of God, that is to say His infinite greatness, His superiority over all creatures, and also the praises and honor due to Him.

LESSON 34

THE ANGELICAL SALUTATION

***375. — Why do we pray so often to the Blessed Virgin?**

We pray so often to the Blessed Virgin because She is the most powerful protectress we can have in Heaven, and She is our Mediatrix with Jesus Christ.

376. — By what prayer does the Church most ordinarily invoke the Blessed Virgin?

The Church most ordinarily invokes the Blessed Virgin by the Hail Mary, also called the Angelical Salutation.

***377. — Recite the Angelical Salutation.**

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee; blessed art Thou among women, and blessed is Thy Son, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us, sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

378. — Why do we call this prayer the “Angelical Salutation”?

We call this prayer the “Angelical Salutation” because it begins with the words by which the Angel Gabriel greeted the Blessed Virgin, in announcing to Her that She was to become the Mother of God.

379. — What is the meaning of these words, “full of grace”, which the Angel spoke to Mary?

These words mean that the Blessed Virgin Mary, by a very special privilege, and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, was preserved from the stain of original sin and filled with grace from the first moment of Her existence.

380. — What is the meaning of these words of the Angel to Mary: “The Lord is with Thee”?

These words of the Angel to Mary mean that She is united to God in the closest possible manner and that She is going to become a living temple where the Incarnate Word will corporeally dwell.

381. — What is the meaning of these words of Saint Elizabeth to the Blessed Virgin: “Blessed art Thou among women”?

These words mean that Mary is superior to all women, not only because of Her Immaculate Conception, but above all because of Her incomparable dignity of Mother of God.

382. — What is the meaning of these other words of Saint Elizabeth to Mary: “And blessed is Thy Son Jesus”?

These words mean that the Son of Mary is holiness itself, and that we should rejoice with Her because He is glorified by His Father and adored by men.

383. — What do we acknowledge by this prayer of the Church: “Holy Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us, sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen”?

By this prayer, we acknowledge that Mary is holy and is the Mother of God; and, full of confidence in Her power, we implore Her to obtain for us, by Her prayers, the grace to live and die in a holy manner as She did, in order to be associated with Her someday in Heaven.

***384. — What sentiments should we have for the Blessed Virgin?**

For the Blessed Virgin, we should have sentiments of profound respect, tender love, and firm and unlimited confidence, because She is the Mother of God and our Mother also.

385. — Is the Blessed Virgin truly the Mother of God?

Yes, the Blessed Virgin is truly the Mother of God because the same Person who is the Son of God is also the Son of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

386. — How can we say that the Mother of Jesus Christ is also our Mother?

We can say that Mary is our Mother because Jesus Christ, on the cross, wanted His Mother to adopt us as Her children in the person of Saint John, when He said to Mary, “Behold Thy son”, and to Saint John, “Behold thy Mother”.

***387. — What must we do to show our love to the Blessed Virgin?**

To show our love to the Blessed Virgin we must:

1. Imitate Her virtues.
2. Love and serve Her divine Son with all our might, since that is Her dearest wish.
3. Invoke Her frequently.
4. Celebrate Her feasts with piety.

388. — What prayers does the Church especially recommend in honor of the Blessed Virgin?

The Church especially recommends the Rosary, or better yet, the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, the Angelus, the Litany, the Memorare and the Magnificat.

Glossary

Protector means: who protects, who defends someone. The Blessed Virgin, besides being our Mother, has all power over God, whose Mother She is. Her protection is unlimited.

A **privilege** is a gift, a grace.

To conjure is to pray with great insistence.

To die saintly is to die in a state of grace and with strong sentiments of love for God and regret for our sins.

LESSON 35

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

***389. — Is it sufficient to belong to the Church of God to be saved?**

No, it is not sufficient to belong to the Church of God to be saved; we must also observe the Commandments of God and of the Church.

***390. — What Commandments contain the whole law of God?**

The Commandments which contain the whole law of God are these two:

1. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, with thy whole soul, with thy whole strength, and with thy whole mind.
2. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, for the love of God.

391. — Why do we say that these two Commandments of the love of God and neighbor contain the whole law of God?

We say that these two Commandments of the love of God and neighbor contain the whole law of God because all the other Commandments were given to us only to help us know and keep these two Commandments.

***392. — Recite the Commandments of God.**

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
thy God in vain.
3. Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor thy father and thy mother,
that thou mayest have a long life.
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 thy neighbor's goods.

393. — Who gave the ten Commandments?

God Himself gave the ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai, and Jesus Christ confirmed them in His Gospel.

Glossary

Mount Sinai is a mountain in present-day Egypt.

LESSON 36

FIRST COMMANDMENT OF GOD

***394. — What is the first Commandment of God?**

The first Commandment of God is: I am the Lord thy God... Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.

395. — How does this first Commandment help us to keep the great Commandment of the love of God?

The first Commandment helps us to keep the great Commandment of the love of God because it commands us to adore God alone.

***396. — How do we adore God?**

We adore God by faith, hope and charity, and by worshipping Him as Creator and Sovereign Master of all things.

***397. — How may the first Commandment of God be broken?**

The first Commandment of God may be broken:

1. By rendering to a creature the honor which belongs to God alone.
2. By rendering false worship to God.
3. By attributing to a creature a perfection or a power which belongs to God alone.

398. — What does the first Commandment forbid?

The first Commandment forbids idolatry, superstition, sacrilege, heresy, and all sins against faith, hope and charity.

399. — What is idolatry?

Idolatry consists in rendering to a creature the honor and worship which belong to God alone.

400. — What is superstition?

We call superstition any devotion contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Church, as well as the fact of attributing to a creature a perfection and a power that belong to God alone.

401. — What are the chief sins of superstition?

The chief sins of superstition are vain observances, divination or fortune-telling, black magic and spiritism.

402. — What do we mean by vain observances?

By vain observances we mean certain practices or observances to which we attribute infallible effects which they do not possess in themselves and which God has not given to them.

403. — What is divination, or fortune-telling?

Divination, or fortune-telling, consists in wanting to discover secret or future things by means which are inefficacious in themselves.

404. — Is it allowed to use witchcraft and spells, or to believe in dreams or fortune-tellers?

No, it is not allowed, because by so doing we would attribute to creatures perfections or power which belong to God alone.

405. — What is black magic?

Black magic consists in producing extraordinary phenomena which cannot be obtained by natural means; this implies the intervention of the devil.

406. — What is spiritism?

Spiritism is an occult science which proposes to know hidden things by evoking spirits.

407. — What is sacrilege?

Sacrilege is the profanation of a place, person or thing consecrated to God and destined for His worship.

***408. — Do we sin against the first Commandment of God by sinning against faith, hope and charity?**

Yes, we sin against the first Commandment of God by sinning against faith, hope and charity.

***409. — How do we sin against faith?**

We sin against faith when we:

1. Refuse to believe what God teaches us through His Church.
2. Willfully doubt any revealed truth.
3. Are ashamed or afraid to pass for a Christian, or formally deny the faith.
4. Neglect to learn Christian doctrine sufficiently.
5. Follow a way of life that is not in conformity with Christian beliefs.

***410. — What are the sins against hope?**

The sins against hope are presumption and despair.

***411. — What is presumption?**

Presumption is a rash expectation of salvation, by which:

1. We rely on the mercy of God as a license to commit sin and to delay our conversion.
2. We rely too much on our own strength to win Heaven, without the grace of God, or without performing good works.

***412. — What is despair?**

Despair is the loss of hope in the mercy of God regarding our conversion and eternal salvation.

413. — How do we sin against the love of God?

We sin against the love of God by committing any sin whatsoever, that is, by preferring our self-will and personal contentment to God's will and good pleasure.

414. — Where does the source of sin lie?

The source of sin lies in attachment to earthly goods, honors and pleasures of all sorts, as well as in covetousness of these same goods.

415. — What is an attachment?

An attachment is a disorderly affection for something which is not God. It is an idolatry.

416. — How is attachment comparable to idolatry?

Attachment is comparable to idolatry in that it makes us refuse God the love we owe Him and give it to a creature.

417. — List some of the idols which have overrun the Christian world.

Love of money and riches, luxury, fine food, alcohol, sports, the cult of the body, theater, television, dancing, fashion, etc.

Glossary

Violating a commandment is the same as disobeying a commandment.

Witchcraft is the name given to all the operations of sorcerers to cast or conjure spells, to predict the future, to harm an enemy, etc.

A temerarious hope is a hope without sufficient reason.

To rely on the mercy of God as a license to commit sin is to allow oneself to commit evil by saying, “God is so good that He will always forgive me.”

LESSON 37

FIRST COMMANDMENT (*continued*) – DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

***418. — Does the first Commandment forbid us to honor the Saints?**

No, the first Commandment does not forbid us to honor the Saints; on the contrary, it approves this devotion, because by honoring the Saints, who are the very dear friends of God, we honor God Himself.

***419. — Does the first Commandment forbid us to invoke the Saints to request their help and their intercession?**

No, the first Commandment does not forbid us to invoke the Saints to request their help and their intercession.

420. — How do we know that the Saints hear us?

We know that the Saints hear us because we know they are with God, who makes our prayers known to them.

421. — Why do we believe that the Saints help us?

We believe that the Saints help us because they are our brothers and members of the same Church, and because of the miracles obtained through their intercession.

422. — What do we mean by relics of the Saints?

By relics of the Saints we mean all that remains of their bodies, and the objects which have been in their use.

423. — Does the first Commandment forbid us to honor the relics of the Saints?

No, the first Commandment does not forbid us to honor the relics of the Saints because this honor ultimately returns to God, whose friends the Saints are.

***424. — Does the first Commandment forbid the making of images?**

The first Commandment forbids the making of images if they are made to be adored as gods; but it does not forbid the making of them to remind us of Jesus Christ, His Holy Mother and the Saints.

425. — Is it good to show respect for the images of Jesus Christ and the Saints?

Yes, it is good and it is a duty to show respect for the images of Jesus Christ and the Saints, because they represent to us the person of Jesus Christ and the Saints.

***426. — Why do we pray before the crucifix, before the images and relics of the Saints?**

We pray before the crucifix, before the images and relics of the Saints because the sight of these objects stimulates our devotion by reminding us of Jesus Christ and the Saints, and by proposing them as models to imitate.

427. — Why do we say that the Saints are members of the same Church as we?

We say that the Saints are members of the same Church as we because the bonds of charity which united them to the Church

militant during their lifetime are not broken by their entrance into the Church triumphant.

428. — What is the Communion of Saints?

The Communion of Saints is the mutual union, in Jesus Christ, of the blessed in Heaven, the faithful on earth and the souls in Purgatory, and their participation in the spiritual riches of the Church.

429. — What are the chief advantages resulting from the Communion of Saints?

The chief advantages resulting from the Communion of Saints are as follows:

1. On earth, the living members of the Church help each other mutually with their prayers and good works, and are helped by the intercession of the Saints in Heaven.
2. The souls in Purgatory are relieved by the Saints in Heaven and the faithful on earth, whom they help in return by their intercession.

Glossary

To honor the Saints is to have a religious respect for them.

To invoke the Saints is to pray to them.

A **miracle** is a favor, a fact, an event contrary to the laws of nature and which can, therefore, happen only by the omnipotence of God.

The term **Communion of Saints** does not mean the reception of the sacrament of the Eucharist; the word **Communion** means: association, society, communication, especially mutual. It is the union of the friends of God among themselves.

The word **saint** means: consecrated to God. It refers to those who live a perfect life on earth and it refers to those who have died in the grace and friendship of God.

The Saints in Heaven are called **blessed** because they enjoy perfect happiness with God.

To assist one another is to help one another.

LESSON 38

SECOND COMMANDMENT OF GOD

***430. — What is the second Commandment of God?**

The second Commandment of God is: Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

***431. — What are we commanded by the second Commandment?**

By the second Commandment we are commanded to speak with reverence of God, the Saints and holy things, and to faithfully honor our legitimate oaths and vows.

***432. — What does it mean to take an oath?**

To take an oath means to take God as witness to the truth of what we say.

***433. — When is it permitted to take an oath?**

It is permitted to take an oath in serious circumstances, as when we are compelled to do so by legitimate authority, or when it is necessary to do so for the honor of God, for our good and that of our neighbor.

434. — What is swearing in vain?

Swearing in vain is:

1. To take an oath without necessity.
2. To affirm under oath what we know to be false: this is called perjury.
3. To bind oneself by oath to do something forbidden.

***435. — Is perjury, or a false oath, a great sin?**

Yes, perjury, or a false oath, is a great sin because it is a serious outrage against God by apparently wanting to make Him an accomplice to a lie.

436. — Is the person who has sworn to do something unlawful obliged to keep his oath?

No, the person who has sworn to do something unlawful is not obliged to keep his oath because he committed an offense by taking that oath, and he would commit another one by keeping it.

***437. — What is a vow?**

A vow is a promise made to God after due deliberation, with the intention of binding oneself rigorously to accomplish something pleasing to Him.

***438. — Is it a sin not to fulfill a vow?**

Yes, it is a sin not to fulfill a vow, and this sin is mortal or venial according to the nature of the vow and the intention we had in making it.

***439. — Is it good to make vows?**

Yes, it is good to make vows, since it is an excellent means of honoring God; however, it is prudent not to make them without mature reflection, or without having sought the advice of our confessor.

***440. — Besides false, rash and unnecessary oaths, what is forbidden by the second Commandment?**

Besides false, rash and unnecessary oaths, the second Commandment forbids blasphemy and cursing.

***441. — What is blasphemy?**

Blasphemy is the use of injurious words against God, the Blessed Virgin and the Saints, or against all consecrated things.

***442. — Is blasphemy a serious sin?**

Yes, blasphemy is a very serious sin, which God often punishes even in this world.

Glossary

To take God as a witness is to ask God to affirm Himself that what we say is true.

In vain means: unnecessarily.

A **false oath** is one that is made to affirm something of which we are not absolutely certain, or to promise something that we are not sure we can do.

The **unjust oath** is the one made to assure or promise a bad or unjust thing.

LESSON 39

THIRD COMMANDMENT OF GOD

***443. — What is the third Commandment of God?**

The third Commandment of God is: Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day, or the Lord's Day.

***444. — What are we commanded by the third Commandment?**

By the third Commandment we are commanded to sanctify Sunday, which is called the Lord's Day, because this day is to be especially employed in the service and worship of God.

445. — Are the Sabbath day and Sunday the same?

No, because the Sabbath sanctified by the Jews was the seventh day of the week, whereas Sunday, which is sanctified by Christians, is the first day of the week.

446. — Why does the Church command us to sanctify Sunday instead of the Sabbath?

The Church commands us to sanctify Sunday instead of the Sabbath because it is the day Our Lord rose from the dead, and also the day He sent the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.

***447. — What does it mean to sanctify Sunday?**

1. To diminish ordinary activities as much as possible in order to devote time to prayer, holy reading and good works.
2. To abstain from servile works which are not necessary.
3. To make it a duty to attend the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

448. — What do we mean by servile works?

By servile works we mean certain tasks which require labor of the body more than of the mind.

***449. — Are servile works on Sunday ever lawful?**

Yes, servile works are lawful on Sunday when the glory of God, charity due to our neighbor, or necessity requires them.

Glossary

To keep holy the Lord's Day or sanctify Sunday, is to reserve Sundays for the service of God. The Christian must live this day in greater recollection to better pray to God; examine himself to rectify what is necessary to better serve God; take advantage of the time with his family to stimulate each one to know, love and serve God.

LESSON 40

FOURTH COMMANDMENT OF GOD

***450. — What is the fourth Commandment of God?**

The fourth Commandment of God is: Honor thy father and thy mother, that thou mayest have a long life.

***451. — How must we honor our parents?**

We must honor our parents by loving them, respecting them, helping them in their needs, and obeying them in all that is not sinful.

***452. — Why must we love our parents?**

We must love our parents because it is to them, after God, that we are indebted for our life, and because God has given them the responsibility to provide for our first needs.

453. — What does it mean to respect our parents?

Respecting our parents means to treat them with consideration, bearing patiently with their infirmities and even their faults.

***454. — Why must we respect our parents and obey them?**

We must respect our parents and obey them because they take God's place with regard to us, and in obeying them, we obey God Himself.

455. — Why must we help our parents?

We must help our parents because it is very just to give back to them, in their needs, all the care that we have received from them.

***456. — What is the meaning of the words “that thou mayest have a long life”?**

These words mean that God often rewards, even in this life, a child who honors his father and mother.

***457. — What punishment is inflicted upon children who insult their parents, or who abandon them in their needs?**

Children who insult their parents, or who abandon them in their needs, are cursed by God and held in horror by men.

***458. — Are our parents the only ones to whom we owe honor and obedience?**

No, for we must honor and obey all those who have the right and the duty to command us, that is, all our legitimate superiors, both religious and civil.

459. — What are the duties of fathers and mothers toward their children?

Fathers and mothers are obliged to provide for their children's needs, raise them in a Christian manner, correct them of their faults,

keep them from all moral and physical dangers, and give them good example.

460. — What are the duties of superiors toward their inferiors?

Superiors should treat their inferiors with charity, watch over their behavior, and facilitate the accomplishment of their duties of religion.

461. — What are the duties of inferiors toward their superiors?

The duties of inferiors toward their superiors are to respect and obey them.

Glossary

There is forgiveness for those who insult their parents, as there is for any other sin. God never withholds His Mercy from the soul that repents and asks for forgiveness.

To treat with consideration is to have respectful attentions of charity and gratitude.

LESSON 41

FIFTH COMMANDMENT OF GOD

***462. — What is the fifth Commandment of God?**

The fifth Commandment of God is: Thou shalt not kill.

***463. — What are we commanded by the fifth Commandment?**

By the fifth Commandment we are commanded to respect our neighbor's and our own spiritual and physical life.

***464. — What is forbidden by the fifth Commandment?**

The fifth Commandment forbids us:

1. To take our own life or the life of others, and even to desire to do so.

2. To injure or strike our neighbor.
3. To hate him, to speak insulting words to him.
4. To yield to envy, anger, and desires of revenge.
5. To give scandal.

***465. — Who is the Master of life?**

God alone is the Master of life. That is why all homicidal acts, including suicide, abortion and euthanasia, are forbidden.

***466. — What does scandalizing our neighbor mean?**

Scandalizing our neighbor means leading him into evil by bad words, bad advice or bad example, thus jeopardizing the life of his soul.

***467. — Are we obliged to repair the harm we have done to our neighbor?**

Yes, we are obliged to repair the harm we have done to our neighbor by scandal, by insults and bad treatment.

Glossary

To respect the life of one's neighbor is, above all, not to wound him by sin, that is, not to cause him to lose the sanctifying grace which is the life of the soul.

The expression **“to scandalize our neighbor”** is often used in the sense of doing an act which produces a “painful impression” on the conscience of our neighbor, without this causing him to offend God. That is not what we are talking about here.

LESSON 42

SIXTH AND NINTH COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

***468. — What is the sixth Commandment of God?**

The sixth Commandment of God is: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

***469. — What is the ninth Commandment of God?**

The ninth Commandment of God is: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.

***470. — What are we commanded by the sixth Commandment?**

By the sixth Commandment we are commanded to be pure and modest in all our looks, words and actions.

***471. — What are we commanded by the ninth Commandment?**

By the ninth Commandment we are commanded to keep ourselves pure in our thoughts and desires.

***472. — What is forbidden by the sixth Commandment?**

The sixth Commandment forbids us:

1. All indecent familiarities and all immodesty with ourselves or others in looks, words or actions.
2. All immodesty in clothing.
3. Everything that leads to impurity, such as suggestive paintings, films and shows, immoral dances, books, magazines and newspapers, bad company, impure words, etc.

***473. — What is forbidden by the ninth Commandment?**

The ninth Commandment forbids thoughts and desires contrary to the virtue of chastity.

***474. — Which means should be taken to avoid these sins?**

To avoid these sins, we must flee from all dangerous occasions,

and resort to prayer, fasting, frequent confession, diligent reception of the Holy Eucharist, and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Glossary

A **fornicator** is one who indulges in the sin of uncleanness.

To be fornicating by body is to commit a sin of impurity.

To be fornicating by **consent** means to desire to commit the sin of impurity, without actually committing it.

To be **pure in our thoughts**, means to expel from our mind all evil thoughts as soon as we perceive them.

To be **modest in our looks** is to make sure that our eyes do not look at anything dishonest, that our tongue does not utter any shameful words.

To be **modest in our words** is to make sure that our tongue does not utter any shameful words.

LESSON 43

SEVENTH AND TENTH COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

***475. — What is the seventh Commandment of God?**

The seventh Commandment of God is: Thou shalt not steal.

***476. — What is the tenth Commandment of God?**

The tenth Commandment of God is: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

***477. — What are we commanded by the seventh Commandment?**

By the seventh Commandment we are commanded to give everyone what is due to him, and to respect his property.

***478. — What is forbidden by the seventh Commandment?**

The seventh Commandment forbids us to steal or unjustly retain our neighbor's goods, or to commit any injustice against him whatsoever, such as vandalism or alteration of his property.

***479. — What is commanded by the tenth Commandment?**

By the tenth Commandment we are commanded to rejoice in our neighbor's prosperity and to repress the desire to steal or to unjustly retain his property.

480. — Who are the ones who unjustly take their neighbor's possessions?

The ones who unjustly take their neighbor's possessions are thieves, disloyal employees, dishonest merchants, usurers, defrauders, double-dealing litigants, and generally all those who harm their neighbor.

481. — How do we unjustly retain another's property?

We unjustly retain another's property:

1. By not paying our debts when we can do so.
2. By not paying just wages.
3. By not returning an object entrusted or loaned to us.
4. By keeping something we find without seeking the rightful owner.

***482. — Are we obliged to return ill-gotten goods?**

Yes, we are obliged to return ill-gotten goods, or their value, as far as we are able; otherwise, we cannot be forgiven.

***483. — Are we obliged to repair damage we have unjustly caused?**

Yes, we are obliged to repair damage we have unjustly caused.

Glossary

To repair a damage is to compensate someone for all the harm done to them.

LESSON 44

EIGHTH COMMANDMENT OF GOD

***484. — What is the eighth Commandment of God?**

The eighth Commandment of God is: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

***485. — What are we commanded by the eighth Commandment?**

By the eighth Commandment we are commanded to speak the truth in all things, and to respect our neighbor's honor and reputation.

***486. — What is forbidden by the eighth Commandment?**

The eighth Commandment forbids lying, false testimony, detraction, calumny and verbal abuse.

487. — What is lying?

Lying consists in expressing as though it were true, in words, signs or writing, something contrary to what we think, with the intention of deceiving.

488. — What is false testimony?

False testimony is a deposition contrary to the truth, made in a Court of law, or before other persons, even if they are not constituted in authority.

489. — What is detraction?

Detraction, or backbiting, consists in making known, without necessity, the real faults or defects of our neighbor.

490. — How can we repair the harm done to our neighbor by detraction?

We can repair the harm done to our neighbor by detraction by excusing his faults and praising his good qualities.

491. — What is calumny?

Calumny consists in accusing someone of a defect that he does not have, or of a fault that he has not committed.

492. — How must we repair the harm done to our neighbor by calumny?

We must repair the harm done to our neighbor by calumny, by retracting the evil we have spoken against him.

493. — What is rash judgment?

Rash judgment is to believe, without sufficient proof, that our neighbor is guilty of a certain sin.

494. — What must our dispositions be toward those who do us harm?

We must forgive them, pray for them, and do good to them if the opportunity arises.

Glossary

Respecting the honor of our neighbor means not saying or doing anything that might make others despise him.

Reputation is the opinion we have of a person.

LESSON 45

THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE CHURCH

***495. — What are the chief Commandments of the Church?**

The chief Commandments of the Church are:

1. To attend Holy Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.
2. To confess all our sins at least once a year.
3. To receive Holy Communion at least once a year, during Easter Time.

4. To observe Lent, Ember Days, and other times of penance.
5. To help the Church in its needs.

496. — What is the purpose of the Commandments of the Church?

The purpose of the Commandments of the Church is to help us to better observe the Commandments of God.

497. — From whom did the Church receive the power to make laws?

It is from Jesus Christ Himself that the Church received the power to make laws, in view of the greater good of souls.

498. — Why does the Church command us to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation?

The Church commands us to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation because the Mass is the pre-eminent act of worship, and because it glorifies God in a perfect manner.

499. — How should we attend Mass?

We should attend Mass with devotion, respect and attention.

500. — Why were feast days instituted by the Church?

Feast days were instituted by the Church to remind us of the great mysteries of religion, as well as the virtues and glory of the Saints.

501. — What does it mean to observe Lent, Ember Days and other times of penance?

This means that, although voluntary penance is necessary at all times, Christians must practice it in a special manner during these periods of the year.

502. — What are the chief practices of penance recommended by the Church?

The chief practices of penance recommended by the Church are fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

503. — Why is almsgiving a penance?

Almsgiving is a penance because it implies a privation as well as an act of charity; for these reasons, it is a very efficacious means to make reparation for our sins.

504. — What does the Commandment to help the Church in its needs oblige us to do?

This Commandment obliges us to contribute, in proportion to our means, to the expenses of divine worship, and to the proper support of the ministers of the Church.

Glossary

Ember Days: Each of the four periods in the Catholic liturgical year that include three days of fasting and abstinence. There are three Ember Days in each season of the year.

Lent: The forty-day period of penance between Ash Wednesday and Easter. The six Sundays during Lent are not counted in the 40 days of penance.

Paschal Time: The 50 days between the feasts of Easter and Pentecost.

Alms: A gift given to the poor out of charity.

LESSON 46

OUR LAST ENDS

505. — What great means does God recommend to avoid sin?

God recommends this great means: In all your works, remember your last ends, and you will never sin. Ecclesiasticus 7:40

506. — What are our last ends?

Our last ends are death, judgment, resurrection, and eternity in Heaven or in Hell.

507. — What must we recall concerning death?

We must recall that:

1. Death can come at any moment whatsoever, and we must always be ready for it.
2. We die but once, and after death there is no more time to repent and gain merit.

***508. — What do we mean by life everlasting?**

By life everlasting, we mean that there is another life after this one on earth, a life which will last forever, for the eternal happiness of the good and the eternal woe of the wicked.

***509. — What will happen to our soul immediately after death?**

Immediately after death, our soul will appear before Jesus Christ in order to be judged by Him.

***510. — What do we call the judgment we will undergo immediately after death?**

The judgment we will undergo immediately after death is called the particular judgment.

***511. — On what will Jesus Christ judge us?**

Jesus Christ will judge us on love, that is, on our degree of conformity to the holy will of God, and on our correspondence to the graces we have received.

***512. — Why does Jesus Christ judge men immediately after their death?**

Jesus Christ judges men immediately after their death in order to reward them or punish them according to their works.

***513. — What reward or punishment is reserved for souls after the particular judgment?**

The reward or punishment reserved for souls after the particular judgment is Heaven, purgatory or hell.

Glossary

Only one lifetime is given to each human being: it is the time God gives us to know Him, love Him and serve Him. If we are faithful to God, we are victorious over the trial and our reward – the happiness of Heaven – is **eternal**.

LESSON 47

HEAVEN, PURGATORY AND HELL

***514. — What is Heaven?**

Heaven is a place of bliss in which the blessed see God face to face, participate in His glory, and enjoy eternal happiness.

***515. — Who will go to Heaven?**

Those who go to Heaven are the just who have never offended God, or who, having had the misfortune to offend Him, have done penance for it.

***516. — What is Purgatory?**

Purgatory is a place of purification where the souls of those who die guilty of venial sins, or who have not satisfied for the temporal punishment due to their sins, must suffer before going to Heaven.

***517. — Can the faithful on earth help the souls in Purgatory?**

Yes, the faithful on earth can help the souls in Purgatory by their prayers, mortifications, alms, the application of indulgences, the Masses they offer for them, and the communions they receive.

***518. — What is Hell?**

Hell is a place of torture, where those who die in the state of mortal sin are deprived of the sight of God forever, and suffer dreadful and eternal torments.

Glossary

The word **Purgatory** comes from a Latin word that means “to purify”.

Purgatory is an infinite Mercy of God. Since nothing unclean can remain in the presence of God, without this place of ultimate purification, almost all souls would have to go to hell.

A **torment** is a punishment that causes great pain and is the punishment for crime.

By torment we mean **extreme suffering**. The torments of hell are the eternal separation from God and the eternal fire.

Mortifications are penances, privations that one voluntarily imposes on oneself or that one endures with patience while offering them to God.

Those who serve God well on earth are called the **just**.

A **place of delight** is a place where one enjoys the greatest joys.

The **elect** are those who deserve Heaven by serving God with all their heart during their life.

To lose our soul is to go to Hell.

LESSON 48

PARTICULAR JUDGMENT and GENERAL JUDGMENT

***519. — Besides the particular judgment, will there be another judgment?**

Yes, there will be another judgment: it is called the general judgment.

***520. — What is the general judgment?**

The general judgment is the judgment all men will undergo together at the end of the world.

521. — **Why must there be a general judgment?**

There must be a general judgment because God, having tolerated on earth that the wicked prosper and the good suffer, will want, at the end of the world, to make His justice shine before all men.

*522. — **Will the body share in the reward or punishment of the soul?**

Yes, the body will share in the reward or punishment of the soul because by the resurrection the two will be reunited, to share their happiness or woe, as they both took part in their good works or in their sins.

523. — **In what condition will the bodies of the just rise?**

The bodies of the just will rise glorious and immortal.

524. — **Will the bodies of the damned also rise?**

Yes, the bodies of the damned will also rise, but they will be condemned to the eternal sufferings of hell.

525. — **What words should we always bear in mind?**

We should always bear in mind these words of Our Lord Jesus Christ: What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but suffers the loss of his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is to come with His Angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will render to everyone according to his works. St. Matthew 16:26-27

Glossary

Our soul is **immortal**, that is, it will never die. The only career for which we must sacrifice everything is that of loving and serving God on earth, in order to be happy with Him during all eternity.

Eternal means: lasting forever, never ending.

LESSON 49

PRACTICE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

526. — What must a Christian do every day of his life?

In order to live a holy life, a Christian must, every day of his life:

1. Upon awakening in the morning, make the sign of the cross and say, My God, I give You my heart;
2. After dressing modestly, kneel down and say the morning prayer;
3. Attend mass, if he can conveniently do so;
4. Go about the business to which his state calls him;
5. Take his meals with sobriety and temperance, being careful to say the Blessing and Grace;
6. Assist the poor, according to his means;
7. At the end of the day, and as much as possible with the family, examine one's conscience and pray in the evening.

527. — How should a Christian sanctify his actions?

A Christian should sanctify his actions by offering them to God.

528. — How should a Christian suffer the sorrows and hardships of life?

We must suffer the sorrows and hardships of life with patience, in expiation of our sins, and uniting them to the sufferings of Jesus Christ.

529. — What position should a Christian take with regard to the slander spread by the media and social networks?

The Christian must not take part in these slanders: neither informing himself about them nor spreading them, because these reports are either calumny or slander, very serious sins in God's eyes.

The Christian should remember that Jesus Christ considers everything we do to others as done to Himself.

530. — How should we behave in temptations?

In temptations, we must recommend ourselves to God and avoid words and things that could lead us to evil.

531. — If we believe we have fallen into mortal sin, what should we do?

If we think we have fallen into mortal sin, we should immediately humiliate ourselves, ask God for forgiveness with an act of perfect contrition and confess as soon as possible.

Glossary

Christian means “disciple of Christ”. The Christian must therefore conform his life in such a way as to resemble as perfectly as possible Jesus his Master and Model.

To eat with sobriety and temperance means to avoid all excess in eating and drinking.

To sanctify our actions is to make them holy, that is, pleasing to God and meritorious for Heaven.

LESSON 50

PRACTICE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (*cont.*)

532. — What is to be observed with regard to entertainment?

We should indulge in entertainment with reserve, if it is necessary and innocent, in order to repair our strength so that we may better serve God and fulfill our duty.

533. — What should a Christian do on Sundays and feast days?

On Sundays and feast days a Christian should abstain from servile work, from travel on temporal matters, and should attend mass, prayers, and religious instruction on these days.

534. — What is it proper to do every month?

It is proper to go to confession every month and to receive communion frequently, according to the advice of our confessor.

535. — What is advisable to do every year?

It is wise to review our conscience more particularly every year, if possible in the form of a spiritual retreat, in order to orient ourselves on the path to Heaven.

536. — How should we conduct ourselves in illness?

In illness, we must be very resigned to the will of God, and if it becomes dangerous, we must prepare ourselves to die in a Christian way.

537. — What is to be done by one who sees a relative or friend dangerously ill?

He who sees someone in his family or among his friends who is dangerously ill should support him with his prayers and encouragement; he should urge him to put his affairs in order, to obtain the assistance of the priest and to receive the last sacraments.

Glossary

Necessary entertainments are those needed to rest the mind or the body after work.

Innocent entertainments are those in which one does not offend the good Lord, and which are not occasions of sin.

A **spiritual retreat** is a time when we withdraw momentarily from our usual duties, from our surroundings to assess our life, to pray, to listen to spiritual instructions, to confess, to receive the guidance of an enlightened guide. It is a rest from all the distractions of the world that renews our soul by a salutary purification and a renewal of energy.

THE MAIN PRAYERS

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and of the Mother of God. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

THE ANGELICAL SALUTATION

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee; blessed art Thou among women, and blessed is Thy Son, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us, sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, and to the Mother of God.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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.

THE ACTS

ACT OF ADORATION

O my God, I adore Thee and acknowledge Thee to be my Creator,
my Sovereign Lord and the absolute Master of all things.

ACT OF FAITH

O my God, I firmly believe all that the Holy Church of Jesus Christ
believes and teaches, because Thou hast said it, and because Thou
art truth itself.

ACT OF HOPE

O my God, relying on Thy promises and on the merits of Jesus
Christ, my Saviour, I hope with firm confidence that Thou wilt give
me the grace to observe Thy Commandments in this world and to
obtain, by this means, life everlasting.

ACT OF LOVE or CHARITY

O my God, who art worthy of all my love because of Thy infinite
perfections, I love Thee with all my heart, and I love my neighbor
as myself for love of Thee.

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more, and to avoid the near occasions of sin.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

O my God, I thank Thee for all the gifts I have received from Thee, especially for having created me, redeemed me by Thy Son, and made me a child of Thy Church.

ACT OF OFFERING

O my God, I have received everything from Thee. I offer Thee my thoughts, my words, my actions, my life and my possessions, and I want to employ them for Thy service alone.

ACT OF HUMILITY

O my God, I am but dust and ashes. Repress the movements of pride which arise in my soul, and teach me to despise myself, Thou who resisteth the proud and giveth Thy grace to the humble.

ACT OF PETITION

O my God, infinite source of all benefits, give me all that is necessary for the life and health of my body, but especially the grace to accomplish Thy holy will in all things. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY GHOST

Come, Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of Thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Thy love.

- Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created.
- *And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.*

Let us pray: O God, who hast taught the hearts of Thy faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that, by the same Spirit, we may

be made truly wise and evermore rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS in HONOR of the BLESSED VIRGIN

We fly to Thy patronage, O holy Mother of God, despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

SALVE REGINA

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope! To Thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to Thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, Thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of Thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

- Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
- That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Almighty and eternal God, who through the cooperation of the Holy Ghost, didst prepare the body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mother Mary to be a fit dwelling-place for Thy Son, as we celebrate Her memory with joy, grant that through Her motherly intercession, we may be preserved from evil in this world and from eternal death. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE ANGELUS

- The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
- *And She conceived of the Holy Ghost.*

Hail Mary, etc.

- Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
- Be it done unto Me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary, etc.

- And the Word was made flesh.
- And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc.

- Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
- That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an Angel, may, by His passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE REGÍNA CAELI

(Replaces the Angelus during Easter Time)

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, *alleluia*;
For He whom Thou didst deserve to bear, *alleluia*,
Has risen as He said, *alleluia*.
Pray for us to God, *alleluia*.

- Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, *alleluia*.
- For the Lord is truly risen, *alleluia*.

Let us pray: O God, who by the resurrection of Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, hast vouchsafed to give joy to the whole world, grant, we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE MAGNIFICAT

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
And My spirit hath rejoiced in God My Saviour.
Because He hath regarded the humility of His handmaid; for, behold, henceforth all generations shall call Me blessed.
Because He who is mighty hath done great things to Me; and holy is His name.
And His mercy is from generation unto generation to those who fear Him.
He hath shown might with His arm, He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.
He hath put down the mighty from their throne, and hath exalted the humble.
He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent empty away.

He hath received Israel His servant, being mindful of His mercy,
As He promised our Fathers: Abraham and his posterity forever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, and
to the Mother of God.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.

THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known
that anyone who fled to Thy protection, implored Thy help, and
sought Thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confi-
dence, I fly unto Thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To Thee I
come, before Thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the
Word Incarnate! Despise not my petitions, but in Thy mercy, hear
and answer me. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard
against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke
him, we humbly pray: and do thou, Prince of the Heavenly host, by
the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who
wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

PRAYERS TO OUR HOLY GUARDIAN ANGEL

Angel of God, who art my Guardian, since Heaven in its goodness
has entrusted me to thee, enlighten me, direct me and govern me
today. Amen.

Angel of God, my Guardian dear
To whom God's love entrusts me here,
Ever this day be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

THE BLESSING BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive
from Thy bounty, and give bread to those who have none. Through
Christ our Lord. Amen.

GRACE AFTER MEALS

We give Thee thanks, O Almighty God, for these and all Thy benefits, who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

- Let us bless the Lord.
- *Thanks be to God.*
- May the souls of the faithful departed,
- *Through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

PRAYER FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Out of the depths I have cried to Thee, O Lord! Lord, hear my voice. Let Thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If Thou, O Lord, wilt mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand it?

For with Thee there is merciful forgiveness, and by reason of Thy law, I have waited for Thee, O Lord.

My soul hath relied on His word: my soul hath hoped in the Lord. From the morning watch even until night, let Israel hope in the Lord:

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him plentiful redemption.

And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

- Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
- *And let perpetual light shine upon them.*
- May they rest in peace.
- *Amen.*
- O Lord, hear my prayer.
- *And let my cry come unto Thee.*
- The Lord be with you.
- *And with your spirit.*

Let us pray: O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful; grant to the souls of Thy servants and handmaids the remission of all their sins, that through pious supplications they may obtain the pardon which they have always desired. Who livest and reignest with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

It is true, then, Redeemer of mankind, that Thou dwellest within me, and that I am in possession of Thy Body, Thy Blood, Thy Soul and Thy Divinity. I adore Thee, O my God, from the depth of my soul, and I join my adorations to those which the Angels and Saints offer Thee in Heaven. O God of love, truly do I love Thee with my whole heart, with my whole soul and my whole strength. I thank Thee for the great favor Thou hast granted me of giving Thyself to me. I give myself to Thee without reserve. Accept, divine Jesus, this offering I present Thee of all that I am and of all that I own; dispose thereof according to Thy good pleasure, and grant me the grace of never displeasing Thee.

PRAYER TO JESUS CRUCIFIED

Behold, O kind and most sweet Jesus, I cast myself upon my knees in Thy sight, and with the most fervent desire of my soul, I pray and beseech Thee that Thou wouldst impress upon my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity, with true repentance for my sins, and a firm desire of amendment, while with deep affection and grief of soul I ponder within myself, and mentally contemplate Thy five most precious wounds; having before my eyes that which David spoke in prophecy of Thee, O good Jesus: “They have pierced My hands and My feet; they have numbered all My bones.”

Table of Contents

Lesson 1

The End of Man 3

Lesson 2

God and His Perfections 5

Lesson 3

The Unity and Trinity of God 6

Lesson 4

Creation. 8

Lesson 5

Our First Parents and their Fall. 10

Lesson 6

Sin and the Different Kinds of Sin 13

Lesson 7

The Capital Sins and Opposed Virtues 15

Lesson 8

The Incarnation and the Redemption 18

Lesson 9

The Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Our Lord . 21

Lesson 10	
The Holy Spirit His Descent upon the Apostles	24
Lesson 11	
The Effects of the Redemption	26
Lesson 12	
The Effects of the Redemption (<i>cont.</i>) – The Theological Virtues	28
Lesson 13	
The Theological Virtues (<i>cont.</i>)	31
Lesson 14	
The Church	33
Lesson 15	
The Attributes and Powers of the Church	35
Lesson 16	
The Sacraments in General	37
Lesson 17	
Baptism	39
Lesson 18	
Confirmation	42
Lesson 19	
The Effects of Confirmation	44
Lesson 20	
The Sacrament of Penance	46
Lesson 21	
Contrition	48

Lesson 22	
Confession and Satisfaction	51
Lesson 23	
How to make a good Confession	54
Lesson 24	
Indulgences	55
Lesson 25	
The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.	57
Lesson 26	
The Ends for which the Holy Eucharist was Instituted	60
Lesson 27	
The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass	62
Lesson 28	
The Sacrament of Extreme Unction	64
Lesson 29	
The Sacrament of Holy Orders.	65
Lesson 30	
The Sacrament of Matrimony.	67
Lesson 31	
Sacramentals.	70
Lesson 32	
Prayer	72
Lesson 33	
The Lord’s Prayer	74
Lesson 34	
The Angelical Salutation.	76

Lesson 35	
The Ten Commandments of God	79
Lesson 36	
First Commandment of God	80
Lesson 37	
First Comandment (<i>continued</i>) – Devotion to the Saints	84
Lesson 38	
Second Commandment of God	87
Lesson 39	
Third Commandment of God	89
Lesson 40	
Fourth Commandment of God	90
Lesson 41	
Fifth Commandment of God	92
Lesson 42	
Sixth and Ninth Commandments of God	94
Lesson 43	
Seventh and Tenth Commandments of God	95
Lesson 44	
Eighth Commandment of God	97
Lesson 45	
The Commandments of the Church	98
Lesson 46	
Our Last Ends	100
Lesson 47	
Heaven, Purgatory and Hell	102

Lesson 48	
Particular Judgment and General Judgment	103
Lesson 49	
Practice of the Christian Life	105
Lesson 50	
Practice of the Christian Life (<i>cont.</i>)	106
The Main Prayers	109

***For the Preservation
of the Deposit of Faith!***

For the Kingdom of God to come!

© Editions Magnificat 2022

magnificat.ca