

OVERVIEW OF CATHOLIC DOCTRINE – THE CREED

Note to teachers: Because there are Basic Catechetical Certification courses entitled “Introduction to the Sacraments,” “Introduction to Morality,” and “Introduction to Prayer,” which address the material in the second, third and fourth sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church respectively, this course is intended to address only the material found in the first section of the Catechism, entitled “The Profession of Faith”(paragraphs 1-1065).

I. Introduction (CCC 1-184)

- A. Why make a study of Catholic doctrine?
 - 1. "Catechesis is an education in the faith of children, young people, and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way..." (CCC 5)
 - 2. As catechists, we do not pass on our own teaching, but the teachings of Christ
 - a. The “Sacred deposit” of the faith (CCC 84)
 - b. “My teaching is not mine, but His Who sent me” (Jn 7:16)
 - c. We are to transmit the Faith not in mutilated, falsified, or diminished form but whole and entire, in all its rigor and vigor (*Catechesi Tradendae* 30)
 - 3. We have a responsibility to study and embrace doctrine – to be able to pass it on faithfully
- B. Basic Catholic Vocabulary (see handout entitled *Basic Catholic Vocabulary*)
 - 1. Need for/importance of a common language of the Catholic Faith
 - 2. *Basic Catholic Vocabulary* is a list of important, yet commonly misunderstood, doctrinal terms
 - 3. Directions for use of handout:
 - a. Course participants should read aloud each of the terms on the handout, each taking a turn
 - b. After reading all of the terms, take time for questions/answers and clarification
- C. Man’s Capacity for God (CCC 27-49)
 - 1. The Desire for God
 - 2. Ways of Coming to Know God
 - 3. The Knowledge of God According to the Church
 - 4. How Can We Speak About God?
- D. The Revelation of God (CCC 50-73)
 - 1. God Reveals His “Plan of Loving Goodness”
 - 2. The Stages of Revelation
 - 3. Christ Jesus – “Mediator and Fullness of All Revelation”
- E. The Transmission of Divine Revelation (CCC 74-100)
 - 1. The Apostolic Tradition
 - 2. The Relationship Between Tradition and Sacred Scripture
 - 3. The Interpretation of the Heritage of Faith
- F. Sacred Scripture (CCC 101-141)

1. Christ – The Unique Word of Sacred Scripture
2. Inspiration and Truth of Sacred Scripture
3. The Holy Spirit, Interpreter of Scripture
4. The Canon of Scripture
5. Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church

G. I Believe (CCC 142-165)

1. The Obedience of Faith
2. “I Know Whom I Have Believed”
3. The Characteristics of Faith

H. We Believe (CCC 166-184)

1. “Lord, Look Upon the Faith of Your Church”
2. The Language of Faith
3. Only One Faith

II. The Profession of The Christian Faith (CCC 185-1065)

A. God (CCC 199-278)

1. “I Believe in One God”
2. God Reveals His Name
3. God, “He Who Is,” Is Truth and Love
4. The Implications of Faith in One God
5. “In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”
6. The Revelation of God as Trinity
7. The Holy Trinity in the Teaching of the Faith
8. The Divine Works and the Trinitarian Missions
9. The Almighty

B. Creation (CCC 279-384)

1. Catechesis on Creation
2. Creation – Work of the Holy Trinity
3. “The World Was Created For the Glory of God”
4. The Mystery of Creation
5. God Carries Out His Plan: Divine Providence
6. The Angels
7. The Visible World
8. Man: Created “In the Image of God”
9. “Body and Soul But Truly One”
10. “Male and Female He Created Them”
11. Man in Paradise

C. The Fall (CCC 385-421)

1. Where Sin Abounded, Grace Abounded All the More
2. The Fall of the Angels
3. Original Sin
4. “You Did Not Abandon Him to the Power of Death”

D. Jesus Christ: The Only Son of God (CCC 422-682)

1. Titles: Jesus, Christ, The Only Son of God, Lord
2. The Son of God Became Man
 - i. Why Did the Word Become Flesh?

- ii. The Incarnation
 - iii. True God and True Man
 - iv. How is the Son of God Man?
- 3. Conceived by the Power of the Holy Spirit and Born of the Virgin Mary
- 4. The Mysteries of Christ's Life
 - i. Christ's Whole Life is Mystery
 - ii. The Mysteries of Jesus' Infancy and Hidden Life
 - iii. The Mysteries of Jesus' Public Life
- 5. Jesus and Israel
- 6. Jesus Died Crucified
 - i. The Trial of Jesus
 - ii. Christ's Redemptive Death in God's Plan of Salvation
 - iii. Christ Offered Himself to His Father for Our Sins
- 7. Jesus Christ Was Buried
- 8. Christ Descended into Hell
- 9. On the Third Day He Rose from the Dead
 - i. The Historical and Transcendent Event
 - ii. The Resurrection – A Work of the Holy Trinity
 - iii. The Meaning and Saving Significance of the Resurrection
- 10. He Ascended into Heaven and Is Seated At the Right Hand of the Father
- 11. He Will Come Again in Glory To Judge the Living and the Dead
- E. The Holy Spirit: The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity (CCC 683-747)
 - 1. The Joint Mission of the Son and the Spirit
 - 2. The Names, Titles, and Symbols of the Holy Spirit
 - 3. God's Spirit and Word in the Time of the Promises
 - 4. The Spirit of Christ in the fullness of time
 - 5. The Spirit and the Church in the Last Days
- F. The Church (CCC 748-975)
 - 1. The Church in God's Plan
 - a. Names and Images
 - b. The Church's Origin, Foundation and Mission
 - c. The Mystery of the Church
 - 2. The Church – People of God, Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit
 - 3. The Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic
 - 4. Christ's Faithful - Hierarchy, Laity, Consecrated Life
 - 5. The Communion of Saints
 - a. Communion in Spiritual Goods
 - b. The Communion of the Church of Heaven and Earth
 - i. Church Triumphant
 - ii. Church Suffering
 - iii. Church Militant
 - 6. The Blessed Virgin Mary
 - a. Four Marian dogmas
 - i. Immaculate Conception (CCC 490-493)
 - ii. Mother of God (CCC 495)

- iii. Perpetual Virginity (CCC 499-501)
 - iv. The Assumption (CCC 966)
 - b. Mary: Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church
- G. The Resurrection of the Body (CCC 988-1019)
 - 1. Christ's Resurrection and Ours
 - 2. Dying in Christ Jesus
 - a. Death
 - b. The meaning of Christian death
- H. Life Everlasting (CCC 1020-1060)
 - 1. Judgment
 - a. Particular
 - b. Last
 - 2. Heaven
 - 3. Purgatory
 - 4. Hell
 - 5. The Hope of the New Heaven and the New Earth
- I. Amen (CCC 1061-1065)

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