

# BALTIMORE CATECHISM VOLUME 1

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OFFICIAL DIOCESAN VERSION

*FOR USE WITHIN ALL PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF PATERSON*

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

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# LESSON FIRST: ON THE END OF MAN

**1. Q. Who made the world?**

A. God made the world.

**2. Q. Who is God?**

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

**3. Q. What is man?**

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

**6. Q. Why did God make you?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**12. Q. Say the Apostles' Creed.**

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

## **LESSON SECOND: ON GOD AND HIS PERFECTIONS**

**13. Q. What is God?**

A. God is a spirit infinitely perfect.

**14. Q. Had God a beginning**

A. God had no beginning; He always was and He always will be.

**15. Q. Where is God?**

A. God is everywhere.

**16. Q. If God is everywhere, why do we not see Him?**

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

**17. Q. Does God see us?**

A. God sees us and watches over us.

**18. Q. Does God know all things?**

A. God knows all things, even our most secret thoughts, words, and actions.

**19. Q. Can God do all things?**

A. God can do all things, and nothing is hard or impossible to Him.

**20. Q. Is God just, holy, and merciful?**

A. God is all just, all holy, all merciful, as He is infinitely perfect.

## **LESSON THIRD: ON THE UNITY AND TRINITY OF GOD**

**21. Q. Is there but one God?**

A. Yes; there is but one God.

**22. Q. Why can there only be but one God?**

A. There can only be but one God, because God, being supreme and infinite, cannot have an equal.

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

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

**24. Q. Is the Father God?**

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

**25. Q. Is the Son God?**

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

**26. Q. Is the Holy Spirit God?**

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

**27. Q. What is the Blessed Trinity?**

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

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

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

## **LESSON FOURTH: ON THE ANGELS AND OUR FIRST PARENTS**

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

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

**35. Q. What are angels?**

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

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

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

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

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

**43. Q. Did Adam and Eve remain faithful to God?**

A. Adam and Eve did not remain faithful to God; but broke His command by eating the forbidden fruit.

**44. Q. What happened to Adam and Eve on account of their sin?**

A. Adam and Eve on account of their sin lost innocence and holiness, and were doomed to misery and death.

**45. Q. What evil happened to us through the disobedience of our first parents?**

A. Through the disobedience of our first parents we all inherit their sin and punishment, as we should have shared in their happiness if they had remained faithful.

**47. Q. What is the sin called which we inherit from our first parents?**

A. The sin which we inherit from our first parents is called original sin.

**50. Q. Was any one ever preserved from original sin?**

A. The Blessed Virgin Mary, through the merit of her Divine Son, was preserved free from the guilt of original sin, and this privilege is called her Immaculate Conception.

## **LESSON FIFTH: ON SIN AND ITS KINDS**

**51. Q. Is original sin the only kind of sin?**

A. Original sin is not the only kind of sin; there is another kind of sin, which we commit ourselves, called actual sin.

**52. Q. What is actual sin?**

A. Actual sin is any willful thought, word, deed or omission contrary to the law of God.

**53. Q. How many kinds of actual sin are there?**

A. There are two kinds of actual sin-mortal and venial.

**54. Q. What is mortal sin?**

A. Mortal sin is a grievous offense against the law of God.

**57. Q. What is venial sin?**

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

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

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

## **LESSON SIXTH: ON THE INCARNATION AND REDEMPTION**

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

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

**61. Q. Who is the Redeemer?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**75. Q. On what day was Christ born?**

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

## **LESSON SEVENTH: ON OUR LORD'S PASSION, DEATH, RESURRECTION, AND ASCENSION**

### **78. Q. What did Jesus Christ Suffer?**

A. Jesus Christ suffered a bloody sweat, a cruel scourging, was crowned with thorns, and was crucified.

### **79. Q. On what day did Christ die?**

A. Christ died on Good Friday.

### **83. Q. Why did Christ suffer and die?**

A. Christ suffered and died for our sins

### **89. Q. On what day did Christ rise from the dead?**

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

### **91. Q. After Christ had remained forty days on earth, where did He go?**

A. After forty days Christ ascended into heaven, and the day on which He ascended into heaven is called Ascension Day.

## **LESSON EIGHTH: ON THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HIS DESCENT UPON THE APOSTLES**

- De-scent' = the act of coming down.
- En-a'ble = to make able.
- En-light'en = to make them understand better.
- Pen'te-cost = the fiftieth day after Easter.
- Preach = declare publicly, spread by word of mouth.
- Sanc'ti-fy = to make holy.
- Strength'en = make strong.
- Whit'sun-day = white Sunday.



**94. Q. Who is the Holy Spirit?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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