

A Catechism for Adults  
by  
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## **LESSON 1: RELIGION**

1. What is the purpose of these lessons?

The purpose of these lessons is to fill in what is missing in the lives of so many people today, namely, the knowledge and practice of true religion.

"Receive therefore instructions by my words and it shall be profitable to you" (Wisdom 6:27).

2. Why should I have to study religion?

I have to study religion because God expects me to know what He has taught and commanded me to do. I cannot know very much about His laws unless I study them in the same way I would study any other subject.

"The heart of the wise seeks instruction; and the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness" (Proverbs 15:14).

3. Why is religion the most important study I can take up?

Religion is the most important study I can take up because when I die God will not ask me how many years I went to school, but He will ask me whether I lived my life according to His laws or not.

"Let no one deceive himself. If any one of you thinks himself wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may come to be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (1st Corinthians 3:18,19).

4. What is religion?

Religion consists of two parts:

- 1) Believing everything God has told the human race.
- 2) Observing all of my duties to God, to myself and to my neighbor.

"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22).

5. What are some of the things God has told the human race?

God has told us that each person has a soul which will never die and that He will reward those who obey His Laws with the never-ending happiness of heaven and that He will punish those who do not obey His Laws with the never-ending torments of hell.

"God shall judge both the just and the wicked, and then shall be the time of everything" (Ecclesiastes 3:17).

6. What are my chief duties to God?

I must believe in God, pray to Him, obey His Laws, love Him and worship Him not only in private, but also in public.

"The Lord Thy God shalt thou adore, and Him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10).

7. What are my duties to myself?

I must take care of my soul by staying away from sin and obeying God's Laws, so that I can enjoy the happiness of heaven.

"For we have not here a lasting city, but we seek one that is to come" (Hebrews 13:14).

8. What are my duties to my neighbor?

I must do everything I can to help my neighbor to lead a good life and so get into heaven.

The nearer a person is to me, the more serious my duties toward him. For example, a father has the serious duty to provide his family with food, clothing and shelter.

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 19:19).

9. Why is religion necessary?

Religion is necessary:

a) because God commanded it

b) because religion shows me how to live my life on this earth and how to get into heaven

c) because the lack of religion causes unhappiness in this life and in the next.

10. How does the lack of religion cause unhappiness in this life?

Unhappiness comes into a person's life when God's Laws are not obeyed: unhappy marriages, unfaithfulness, drunkenness, divorce, broken homes, children gone astray, unmarried mothers, boy criminals and wars.

"He that rejected wisdom and discipline is unhappy; and their hope is in vain, and their labours without fruit, and their works unprofitable. Their wives are foolish, and their children wicked, their offspring is cursed" (Wisdom 3:11-13).

11. How does the lack of religion cause unhappiness in the next life?

Those who do not obey God's Laws in this life will be punished with the everlasting torments of hell.

"The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with the angels of His power in a flame of fire, giving vengeance to them who know not God, and who obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2nd Thessalonians 1:7, 8).

12. Does religion bring happiness in this life?

Yes, the peace of soul that comes only to those who obey God's Laws is of much greater value than anything money can buy. Many rich people are very unhappy, while a very poor person can enjoy a great measure of happiness even in this life.

"Much peace have they that love Thy Law, and to them there is no stumbling block" (Psalm 118:165).

## **LESSON 2: THE MASS**

1. What is my most important duty toward God?

My most important duty toward God is to worship Him as my Lord and Master.

"Fear the Lord and give Him honor ... and adore ye Him that made heaven and earth"  
(Apocalypse 14:7).

2. What is the chief form of worship in the Catholic Church?

The chief form of worship in the Catholic Church is the Mass.

3. What happens at the Mass?

At the Mass the Priest changes bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

4. Who said the first Mass?

Jesus Christ said the first Mass at the Last Supper on the night before he died, nearly 2000 years ago.

"Whilst they were at supper, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke, and gave to His disciples, and said: Take ye, and eat. This is My Body. And taking the chalice, He gave thanks, and gave to them, saying, Drink ye all of this, for this is My Blood" (Matthew 26:28).

See also: Luke 22:19; Mark 14:22 and 1st Corinthians (11:23).

5. How did Jesus have the power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood?

Jesus had this power because He is God, as we shall see in Lesson 14.

6. Did Jesus give this power to anyone?

Yes, Jesus gave the power of changing bread and wine into His Body and Blood to His twelve Apostles at the Last Supper.

"Do this for a commemoration of Me" (Luke 22:19).

7. Did the Apostles say Mass?

Yes, the Apostles said Mass. See Acts 2:42, 46 and 1st Corinthians 11:26.

8. Did Jesus want His Apostles to hand down this power to others?

Yes, Jesus wanted His Apostles to hand down this power to others, because He wanted all men of all times to eat His Body and drink His Blood.

"Except you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His Blood, you shall not have life in you" (John 6:54).

9. How did the Apostles hand this power down to others?

The Apostles handed down the power of changing bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus when they made other men Bishops and Priests.

10. Are there men on earth today who have this power?

Yes, there are men on earth today who can change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus, namely, the Bishops and Priests of the Catholic Church.

This power has been handed down during the past two thousand years from one Bishop to another.

11. Can all Catholic Priests change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus?

Yes, all Catholic Priests have this power, which they received from the Bishop who made them Priests.

12. At what part of the Mass does the Priest change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus?

The Priest changes bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus toward the middle of the Mass, when he says, " This is My Body. This is My Blood."

This part of the Mass is called the Consecration.

13. How can I tell when the Consecration takes place?

Shortly after the altarboy has rung the bell two times, the Priest bends low over the altar to say "This is My Body."

When he bends his knee to the floor and raises Jesus over his head, the altarboy rings the bell again. Then he bends over the cup of wine and says

"This is My Blood", bends his knee to the floor and raises the cup over his head.

14. What prayers does the Priest say from the beginning of the Mass up to the Consecration?

The prayers said before the Consecration are preparatory prayers, many of which are taken from the Bible.

Most of these prayers ask God to forgive our sins and make us worthy to offer Him the Body and Blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

15. What prayers are said after the Consecration?

The prayers after the Consecration are said to praise God, invoke His blessing on the living and the dead and to prepare for receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion.

16. Are non-Catholics allowed to receive Holy Communion?

No, non-Catholics are not allowed to receive Holy Communion until they have been baptized in the Catholic Church.

17. Why does the Priest say the Mass in Latin?

The Priest says the Mass in Latin because Latin was the official language in many parts of the world when Jesus founded His Church, and because it is a language which does not change.

However, the Mass is said in several other languages, such as Greek, Old Slavonic

18. Where can I find the prayers of the Mass in English?

The prayers of the Mass are contained in a book called a Missal, which can be bought at any Catholic bookstore.

19. Why does the Priest wear different clothes at Mass?

The clothes the Priest wears at Mass are called vestments and are the type of clothing worn by the Roman citizens two thousand years ago.

Although the fashions of the world changed, the Catholic Church continued to use the same type of clothing for the Mass, symbolic of the unchangeableness of the Church.

20. When must I go to Mass?

I must go to Mass every Sunday and on the six Holy Days of Obligation.

"Keep holy the Sabbath Day" (Exodus 20:8).

21. What kind of a sin is it to miss Mass on Sunday or on a Holy Day of Obligation?

To miss Mass on Sunday or on a Holy Day of Obligation through one's fault is a serious sin.

22. When are the Holy Days of Obligation?

1) Dec. 25, the feast of Christmas.

2) Jan. 1, New Year's Day, the feast of the Circumcision of Jesus.

3) the 40th day after Easter, the feast of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

4) Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven.

5) Nov. 1, the feast of All Saints.

6) Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

23. How can I learn when to stand, sit and kneel at Mass?

It is difficult to lay down rules about what to do at Mass. The best rule is to watch the rest of the congregation and imitate them.

24. What is the difference between High Mass and Low Mass?

At a High Mass the Priest sings some of the prayers, and the choir answers him, while at a Low Mass the Priest does not sing.

25. How should I assist at Mass?

While attending Mass, I should try to have the same attention and devotion I would have had if I had been present at the Last Supper with Jesus 2000 years ago.

**IMPORTANT** If you want to be baptized at the end of this course of lessons, **YOU MUST START GOING TO MASS EVERY SUNDAY AND HOLY DAY FROM NOW ON.**



## LESSON 3: THE BIBLE AND TRADITION

### 1. What is the Bible?

The Bible is a collection of the books written under the inspiration of God. "All Scripture, inspired of God, is profitable to teach, to reprove, to correct, to instruct in justice" (2nd Timothy 3:16).

### 2. What does "Inspired of God" mean?

Inspiration means that God chose some men and moved them to write down faithfully all the things, and only those things, which He ordered.

"For I give you to understand, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For neither did I receive it of man, nor did I learn it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Galatians 1:11-12).

### 3. Who, then, is the real author of the Bible?

God is the real author of the Bible, since He moved these men to write down the things He ordered, although he allowed them to write in their own language and style.

"God at sundry times and in diverse manners, spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, last of all, in these days by His Son" (Hebrews 1:1, 2).

### 4. How many books are there in the Bible?

There are 72 books in the whole Bible.

### 5. When were all these books put together?

The Catholic Church put all of them in one book for the first time between the years 350 and 405.

### 6. What is the difference between the Catholic Bible and the Protestant Bible?

The Catholic Bible is larger, because it is the whole Bible. The men who founded the protestant churches left out seven whole books (Tobias, Judith, Wisdom, Baruch, Ecclesiasticus, 1st and 2nd Maccabees; also parts of Esther and Daniel).

"If any man shall add to these things, God shall add unto him the plagues written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life" (Apocalypse 22:18, 19).

### 7. How can I know which is a Catholic Bible?

A Catholic Bible always has the name of a Catholic Bishop on the inside cover with the Latin word "Imprimatur", which means "It may be printed". The Bishop's name has a cross in front of it.

### 8. Does the Bible contain all the things God has told us?

No, the Bible does not contain all the words of God.

"Many other signs also did Jesus in the sight of His disciples, which are not written in this book" (John 20:30).

### 9. What happened to these "other things Jesus did"?

These "other things Jesus did" were handed down by word of mouth by the Apostles and other close followers of Jesus. This is called TRADITION, or the Unwritten Word of God.

"Hold the traditions which you have learned whether BY WORD or by our epistle" (2nd Thessalonians 2:14). See also: 2nd John 1:12, and 1st Corinthians 11:12

10. Must I believe in Tradition?

Yes, I must believe in Tradition because it is the Word of God and has equal authority with the Bible.

"And we charge you, brethren, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw yourselves from every brother walking disorderly, and not according to the tradition which they have received of us" (2nd Thessalonians 3:6).

11. Am I free to believe what I want?

No, I am not free to believe what I want. I must believe everything in the Bible and in Tradition.

"The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with the angels of His power, in a flame of fire, giving vengeance to them who know not God, and who obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2nd Thessalonians 1:7, 8).

12. What kind of a sin is it to deny anything in the Bible or in Tradition?

To deny anything in the Bible or in Tradition is usually a serious sin.

Whosoever revolteth, and continueth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God" (2nd John 1:9).

13. How is the Bible divided?

The Bible is divided into two main parts:

1) The Old Testament, which contains the things God told the Jews, from the beginning of the world up to the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ.

2) The New Testament, which contains what God has told us through His Son, Jesus Christ, and through His Apostles and some of His close followers.

14. Are Catholics allowed to read the Bible?

Yes, Catholics are not only allowed to read the Bible, but the Church gives special blessings to her members who read a portion of it for at least fifteen minutes a day.

"For what things soever were written, were written for our learning, that through patience and the comfort of the Scriptures, we might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

## LESSON 4: GOD AND THE HOLY TRINITY

### 1. Who is God?

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

"Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all the things that are in them" (Psalm 145:5).

### 2. What does "Creator" mean?

The word "Creator" means that God made all things out of nothing.

"I beseech thee, my son, look upon heaven and earth, and all that is in them; and consider that God made them out of nothing, and mankind also" (2nd Machabees 7:28).

### 3. What is a creature?

A creature is anything created by God.

"By the word of the Lord the heavens were established; and all the power of them by the Spirit of His mouth. For He spoke and they were made: He commanded, and they were created" (Psalm 32:6 & 9)

### 4. How can I know that there is a God?

I can know that there is a God because I know that someone had to make the world; it could not have made itself.

Just as a building or a watch has to be made by a builder or a watchmaker, so also this world, which is much more complicated than a watch or a building, demands a Maker. This Maker we call God. Truly, the Psalmist says "The FOOL has said in his heart: There is no God" (Psalm 13:1).

### 5. What kind of a sin is it to deny there is a God? To deny that there is a God is a very serious sin.

"But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the birds of the air, and they shall tell thee. Speak thee to the earth, and it shall answer thee, and the fishes of the sea shall tell. Who is ignorant that the hand of the Lord hath made all these things.?" (Job 12:7-9).

### 6. Why can't I see God? I cannot see God because God has no body.

"God is a spirit" (John 4:24).

### 7. Is God alive?

Yes, God is alive.

"All things were made by Him, and without Him was made nothing that was made. In Him was life" (John 1:3, 4).

### 8. How do I know that God is alive?

I know that God is alive because He made things which are ALIVE (trees, flowers, animals, human beings).

"The Spirit of God made me, and the breath of the Almighty gave me life" (Job 33:4).

### 9. How is God's life different from all other kinds of life?

God's life is different from all other kinds of life because God is eternal, which means that God never had a start and will never stop living and will never change.

"The Lord remaineth forever! (Psalm 9:8)

10. Can God do all things?

Yes, God can do all things because God is all-powerful, almighty.

"With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

11. Where is God?

God is everywhere.

"Whither shall I flee from Thy face? If I ascend into heaven, Thou art there. If I descend into hell, Thou art present." (Psalm 138:7-8).

12. Can God see all things?

Yes, God can see all things because He is everywhere. Knowing this helps me to stay away from sin.

"The eyes of the Lord in every place behold the good and the evil" (Proverbs 15:3).

13. What is the Holy Trinity?

The Holy Trinity means that there are three Persons in One God.

"And there are Three Who give testimony in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost. And these Three are One" (1st John 5:7).

14. Who are the three Persons in God?

The three Persons in God are: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

15. Who is God the Father? God the Father is the First Person of the Holy Trinity.

"For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 3:14).

16. Who is God the Son?

God the Son is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, who became Man in the womb of the Virgin Mary and died for our sins, Jesus Christ.

"When the fulness of time was come, God sent His Son, made of a woman ..that He might redeem them who were under the law; that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:4, 5).

17. Who is God the Holy Ghost?

God the Holy Ghost is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, Who came down on the Apostles on the tenth day after Jesus had returned to heaven.

"And they (the Apostles) were all filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:4).

Peter said: Ananias, why hath Satan tempted thy heart, that thou should lie to the Holy Ghost? ... Thou hast not lied to man, but to God" (Acts 5:3, 4).

18. Are the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity equal?

Yes, the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity are equal to One Another, but each One is a separate and distinct Person.

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen" (A Catholic prayer).

19. Why must I believe that there are three Persons in only one God?

I must believe that there are three Persons in only one God because this is a truth taught by Jesus Christ, Who is God.

"Going, therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19).

20. Can I understand how there can be three Persons and yet only one God?

No, I cannot understand how there can be three Persons in One God because my mind is too limited, and God is unlimited.

"O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How incomprehensible are His Judgments, and how unsearchable His ways!" (Romans 11:33).

21. Are there things in the world that I cannot understand?

Yes, there are many things in this world that I cannot fully understand, and therefore, I should not be surprised to find that I cannot completely understand the God Who made the world

For example, I cannot understand growth of the body, sight, hearing, electricity, and so on.

## LESSON 5: PRAYER

### 1. What is Prayer?

Prayer is the raising of the mind and heart to God.

"Watch ye and pray that ye enter not into temptation. The Spirit indeed is willing but the flesh weak" (Matthew 26):41

### 2. Why should I pray?

I should pray —

1) to adore God, to tell Him that He made me and that I depend on Him for absolutely everything.

"Thou shalt adore the Lord thy God, and Him only shall thou serve" (Luke 4:5).

2) to thank God for the blessings He has given me.

"What have you that you have not received? (1st Corinthians 4:7).

3) to ask God's pardon for the sins I have committed.

"O God, be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

4) to ask God's help in all things.

"Ask and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find knock and it shall be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7).

### 3. When should I pray?

I should pray every day, especially

a) in the morning—to offer the day to God and ask His help for the temptations of the day.

b) during the day, especially during temptation.

c) at night—to thank God for the blessings of the day and to ask Him to forgive me for the sins of the day.

d) before and after eating.

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatsoever else you do, do all to the glory of God" (1st Corinthians 10:31).

Note: The prayers to be said every day are found on pages 118 to 121.

### 4. To whom should I pray?

1) I must pray to God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

2) I may also pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary, to the angels and to the Saints. "And the smoke of the incense of the prayers of the Saints ascended up before God from the hand of the angel" (Apocalypse 8:4).

### 5. Why may I pray to the Blessed Virgin, the Angels and Saints?

I may pray to the Blessed Virgin, the angels and the Saints because they are God's best friends, and God will listen more to them than to me because I am still a sinner.

"Go to My servant Job ... and My servant Job shall pray for you; his face I will accept .... You have not spoken right things before Me, as My servant Job hath" (Job 42:8).

6. For whom should I pray?

I should pray

a) for everyone still on earth, even my enemies,

"I say to you, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who persecute and calumniate you" (Matthew 5:44).

b) for the dead in purgatory (see page 33).

"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" (2 Machabees 12:46).

7. What should I pray for?

I should pray every day to get into heaven. When asking God for everything else, I should always say, "If it does not lead me away from You, Lord."

"Your Father knoweth that you have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His justice, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:32 & 33).

"Not my will, but Thine be done" (Luke 22:42).

8. Does God always hear my prayers?

God always hears my prayers, but He does not always give me exactly what I ask for, because I do not always know what is good for me, and often ask for things which are bad for me.

"You shall pray to Me, and I will hear you" (Jeremias 29:12).

9. Does God hear the prayers of sinners?

God does not hear the prayers of sinners unless they are willing to give up their sins and do penance.

"Now we know that God doth not hear sinners; but if a man be a Server of God, and doth His will, him He heareth"

(John 9:31).

10. How should I pray?

I should pray

a) with attention, keeping my mind on my prayer

b) with humility, realizing that I am powerless without God

"Without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

c) with confidence, realizing that God can do all things

"And this is the confidence which we have towards Him: that whatsoever we shall ask according to His will, He heareth us" (1st John 5:14).

d) with perseverance, that is, without giving up hope.

"Wait on God with patience" (Ecclesiasticus 2:3).

11. Is it necessary to kneel down when praying?

No, it is not necessary to kneel down when praying, but it certainly is much easier to pray while kneeling.

"Every knee shall be bowed to Me" (Isaias 45:24).

12. Why do Catholics have statues and pictures of the Saints?

Catholics have statues and pictures of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the Saints,

1) because they wish to honor the Blessed Virgin and the Saints

"To me, Thy friends, O God, are made exceedingly honorable. (Psalm 138:17). Just as the people of a nation erect statues and pictures of its heroes in public places so also the Church wishes to honor her heroes, the Saints.

2.) because it is easier to pray when looking at a statue or a picture.

For instance, it is much easier to tell Jesus how sorry I am for my sins while looking at a crucifix or a picture of Him hanging on the Cross.

13. Why is public prayer necessary?

Public prayer is necessary because as members of human society we owe God public recognition of Him as Supreme Master of society.

14. How does public prayer help the world?

Public prayer helps the world by demonstrating the great Christian ideal of the brotherhood of man, by uniting men and women of all ages, all races and all places in life in the worship of our heavenly Father.

15. Why should a family pray together?

A family should pray together

1) to ask God to bless them as a family

2) to imitate the Holy Family, (Jesus, Mary and Joseph)

3) to keep the family together

4) to give good example to the children.

"Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst of them"  
(Matthew 18:20).

16. How often should a family pray together?

A family should pray together at least once a day, preferably after the evening meal, when all the members of the family are together.



## LESSON 6: ANGELS AND MEN

1. Who are the chief creatures of God?

The chief creatures of God are angels and men.

2. What is an angel?

An angel is a creature who does not have a body.

"Who makest thy angels spirits" (Psalm 103:4).

3. Is an angel a real person?

Yes, an angel is a real person, having a mind and will.

4. How do I know that there are angels?

I know that there are angels because the Bible often speaks of angels, three hundred times, to be exact.

5. Why did God create the angels?

God created the angels

a) to serve Him in heaven

b) to act as His messengers to man

c) to act as guardians over each one of us.

Their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father

Who is in heaven" (Matthew 18:10).

6. Did all the angels obey God?

No, some of the angels, led by Lucifer, or Satan, disobeyed God and were sent immediately into hell. These are the devils.

"There was a great battle in heaven, Michael and his angels fought with the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels: And they prevailed not, neither was their place found anymore in heaven. And that great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, who seduceth the whole world" (Apocalypse 12:7-9).

7. How do the fallen angels act toward God and Man?

The fallen angels curse God and try to draw man away from serving and loving God.

"Be sober and watch, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion goeth about seeking whom he may devour, whom resist ye, strong in faith" (1st Peter 5:8).

8. What is man? Man is a creature who has a body and a soul.

"God created man to His own image" (Genesis 1:27).

9. Why did God make me?

God made me to know, love and serve Him in this world so that I might share in His happiness in the next world.

" Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that which endureth unto life everlasting, which the Son of Man will give you". (John 6:27).

10. How do I know I have a soul?

I know that I have a soul because I can think, do things without being forced, or refuse to do things, make things, enjoy a joke, a book or a movie. An animal cannot do any of these things.

That which makes me able to do them is my soul.

11. Where is my soul?

My soul is in every part of me that is alive.

12. Why can't I see or feel my soul?

I cannot see or feel my soul because it is a spirit.

13. Where did my soul come from?

God created my soul and joined it to the tiny body in my mother's womb.

14. How long will my soul and body stay together?

My soul and body will stay together until God separates them. This separation is death.

"Watch ye therefore, because you know not the day nor the hours (Matthew 25:13).

15. What will happen to my soul when I die?

As soon as my soul leaves my body, it will be judged by God for it cannot die.

"We must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the proper things of the body according as he hath done, whether it be good or evil" (2nd Corinthians 2:10).

16. What will happen to my soul after it is judged by God?

If I die with no sin on my soul, I shall go to heaven. If I die with a big sin on my soul, I shall go to hell forever.

"For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, but suffer the loss of his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

17. What will happen to my body when I die? My body will rot away to the earth from where it came.

"For dust thou art, and into dust thou shalt return" (Genesis 3:19).

18. Will my soul ever be joined to my body again?

Yes, God will call my body back from the grave and join it once again to my soul on Judgment Day.

"We shall all indeed rise again ... In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall rise again incorruptible" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51 & 52).

19. After the Resurrection, will my body and soul be always together?

Yes, if I am saved, I shall go, body and soul, into heaven. If not, both body and soul will be tortured in hell.

"In the last day I shall rise out of the earth. And I shall be clothed again with my skin, and in my flesh I shall see my God" (Job 19:25, 26).

## LESSON 7: GRACE

### 1. Why did God make me?

God made me to know, love and serve Him in this world so that I might share in His happiness in heaven.

### 2. Can I, just by being a human being, enjoy the happiness of God?

No, I cannot enjoy the happiness which God Himself enjoys if I remain just a human being.

### 3. What is needed to share in the happiness of another?

To share in the happiness of another it is necessary to have the same kind of life.

For example, a dog cannot share in the happiness of man, such as enjoying a book or a movie, if the dog remains a mere dog. The reason is that man's life is a higher kind of life than a dog's. God would first have to raise that dog up to man's level by giving the dog a sharing in man's life. Then the dog would have the power to share in the happiness that a man enjoys.

### 4. Does God have life? Yes, God has life, since all other kinds of life come from Him.

"All things were made through Him, and without Him was made nothing that was made. In: Him was LIFE" (John 1:3, 4).

### 5. Does God have the same kind of life as man?

No, God has a much higher kind of life than man.

### 6. How is God's life a higher kind of life than that of man?

God has a much higher kind of life than man because

- 1) God's life is unlimited; man's life is limited
- 2) God's life had no beginning; man's life begins in his mother's womb
- 3) God's life depends on nothing outside of Himself; man's life depends entirely on God.

"For in Him we live, and move and are" (Acts 17:28).

### 7. What, then, is needed to share in the happiness of God?

In order to share in the happiness of God, God must first raise me up to His own level by giving me a sharing in His life.

"He hath given us great and precious promises: that by these you may be made partakers of the divine nature" (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter (1:4).

### 8. What is grace?

Grace is a sharing in the life of God, which raises me up to God's level and gives me the power to share in His happiness in heaven.

"The grace of God, LIFE everlasting" (Romans 6:23).

"Behold what manner of charity the Father bath bestowed upon us, that we should be called, and should be the sons of God (1st John 3:1).

9. Can I get into heaven without grace? No, it is absolutely impossible to live in heaven without grace.

The story of the man who entered the king's banquet hall without wearing a wedding garment shows that it is necessary to have grace to get into heaven. When the king (God) saw the man at the table without a wedding garment (grace) He called His servants (the angels) to throw the man into the darkness outside (hell.) See Matthew 22:1-13).

10. Does anyone have grace in his soul when he is created? No, all human beings are created without grace.

"All have sinned and need the power (grace) of God" (Romans 3:23).

The only human being whose soul had grace in it when God created it was the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus. See Question 10, Lesson 9, page 25.

11. How can I get grace in my soul?

Baptism puts grace in my soul for the first time.

"Unless a man be born again (receive grace), he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

12. Once I have grace, can I make it grow in my soul?

Yes, I can make the grace grow in my soul, mostly by receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion; by receiving the other Sacraments, and by prayer and good works.

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2nd Peter 3:18).

"He that eats my Flesh and drinks My Blood hath everlasting LIFE" (John 6:55).

13. Can I lose the grace in my soul?

Yes, I can lose the grace in my soul by committing a big sin, such as adultery, missing Mass on Sunday, eating meat on Friday. (See Lesson on Sin, page 27 to 30, Lesson 10.)

"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

"Sin begetteth death" (James 1:15).

14. Does a big sin kill the human life of the soul? No, a big sin kills only the grace in the soul.

Grace is a NEW kind of life that is ADDED to the soul. So, a soul with grace in it has two kinds of life: human life and the sharing in God's life. Nothing can kill the human life of the soul.

15. Can I see or feel grace in my soul?

No, I cannot see or feel grace in my soul, because grace is completely spiritual.

It is impossible to experience something spiritual, such as grace, my soul or an angel, with the five senses of the body.

God can, but ordinarily does not, produce phenomena to indicate the presence of something spiritual, as in the case of angels appearing to human beings.

16. Does a religious feeling indicate the presence of grace in the soul?

No, a religious feeling does not necessarily indicate the presence of grace in the soul, nor does the absence of such a feeling indicate the absence of grace.

A person, for example, who is being baptized and has the right intention, may never have a religious feeling or experience. Yet he can be morally certain from the promise of Christ that Baptism is putting grace in his soul.

17. Does grace make me the same as God?

Grace does not make me the same as God but like to God.

Even with grace in my soul, I still stay a member of the human race. Grace only gives me the power to live God's life in heaven; it makes me LIKE God only in that way. God is Uncreated life. Grace is the CREATED sharing in His Life.

18. Where does a baby go who dies without being baptized?

A baby who dies without Baptism goes to a place called Limbo.

19. Will the babies in Limbo ever go to heaven?

As far as is known, the babies in Limbo will never go to heaven because they died without grace in their souls.

"Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Ghost, he CANNOT enter into the Kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

20. What is Limbo like?

Limbo is a place of happiness in the next world, where there is no pain, sickness or sorrow.

The happiness of heaven can be enjoyed only by a person who has been raised through grace to the level of God. The happiness of Limbo is enjoyed by one who stays on man's level and is not raised to God's level.

21. Is it not cruel of God to deprive unbaptized babies of the happiness of heaven?

No, because grace is a pure gift on God's part, God is not cruel or unjust in not allowing those who die without grace to enter heaven.

"For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, for IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD" (Ephesians 2:8). God did not have to raise man to His level. But if He wishes to give this gift to some and not to others, He is not cruel or unjust, since NO ONE ever has a RIGHT to a gift. For example, if a rich man gives a gift of \$100 to anyone who has the same birthday he has, no one else can complain.

22. Do unbaptized adults go to Limbo when they die?

No, an adult, who, through his own fault, neglects to be baptized, does not go to Limbo but to hell.

Before the coming of Jesus an adult who died with no sin on his soul went to Limbo. When Jesus ascended into heaven, He led all the adults from Limbo into heaven. So, since the coming of Jesus only babies who die without Baptism go to Limbo. See Questions 13 to 16 on page 26, and Questions 19, 20 and 24 on page 38.

## LESSON 8: HEAVEN

### 1. What is heaven?

Heaven is a place of perfect happiness which will never end.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, what things God hath prepared for them that love Him" (1st Corinthians 2:9).

### 2. Who goes to heaven?

The only ones who go to heaven are those who have grace in their souls at the moment of death.

"Then shall the king say to them that shall be on His right hand: Come, ye blessed of My Father, possess you the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"

(Matthew 25:34).

### 3. What is the happiness of heaven?

The happiness of heaven will come from seeing God face to face and possessing Him in divine love.

"We see now through a glass in a dark manner, but then face to face. Now I know in part; but then I shall know even as I am known" (1st Corinthians 13:12).

"Thou hast made known to me the ways of life, thou shalt fill me with joy with thy countenance" (Psalm 15:11).

### 4. How long will the happiness of heaven last?

The happiness of heaven will last forever.

### 5. Will everyone have the same happiness in heaven?

No, the happiness of some will be greater than others, but everyone will be as happy as he can be.

"For star differeth from star in glory" (1st Corinthians 15:41).

### 6. Why will some have greater happiness in heaven than others?

The happiness of some will be greater than that of others because they will be able to see God more clearly.

"God will render to every man according to his works. To them indeed, who, according to patience in good work, seek glory and honour and incorruption, eternal life" (Romans 2:6, 7).

(See also Matthew 16:27).

### 7. Why will some in heaven be able to see God more clearly?

Some souls will be able to see God more clearly because they died with more grace than others.

"His servants shall serve Him and they shall see His face" (Apocalypse 22:3, 4).

"And every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labours (1st Corinthians 3:8).

### 8. How, then, should I spend my time on earth?

I should try to get as much grace in my soul as I can before I die.

"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that which endureth unto life everlasting, which the Son of Man will give you" (John 6:27).

"The night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

9. Is it possible to find perfect happiness on this earth?

No, it is not possible to find perfect happiness on this earth, because nothing on this earth can completely satisfy me, neither money nor fame nor pleasure.

And when I turned myself to all the works which my hands had wrought and to the labors wherein I had labored in vain, I saw in all things vanity, and vexation of mind, and that nothing was lasting under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

10. Why is the happiness of heaven perfect?

The happiness of heaven is perfect because God made me for Himself, and I can find perfect satisfaction in Him alone.

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our hearts will be always restless until they rest in Thee" (St. Augustine).

11. Shall I know my family and friends in heaven?

Yes, I shall know my family and friends in heaven, and this will add to my happiness. I will also know Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Angels and Saints of God.

"Now therefore, you are no more strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the Saints, and the domestics of God" (Ephesians 2:19).

12. Will there be any sorrow or pain in heaven?

No, there will be no sorrow, sickness, pain, sin or temptation in heaven, but complete, unending joy.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and death shall be no more, nor mourning, nor crying, nor sorrow shall be any more" (Apocalypse 21:4).

13. What would keep me from getting into heaven?

If I die with a big sin on my soul, I can never get into heaven.

There shall not enter into it anything defiled or that worketh abomination or maketh a lie, but they that are written in the Book of Life of the Lamb" (Apocalypse 21:27).

"And He shall say to you: I know not whence you are; depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity" (Luke 13:27).

14. How often should I pray to get into heaven? I should pray every day to get into heaven.

"As the hart panteth after the fountains of water, so my soul panteth after Thee, O God. My soul hath thirsted after the strong living God: when shall I come and appear before the face of God" (Psalm 41:2 & 3).

15. What is the chief difference between heaven and Limbo?

The souls in heaven see God face to face, while the souls in Limbo do not see God face to face.



## LESSON 9: ADAM AND EVE: ORIGINAL SIN

1. Who were the first man and woman?

Adam and Eve were the first man and woman, from whom every human being on earth is descended.

"And from one man He has created the whole human race and made them live all over the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26). "Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us? Why then doth everyone of us despise his brother?" (Malachias 2:10).

2. Did Adam and Eve have grace in their souls?

Yes, Adam and Eve had grace in their souls from the first moment God created them.

"God filled them with wisdom and the knowledge of understanding ... And their eyes saw the majesty of His glory, and their ears heard His glorious Voice (Ecclesiasticus 17:5, 11).

3. What command did God give to Adam and Eve?

God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit of a certain tree in the Garden of Paradise.

"Of every tree of Paradise thou shalt eat; but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat" (Genesis 2:16 & 17).

4. Did Adam and Eve obey God's command?

No, Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command when the devil tempted them.

"And she took the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave to her husband who did eat" (Genesis 3:6).

5. What is the sin of Adam and Eve called?

The sin of Adam and Eve is called Original Sin, because it was the first, or original sin committed by a human being.

"By one man sin entered into the world, and by sin death" (Romans 5:12).

6. What are some of the evils that happened because of Adam's sin?

Because of Adam's sin

- 1) the gates of heaven were closed to mankind
- 2) the gift of freedom from disease, pain and death was taken away
- 3) the gift of perfect control over the lower nature was taken away.

"The imagination and thought of man's heart are prone to evil" (Genesis 8:21).

7. What did the sin of Adam do to his soul?

The sin of Adam killed the grace in his soul, because it was a big sin. From the way God punished the sin of Adam, it is clear that the sin was a serious one.

8. What did the sin of Adam do to me?

Adam's sin caused me to come into this world with Original Sin on my soul, that is, with no grace in it.

For behold I was conceived in iniquities: and in sins did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 50:7).

9. Are all human souls created with Original Sin in them?

Yes, all human souls are created with Original Sin in them, because Adam was the father of the human race.

"By the disobedience of one man, many were made sinners" (Romans 5:19).

10. Was any human being ever preserved from Original Sin?

Yes, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was the only human being whose soul did not have the Original Sin when God created it.

"Thou art all fair, O my love, and there is not a spot in thee" (Canticle of Canticles 4:7).

11. What does the "Immaculate Conception" mean?

The Immaculate Conception means that Mary was preserved from Original Sin and that her soul had grace in it from the first moment God created it.

"And the angel said to her: Hail. FULL OF GRACE. the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women" (Luke 1:28).

12. How can I get Original Sin off my soul and get grace?

Baptism takes Original Sin off my soul and puts grace into it for the first time.

"Unless a man be BORN AGAIN of water and the Holy Ghost, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

13. Since the gates of heaven were closed, where did the good people before Christ go after they died?

After the gates of heaven were closed, all the adults who died with no big sin on their souls went to Limbo.

"And it came to pass that the beggar died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's Bosom" (Luke 16:22).

14. When did the adults in Limbo learn of their deliverance?

When Jesus died, He went to Limbo to tell the adults there that soon they would be released and the gates of heaven would be opened.

"Coming He preached to those spirits that were in prison" (1st Peter 3:19).

This is what is meant by the phrase in the Apostles Creed: He descended into hell.

15. When did the adults leave Limbo?

On Ascension Thursday, when Jesus ascended into heaven, He led all the adult souls from Limbo into heaven.

16. Do any adults go to Limbo today?

No, since the death of Jesus, only babies and adults who never had the use of their mind who die without Baptism go to Limbo.

## LESSON 10: MORTAL AND VENIAL SIN

### 1. What is sin?

Sin is any thought, word, desire, action or neglect forbidden by the Law of God.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1st John 1:8).

### 2. When am I guilty of sin?

To be guilty of sin

1) I must realize that I am breaking God's Law, and

2) I must freely choose to do it.

### 3. How many kinds of sin are there?

There are two kinds of sin: Mortal Sin, which is a big sin, and Venial Sin, which is a small sin.

"There is a sin unto death" (1st John 5:16).

### 4. Name some mortal sins.

Refusing to accept all of God's Teaching

Never praying

Telling serious lies

Not going to Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

Getting very drunk

Killing an unborn baby in the womb

All sins of sex

Stealing something expensive

### 5. What does mortal sin do to my soul?

Mortal sin kills the grace in my soul.

"What fruit had you then in those things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of them is death" (Romans 6:21).

### 6. Where will I go if I die with a mortal sin on my soul?

If I die with a mortal sin on my soul, I will be sent to hell forever.

"They shall have their portion in the pool burning with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Apocalypse 21:8).

### 7. Can all mortal sins be forgiven?

Yes, all mortal sins can be forgiven if I am really sorry for them, promise not to do them again and do all that Jesus has commanded me to do to get them forgiven.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all iniquity" (1st John 1:9).

8. Name some venial sins.

Telling small lies

being impatient

ordinary anger

stealing something cheap

speaking or thinking unkindly of others

getting slightly drunk.

9. What does venial sin do to my soul?

Venial sin does not kill the grace in my soul, but it does make me less pleasing to God.

"If any man's work burn, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire" (1st Corinthians 3:15).

10. Why should I avoid venial sin?

I should avoid venial sin because each venial sin I commit makes me weaker so that I fall more easily into mortal sin.

"He that contemns little things shall fall by little and little" (Ecclesiasticus 19:1).

11. Can a number of venial sins become a mortal sin?

No, a number of venial sins by themselves cannot become a mortal sin if added together.

12. If I do something wrong, but through no fault of my own do not know it is wrong, am I guilty of sin?

No, if I do something wrong but through no fault of my own not know that it is wrong, I am not guilty of sin.

For example, I eat meat on Friday, forgetting, through no fault of my own, that it is Friday. In such a case, I am not guilty of sin.

13. If I do something, I know is wrong but am uncertain whether it is a mortal or a venial sin, what kind of a sin do I commit?

I do something which I know is wrong but am uncertain whether it is a mortal or a venial sin, I commit a mortal sin, because I show myself willing to offend God seriously.

For example: I do not know whether it is a mortal or venial sin to eat too much. I am guilty of a mortal sin if I go ahead and eat too much, although later on I find out that it is a venial sin.

14. Am I guilty of sin if I intend to do something wrong, even though I do not actually do it?

Yes, I am guilty of sin if I intend to do something wrong even though I do not actually do it, because even the intention to offend God is a sin. But actually doing the act makes it a bigger sin.

For example: I fully intend to commit adultery, but I am prevented from doing so. In such a case, I am guilty of sin.

15. What should I do if I am not sure whether or not something is a sin, or whether it is a mortal or venial sin?

If I am not sure whether or not something is a sin, or whether it is a mortal or a venial sin, I should refrain from doing it and in the meantime find out for sure from the Priest.

16. What is temptation?

Temptation is an attraction to commit sin.

"The life of man upon earth is a warfare" (Job 7:1).

17. Is temptation a sin?

No, temptation is not a sin. I am not guilty until I actually choose to make the sin my own.

"Every man is tempted by his own concupiscence, being drawn away and allured. Then when concupiscence hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin. But sin, when it is completed, begetteth death" (James 1:14, 15),

18. Can I always overcome temptation?

Yes, I can always overcome temptation, because no temptation can force me into sin and God will always help me if I ask Him.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been proved, he shall receive the crown of life, which God hath promised to them that love Him" (James 1:12).

19. What should I do when I am tempted?

When I am tempted, I should ask God to help me not to sin, and then I should get busy doing something else.

"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil" (Matthew 6:13).

"Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh weak" (Matthew 26:41).

20. How can I avoid temptations?

I can avoid temptations by avoiding the near occasions of sin and by asking God for actual graces.

"O Lord, Father, and God of my life ... give me not haughtiness of my eyes, and turn away from me all coveting. Take from me the greediness of the belly, and let not the lusts of the flesh take hold of me, and give me not over to a shameless and foolish mind" (Ecclesiasticus 23:4-6).

21. What are the near occasions of sin?

The near occasions of sin are all persons, places or things that may easily lead me into sin.

"Go not in the way of ruin, and thou shalt not stumble against the stones" (Ecclesiasticus 32:5).

22. What are actual graces?

Actual graces are helps of God which enlighten the mind and strengthen the will to do good and avoid evil.

"And He said to me: My grace is sufficient for thee; for power is made perfect in infirmity" (2nd Corinthians 12:9).

"Without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

"I can do all things in Him who strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

23. Can persons in mortal sin receive actual graces?

Yes, persons in mortal sin can and do receive actual graces to help them be sorry for their sins and turn back to God.

"For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, for it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

24. Can I resist actual graces?

Yes, unfortunately, I can resist actual graces, for I am free, and God does not force me to accept them.

"By the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace in me hath not been void" (1st Corinthians 5:10).

"We exhort you that you receive not the grace of God in vain" (2nd Corinthians 6:1).

## **LESSON 11: HELL**

### 1. What is hell?

Hell is the place in the next world where the souls of the damned are condemned to suffer forever with the devils.

"And fear ye not them that kill the body, and are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him that can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

"If anyone abide not in Me, he shall be cast forth as a branch and shall wither, and they shall gather him up and cast him into the fire, and be burneth" (John 15:6).

### 2. How do I know that there is a hell?

I know there is a hell because the Bible and Tradition often speak of the everlasting punishments of hell.

"The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with the angels of His power in a flame of fire, giving vengeance to them who know not God, and who obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (2nd Thessalonians 1:7,9).

"And the unprofitable servant cast ye out into the exterior DARKNESS. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth ... Then the King shall say to them that shall be on His left hand: Depart from Me, you cursed into EVERLASTING FIRE, which was prepared for the devil and his angels ...

And these shall go into EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT" (Matthew 25:30, 41, 46).

"And He opened the bottomless pit, and the smoke of the pit arose, as the smoke of a great furnace (Apocalypse 9:2).

### 3. Does not common sense tell me that there must be a hell?

Yes, common sense tells me that there must be a place of punishment in the next world since so many evil people receive no full punishment in this world.

"Son, remember that thou didst receive good things in thy lifetime, and likewise Lazarus evil things, but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented" (Luke 26:25).

### 4. Who will go to hell?

Only those who die with mortal sin on their souls will go to hell.

The fearful and unbelieving and the abominable, and murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, they shall have their portion in the second death" (Apocalypse 21:8,9).

"Whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the pool of fire" (Apocalypse 20:15).

### 5. What are the pains of hell?

The pains of hell are: separation from God, torture by fire, regret, and the companionship of the devils.

"Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own confusion; wandering stars, to whom the storm of darkness is reserved forever" (Jude 1:13).

#### 6. What is the pain of separation from God?

To be separated from God, the Source of all Love and Happiness, will be the greatest pain in hell. Even here on this earth, the greatest pain I can suffer is to be separated for a long time from someone I love very much.

"Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire" (Matthew 25:41).

"Between us and you, there is fixed a great chaos, so that they who would pass from hence to you, cannot, nor from thence, come hither" (Luke 16:25).

#### 7. Is there real fire in hell?

Yes, there is real fire in hell, because Jesus often spoke of "the unquenchable fire" of hell and says that the damned souls will be "salted with fire" (Mark 9:43, 45), which is "everlasting fire" (Matthew 25:41).

And the rich man also died, and he was buried in hell. And he cried and said: Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, to cool my tongue, for I am tormented with this flame" (Luke 16:22, 24).

"The Son of man shall send His angels, and they shall gather out of His Kingdom all scandals and them that work iniquity, and shall cast them into THE FURNACE OF FIRE: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 13:41, 42).

"And there came down fire from God out of heaven and devoured them; and the devil who seduced them was cast into the POOL OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE, where both the beast and the false prophet shall be tormented day and night forever . . . And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the pool of fire" (Apocalypse 20:9, 10, 15).

#### 8. How does the fire in hell differ from the fire here on earth?

The fire in hell differs from the fire we know on this earth in that the fire in hell burns without consuming, and that it can torture not only the body but the soul as well.

"He shall be punished for all that he did, and yet shall not be consumed" (Job 20:18).

"And their fire shall not be quenched" (Isaias 46:24).

#### 9. What is the pain of regret?

The pain of regret means that I will be tortured forever with the thought that I had so many chances to save my soul and be happy with God and that I lost heaven because I died with a mortal sin on my soul.

"If thy hand scandalize thee, cut it off; it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell into unquenchable fire: WHERE THE WORM DIETH NOT, and the fire is not extinguished" (Mark 9:42, 43).

#### 10. What is the pain of the companionship of the devils?

I shall have the devils and the damned souls for companions, who will always hate me and mock me for being such a fool, for everyone in hell hates one another.



"I go and return no more to a land that is dark, and covered with the mist of death: a land of misery and darkness, where the shadow of death, and no order, but everlasting horror dwelleth" (Job 10:21, 22).

11. Does anyone ever get out of hell?

No one ever gets out of hell, for it is a place of everlasting punishment.

These shall go into EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT" (Matthew 25:46).

"And the smoke of their torments shall ascend UP FOR EVER AND EVER: neither have they rest day or night (Apocalypse 14:11).

12. Are the pains of hell the same for all?

All the souls in hell will have the same type of punishment, but the degree of suffering will differ according to the number and kind of sins committed.

" According to the multitude of his devices, so also shall he suffer? (Job 20:18).

"By what things a man sinneth, by the same also is he tormented" (Wisdom 11:17).

## LESSON 12: PURGATORY

### 1. What is Purgatory?

Purgatory is a place of temporary punishment in the next world, Hell, on the other hand, is a place of ETERNAL or everlasting punishment.

### 2. What does the word "Purgatory" mean?

The word "Purgatory" means "cleansing", and Purgatory is a place where the soul is cleansed of sin.

### 3. Who goes to Purgatory?

People who die with grace in their souls but

- 1) who die with venial sin, or
- 2) who have not completed the punishment still due to their sins.

### 4. What is meant by the "punishment still due to sin"?

This means that, even though God forgives all the sins of a person who is really sorry, still He often demands that the person be punished either in this life or in the next.

For example, a boy breaks his mother's cookie jar. Because he is sorry for it, his mother forgives him. But in order to discourage him from doing it again, she will make him pay for it out of his allowance. So, also God is a wise Father. He will forgive us our sins, but He will make us pay for the sins by punishing us in this life or in the next.

### 5. How do I know that there is a Purgatory?

I know there is a Purgatory

- 1) from the Bible: "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from sins" (2nd Machabees 12:46).
- 2) from Tradition and the constant teaching and practice of the Catholic Church.

### 6. How does common sense tell me that there is a Purgatory?

I know that only people who die with mortal sins go to hell and that, on the other hand, no one can go into heaven with the smallest sin on his soul. So, there must be a place in the next world where small sins can be taken off the soul.

### 7. What are the Punishments in Purgatory?

The Punishments in Purgatory are:

- 1) Not being allowed to see God face to face until the time of punishment is done, and
- 2) other serious punishments.

"The fire of Purgatory," says St. Augustine, "is more terrible than all that man can suffer in this life."

### 8. How long will a soul have to suffer in Purgatory?

The length of time a soul spends in Purgatory depends on the number and seriousness of the sins to be atoned for.

" Amen I say to thee, thou wilt not come out from it until thou hast paid the last penny"  
(Matthew 5:26).

9. After a soul leaves Purgatory, where does it go?

It goes to heaven to see God and enjoy Him forever.

10. How can I shorten a person's time in Purgatory?

I can shorten his time in Purgatory by having Masses said for him, by praying for him and doing good works for him.

"Have pity on me, have pity on me, at least you my friends, because the hand of the Lord has touched me" (Job 19:21).

11. Does the Bible say anything about offering sacrifices for the dead?

Yes, we read that Judas Machabeus "sent twelve thousand drachmas of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for the sins of the dead" (2nd Machabees 12:43).

12. What is All Souls' Day?

All Souls' Day is the day set aside by the Church for special prayers and Masses for all the Souls suffering in Purgatory. It is celebrated every year on November 2.

13. What should I do to avoid Purgatory?

I should guard against the smallest faults and do penance for the sins already forgiven.

"Be not without fear about sin forgiven" (Ecclesiasticus 5:5).

## LESSON 13: THE LIFE OF JESUS

### 1. Did God abandon man after Adam fell into sin?

No, God did not abandon man after Adam fell into sin, but promised to send into the world a Saviour to save man from his sins and to open again the gates of heaven.

"I will put enmities between thee (the serpent) and the woman, and thy seed and her seed; she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her" (Genesis 3:15).

"Behold the Lord hath made it to be heard in the ends of the earth, tell the daughter of Sion: Behold thy Saviour cometh" (Isaias 62:11).

### 2. Who is the Saviour of all men?

Jesus Christ is the Saviour of all men. The name "Jesus" means "Saviour".

"Thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

"This day is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11)

### 3. Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, true God and true Man.

" And I saw, and I gave testimony that this is the Son of God" (John 1:34).

### 4. Where can I read the life of Jesus?

The life of Jesus is contained in the first four books of the New Testament, called the Gospels, written by Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

However, only the main events of Jesus' life are to be found in the Four Gospels. for "Many other signs also did Jesus in the sight of His Apostles, which are not written in this book" (John 20:30). Everything else that is known about Jesus is found in Tradition.

### 5. Who is the Mother of Jesus? The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of Jesus.

And the angel said to her: Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus". (Luke 1:30, 31)

### 6. Did Jesus have a human father?

No, Jesus did not have a human father. He was "conceived by the Holy Ghost."

"Therefore, the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and his Name shall be called Emmanuel (which means 'God with us')" (Isaias 7:14).

### 7. Who, then, was St. Joseph?

St. Joseph was only the foster father of Jesus.

"Behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in his sleep, saying: Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 1:20).

### 8. Did Mary have any other children besides Jesus?

No, Mary did not have any other children, but always stayed a virgin. That is why she is called Blessed Mary ever Virgin.

"And the angel said to her: Thou shalt conceive and bring forth a son. ... And Mary said to the angel: How shall this be done, because I know not man?" (Luke 1:31, 34).

9. Were not the brothers of Jesus mentioned in the Bible children of Mary and Joseph?

No, the brothers and sisters of Jesus mentioned in the Bible were not children of Mary, but were cousins of Jesus.

The word "brothers had a very wide meaning among the Jews, meaning relatives, or cousins, because there was no word in Hebrew for cousin. (See: Lev. 10:4 and 1 Par. 23:22).

10. Were Mary and Joseph husband and wife?

Yes, Mary and Joseph were husband and wife, legally married, but they lived as brother and sister.

"The angel Gabriel was sent from God...to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph ... and the virgin's name was Mary (Luke 1:26, 27).

11. When and where was Jesus born?

Jesus was born nearly 2,000 years ago on Christmas Day, in Bethlehem, a small town near Jerusalem in Israel.

"Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Juda, in the days of king Herod" (Matthew 2:1).

12. Where did Jesus live during most of His life.

Jesus lived with Mary His Mother, in the city of Nazareth, in northern Israel, until He was about thirty years old.

"And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them" (Luke 2:51).

13. How did Jesus spend the last three years of his life?

Jesus spent the last three years of His life preaching His Gospel, working miracles and establishing His Church.

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and every infirmity among the people (Matthew 4:23).

14. How was Jesus condemned to death?

One of His Apostles, Judas Iscariot, betrayed Jesus to His enemies who got the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, to condemn Him to death, as He had foretold in prophecy.

"Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the ancients and scribes and chief priests, and be put to death, and the third day rise again" (Matthew 16:21).

15. What were the chief sufferings of Jesus before His death?

The chief sufferings of Jesus were His Agony in the Garden, His bloody sweat, His cruel scourging, His crowning with thorns, and His death on the Cross and His spiritual and mental sufferings.

"And being in an agony, He prayed the longer, and His sweat became as drops of blood, trickling down upon the ground" (Luke 22:43, 44).

"Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers plating a crown of thorns, put it upon His head. ... Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified" (John 19:1, 2, 16).

16. How did Jesus die?

Jesus was nailed to a cross of wood (crucified), on a hill called Calvary, just outside the city of Jerusalem. He hung for three hours on the cross and then died.

"And it was the third hour, and they crucified Him ... and Jesus having cried out with a loud voice, gave up the ghost" (Mark 15:25, 37).

17. On what day did Jesus die? Jesus died on Good Friday, two days before Easter Sunday.

"Joseph of Arimathea ... went to Pilate and begged the body of Jesus. . . . And taking Him down, he wrapped Him in fine linen and laid Him in a sepulchre that was bewed in stone. ... And it was the day of the Parasceve, and the Sabbath drew on" (Luke 23:50-54).

18. What do I learn from the sufferings and death of Jesus?

From the sufferings and death of Jesus, I learn God's great love for man, the evil of sin and the perfect example of patience in suffering.

"For God so loved the world, as to give His only begotten Son" (John 3:16).

"Who loved me, and delivered Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

"If doing well you suffer patiently, this is thankworthy before God. For unto this are you called, because Christ also suffered, for us, leaving you an example that you should follow His steps" (1st Peter 2:20, 21).

19. When Jesus died, where did His soul go?

When Jesus died, His body was buried, and His soul went down to Limbo.

"I will penetrate to all the lower parts of the earth, and will behold all that sleep, and will enlighten all that hope in the Lord" (Ecclesiasticus 24:45).

20. What did Jesus tell the souls in Limbo?

When Jesus went down to Limbo, He told the adults there that the gates of heaven were going to be opened and that soon they would be going to heaven.

"In the spirit, coming He preached to those spirits that were in prison" (1st Peter 3:19).

21. On what day did Jesus rise from the dead?

Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, the third day after His death, as He had foretold.

Jesus said to them: the Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men, and they shall kill Him, and the third day He shall rise again" (Matthew 17:21, 22).

22. How long did Jesus stay on earth after he rose from the dead?

After His resurrection, Jesus stayed on earth for forty days, showing Himself many times to His Apostles and disciples to prove that He really had risen from the dead.

"To the Apostles He showed Himself alive after his Passion, by many proofs, for forty days appearing to them and speaking of the kingdom of God, and eating with them" (Acts 1:3-4).

23. When did Jesus ascend into heaven?

Jesus ascended into heaven, body and soul, on Ascension Thursday, forty days after His resurrection.

"And the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19).

24. Who ascended into heaven with Jesus?

The souls of the adults who had been in Limbo ascended into heaven with Jesus.

"Ascending on high, He led captivity captive: He gave gifts to men. Now that He ascended, what is it, but because He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?" (Ephesians 4:8,9).

25. Will Jesus come back again?

Yes, Jesus will come back again on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead. The Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then will He render to every man according to his works" (Matthew 16:27).

26. When will Jesus come back to judge us?

No one except God knows the day and the hour when Jesus will come back for the judgement.

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not the angels of heaven, but the Father only" (Matthew 24:36).

27. How should I prepare for the Last Day?

I should prepare for the Last Day by praying regularly, avoiding all sin, and keeping grace in my soul.

"And take heed to yourselves, lest perhaps your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and the cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly. For as a snare it shall come upon all that sit on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye, therefore, praying at all times, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that are to come and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:34-36).

## **LESSON 14: JESUS CHRIST, TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN**

### 1. Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, true God and true Man.

"When the fullness of the time was come, God sent His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, that He might redeem them who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:4).

### 2. Is Jesus really God?

Yes, Jesus is really God, equal to God the Father and equal to God the Holy Ghost.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:1, 14).

"Our God and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2nd Peter 1:1).

### 3. Did Jesus say that He was God?

Yes, Jesus said that He was God before His Apostles, before the people and under oath in the courtroom.

"Who do you say that I am?... Simon Peter answering, said Thou art Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matthew 16:15-17).

"I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).

"And the high priest said to Him: I adjure Thee by the living God that Thou tell us if Thou be the Christ the Son of God. Jesus saith to him: Thou hast said it." (Matthew 26-63, 64).

### 4. How did Jesus prove that He is God? Jesus proved that He is God chiefly by His miracles.

"If I do not the works of My Father, believe Me not. But if I do, though you will not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father" (John 10:37, 38).

### 5. What is a miracle?

In general, a miracle is an unusual event which is contrary or beyond the laws of nature and which cannot be explained except through the power of God.

### 6. Could science in years to come explain away miracles?

Science could never explain away true miracles. Blindness, for example, could never be cured instantly by spittle (Mark 8:23), nor leprosy by the touch of a hand (Matthew 8:3), nor could the dead come back to life just by the sound of a voice (John 11:43).

"For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe in God, no explanation is possible" (Franz Werfel in "The Song of Bernadette").

### 7. How can miracles prove a statement to be true?

Miracles prove the truth of a statement because a miracle can be performed only by the power of God, and God could not perform a miracle in favor of a lie.



"I have a greater testimony ... for the works which the Father hath given Me to perfect; the works themselves which I do, give testimony of Me, that the Father hath sent Me" (John 5:36).

"Some therefore of the Pharisees said: This man is not of God, who keepeth not the sabbath. But others said: How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles ... unless this man were of God, He could not do anything" (John 1:16, 33).

8. What were some of the miracles of Jesus?

Some of the miracles of Jesus were: the cure of six blind men, eleven lepers, two paralytics, a deaf mute and many other sick people. He raised three people from the dead, cast the devil out of many persons, changed water into wine, calmed a storm, walked on the waters of the sea, twice fed thousands of people with a few loaves of bread and a few fish—a word, a look, a gesture, a simple touch, and all nature obeys Him as Master.

"Many other signs also did Jesus in the sight of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing, you may have life in His Name" (John 20:30, 31).

9. What was the greatest miracle of Jesus?

The greatest miracle of Jesus was His resurrection from the dead three days after He died.

"They being troubled and frightened, supposed that they saw a spirit. And he said to them: Why are you troubled, and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? See my hands and feet, that it is I myself. Handle, and see: for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as you see me to have. And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ... And when he had eaten before them, taking the remains, he gave to them" (Luke 24:37 to 43).

10. In what other ways did Jesus prove that He is God?

Besides the miracles, Jesus proved that He is God by the holiness of His life, by the perfection of His teachings, by His prophecies and by fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament.

"Believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father" (John 10:38).

11. What is prophecy?

A prophecy is a sure foretelling of a future event which cannot be naturally foreseen.

12. Were the prophecies of the Old Testament fulfilled in Jesus?

Yes, the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled in Jesus, among which were prophecies about His origin, nationality, tribe, divinity, time and place of His birth, the virginity of His Mother, His flight into Egypt, His betrayal, and practically all the details of His passion and death, agony, scourging, mockery, crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

See: Gen: 9:26; 49:8, Ps. 131:11; Ps. 2:7; Is. 6-6; 9:6; 2:5; 11:11; 7:14; Mich. 5:2; Ps. 71:10; Osee 11:1; Zach. 9:9; Is. 53:6; 53:4; Ps. 40:10; Zach. 11:12; Ps. 54:5, 6; Is. 1:6; Ps. 21:8, 9; Osee 13:14.

Also read carefully the Gospel according to St. Matthew, who shows how the prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus.

13. What are some of the prophecies made by Jesus which

have already been fulfilled? Some of the prophecies which Jesus made and which have already been fulfilled are: concerning His passion, death on the cross, resurrection, denial by Peter, betrayal by Judas, the coming of the Holy Ghost, the persecution of His followers, the details of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple and the preaching of the Gospel throughout the whole world.

See: Matt. 22:18; 26:34; John 13:21; John 14:26; Luke 21:12; Luke 19:42-43; Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21:6-24; Matt. 8:11, 12; Matt. 24:14; John 12, 32; John 14:12; Matt. 10:22.

(41)

14. What value do these prophecies have?

These prophecies prove that Jesus was telling the truth when He said that He is God.

"The works that I do in the name of My Father, they give testimony of Me. . . Believe the works" (John 10:25, 38).

15. Is Jesus a real man?

Yes, Jesus Christ is a real man, because He has a body and a soul, like ours.

"Now you seek to kill Me, a man" (John 8:40).

16. Is Jesus Christ a human person?

No, Jesus is not a human person, but a Divine Person, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

Jesus Christ has two natures, a human nature and a divine nature, and yet He is only one Person. This is a mystery, the truth of which we cannot fully understand.

17. Is Jesus both God and Man?

Yes, Jesus is both God and Man.

"In Him dwelleth the fulness of the Godhead corporeally" (Colossians 2:9)

18. Was the Son of God always man?

No, the Son of God was not always man, but became man in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"When all the fullness of time was come, God sent His Son, made of a woman" (Galatians 4:4).

19. Is Mary, then, the Mother of God?

Yes, the most Blessed Virgin Mary is truly the Mother of God, because the Person whom she bore in her womb is God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

"And behold a voice from heaven, saying: This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

20. Why did God become man?

God became man in order to save man from his sins and to open again the gates of heaven.

A faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners" (1st Timothy 1:15).

"Who his own self bore our sins in His body upon the tree: that we, being dead to sins, should live to justice: by whose stripes you were healed" (1st Peter 2:24),

21. How did Jesus save man?

Jesus saved man by His death on the cross. "Converse in fear during the time of your sojourning here, knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things as gold or silver ... but with the precious Blood of Christ": (1st Peter 1:17, 18).

22. Am I automatically saved by the death of Jesus?

No, I am not automatically saved by the death of Jesus, because His death merely makes it possible for me to be saved and get into heaven.

"With fear and trembling work out your salvation" (Philippians 2:12). "And if the just man shall scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear.?" (1st Peter 4:18).

23. Will I not be saved by accepting Jesus as my personal Saviour? No, I will not be saved merely by accepting Jesus as my personal Saviour or merely by believing in Him.

"Not everyone that saith to Me: Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doth the will of My Father who is in heaven, he shall enter into the kingdom of heaven": (Matthew 7:21).

24. What, then, must I do in order to be saved?

In order to be saved, I must be baptized in the Catholic Church, belong to the One True Church established by Jesus, obey the Ten Commandments, receive the Sacraments, pray, do good works and die with no mortal sin on my soul.

## **LESSON 15: THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS THE ONLY TRUE CHURCH**

1. Can I learn how to save my soul just by reading the Bible?

No, I cannot easily learn how to save my soul just by reading the Bible because certain things in the Bible can be misunderstood and because, moreover, the Bible does not contain everything God has taught; there is also Tradition.

"No prophecy of Scripture is made by private interpretation ... certain things are hard to be understood, which the unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, to their own destruction" (2nd Peter 1:20, 3:16).

2. What did Jesus do to make sure that His teaching would never be misunderstood?

To make sure that His teaching would never be misunderstood, Jesus established a Church.

"The House of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the Truth" (1st Timothy 3:15).

3. How many Churches did Jesus establish?

Jesus established only one Church.

Jesus said to St. Peter: "Thou art Peter; and upon this rock, I will build My Church" (Matthew 16:18).

He also said: "There shall be one-fold and one Shepherd (John 10:16).

4. When did Jesus establish His Church?

Jesus established His Church nearly two thousand years ago.

5. How long did Jesus want His Church to last?

Jesus wanted His Church to last until the end of the world.

"Behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

6. How did Jesus establish His Church?

Jesus established His Church by giving to His twelve Apostles the authority to rule and to teach in His name.

"And Jesus coming, spoke to them, saying: All power is given to Me in heaven and in earth. Going therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18, 20).

7. What is authority?

Authority is the power to command another to do something.

Examples of authority: parents, police, judges, governors, the President.

8. Can authority be handed over to another?

Yes, authority can be handed over to another.

Examples: Parents hand over authority over their children to a baby-sitter or a teacher; a sheriff gives authority to deputies.

9. Does Jesus have authority?

Yes, Jesus has authority over everyone, because He is God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity; to disobey Him is a sin.

"He was teaching them as one having power, and not as the scribes and Pharisees" (Matthew 7:29).

"All power is given to Me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

10. Does the Bible say that Jesus gave His authority to the 12 Apostles?

Yes, the Bible very clearly shows that Jesus gave His 12 Apostles the authority to teach and rule. "Going therefore, teach ye all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

"Amen I say to you, whatsoever you shall bind upon earth, shall be bound also in heaven; and whatsoever you shall loose upon earth, shall be loosed also in heaven" (Matthew 18:18).

11. Did the people who listened to the Apostles have to obey them?

Yes, the people who listened to the Apostles had an obligation to obey them, because they spoke with authority of Jesus, to disobey them was a sin.

"He that receiveth you, receiveth Me: and he that receiveth Me, receiveth Him that sent Me" (Matthew 10:40).

"He that heareth you, heareth Me; and he that despiseth you despiseth Me; and he that despiseth Me, despiseth Him that sent Me" (Luke 10:16).

12. When the Apostles died, did their authority die with them?

No, the authority of the Apostles did not die with them, because they handed the authority down to others.

Some of the men who received the authority from the Apostles were: Matthias (Acts 1:24), Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:2), Timothy, Silas, Sylvanus, Titus, Luke, Mark (Acts 17:14; 2nd Corinthians 1:19; 2nd Timothy 14:11).

13. Why did the Apostles have to hand their authority down to others?

The Apostles had to hand their authority to others because Jesus wanted His Church to last until the end of the world and to be spread all over the world.

"Going therefore, teach all nations. ... Behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world" (Matthew 18:18, 20).

14. Which Church today has this same authority?

The Catholic Church alone has this authority, because it is the only church established by Jesus.

15. How do I know that the Catholic Church is the only true Church?

I know that the Catholic Church is the only true Church because it is the only Church established by Jesus Himself.

16. Do people who are not Catholic admit that the Catholic Church is the oldest Christian Church?

Yes, educated non-Catholics admit that the Catholic Church is the oldest Christian Church.

Standard history books and encyclopedia all state that the Catholic Church is the first and oldest of all churches which call themselves Christian.

17. Where did the Protestant churches come from?

The first Protestant churches were established by men who broke away from the Catholic Church.

18. Who started the first Protestant church?

The first Protestant church was established less than 500 years ago by Martin Luther, in 1520, in Germany.

19. Name the founders of some of the other protestant churches.

| Name of Church      | Founder         | Date Founded | Where Founded |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Episcopalian        | King Henry 8th  | 1534         | England       |
| Presbyterian        | John Knox       | 1560         | Scotland      |
| Congregationalist   | Robert Browne   | 1583         | England       |
| Baptist             | John Smith      | 1600         | Holland       |
| Methodist           | John Wesley     | 1739         | England       |
| Adventist           | William Miller  | 1831         | New York      |
| Christian Scientist | Mary Baker Eddy | 1879         | Massachusetts |

20. Did any of these men have any authority to establish churches?

None of the men who established the Protestant churches had any authority whatsoever to start churches of their own, because Jesus wanted only one Church.

"There shall be one fold and one Shepherd" (John 10:16).

21. Does everyone have to obey the Catholic Church?

Yes, everyone has an obligation to obey the Catholic Church because the Catholic Church alone has the authority of Jesus to rule and to teach; to disobey the Catholic Church knowingly is a sin, just as much as disobeying Jesus or His Apostles.

"And if he will not bear the church, let him be to thee as the heathen and publican" (Matthew 18:17).

See also: 1st Cor. 5:9, and 2nd Thessalonians 3:14.

22. Is the Catholic Church, then, the only true Church?

Yes, the Catholic Church is the only true Church established by Jesus Christ, while the 200 or so different kinds of Protestant churches are false, man-made churches.

## **LESSON 16: THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CANNOT TEACH ERROR**

### **1. Why did Jesus establish His Church?**

Jesus established His Church so that men could easily know what to believe and what to do to save their souls.

Jesus also established the Sacraments to give men the means of saving their souls. The Sacraments will be treated later.

### **2. What did Jesus do to make sure that His Church would always teach the truth?**

To make sure that His Church would always teach the truth, Jesus promised to be with His Church always and to protect it from ever teaching error.

Going therefore, teach ye all nations ... teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

### **3. Has the Catholic Church ever changed its teaching?**

No, in the 2000 years of its history, the Catholic Church has taught without change the same things taught by Jesus.

The house of God, which is the Church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of the Truth" (1st Timothy 3:15).

### **4. Could the Catholic Church ever teach error?**

No, the Catholic Church could never teach error, because it is the only church which Jesus promised to protect from error.

"And I will give you pastors according to My own Heart, and they shall feed you with knowledge and doctrine" (Jeremias 3:15).

### **5. Do the man-made churches teach the doctrines of Jesus?"**

No, the man-made churches have changed the doctrines of Jesus and teach their own doctrines.

Here are a few examples: Many Protestant churches teach that Baptism is not necessary for heaven, that Jesus is not God, that the Bible is not inspired by God, that it is no sin to practice birth control, sterilization, "mercy" killing or remarriage after divorce.

### **6. Why have the man-made churches changed the doctrines of Jesus?**

The man-made churches have changed the doctrines of Jesus because they have no one to protect them from teaching error.

Each Protestant church teaches whatever it wants and changes its teaching whenever it wants. The result is complete religious confusion and nothing but contradictory answers to the most important questions of life.

### **7. Are all non-Catholics going to hell?**

No, all non-Catholics are not going to hell, any non-Catholic who, through no fault of his own, does not realize that the Catholic Church is the only true Church and who dies with no mortal sin on his soul, can go to heaven.

Even though God "Will have all men to be saved" (1st Timothy 2:4), and though "Christ died for all" (2nd Cor. 5:15), we must not forget the tremendous difficulties non-Catholics have in trying to save their souls, without the guidance of a Church that cannot teach error and without the help of the Sacraments.

8. Who is the Pope?

The Pope is the visible head of the whole Catholic Church.

"And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them" (Ezekiel 34:23).

9. Who was the first Pope?

St. Peter was made the first Pope by Jesus Himself and was given complete authority over the whole Church.

10. When did Jesus promise to make St. Peter the Pope?

Jesus promised to make St. Peter the Pope several months before He died.

"Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth, it shall be bound also in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven" (Matthew 16:18, 19).

11. When did Jesus actually make St. Peter the first Pope?

Jesus made St. Peter the first Pope shortly before He ascended in heaven after His resurrection from the dead.

"Jesus saith to Simon Peter ... Feed My lambs ... feed My sheep" (John 21:15-17).

12. Did St. Peter's authority die with him?

No, St. Peter's authority did not die with him but was handed down to another man named Linus, and after he died, it was handed down to another, and so on, during the past 2000 years. So far there have been 262 successors of St. Peter.

13. Where does the Pope live?

The Pope lives in Vatican City, which is in Rome, Italy. St. Peter, the first Pope, died in Rome, and ever since then, the Bishop of Rome has been the Pope.

St. Ambrose, writing in the 4th century said, "Where Peter is, there is the Church."

14. Can the Pope make an error when teaching religion?

No, the Pope cannot make an error when teaching religion as head of the whole Catholic Church.

"Simon, Simon ... I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail thee not; and thou, being once converted, confirm thy brethren" (Luke 22:31, 32).

15. Do all Catholics have to obey the Pope?

Yes, all Catholics all over the world have to obey the Pope because he has the authority of Jesus to rule the whole Church, Catholics, however, have to obey the pope only in regard to religion.

16. Is there any Protestant church which has one man in complete charge?



No, there is no Protestant church which has one man in complete charge, and this is one of the reasons why there are so many different kinds of Protestants.

"Like sheep that have no Shepherd" (Matthew 9:36).

17. Why did Jesus want one man in complete charge of His Church?

Jesus wanted one man in complete charge of His Church so that His Church would always be united until the end of the world.

"If a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand" (Mark 3:24).

## LESSON 17: THE QUALITIES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1. What are some of the qualities of the Catholic Church?

Some of the qualities of the Catholic Church are its catholicity, its unity, its holiness and its indestructibility.

2. What does the word "Catholic" mean?

The word "Catholic" means "Universal, relating to the whole world."

"The Church is called Catholic by all her enemies, as well as by her own children. Heretics and Schismatics can call the Church by no other name than Catholic, for they would not be understood, unless they used the name by which the Church is known to the whole world" (St. Augustine in *De Vera Religione*, 7).

3. When was the name "Catholic" first used of the Church of Jesus?

The name "Catholic" was first used of the Church of Jesus by St. Ignatius of Antioch, who wrote in the year 110: "Where Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church" (*Ad Smyr.* 8:2).

4. Why is the Church of Jesus called "Catholic"?

The Church established by Jesus is called Catholic because it is for all people of all nations and all times and because it teaches all the doctrines of Jesus.

"Going therefore, teach ye all nations ... teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and behold I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world" (*Matthew* 28:19 & 20).

5. Is the Catholic Church spread all over the world?

Yes, the Catholic Church is the only Church spread all over the world, having nearly 400,000,000 members of every race and color in all sections of the world.

The marvelous growth of the Catholic Church, in spite of great obstacles and fierce persecution, is certainly a sign that it is the Church of Jesus.

6. Is there any other church spread all over the world?

No, there is no other church spread all over the world; as a matter of fact, the other churches generally are limited to the countries where they started.

Jesus wanted an INTERNATIONAL church, which the Catholic Church is. Whereas the Protestant churches are national churches, that is, restricted to one nationality, for the most part. Thus, the Episcopalians, the Presbyterians, the Baptists, the Methodists, the Adventists and the Christian Scientists are to be found principally among English-speaking people.

7. What is meant by the Unity of the Catholic Church?

By the unity of the Catholic Church is meant that all the Catholics all over the world —

- 1.) all believe the same things
- 2) all obey the same laws and receive the same Sacraments
- 3) all are united under the authority of the Pope.

"Not only for them (the Apostles) do I pray, but for them also who through their word shall believe in Me; that they all may be one, as Thou, Father, in Me, and I in Thee; that they also may be one in Us" (John 17:20, 21).

8. Why is the Catholic Church Holy?

The Catholic Church is holy –

- 1) because its Founder, Jesus Christ, is holy
- 2) because it teaches a holy doctrine
- 3) because it gives its members what is needed to lead holy lives
- 4) because thousands of its members from every walk of life and every race and every period of its history have become Saints.

9. Could the Catholic Church ever be destroyed?

No, the Catholic Church could never be destroyed, because Jesus promised that 'the gates of hell shall not prevail against it' (Matthew 16:18).

"Of His kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:33).

"The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed" (Daniel 2:44).

10. Has anyone ever tried to destroy the Catholic Church?

Yes, as Jesus had foretold, many governments have tried without success to destroy the Catholic Church, and thousands of Catholics have died for the True Church; such persons are called martyrs.

"You shall be brought before governors, and before kings for My sake. ... And you shall be hated by all men for My name's sake" (Matthew 10:18, 22).

They will lay their hands upon you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and into prisons, dragging you before kings and governors for My name's sake" (Luke 21:12).

## LESSON 18: WHY I MUST BECOME A CATHOLIC

### 1. Why must I become a Catholic?

I must become a Catholic because the Catholic Church is the only True Church established by Jesus Christ.

To become a Catholic just because I like it better than other churches or because I want to please someone are not good enough reasons for joining the Catholic church.

### 2. What obligation do I have to become a Catholic?

If I am convinced that the Catholic Church is the only True Church, then I have a serious obligation to become a member.

"And other sheep I have that are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall bear My voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd" (John 10:16).

### 3. Is it possible for me to save my soul outside the Catholic Church?

It is not possible for me to save my soul outside the Catholic Church if I am convinced that it is the only True Church but refuse to join it.

Take heed, brethren, lest perhaps there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, to depart from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12).

### 4. Why is it a very serious matter to join the Catholic Church?

It is a very serious matter to join the Catholic Church because in so doing I place myself completely and forever under the authority of the Catholic Church in all things concerning religion and morality.

### 5. What does it mean "to place myself under the authority of the Catholic Church?"

To place myself under the authority of the Catholic Church means that I promise always to believe everything that the Catholic Church teaches, to worship in the way the Catholic Church worships, and to obey all the laws of the Catholic Church.

### 6. Why is it not unreasonable to place myself under the authority of the Catholic Church?

It is not unreasonable to place myself under the authority of the Catholic Church because its authority is from Jesus Christ, Who is God.

"He that heareth you, beareth Me; and he that despiseth you despiseth Me, and he that despiseth Me, despiseth Him that sent Me" (Luke 10:16).

### 7. Why is it a mortal sin for a Catholic to quit the church?

It is a mortal sin for a Catholic to quit the Church because to do so is to reject the authority of Jesus Christ.

"He that despiseth you, despiseth Me, and he that despiseth Me, despiseth Him that sent Me" (Luke 10:16).

"No man putting his hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).

### 8. What are some of the advantages in joining the Catholic Church?

Some of the advantages in joining the Catholic Church are that I can be sure –

- 1) of what I have to believe and do to save my soul
- 2) of having all of the teachings of Jesus without change
- 3) of getting the true meaning of the Bible
- 4) that my Baptism is valid and that Original Sin is not on my soul
- 5) of getting the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion
- 6) of having my sins forgiven in Confession
- 7) of getting the strength to be always a loyal Catholic through the Sacrament of Confirmation
- 8) of being able to obey the laws of God on marriage through the Sacrament of Matrimony
- 9) of being able to lead a good life through the Sacraments and the other countless sources of strength provided by the Church
- 10) of dying a good death through the Sacrament of Extreme Unction
- 11) of having the True Faith and not an imitation.

9. What do I have to do to become a Catholic?

To become a Catholic I have to take a full course of instructions in the Catholic Religion, give up all habits of mortal sin and be approved by the Priest who is giving instructions.

## LESSON 19: THE SACRAMENTS

### 1. What is a Sacrament?

A Sacrament is an outward sign made by Jesus Christ which gives me grace.

The Sacraments are not to be confused with sacramentals, which are holy things or actions of which the Church makes use to obtain for us from God spiritual and temporal favors. Examples: holy water, the sign of the cross, various blessings, blessed candles, scapulars, medals, palms and ashes.

### 2. What is an "Outward Sign"?

An "outward sign" is anything which I can see (or hear), which tells me about something I cannot see.

For example: a barber pole is an outward sign which I can see in front of a store. It tells me that there is a barber inside the store whom I cannot see.

### 3. How are the Sacraments outward signs?

The outward sign of the Sacrament of Baptism, for example, is the pouring of water on the head of the person to be baptized and saying of the words "I baptize thee in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost". I can see the Priest pour the water and can hear him say those words. This outward sign tells me that the person being baptized is getting grace which I cannot see.

### 4. How do the Sacraments differ from other outward signs?

The Sacraments not only tell me that I have grace in my soul, but they actually put the grace in it. All other signs only tell me about something I cannot see.

For example: a barber pole cannot give me a haircut; it only tells me that there is a barber inside the store. But when a Priest baptizes a person, the pouring of the water and the saying of the words "I baptize thee" and so on, actually put the grace in that person's soul.

### 5. How many Sacraments did Jesus establish?

Jesus established seven Sacraments. They are:

- 1) Baptism, which gives me grace for the first time
- 2) Confirmation, which gives me the Holy Ghost to make me a strong Catholic.
- 3) Holy Communion, which is the Body and Blood of Jesus
- 4) Penance or Confession, which takes away the sins committed after Baptism
- 5) Holy Orders, which gives a man the powers of the Priesthood
- 6) Matrimony, which gives a husband and wife special helps for their married life
- 7) Extreme Unction, which prepares me for death.

### 6. Could the Pope or anyone else establish more Sacraments?

No, only Jesus Christ can establish an outward sign (like the pouring of water) able to put grace in the soul.

7. Do the Sacraments always give grace?

Yes, the Sacraments always give grace if they are received worthily.

8. Give some examples of receiving the Sacraments unworthily

a) I receive Holy Communion, Marriage, Holy Orders or Extreme Unction with a mortal sin on my soul.

b) I do not tell all of my mortal sins in Confession.

9. What kind of a sin is it to receive a Sacrament unworthily?

To receive a Sacrament unworthily is a special kind of mortal sin called a sacrilege.

10. What else do the Sacraments do for me?

Besides giving me grace, each Sacrament gives me special helps called Sacramental grace.

For example: Confirmation gives me the strength to be a loyal Catholic always.

The Sacrament of Matrimony gives me special grace to lead a holy married life according to the laws of God.

11. Can I receive the Sacraments more than once?

a) I can receive Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders only once in my lifetime.

b) I can receive Holy Communion and Penance (Confession) every day if I want

c) I can receive the Sacrament of Marriage only once, unless my husband (or wife) dies.

d) I can receive Extreme Unction any time I am in danger of death from sickness, old age or accident.

12. Why can Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders be received only once?

Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders can be received only once because they imprint on the soul a spiritual mark called a character.

13. Does the character stay on the soul after death?

Yes, the character stays on the soul after death for the glory of those who are saved or for the shame of those who are lost.

## LESSON 20: BAPTISM

### 1. What is Baptism?

Baptism is the Sacrament which makes me a Christian and a member of the Church and gives me the right to receive the other Sacraments.

### 2. What does Baptism do to my Soul?

The Sacrament of Baptism –

1) takes away all sins from my soul, Original Sin, mortal sins and venial sins "Do penance, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins" (Acts 2:38).

2) puts grace into my soul for the first time

### 3. What do I have to do to be baptized? In order to be baptized, I must

1) take a full course of instructions in the Catholic Religion

2) be approved by the Priest who is giving me instructions

3) have the right intention

### 4. What is meant by the "right intention"?

The "right intention" means that I wish to become a Catholic because the Catholic Church is the only Church made by Jesus and that I promise to cut myself away from all false religions, to be always a true Catholic and to give up all sinful habits.

### 5. Why do I have to be baptized?

I have to be baptized because Jesus said so and because the Catholic Church teaches that it is necessary.

*"Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Ghost, he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven" (John 3:5).*

### 6. What kind of a sin is it to delay Baptism?

It is a mortal sin to delay Baptism when I am convinced that the Catholic Church is the only True Church.

*"Why tarriest thou? Rise up, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins" (Acts 22:16).*

### 7. Do babies have to be baptized?

Yes, babies have to be baptized because they have Original Sin on their souls, which means there is no grace in their souls.

### 8. How soon should a baby be baptized?

As soon as possible after the baby is born, (within 2 or 3 weeks) it should be brought to the Parish Church to be baptized. It is a mortal sin to delay the Baptism of a baby for a long time.

### 9. Who gives Baptism?

a) The Priest in ordinary cases should baptize



b) In danger of death, anyone, even a non-Catholic, can baptize if the priest cannot be reached in time.

10. How is Baptism given?

Baptism is given by pouring water over the forehead of the person to be baptized, and saying the words "I baptize thee, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost" while pouring the water.

11. Is this the only way Baptism can be given?

No, Baptism used to be given also by placing the person to be baptized completely in the water; it was done in this way in the Catholic Church for 1200 years.

12. Why do Protestants have to be baptized again in the Catholic Church?

Protestants are baptized again just to make sure that they are really baptized since it is almost impossible to find out if a person's baptism in a Protestant church was done correctly.

13. Why do I have to have a sponsor for Baptism?

A sponsor's duty is to watch over me and see that I stay a good Catholic and to give me good example.

14. Why do I take the name of a saint when I am baptized?

I take the name of a Saint at Baptism to have that Saint watch over me and protect me and to have someone to imitate.

15. What should an expectant mother in a non-Catholic hospital do?

She should tell the doctors and nurses that she is a Catholic and that, if there is any danger to the life of the baby, they should send for the Priest right away.

16. What should be done in case of a real emergency?

In case of a real emergency, the doctor or nurse should baptize the baby, even in the womb, if necessary.

17. What should be done in the case of a miscarriage?

If there is a miscarriage, the whole substance from the womb should be put into water right away, and the words "I baptize thee in the name of the Father" and so on should be said by the one baptizing.

It should be noted that the water has to flow over the skin of the fetus or embryo. Consequently, it is sometimes necessary to break the protective membrane which encloses the body.

## **LESSON 21: CONFIRMATION**

1. What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the Sacrament which gives me the strength always to be a good Catholic.

2. Who comes into my soul when I am confirmed?

The Holy Ghost, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, comes into my soul when I am confirmed.

3. What does Confirmation do for my soul?

Confirmation –

- 1) makes the grace grow in my soul.
- 2) gives me the strength to stay away from sin and lead a good life.
- 3) gives me the strength never to be ashamed of my religion.

4. Can I get into Heaven without confirmation?

Yes, I can get into heaven without Confirmation, but it is more difficult.

5. Who gives Confirmation

Usually the Bishop gives the Sacrament of Confirmation.

6. What must I do to receive Confirmation worthily?

To receive Confirmation worthily, I must –

- 1) be a baptized Catholic,
- 2) have no mortal sin on my soul, and
- 3) be well instructed in the Catholic Religion.

7. Do I have to have a sponsor for Confirmation?

Yes, I have to have a sponsor for Confirmation, but not the same one I had for Baptism.

8. How many times can I be confirmed?

I can be confirmed only once.

9. Is it a sin to neglect Confirmation?

Yes, it is a sin to neglect Confirmation.

10. What is expected of a confirmed Catholic?

A confirmed Catholic should lead a good life and by prayer and good example try to bring non-Catholics to learn about the One True Church.

11. How is Confirmation given?

The Bishop holds his hands over those to be confirmed and then makes the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads with the Holy Oil. He then slaps each person lightly on the cheek.

12. What prayer does the Bishop say while confirming?

Over each person he confirms, the Bishop says: "I sign thee with the Sign of the Cross, and I confirm thee with the Chrism of Salvation, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

13. What is Chrism and what does it mean?

Holy Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balm, blessed by the Bishop on the Thursday before Easter. It is a symbol of the strength received in Confirmation.

14. Why does the Bishop slap each person to be confirmed on the cheek?

The Bishop slaps each person to be confirmed lightly on the cheek to remind him that he must be ready to suffer all things for Jesus.

15. Did the Apostles ever give Confirmation?

Yes, the Apostles gave the Sacrament of Confirmation.

When the Apostles ... had heard that Samaria received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John, who, when they were come, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost. For He was not as yet come upon any of them; but they were only baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands upon them, and they received the Holy Ghost" (Acts of the Apostles 8:14-17).

## **LESSON 22: THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND HOLY COMMUNION**

### 1. What is the Blessed Sacrament?

The Blessed Sacrament is the Sacrament which contains the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine.

"He that eateth My Flesh and drinketh My blood bath life in him: and I will raise him up in the last day. For My Flesh is meat indeed: and My Blood is drink indeed" (John 6:55, 56)

### 2. Why is it called "The Blessed Sacrament"?

It is called the Blessed Sacrament because it is the most blessed of all the Sacraments since it is Jesus Himself. It is also called the Holy Eucharist.

"He that eateth My Flesh, and drinketh My Blood abideth in Me, and I in him" (John 6:57).

### 3. When did Jesus make this Sacrament?

Jesus made the Blessed Sacrament on the night before he died at the Last Supper.

### 4. How did Jesus make the Blessed Sacrament?

"Whilst they were at supper, Jesus took bread, and blessed and broke, and gave to His disciples, and said: Take ye, and eat. This is My Body. And taking the chalice, He gave thanks, and gave to them, saying: Drink ye all of this. For this is My Blood" (Matthew 26:26-28).

See also Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19, 20 and 1st Corinthians 11:23-26.

### 5. Did the bread and wine change their appearances?

No, the appearances of the bread and wine (taste, smell, color, size, shape) did not change, even though the bread and wine were changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus.

"The chalice of benediction, which we bless, is it not the communion of the Blood of Christ? And the bread, which we break, is it not the partaking of the Body of the Lord?" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:16).

### 6. Did Jesus give His Apostles the power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood?

Yes, Jesus gave His Apostles the power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood, when He said to them: "Do this for a commemoration of Me" (Luke 22:19).

### 7. Did Jesus want the Apostles to hand down this power to others?

Yes, Jesus wanted His Apostles to hand down this power to others because He wanted all men to eat His Flesh and drink His Blood.

"Except you eat the Flesh of the Son of man, and drink His Blood, you shall not have life in you" (John 6:54).

### 8. How did the Apostles hand down this power to others?

The Apostles handed down this power by making other men Bishops and Priests. See Lesson 27, page 74.

### 9. When does the Priest change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus?

The Priest changes bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus when he says: "This is My Body. This is My Blood" during Mass.

" And they were persevering in the doctrine of the Apostles, and in the communication of the breaking of the bread" (Acts of the Apostles 2:42).

10. Where is the Blessed Sacrament kept?

The Blessed Sacrament is kept in a safe, called a tabernacle, which is on the altar in the church. And my tabernacle shall be with them: and I will be their God, and they shall be My people" (Ezechiel 37:27).

11. What is Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is the receiving of the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. "He that eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood, abideth in Me, and I in him" (John 6:57).

12. At what service do I receive Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is usually received during Holy Mass.

Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift" (2nd Corinthians 9:15).

13. What must I do to receive Holy Communion?

To receive Holy Communion, I must:

- 1) be a baptized Catholic,
- 2) have no mortal sin on my soul,
- 3) be fasting from midnight until after I receive Holy Communion.

14. What does "fasting from midnight" mean?

"Fasting from midnight" means that at midnight I must stop eating and drinking everything but ordinary water until after I have received Holy Communion the next morning.

The sick and others who find fasting too difficult can get permission from a Priest to take medicine or liquid nourishment. Brushing the teeth or using a mouthwash is allowed, but I must not swallow anything. Using cough drops, throat lozenges or chewing gum is not allowed.

15. Do I have to go to confession every time I receive Holy Communion?

No, I do not have to go to Confession every time I receive Holy Communion, unless I have a mortal sin on my soul, but it is well to go to Confession often.

You cannot be partakers of the table of the Lord, and of the table of devils" (1st Corinthians 10:21).

16. Am I ever allowed to receive Holy Communion with a mortal sin on my soul?

No, I am never allowed to receive Holy Communion with a mortal sin on my soul.

" Whosoever shall eat this Bread, or drink the chalice unworthily, shall be guilty of the Body and of the Blood of the Lord" (1st Corinthians 11:27).

17. What kind of a sin is it to receive Holy Communion with a

mortal sin on my soul? To receive Holy Communion knowingly and willingly with a mortal sin on my soul is a mortal sin, called a sacrilege.

"He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh judgment to himself, not discerning the Body of the Lord" (1st Corinthians 11:29).

18. Is it a sin to receive Holy Communion with venial sins on my soul?

No, it is not a sin to receive Holy Communion with venial sins on my soul, but to gain greater fruit I should rid my soul of the venial sins by reciting the Act of Contrition first.

"For the Lord our God is holy" (Psalm 98:9).

19. How often must I receive Holy Communion?

I am obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, during the Easter season, that is, sometime between the 6th Sunday before Easter and the 8th Sunday after Easter. This is my Easter Duty.

20. What kind of a sin is it to miss my Easter Duty?

It is a mortal sin to miss my Easter Duty.

21. How often does a good Catholic receive Holy Communion?

A good Catholic receives Holy Communion every Sunday, or every day, if possible, but only once on the same day.

"O taste and see that the Lord is sweet" (Psalm 33:9).

22. What does Holy Communion do for my soul?

Holy Communion makes the grace grow in my soul.

"Except you eat the Flesh of the Son of man, and drink His Blood, you shall not have life in you. He that eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood hath life everlasting" (John 6:54, 55).

23. What else does Holy Communion do for my soul?

Holy Communion also helps me to stay away from sin and lead a good life and unites me with Jesus.

"He that eateth My Flesh, and drinketh My Blood, abideth in Me, and I in him" (John 6:57).

24. What should I do after receiving Holy Communion?

After Holy Communion, it is good to spend some time praying to Jesus, Who is inside of me, adoring Him, thanking Him, loving Him and asking His help.

"What shall I render to the Lord, for all the things that He hath rendered to me?" (Psalm 115:12).

Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift" (2nd Corinthians 9:15).

25. In receiving Holy Communion under the form of bread alone, do I also receive the blood of Jesus?

Yes, in receiving Holy Communion under the form of bread alone, I also receive the Blood of Jesus, since the Body and Blood of Jesus cannot be separated. Note: For receiving Holy Communion while sick at home or in the hospital, see Lesson 34, questions 6-7-8.



## LESSON 23: THE SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

### 1. What is the Mass?

The Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

### 2. What is a sacrifice?

A sacrifice is

- a) the offering of a gift to God
- b) by a Priest
- c) the destruction of the gift
- d) to show forth our total dependence on God.

### 3. Can there be true religion without sacrifice?

No, there cannot be true religion without sacrifice because it is necessary to true religion to have some external, public act by which men can show forth their worship of God and their total dependence on Him.

### 4. Were there sacrifices and Priests before the coming of Jesus?

Yes, before the coming of Jesus, God made Aaron and his sons Priests of the Old Testament and commanded them to offer Sacrifices to Him.

God said to Aaron: "Thou and thy sons look ye to the Priesthood; and all things that pertain to the service of the altar ... shall be executed by the Priests" (Numbers 18:7).

### 5. How were sacrifices offered by the Priests of the Old Testament?

Usually the Priest would take an animal, offer it to God, kill it and then burn it on an altar.

### 6. Why were the sacrifices of the Old Testament imperfect?

The sacrifices of the Old Testament were imperfect because of the imperfections of the Old Testament Priesthood and of the victims themselves, because "it is impossible that sins should be taken away with the blood of bulls and goats" (Hebrews 10:4).

"Heavenly realities require better sacrifices than these" (Hebrews 9:23).

### 7. What was the Perfect Sacrifice?

Jesus offered the Perfect Sacrifice when He died on the cross.

Jesus, "having offered one sacrifice for sins has taken His seat forever on the right hand of God" (Hebrews 10:12).

### 8. How was the death of Jesus a real sacrifice?

The death of Jesus was a real sacrifice because

- 1) the gift was Jesus
- 2) the Priest was Jesus
- 3) the destruction consisted in His death



4) His death showed forth our total dependence on God.

"He has appeared for the destruction of sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Hebrews 9:26).

9. Did Jesus want His Perfect Sacrifice to be continued?

Yes, Jesus made it possible for us to offer the Perfect Sacrifice by giving us the Sacrifice of the Mass.

10. Who offered the first Mass?

Jesus offered the first Mass at the Last Supper when He changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood.

11. How is the Mass a Perfect Sacrifice?

a) the gift is Jesus

b) the Priest is Jesus

c) the destruction consists in the consecration of bread and wine into His Body and Blood.

d) the Mass shows forth our total dependence on God.

12. How is the Sacrifice of the Mass the same as the Sacrifice of the Cross?

The Sacrifice of the Mass is the same as the Sacrifice of the Cross because the gift and the Priest are the same, namely, Jesus Christ.

"For as often as you shall eat this bread and drink the chalice, you shall show the death of the Lord, until He come" (1st Corinthians 11:26).

13. What is the difference between the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Sacrifice of the Cross?

The difference is that the Sacrifice of the Cross was a bloody sacrifice while the Sacrifice of the Mass is an unbloody sacrifice.

14. Did Jesus give the power to offer Mass to anyone?

Yes, Jesus gave the power of offering the Sacrifice of the Mass to His twelve Apostles.

"Do this for a commemoration of Me" (Luke 22:19).

15. Did the Apostles say Mass?

Yes, the Apostles and their successors said Mass. (See Acts 2:42).

16. Are there men on earth today who have the power to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass?

Yes, the power of offering Mass has been handed down during the past two thousand years from the Apostles through the Bishops of the Catholic Church.

17. Do all Catholic Priests have the power to offer Mass?

Yes, all Catholic Priests have this power which they received from the Bishop who made them Priests.

The Sacrifice of the Mass is offered by Catholic Priests all over the world, so that the prophecy of Malachias is fulfilled: "From the rising of the sun even to the going down, My name is great

among the Gentiles, and in every place there is a sacrifice and there is offered to My Name a clean oblation' (Malachias 1:11).

18. Who is the real Priest at every Mass?

Jesus is the principal Priest at Mass. The human Priest at the altar stands in the place of Jesus and speaks the words of Jesus.

19. At what part of the Mass does the sacrifice itself take place?

The sacrifice itself takes place when the Priest repeats the words of Jesus: "This is My Body; this is the Chalice of My Blood" This is called the Consecration.

20. What prayers does the Priest say from the beginning of Mass up to the Consecration?

The prayers said before the Consecration are preparatory prayers, which ask God to forgive our sins and make us worthy to offer Him the Sacrifice of the Mass.

21. What prayers are said after the Consecration?

The prayers said after the Consecration are mainly a preparation for those who are going to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion.

22. How can I offer God the Perfect Sacrifice?

I can offer God the Perfect Sacrifice by uniting myself with the Priest at the altar; for example, by reading the prayers of the Mass in a missal or prayerbook, or by saying other prayers.

23. Why is the Mass the holiest action I can do?

The Mass is the holiest action I can do because through the Priest at the altar I am offering to God the most perfect gift possible, the Body and Blood of His own Son, Jesus Christ.

Thus, going to church on Sunday morning does not mean just singing a few hymns and listening to a sermon. Occasionally one hears non-Catholics say that they do not get much enjoyment from attending the Catholic Mass. What I get out of the Mass is not important, as far as feelings and emotions are concerned. I must remember that at Mass I am giving God something more precious than all the prayers I could ever say..

24. When must I go to Mass?

I must go to Mass every Sunday and on the six Holy Days of obligation.

25. When are the six Holy Days of Obligation?

1) Dec. 25, the feast of Christmas

2) Jan. 1, the feast of the Circumcision of Jesus (New Year's Day)

3) the 40th day after Easter, the feast of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven (Ascension Thursday)

4) Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven

5) Nov. 1, the feast of All Saints

6) Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

26. What kind of a sin is it to miss Mass on Sunday or on a Holy Day of Obligation?

To miss Mass on Sunday or on a Holy Day of Obligation through my own fault is a mortal sin.

27. Am I allowed to go to Mass every day?

Yes, I should try to go to Mass every day although I am obliged to go only on Sundays and on the six Holy Days.

28. For whom may the Priest offer Mass?

The Priest may offer Mass for the intentions of the living and for the benefit of the Souls in Purgatory.

It is a custom among Catholics to have Masses said for their dead relatives and friends, instead of buying flowers for the funeral. A spiritual bouquet of Masses not only helps the soul of the dead person but gives greater consolation to that person's relatives than flowers.

29. Why is money offered to Priests to say Mass?

The offering of money is made in order to provide for the support of the Priests. In the early days of the Church the people used to give bread and wine to the Priest, but it is more convenient today to give money. However, this must not in any way be considered the price of the Mass.

"Know you not, that they who work in the holy place, eat the things that are of the holy place; and they that serve the altar, partake with the altar? So also, the Lord ordained that they who preach the gospel, should live by the gospel" (1st Corinthians 9:13 & 14).

## LESSON 24: CONFESSION

1. Does Jesus have the power to forgive sins?

Yes, Jesus has the power to forgive sins because He is God.

"Jesus said: Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. And the scribes and Pharisees began to think, saying: Who is this who speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?"

(Luke 5:20, 21).

2. How did Jesus prove He had the power to forgive sin?

Jesus proved that He had the power to forgive sin when He cured the paralyzed man.

But that you may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (He saith to the sick of palsy,) I say to thee, Arise, take up thy bed, and go into thy house and immediately rising up before them, he took up his bed on which he lay; and went away to his own house, glorifying God's (Luke 5:24, 25).

3. Did Jesus forgive the sins of other people?

Yes, Jesus forgave the sins of other people, for example, the woman taken in adultery, Mary Magdalen and the Good Thief.

4. Did Jesus give the power to forgive sins to anyone?

Yes, Jesus gave the power to forgive sins to His Apostles after He had arisen from the dead.

"As the Father hath sent Me, I also send you. When He had said this, He breathed on them; and He said to them: Receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained" (John 20:21-23).

5. What Sacrament did Jesus institute when He said these words?

The Sacrament of Penance, by which the sins committed after Baptism are forgiven.

6. Did Jesus want His Apostles to hand down this power to others?

Yes, Jesus wanted His Apostles to hand down the power of forgiving sins to others, because He died to save all men and He wanted all men to have the chance to have their sins forgiven.

"For this is good and acceptable to the sight of God, our Saviour, who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1st Timothy 2:3, 4).

7. How did the Apostles hand down the power of forgiving sins?

The Apostles handed down the power of forgiving sins by making other men Bishops and Priests. See Lesson 27.

8. After the Apostles died, how was this power handed down?

After the Apostles died, the Bishops continued to hand down the power of forgiving sins during the past two thousand years.

9. Do all Catholic Priests have the power to forgive sins?

Yes, all Catholic Priests have the power to forgive sins, received on the day they became Priests.

10. What must I do to have my sins forgiven?

To have my sins forgiven, I must be truly sorry for them and tell (confess) them to a Catholic Priest.

He that hideth his sins shall not prosper; but he that shall confess and forsake them, shall obtain mercy" (Proverbs 28:13)

11. Does the Priest only pray that my sins will be forgiven?

No, the Priest does not merely pray that my sins will be forgiven but by the power given him he actually takes the sins off my soul.

For, what I have pardoned ... I have done it in the person of Christ" (2nd Corinthians 2:10).

12. What else does Confession do for my soul?

Besides taking sins off my soul, Confession also

1) puts grace back into my soul

2) makes the grace grow in my soul, if I had only venial sins

3) gives me extra strength to stay away from sin in the future.

"Be not ashamed to confess thy sins" (Ecclesiasticus 4:31).

13. Why do I have to confess my sins to the Priest?

I must confess my sins to the Priest because this is the way Jesus wanted me to have my sins forgiven; otherwise, He would not have given His Church the power to forgive sins.

14. Can't I go to God directly and ask Him to forgive my sins?

If I know that God wants me to confess my sins to the Priest, then I must do it the way He wants it done.

15. Can I be sure that my sins are forgiven in Confession?

Yes, if I have properly confessed my sins, I can be sure that they are forgiven.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, to forgive us our sins" (1st John 1:9).

16. Why does the Priest have to know what sins I have committed?

The Priest has to know what sins I have committed so that he may know whether he is to forgive or retain" them. If I am really sorry for them, he will forgive me; if I am not sorry, he cannot forgive them, he must retain them.

Jesus, being God, knew what sins were on the souls of the paralyzed man and of others whose sins He forgave while on earth. But the Priest cannot look into my soul. So, I must tell him what sins I have committed.

17. Give other reasons why the Priest has to know my sins.

The Priest has to know my sins so that he can give me a suitable penance (punishment) and advise me on how to overcome my sins.

18. Where does the Priest usually hear the confessions of people?

The Priest usually hears the Confessions of people in the church in a booth called a "confessional".

19. Do all Catholics have to go to Confession?

Yes, all Catholics, even the Pope, Bishops and Priests, have to go to Confession.

20. Why don't I have to be afraid to go to Confession?

I don't have to be afraid to go to Confession

1) because I can go to any Priest I want

2) because he can never tell another person anything he has ever heard in Confession. This is called the Seal of Confession.

21. What is meant by "being sorry for my sins"

"Being sorry for my sins" means

1) that I must wish that I had not committed the sins

2) that I sincerely promise not to commit those sins again

"Sin no more, lest some worse thing happen to thee" (John 5:14).

3) that I promise to stay away from any person, place or thing which will easily lead me into sin.

"He that loves danger shall perish in it" (Ecclesiasticus 3:27).

22. What kind of sorrow must I have to be forgiven?

To be forgiven I must have a religious sorrow, that is, I must be sorry because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell (imperfect sorrow) but most of all because I have offended God (perfect sorrow).

So, to have my sins forgiven, it is not enough to be sorry because my sins have caused me to lose my job or some money. The sorrow must be religious.

23. Can all of my sins be forgiven in Confession?

Yes, all sins can be forgiven in Confession if I am really sorry for them and promise to stay away from them in the future.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us FROM ALL INIQUITY" (1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9).

24. In Confession is all the punishment due to my sins taken away?

1) In Confession the eternal punishment due to my sins is taken away, that is, the punishment of hell

2) All of the temporal punishment due to my sins is not always taken away.

25. What is meant by "temporal punishment"?

"Temporal punishment" means that, even though all of my sins are forgiven in Confession, God still demands that I be punished either in this life or in Purgatory.

Thus, it is clear that Confession does not make sinning any easier. Although it is true that I will not have to worry about going to hell for sins properly confessed, yet I have to worry about the temporal punishment still due to those sins. See question 4, page 33.

## LESSON 25: HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION

1. What do I have to do before going into the Confessional?

- 1) I should kneel in the church and ask God to help me remember my sins
- 2) I must remember what sins I have committed since my last Confession and how many times I have committed each sin.
- 3) I should then tell God that I am sorry for my sins
- 4) Then I go into the Confessional.

2. What do I do in the Confessional?

- 1) I wait until the Priest opens the little window
- 2) Then I say "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned, it is one week (or one month, or whatever length of time it is) since my last Confession. These are my sins." Then I name the sins and tell how many times I committed each one.

3. How do I finish my Confession?

After I have told the Priest my sins, I should say: "I am sorry for these sins and all the sins of my past life, especially for ....." Here I name some sin already confessed.

4. Then what happens?

Then the Priest will give me a Penance and perhaps advise me about my sins.

5. What prayer do I say while the Priest is forgiving me?

While the Priest is saying the words of forgiveness in Latin, I should say the Act of Contrition. Then the Priest will say: "God bless you", or something like that. Then I should say: "Thank you, Father" and go out of the Confessional.

6. What should I do after I go out of the Confessional?

I should go to my place, kneel down, say my Penance and thank God for taking the sins off my soul.

7. What is meant by the "penance" the Priest gives in Confession?

The penance is usually some prayers to say as part of the temporal punishment due to my sins.

8. What sins must I confess?

I must confess all of my mortal sins.

9. What do I do if I have no mortal sins to confess?

If I have no mortal sins to confess, I should tell my venial sins and mention some mortal sin of my past life already confessed,

10. What kind of a sin is it deliberately to omit telling a mortal sin?

Deliberately to omit telling a mortal sin in Confession is a very serious sin called a sacrilege.

"He that hides sins shall not prosper; but he that shall confess and forsake them shall obtain mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).



11. What should I do if I forget to confess a mortal sin?

If, through no fault of my own, I forget to confess a mortal sin, I must tell it in my next confession and tell the Priest that I forgot it.

12. How often must I go to Confession?

1) I am bound under pain of mortal sin to go to Confession at least once a year, if I sinned grievously.

2) Anytime I commit a mortal sin, I should make an Act of Contrition right away and go to Confession as soon as possible.

13. How often does a good Catholic go to Confession?

A good Catholic goes to Confession once a month, or even once a week, if possible.

It should be remembered that in Confession I receive grace and that the more grace in my soul at the time of my death the greater will be my capacity for happiness in heaven. Besides, in Confession I receive special helps to overcome the temptations that usually bother me.

## LESSON 26: INDULGENCES

1. What is one of the chief ways by which I can make up for my past sins?

One of the chief ways by which I can make up for the sins of my past life is by gaining indulgences.

· "Be not without fear about sin forgiven" (Ecclesiasticus 5:5).

2. What is an indulgence?

An indulgence is the taking away of all or of part of the temporal punishment still due to sin. (See Lesson 12, Quest. No. 4).

Jesus said to Peter: "I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven" (Matthew 16:19).

3. How do indulgences take away the punishment due to sin?

The Church has the authority to take away the punishment due to sin on the condition that special prayers be said or certain good works be performed.

4. What is a Plenary Indulgence?

A Plenary Indulgence is one which takes away all of the temporal punishment due to sin.

5. Give some examples of Plenary Indulgences.

A Plenary Indulgence may be gained by saying the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament in church, by making the Way of the Cross, reciting the prayer "Behold, O most kind and sweet Jesus" after Holy Communion.

6. What do I have to do to gain a Plenary Indulgence?

To gain a Plenary indulgence

- 1) I must have no mortal or venial sin on my soul,
- 2) I must say the prayer or do the work to which the Indulgence is attached, and
- 3) I must have the intention of gaining the Indulgence, and
- 4) I must fulfill all the special conditions laid down by the Church for each Indulgence.

7. What is a Partial Indulgence?

A Partial Indulgence is one which takes away only part of the temporal punishment due to sin.

8. Give some examples of Partial Indulgences.

I may gain a Partial Indulgence by reading the New Testament at least fifteen minutes a day, saying the Rosary, making the Way of the Cross, reciting the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, using Holy Water, medals or statues which have been blessed.

9. What do I have to do to gain a Partial Indulgence?

To gain a Partial Indulgence —

- 1) I must have no mortal sin on my soul,

- 2) I must say the prayer or do the work to which the Indulgence is attached, and
- 3) I must have the intention of gaining the Indulgence.

10. May I gain an Indulgence for others besides myself?

Yes, I may gain Indulgences for the souls in Purgatory.

The month of November is dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory. During this month, Catholics are urged to attend Mass daily, and to recite the Rosary and make the Way of the Cross for the relief of the Poor Souls.

## **LESSON 27: HOLY ORDERS AND THE PRIESTHOOD**

### 1. What is the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

Holy Orders is the Sacrament which gives a man the powers of the Catholic Priesthood.

"Thou art a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchisedech" (Psalm 109:4).

### 2. In general, what is a Priest?

A Priest is a man who offers sacrifice to God for the sins of the people.

"Every high priest taken from among men, is ordained for men in the things that appertain to God, that he may offer up gifts and sacrifices for sins" (Hebrews 5:1).

### 3. Were there Priests before the coming of Jesus?

Yes, there were Priests before the coming of Jesus, for God made Aaron and his sons Priests of the Old Testament.

God said to Aaron: "Thou and thy sons look ye to the Priesthood; and all things that pertain to the service of the altar... shall be executed by the Priests" (Numbers 18:7).

### 4. Was Jesus a Priest?

Yes, Jesus was a Priest.

"It behoved Him in all things to be made like unto His brethren, that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest before God, that He might be a propitiation for the sins of the people" (Hebrews 2:17).

### 5. Who established the Catholic Priesthood?

Jesus Christ established the Catholic Priesthood.

"I will give you pastors according to My own heart, and they shall feed you with knowledge and doctrine" (Jeremias 3:15).

### 6. Who were the first Catholic Priests?

The twelve Apostles were the first Catholic Priests, ordained to the Priesthood by Jesus Himself.

"Let the Priests that rule well be esteemed worthy of double honor: especially they who labor in the word and doctrine" (1st Timothy 5:17).

### 7. What are the chief powers of the Catholic Priesthood?

The chief powers of the Catholic Priesthood are the power to change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus and the power to forgive sins, and the power to preach with authority. The other powers of the Priesthood are to administer the other Sacraments and to bless people and things.

### 8. When did Jesus give his first Priests the power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood?

Jesus gave His first Priests the power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood at the Last Supper on the night before He died.

"Do this for a commemoration of Me" (Luke 22:19).

9. When did Jesus give his first Priests the power to forgive sins?

Jesus gave His Apostles the power to forgive sins after His Resurrection from the dead.

"Receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained" (John 20:22 & 23).

10. When did Jesus give his first Priests the power to preach with authority?

Jesus gave His first Priests the power to preach with authority just before He ascended into heaven.

"Going therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

11. What special powers does a Bishop have?

A Bishop has the power to make other men Priests or Bishops

"For this cause I left thee in Crete, that thou ... shouldst ordain Priests in every city, as I also appointed thee" (Titus 1:5).

12. Who were the first Catholic Bishops?

The Apostles were the first Catholic Bishops.

"Obey your prelates and be subject to them. For they watch as being to render an account of your souls; that they may do this with joy, and not with grief" (Hebrews 13:17).

13. Did the Apostles make other men Priests?

Yes, the Apostles made other men Priests, for example, St Paul, St. Barnabas, St. Timothy, St. Titus, St. Matthias

"And when they had ordained to them Priests in every church ... they commended them to the Lord" (Acts 14:22). See also Acts 1:24-26; Acts 13:2; Titus 1:15.

14. How did the Apostles make other men Priests?

The Apostles made other men Priests by imposing their hands on them and asking the Holy Ghost to come down upon them.

"Then they, fasting and praying, and imposing their hands upon them sent them away" (Acts 13:3). See also 1st Timothy 4:14.

15. After the Apostles died, how were the powers of the Priesthood handed down?

Before they died, the Apostles made other men Bishops, who, in turn, made other men Bishops, and in this way the powers of the Priesthood have been handed down during the past 2000 years.

"Take heed to yourselves, and to the whole flock, wherein the Holy Ghost hath placed you Bishops to rule the Church of God" (Acts 20:28).

16. How are the powers of the Priesthood handed down today?

Today the Bishops hand down the powers of the Priesthood just as the Apostles did — by imposing hands and praying to the Holy Ghost.

"Honor God with all thy soul, and give honor to the Priests" (Ecclesiasticus 7:33).

17. What is necessary to become a Priest?

To become a Priest, a man must study for at least 11 or 12 years in a special school called a Seminary and receive the approval of the Bishop as to his learning, his health, his morals and his character.

"Impose not hands lightly upon any man" (1st Timothy 5:22).

18. How does a man become a Bishop?

The Pope chooses a Priest who is known for his learning and holiness and appoints other Bishops to consecrate him a Bishop by imposing hands on him and praying to the Holy Ghost.

"A faithful saying: If a man desire the office of a Bishop, he desireth a good work" (1st Timothy 3:1).

19. Why is the Priest called "Father"?

The Priest is called Father because he gives the life of grace to his spiritual children, just as a father gives physical life to the children of his own flesh and blood.

"I write not these things to confound you; but I admonish you as my dearest children. For if you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet not many fathers. For in Christ Jesus, by the Gospel, I have begotten you" (1st Corinthians 4:14, 15).

20. Why don't Priests get married?

Priests do not get married

1) in order better to follow the example of Jesus;

2) because the single life is a very holy state of life;

"Everyone hath his proper gift from God, one after this manner, and another after that. But I say to the unmarried and to the widows; it is good for them if they so continue, even as I" (1st Corinthians 7:7; 8).

3) because by leading single lives, they can give themselves entirely to God and to the care of the people.

"I would have you to be without solicitude. He that is without a wife, is solicitous for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please God. But he that is with a wife is solicitous for the things of the world, how he may please his wife; and he is divided" (1st Corinthians 7:32, 33).

## LESSON 28: THE HISTORY OF MARRIAGE

1. Who made marriage?

God made marriage.

2. When did God make marriage?

God made marriage when He created Adam and Eve.

"Male and female He created them. And God blessed them saying: Increase and multiply and fill the earth' (Genesis 1:27-28).

3. Why did God make marriage?

God made marriage for two purposes:

1) for the bringing of children into the world

2) for the mutual help of husband and wife

4. How do I know that the first purpose of marriage is children?

I know that the first purpose of marriage is children because the Bible says so and the Catholic Church teaches it.

"Increase and multiply" (Genesis 1:28).

"I will therefore that the younger should marry, bear children be mistresses of families" (1st Timothy 5:14).

5. Does not common sense tell me that the first purpose of marriage is children?

Yes, even common sense tells me that the first purpose of marriage is children, since I can see how different a woman's body and mind are from a man's.

A woman's body is made for the bearing and nursing of children, while a man's body is stronger so that he can protect his family and give them food and shelter. A woman's mind is different from a man's in that she is kinder, more sympathetic, more emotional than man. She needs these qualities to care for and instruct her children.

6. Why is mutual help the second purpose of marriage?

Mutual help of husband and wife is the second purpose of marriage because the Bible says so.

"And the Lord God said: It is not good for man to be alone; let us make him a help like unto himself. For Adam there was not found a helper like himself ... And the Lord God built the rib which He took from Adam into a woman, and brought her to Adam" (Genesis 2:18, 20, 28).

7. Does not common sense tell me that mutual help is the second purpose of marriage?

Yes, common sense tells me that the second purpose of marriage is mutual help because men and women are incomplete without one another and find their completion in marriage.

A man needs the sympathy, understanding and encouragement of a wife, while the wife needs his love, affection and companionship to overcome her loneliness.

8. What is the purpose of the sexual pleasure?

God attached pleasure to the act by which children are conceived in order to attract husband and wife to have children and to foster mutual love.

Just as the first purpose of eating is to continue the life of the body, so also the first purpose of marriage is to continue the life of the human race. And just as the pleasure of taste attracts us to eat, so also the pleasure of sex was given to attract husband and wife to have children.

9. Who are the only ones who may enjoy sex in any way at all?

The only ones who may enjoy sex in any way at all are husband and wife who are validly married.

"I say to the unmarried and to the widows ... if they do not contain themselves, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to be burnt" (1st Corinthians 7:8 & 9).

10. Why is all use of sex outside of marriage a mortal sin?

All use of sex outside of marriage is a mortal sin because the purpose of sex is so serious and so sacred, namely, to attract husband and wife to have children.

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are fornication, uncleanness, immodesty, luxury ... who do such things shall not obtain the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19, 21).

11. How many wives did God create for Adam?

God created only one wife, Eve, for Adam and wanted this marriage to be the model for all marriages — one man and one woman.

"Wherefore a man shall leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife and they shall be TWO in one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

12. How long did God want husband wife to stay together?

God wanted husband and wife to stay together until death should separate them.

"A woman is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband die, she is at liberty; let her marry to whom she will, only in the Lord" (1st Corinthians 7:39).

13. Why did God want husband and wife to stay together until death?

God wanted husband and wife to stay together until death because a mother cannot raise her children properly without a husband's help and support.

It takes 20 or 30 years to raise a family. Just to make sure that husband and wife should stay together for the raising of the children, God made it a law that they have to stay together until death.

14. Can men and women find real happiness in marriage?

Yes, men and women can find real happiness in marriage if they will only follow God's plan for marriage.

15. What was the condition of marriage at the time of Christ?

At the time of Christ, the beauty and holiness of marriage was, for a great part, destroyed, because men changed God's plan to suit their own selfish desires.

Sexual pleasure was worshipped. Children were not wanted.



Women were not loved and respected.

16. How does the Bible describe the condition of marriage at the time of Christ?

"They became vain in their thoughts, and their foolish heart was darkened. ... Wherefore God gave them up to the desires of their heart, unto uncleanness, to dishonour their own bodies among themselves. ... God delivered them up to shameful affections. For the women have changed the natural use into that which is against nature. And, in like manner, the men also, leaving the natural use of the woman, have burned in their lusts one towards another, men with men working that which is filthy, and receiving in themselves the recompense which was due to their error" (Romans 1:21, 24,26, 27).

17. What did Jesus do for marriage?

Jesus brought back God's plan for marriage and condemned those who break God's Laws concerning marriage.

"From the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother; and shall cleave to his wife. And they shall be two in one flesh. Therefore now they are not two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. ... Whosoever shall put away his wife and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if the wife shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery" (Mark 10:5-12).

18. What else did Jesus do for marriage?

Jesus also made marriage a Sacrament, thus putting it on the same level as Baptism, Holy Communion and the other Sacraments.

19. What did Jesus do for the family?

Jesus held up His own Holy Family as a model for the Christian family, Mary His own Mother as the model for all Christian wives and mothers, Joseph as the model for all Christian husbands and fathers, and Himself as the model for all Christian children.

20. What was the Christian family like?

There was real happiness in the Christian Family because the husband and wife followed God's plan for marriage.

21. What was the Christian husband like?

The Christian husband and father loved and respected his wife, was loyal to her, supported his family and gave his children good example.

22. What was the Christian wife like?

The Christian wife and mother was a respected woman who took care of her husband and children with great love and devotion.

23. What were the children in a Christian family like?

The children in a Christian Family were obedient and respected the authority of their parents, just as Jesus did Mary and Joseph.

24. What happened to marriage in the 16th century?

King Henry the Eighth of England broke away from the Catholic Church because the Pope would not grant him a divorce. Then he started his own church, and, without God's permission, he made divorce a part of English law.

25. How did divorce laws and practices start in the United States?

Since American law is based on English law, which permits divorce, divorce became part of American Law.

26. Does the government, then, have the power to grant divorces?

No, in the eyes of God, the Government has no more power than a grocery store to break a marriage, and its divorce decrees are not only worthless but a defiance of God's Law.

Jesus, said: "What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder," and that includes the Government.

27. What has happened to marriage in the United States?

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Marriage today is almost like it was before the coming of Jesus:

- 1) People break God's Law against divorce and marry as often as they want
- 2) Many husbands and wives do not want children, only sex pleasure
- 3) Unfaithfulness is no longer considered shameful
- 4) Women are being respected less and less
- 5) The beauty and holiness of marriage is quickly being destroyed
- 6) The number of unhappy marriages is growing.

## LESSON 29: SINS AGAINST MARRIAGE

1. What are the sins against marriage?

The following are all mortal sins:

- a) Not fulfilling the marriage duty
- b) Adultery
- c) Unlawful separation
- d) Divorce
- e) Birth control, doing something to keep from getting pregnant
- f) Abortion, killing an unborn baby
- g) Sterilization, tying the Fallopian tubes and so on.

2. What is the "marriage duty"?

By the 'marriage duty' is meant that a married person is obliged, under pain of mortal sin, to give his, or her, partner sexual intercourse whenever it is reasonably asked for.

The obligation ceases when the person asking for intercourse is drunk or insane. A wife may refuse her husband intercourse if he does not support the family, or if, during pregnancy, there would be any danger to the life of the unborn child.

3. What does the Bible say about the marriage duty?

"Let the husband render the debt to his wife, and the wife also to her husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband. And in like manner the husband also hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud not one another, except, perhaps by consent, for a time, that you may give yourselves to prayer; and return together again, lest Satan tempt you for your incontinency" (1st Corinthians 7:3-5).

4. Should a married person always insist on his right to intercourse?

No, a married person should not insist on his, or her, right to intercourse but should always be thoughtful of the other person.

"For they who in such manner receive matrimony as to shut out God from themselves and from their mind and to give themselves to their lust as the horse and mule which have not understanding, over them the devil has power" (Tobias 6:17).

5. What is adultery?

Adultery is sexual intercourse which a married person has with someone to whom he (or she) is not married.

"Fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4).

Adultery was punished in the Old Testament by Death (See Deuteronomy 22:22).

7. What is fornication?

Fornication is sexual intercourse between two unmarried persons.

"Fly fornication. ... He that committeth fornication, sinneth against his own body. Or know you not that your members are the temple of the Holy Ghost, who is in you?... But for fear of fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband" (1st Corinthians 6:18, 19 & 7:2).

8. Why is fornication a mortal sin?

Fornication is a mortal sin, because **ALL USE OF SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE IS ALWAYS A MORTAL SIN.**

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are fornication, uncleanness, immodesty ... they who do such things shall not obtain the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19, 20).

9. Why is it a mortal sin to separate from your husband or wife?

It is a mortal sin to separate from your husband or wife because —

1) God said: "... a man shall cleave to his wife, and they shall be two in one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

2) To separate means to refuse the marriage debt, and this is a mortal sin.

3) Because a separated person is then tempted to commit adultery or some other sin of sex.

4) Because the children cannot be properly trained.

"Return together again lest Satan tempt you" (1st Corinthians 7:7).

10. Is a married person ever allowed to separate?

Yes, a married person is allowed to separate, but only for a very serious reason and only with the permission of the Bishop.

11. Why is it a mortal sin to divorce and marry again?

It is a mortal sin to divorce and marry again because it is clearly against the Law of God.

"Every one that putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her that is put away from her husband, committeth adultery" (Luke 16:18).

12. Why does God forbid divorce?

God forbids divorce —

1) Because He knows that the children suffer since they cannot be raised properly by one parent,

2) Because divorce hurts the happiness of husband and wife,

3) Divorce is harmful to society

13. May a separated or a divorced person keep company with another?

No, **A SEPARATED OR A DIVORCED PERSON IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN TO KEEP COMPANY WITH ANOTHER**, because such a person is still married, and a married person is never allowed to keep company with another.

If you are separated or divorced, find out from the Priest who is instructing you what your duties are.

14. What is the sin of birth control?

In general birth control is doing anything before, during or immediately after sexual intercourse to keep a wife from becoming pregnant.

"Marriage honorable in all, and the bed undefiled" (Hebrews 13:4).

15. Is the sin of birth control forbidden in the Bible?

Yes, the sin of birth control is forbidden in the Book of Genesis.

"Juda said to Onan his son: Go into thy brother's wife and marry her that thou mayest raise seed to thy brother (who was dead). He, knowing that the children should not be his, when he went into his brother's wife, spilled the seed on the ground, lest children be born in his brother's name. And the Lord slew him ... because he did a detestable thing" (Genesis 38:7-10).

16. Is birth control ever allowed?

Birth control is never allowed; it is always a mortal sin.

"This is the will of God... that every one of you know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor; not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles that know not God" (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:3, 4).

17. How soon after intercourse may a wife use a douche?

A wife may use a douche only one hour after intercourse; to do so before one hour is a mortal sin.

18. What is the sin of abortion?

The sin of abortion is killing an unborn baby in the womb.

19. Is the sin of abortion always mortal?

Yes, the sin of abortion is always mortal.

Thou shalt not kill" (5th Commandment).

20. Is abortion ever allowed to save a mother's life?

No, abortion is never allowed to save a mother's life because to take away the life of any innocent human being, even that of an unborn human being, is murder.

21. What happens to a Catholic who knowingly causes an abortion?

A Catholic who knowingly causes an abortion is automatically excommunicated from the Church. This means that such a person cannot receive the Sacraments nor have a Catholic funeral. This sin is reserved to the Bishop.

22. Can an excommunicated person get back into the church?

Yes, an excommunicated person can get back into the Church if he is truly sorry for having committed the crime and promises not to do it again.

However, ordinarily the Priest who hears his confession has to get special power from the Bishop to take away the excommunication. The Bishop then will give the person a suitable punishment.

23. What is sterilization?

Sterilization is making the reproductive organs unfruitful, usually by tying or cutting the Fallopian tubes or seminal vesicles or by removing the womb or ovaries.

24. What kind of a sin is sterilization?

Sterilization is always a mortal sin unless the organs are diseased and are a danger to the health of the whole body.

## LESSON 30: THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

### 1. What is the Sacrament of Matrimony?

Matrimony is the Sacrament made by our Lord Jesus Christ to sanctify (make holy) the lawful union of a Christian man and woman.

### 2. What does the Sacrament of Matrimony give to the husband and wife?

The Sacrament of Matrimony –

- 1) makes the grace grow in their souls
- 2) gives them special helps to perform their duties as married people and to overcome the difficulties which may come into their married life.

### 3. Was Marriage always a Sacrament?

No, marriage, although a sacred union of a man and woman, was not always a Sacrament, but was raised to the dignity of a Sacrament by Jesus.

### 4. Who may receive the Sacrament of Matrimony?

Only persons who have been baptized may receive the Sacrament of Matrimony.

### 5. What is necessary to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony?

In order to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony worthily, I must be in the state of grace, that is, I must have no mortal sin on my soul

### 6. What kind of a sin is it to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony in the state of mortal sin?

To receive the Sacrament of Matrimony in the state of mortal sin is a mortal sin, a sacrilege. However, let it be clear that the sacrilege does not make the marriage invalid.

### 7. How must Catholics be married?

A Catholic must be married in the presence of a Catholic Priest and two Catholic witnesses.

### 8. What happens if a Catholic is not married in the presence of a Priest?

A Catholic who goes through a marriage ceremony before anyone else than a Catholic Priest is not married and is guilty of mortal sin.

Such a couple are not husband and wife and, therefore, have no right to live together, and children born of such a union are illegitimate. Such a marriage ceremony is a mockery.

### 9. What if a Catholic goes through a marriage ceremony before a protestant minister?

A Catholic who goes through a marriage ceremony in the presence of a protestant minister is not only guilty of mortal sin but is also excommunicated from the Church and the case has to go to the Bishop.

To be excommunicated, he must know that such a penalty is attached to his act.

### 10. What are some of the other laws of the Church about marriage?

- 1) It is forbidden to marry very near relatives, as first or second cousins, uncles, aunts, nephews or nieces.

2) All the children must be baptized and educated in the Catholic religion.

11. May a Catholic marry a non-Catholic?

A Catholic may not marry a non-Catholic, unless there is a very serious reason. A marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic is called a mixed marriage.

12. Why does the Church forbid mixed marriages?

The Church forbids mixed marriages because of the danger of loss of faith on the part of the Catholic and of the children.

The different religious beliefs of the parents often cause serious arguments on such important matters as divorce, birth control, Sunday Mass, eating meat on Friday and Catholic education of the children,

13. Were mixed marriages forbidden in the Bible?

Yes, mixed marriages were strictly forbidden by God in the Old Testament.

"Neither shalt thou make marriages with them. Thou shalt not give thy daughter to his son, nor take his daughter for thy son; For she will turn away thy son from following Me, that he may rather serve strange gods, and the wrath of the Lord will be kindled, and will quickly destroy thee" (Deuteronomy 7:3, 4).

See also : Josue 23:12 and Malachias 2:11.

14. Who is the only one that can allow a mixed marriage?

The Bishop is the only one who can give permission for a mixed marriage, and he can give such permission only for a very serious reason.

15. In a mixed marriage, what must the non-Catholic promise?

In a mixed marriage, the non-Catholic must sign promises

- 1) not to interfere with the Catholic's practice of religion
- 2) to see to it that all the children be baptized and be brought up as Catholics, and
- 3) to observe the laws of God and of the Catholic Church concerning marriage
- 4) not to have any ceremony before or after in the presence of a non-Catholic minister.

16. In a mixed marriage, why should the non-Catholic be encouraged to take instructions?

In a mixed marriage, the non-Catholic should be encouraged to take instructions so that he (or she) learn something about the True Religion and Christian morality.

For the most part, the average non-Catholic knows practically nothing about religion or morality, since very few protestant churches have any religious instruction at all. The Ten Commandments are looked upon by many as merely a human set of rules which may be changed according to one's likes.

17. In a mixed marriage, what is one of the chief duties of the Catholic?

In a mixed marriage, the Catholic party is bound prudently to procure the conversion of the non-Catholic party to the True Church.



The Catholic has the serious obligation in charity to give good example, to pray and to do all that is prudent to lead the non-Catholic into the True Church.

18. Is the marriage of a non-Catholic with another non-Catholic a real marriage in the eyes of the Catholic Church?

Yes, the marriages of all non-Catholics among themselves are valid marriages (and therefore cannot be broken) provided that all the laws of God concerning marriage are observed.

Therefore, a non-Catholic, when joining the Catholic Church, does not have to be married all over again, if the marriage was valid from the start.

19. What should be my attitude toward marriage?

I should look upon marriage as a very holy union, founded by God and raised to the dignity of a Sacrament by Jesus Christ,

"For we are the children of saints, and we must not be joined together like the heathens that know not God" (Tobias 8:5).

20. Why should I pray for a happy marriage?

I should pray every day for a happy marriage because, most probably, I will save my soul or lose it as a married person.

"House and riches are given by parents; but a prudent wife is properly from the Lord" (Proverbs 19:14).

21. What should be my purpose in seeking marriage?

In seeking marriage, I should look forward to having children and founding a Christian home, and not "for fleshly lust ... but for the love of posterity in which Thy Name may be blessed for ever and ever" (Tobias 8:9).

People who marry for selfish reasons (money, pleasure, beauty, fame, influence) very seldom, if ever, find happiness in marriage. Genuine happiness is attained only by completely generous souls who are ready to sacrifice themselves in all things.

22. Why should I study marriage?

I should study what marriage is and what are its duties and obligations because knowledge of these things does not come naturally.

Marriage, like any other career, requires specialized knowledge obtained through study and prayer. I should, if possible, attend a Catholic marriage forum or a Pre-Cana Conference, or at least receive special instructions on marriage from my Parish Priest. If I am a woman, I should learn the duties of a housewife, such as preparing meals, baby care and feeding, and so on.

23. What is the best preparation for marriage?

The best preparation for a happy marriage is to lead a truly Christian life, to receive Holy Communion and go to Confession often, to observe the 6th Commandment strictly and to follow the advice of my parents and Parish Priest.

24. What qualities should I look for in choosing a partner?

In choosing a partner for marriage, I should look for a person

- 1) who is a good Catholic
- 2) who is really serious about having children and founding a Christian home
- 3) who is not selfish or immature
- 4) who is sincere, truthful, dependable and chaste.

25. At what age should a person marry?

One should not marry until he (or she) is old enough, not only in body but in mind, to accept the responsibilities of married life,

Today, a boy or girl under twenty-one years of age may be capable of having children, but is not usually developed enough mentally to realize the seriousness of marriage.

26. What should a Catholic do who wants to marry?

Preparation for the wedding should be made with one of the Priests in the bride's parish at least one month before the marriage is to take place.

In case of a mixed marriage, the non-Catholic should be brought to the Priest at least three or four months before the wedding so that he (or she) may take instructions in the Catholic Religion.

27. Do Catholics have to be married at Mass?

Catholics are not obliged to be married at Mass, but certainly should be encouraged to do so.

There is a special Mass for the bride and groom called the Nuptial Mass. This Mass may not be celebrated for a mixed marriage, nor during Lent or Advent.

28. What is the greatest source of happiness in marriage?

The greatest source of happiness in marriage is children.

Court records show that there are much fewer marriage breakups among couples with large families and that there are more break-ups among childless couples or couples who have only one or two children.

## **LESSON 31: WHY MARRIAGES FAIL**

### 1. Not observing God's laws on marriage

The sins against marriage, listed in the 29th Lesson, are the main reasons why so many marriages today are unhappy and doomed to failure. Some of these sins are mentioned again in this lesson for emphasis.

### 2. Selfishness

Selfishness is the underlying cause of most difficulties in married life.

A few examples of selfishness: looking for one's own comfort, always insisting on one's rights (especially in regard to sexual intercourse), not being thoughtful of one's partner or not trying to please him (or her). It should be repeated here that genuine happiness is attained only by completely generous souls who are ready to sacrifice themselves in all things.

### 3. Not fulfilling the marriage duty

A married person commits a mortal sin by refusing to give his (or her) partner sexual intercourse whenever it is reasonably asked for.

The unhappiness of many marriages can be traced to this sin. Let it be clear that the marriage duty is a very serious and sacred obligation. Couples who have difficulties concerning intercourse should seek the advice of a good Catholic doctor.

### 4. Disagreement about children

Disagreement about whether to have children or not, or disagreement about the raising of children causes many marriages to fail.

A married couple should bear in mind that the first purpose of marriage is the bringing forth and rearing of children and that they no longer live for themselves but for their children. The sin of birth control causes love to grow cool and gives rise to mistrust and jealousy.

"Marriage honorable in all, and the bed undefiled" (Hebrews 13:4)

### 5. Immaturity or lack of responsibility

A great source of unhappiness in marriage is having an immature partner who lacks a sense of responsibility toward his (or her) family.

"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become a man, I have put away the things of a child" (1st Corinthians 13:11).

### 6. Fights and arguments childish outbursts of anger are entirely unchristian.

Married people should learn to control their tempers and to discuss their problems as grown-ups and not as children.

"Bearing with one another and forgiving one another if any have complaint against another: even as the Lord hath forgiven you, so do you also. ... Wives, be subject to your husbands, as it behoveth in the Lord. Husbands love your wives, and be not bitter towards them" (Colossians 3:13, 18, 19).

### 7. Wrong use of family money

A husband is bound to complete support of his wife and children, and a wife is obliged to use the family money wisely.

The faults of many husbands are: working irregularly, not giving the wife enough money to run the house, gambling family funds, spending it for liquor or foolish amusements. The faults of many wives are: not spending the family money wisely, buying unnecessary and expensive things. "If any man have not care of his own, and especially those of his house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (1st Timothy 5:8).

#### 8. Not respecting one's partner

Lack of respect for one's partner has destroyed the happiness of many marriages.

"Husbands love your wives, as Christ also loved the church, and delivered Himself up for it. . . . So also, ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife, loveth himself. For no man ever hated his own flesh" (Ephesians 5:25, 28, 29).

"Ye husbands, likewise, dwelling with them according to knowledge, giving honour to the female as to the weaker vessel, and as to co-heirs of the grace of life" (1st Peter 3:7).

#### 9. In-laws and relatives

A married person's first duty is to his or her) married partner and children. Parents and other relatives should not interfere.

"Wherefore a man shall leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall be two in one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

"The tongue of a third person has disquieted many and scattered them from nation to nation" (Ecclesiasticus 28:16).

#### 10. Drunkenness

The sin of drunkenness has caused many happy marriages to break up.

The moderate use of liquor is not a sin, but to get drunk is a sin. (See Lesson 37, questions 8 & 9).

#### 11. Jealousy

To judge another without evidence is a sin. A husband and wife should have complete trust in one another.

"Judge not, that you may not be judged. For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged" (Matthew 7:1, 2).

#### 12. Nagging

Criticizing the faults of one's partner or constantly harping on trifles is also a source of unhappiness.

"A wrangling wife is like a roof continually dropping through. It is better to sit in a corner of the housetop than with a brawling woman" (Proverbs 19:13 and 21:9).

"And if any man think himself to be religious, not bridling his tongue, but deceiving his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (St. James 1:26).

#### 13. Separate social life

Husbands and wives should customarily take their recreation together and find their happiness in their own home with their children. They should make friends with other happily married couples and avoid the company of those whose marriages ended in failure.

"Walk not as also the Gentiles (pagans) walk in the vanity of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their hearts" (Ephesians 4:17 & 18).

#### 14. Bad housekeeping

The wife should make the home a place to which her husband longs to go after his day's work. The home should be clean and orderly, and the meals well prepared.

"Happy is the husband of a good wife; for the number of his years is double. A virtuous woman rejoices her husband and shall fulfill the years of his life in peace" (Ecclesiasticus 26:1-2).

#### 15. Unkempt appearance

Unkempt appearance of one's person or clothing can cause love to grow cool.

"May this love with which you have joined your hands and hearts together never fail, but grow deeper and stronger as the years go on. And if true love and the spirit of perfect sacrifice guide your every action, you CAN expect the GREATEST MEASURE OF EARTHLY HAPPINESS that can be allotted to man in this vale of tears. The rest is in the hands of God. Nor will God be wanting in your needs. He will pledge you the life-long support of His graces in the Holy Sacrament which you have received" (From the Catholic Marriage Ceremony)

THE PRAYER OF SARA ON HER WEDDING DAY: "Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us and let us grow old both together in health" (Tobias 8:10).

## **LESSON 32: THE DUTIES OF PARENTS TOWARD THEIR CHILDREN**

### 1. To give their children the necessary food, clothing and shelter

This obligation rests on both parents, whether living together or separated. They must also keep their children from all danger to life or health.

### 2. To give them good example

Parents give good example by strictly observing all of their religious duties of attending Mass, not eating meat on Friday and other days of abstinence, by carefully avoiding indecent speech, lying, cursing, criticism of others, immodesty, drunkenness.

Parents should remember that children are great imitators and should be very careful of everything they do and say in the presence of their children. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it were better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:16).

### 3. To provide a truly Catholic home for them

A Catholic Home is one in which God and Religion are of the greatest importance.

In the home there should be a crucifix, pictures of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin and of the Saints. Indecent pictures and calendars, sexy and sensational magazines, books and comic books have no place in the Christian home. There should be good books, Catholic newspapers and magazines.

### 4. To have them baptized as soon as possible after birth

It is a serious sin to delay the Baptism of infants, and if there is any danger to the life of the newly born baby, the Priest should be called immediately.

Godparents should be carefully chosen. They must be good Catholics, since they have to take care of the religious training of the child in case the parents neglect to do so or die.

### 5. To see that they receive Holy Communion, go to Confession and receive Confirmation

The children should be taught to go to Holy Communion and Confession regularly and frequently, every week, if possible, especially during vacation time.

### 6. To teach them to pray Daily prayers should be said by the whole family together.

As the saying goes, "A family that prays together stays together".

### 7. To see that they hear Mass every Sunday and on the six Holy Days

Parents should not keep the children home from Mass except for very serious reasons.

### 8. To see that they do not eat meat on Friday

This applies to other days of abstinence. (See Lesson 40, Question 8).

### 9. To send them to a Catholic school

This includes high school and college, as well as grammar school. Parents are forbidden by Church Law to send their children to any other kind of school.

Parents, therefore, are called upon to make many sacrifices for their children, since the Catholic schools in the United States do not receive financial support from the Government.

10. To insist that they marry only in the Catholic Church

A Catholic cannot marry except in the presence of a Catholic Priest and two Catholic witnesses.

When a son or daughter begins to think seriously of marrying, the parents should have him (or her) see the Priest and receive the necessary instructions on marriage. They should encourage marriage only with Catholics, or at least with non-Catholics who are willing to take a full course of instructions in the Catholic Religion. Parents commit a mortal sin in forcing or unduly persuading any of their children to marry.

11. To give them the Christian attitude on marriage and having children

Parents should avoid complaining about the hardships of married life and joking about the sacred duties of marriage.

The birth of another child should be a joyful occasion for the whole family so that the other children will consider having children as the greatest blessing of married life.

12. To prepare them for marriage

The children should be taught the serious duties and responsibilities of marriage both by word and example.

They should also be taught the practical side of making a home, such as cleaning, cooking, sewing, repairing, being on time, neatness and orderliness.

13. To teach them the facts on sex

This information should be given carefully and with great emphasis on the beauty and sacredness of sex.

Answers to questions about the facts of life should be correct but always suited to the age and mental development of the child. Parents should encourage the confidence of their children so that the children will go to them for information.

14. To correct their sins and faults

It is a serious sin to neglect this duty.

15. To teach them the virtues of honesty, obedience, truthfulness and purity

These lessons must be given early and constantly.

16. To teach them respect for the rights and property of others

Many parents sin seriously by bad example in this matter.

17. To teach them respect for all lawful authority

Children should be taught early to respect all lawful authority, especially the authority of the Church, the State and the School.

18. To give them wholesome recreation and keep them from evil companions

The Christian Home should be the center of the child's social life, a place where he feels free to bring his companions.

Parents should consult the Legion of Decency list before allowing their children to attend a motion picture, examine their comic books and govern their use of the radio and television. Children receive many false ideas on life, marriage, crime, drinking, and so on, from these sources of entertainment.

19. Not to interfere with a child's desire to be a Priest, Brother or a Sister

Having a Priest, Brother or Sister in the family is one of the greatest blessings that God can give a mother and father. Instead of turning a child away from such a desire, parents should encourage the child.



## LESSON 33: EXTREME UNCTION

### 1. What is the Sacrament of Extreme Unction?

Extreme Unction is the Sacrament which gives health and strength to the soul and sometimes to the body to persons who are in danger of death.

The words "Extreme Unction" mean "Last Anointing". In the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, the body is anointed with Holy Oil. In the Sacrament of Extreme Unction the body is anointed with Holy Oil for the last time. Hence the name.

### 2. Is the Sacrament of Extreme Unction mentioned in the Bible?

Yes, the Sacrament of Extreme Unction is mentioned in the Bible, although the name "Extreme Unction" is not mentioned.

"Is any man sick among you? Let him bring in the Priests of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he be in sin, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:14, 15).

### 3. How is the Sacrament of Extreme Unction given?

First the Priest prays over the sick person, and then he makes the sign of the Cross with the Holy Oil (anoints) on the person's eyes, ears, nostrils, lips, hands and feet.

### 4. What prayer does the Priest say while anointing the sick person?

The Priest says: "Through this holy anointing, and by His most tender mercy, may the Lord pardon you whatever sins you have committed by sight (or hearing, or speech, and so on)."

### 5. What does Extreme Unction do for the soul?

The Sacrament of Extreme Unction

- 1) gives me more grace
- 2) gives me comfort in my sickness
- 3) gives me strength against the temptations of the devil in my last hours

### 6. Does Extreme Unction take away sin?

The Sacrament of Extreme Unction

- 1) takes away all my venial sins
- 2) it takes away even my mortal sins if I am unable to confess them and if I have religious sorrow for them.

### 7. What does Extreme Unction sometimes do?

The Sacrament of Extreme Unction sometimes brings back my health if this is helpful for my salvation.

### 8. Who can receive Extreme Unction?

Any Catholic who is in danger of death from sickness, old age or accident not only may but should receive Extreme Unction. However, Extreme Unction may not be given to infants or to anyone who has never had the use of his mind.

9. When should Extreme Unction be received?

The Sacrament of Extreme Unction should be received whenever sickness or accident is so serious that it will probably cause death.

Examples: pneumonia, ruptured appendix, heart attack, any serious operation.

10. Who can give the Sacrament of Extreme Unction?

Only a Catholic Priest can give the Sacrament of Extreme Unction.

11. How often can the Sacrament of Extreme Unction be received?

Extreme Unction can be received only once in the same danger of death from the same sickness. However, it can be received again if a new danger arises, for example, after another heart attack.

12. What should be done in case of sudden death?

In case of sudden death, the Priest should be sent for right away, because Extreme Unction may be given even after a person is apparently dead.

Death is the separation of body and soul, and it is difficult to tell exactly when the soul leaves the body. The only sure sign of death is corruption of the body. And so, in the case of sudden death, the soul is probably in the body for some time after breathing and heart beat have stopped.

13. What should be done before the Priest comes to anoint the sick person?

Before the Priest arrives, the sick person and the room should be prepared. The other members of the family should gather in the sick room and wait for the Priest to come.

14. How should the sick room be prepared?

In the sick room, there should be a table with a white cloth spread on it. A crucifix, two blessed candles, a bottle of holy water, a glass of drinking water, a spoon and some cotton should be placed on the white cloth.

15. What should be done when the Priest comes?

A member of the family, carrying a lighted candle, should meet the Priest at the door and in silence should lead him to the sick room.

No one should talk to the Priest, for he probably has the Blessed Sacrament with him. When he enters the sick room, all should kneel down.

16. What does the Priest do when entering the sick room?

First the Priest recites some prayers and sprinkles the sick person with holy water. Then he hears the sick person's Confession, if possible, in which case everyone should leave the room.

17. After the Confession, what does the Priest do?

After the Confession, the Priest gives the sick person Holy Communion (called "Viaticum"), then Extreme Unction, and finally, the Last Blessing.

All of these together are called the "Last Sacraments" or the "Last Rites of the Church".

18. What should be done after the Priest leaves?

After the Priest leaves, someone should stay with the sick person, help him to pray and encourage him.

19. What kind of a sin is it to deprive a sick person of the Sacrament of Extreme Unction?

It is a very serious sin to deprive a sick person of the Sacrament of Extreme Unction. The obligation of sending for the Priest rests on the members of his family.

It often happens that a convert to the Catholic Church is the only Catholic in the family. If such is the case, the Catholic should inform his non-Catholic relatives to send for the Priest if he should ever be in danger of death.

20. What should be said about a family who is afraid to call the Priest lest the sick person become frightened?

It is ridiculous to suppose that the sick person will become frightened when the Priest comes because a Catholic in danger of death is always glad to see the Priest in order to receive the comforts that only the Sacraments can give.

It must be remembered that Extreme Unction sometimes brings back the health, and always brings comfort to the sick person.

21. Why is it wrong to wait until the sick person is unconscious before sending for the Priest?

It is wrong to wait until the sick person is unconscious before sending for the Priest because the sick person must be conscious in order to receive fully all of the benefits of the Sacrament of Extreme Unction.

22. What should be done when a Catholic dies?

A member of the family and the undertaker should immediately go see the Parish Priest of the dead person to make arrangements for the funeral, deciding the date and time of the wake and of the funeral Mass, and in what cemetery the burial is to take place.

As stated before, it often happens that a convert to the Catholic Religion is the only Catholic in the family. If such is the case, the Catholic should inform his non-Catholic relatives what to do when he dies.

23. In what cemetery should a Catholic be buried?

A Catholic should be buried in the consecrated ground of a Catholic cemetery. This is the law of the Church.

24. Are Catholics allowed to be cremated?

Catholics are strictly forbidden to have their bodies cremated, and the Catholic burial service is denied to those who give orders to have their bodies cremated.

The Church forbids cremation because cremation would destroy belief in the resurrection of the body. However, cremation is allowed in serious public necessity, for example, during a pestilence.

## **LESSON 34: THE CATHOLIC PATIENT IN A NON-CATHOLIC HOSPITAL**

### **1. What should I do before going to a non-Catholic hospital?**

Before going to the hospital, I should go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, and, if necessary, the Sacrament of Extreme Unction.

I should also inform the Priests in my parish in which hospital I will be and about how long I expect to be in the hospital.

### **2. What should I do when I enter the hospital?**

When I enter the hospital, I should tell the nurses on the floor that I am a Catholic, and whether I received the Last Sacraments or not, and, if I did not receive them, that they should send for a Priest in case of danger of death.

### **3. What should an expectant mother do in a non-Catholic hospital?**

An expectant mother in a non-Catholic hospital should inform the doctors and nurses that she is a Catholic and that, if there is any danger to the life of the baby, they should send for a Priest right away.

In case of a real emergency, however, the doctor or nurse should baptize the baby, even in the womb, if necessary.

### **4. What should be done in the case of a miscarriage?**

If there is a miscarriage, the whole substance from the womb should be put into water right away, and the words: "I baptize thee in the Name of the Father", and so on, should be said by the one baptizing.

It should be remembered the water has to flow over the skin of the fetus or embryo. Consequently, it is sometimes necessary to break the protective membranes enclosing the body.

### **5. While in a non-Catholic hospital, how should I arrange to receive the Sacraments?**

I should have a member of my family see the Priest in whose parish the hospital is located and make arrangements for the Priest to give me the Sacraments.

This Priest should be informed as to whether I have already received the Last Sacraments before coming to the hospital.

### **6. How should I prepare to receive Holy Communion?**

On the evening before the Priest comes, I should prepare a table beside the bed by spreading a clean hand towel on it, and then place a glass of water, a spoon, a few pieces of cotton and a crucifix on the towel.

I should also inform the other patients in my room that the Priest is coming and ask them to be decently dressed and respectfully silent when he arrives.

### **7. What should I do when the Priest brings me Holy Communion?**

Several minutes before the Priest arrives, I should say some prayers to prepare myself for receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.

Out of respect to the Blessed Sacrament, I should remain silent and not speak to the Priest, unless, of course, it is necessary.

8. What should I do after the Priest leaves?

After the Priest leaves, I should spend ten or fifteen minutes praying as well as possible under the circumstances.

## **LESSON 35: THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD AND THE FIRST COMMANDMENT**

1. Name the Ten Commandments of God.

1st. I am the Lord thy God: Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.

2nd. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

3rd. Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath Day.

4th. Honor thy father and thy mother.

5th. Thou shalt not kill.

6th. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

7th. Thou shalt not steal.

8th. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

9th. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.

10th. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

2. Where can I find the Ten Commandments in the Bible?

The Ten Commandments are to be found in the Book of Exodus, chapter 20, verses 1 to 17.

3. Am I bound to keep the Ten Commandments?

Yes, I am bound to keep the Ten Commandments if I want to save my soul and get to heaven.

"They are cursed who decline from Thy Commandments" (Psalm 118:21).

"If thou wilt enter into life, keep the Commandments" (Matthew 19:17).

4. What is the First Commandment?

The First Commandment is: I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.

5. What does the First Commandment oblige me to do?

The First Commandment obliges me to offer true worship to God.

"Adore ye Him that made heaven and earth, the sea and the fountains of waters" (Apocalypse 14:7)

6. In what way do many people sin against the First Commandment?

Many people sin against the First Commandment by never, or at least very seldom, giving worship to God.

60% of the people in the United States do not belong to any church, thinking that it is enough just to believe in God.

"Thou believeth that there is one God. Thou dost well: the devils also believe and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (James 2:19, 20).

7. Name the mortal sins forbidden by the First Commandment.

The chief mortal sins against the First Commandment are:

- 1) Taking an active part in the religious services of any false church
- 2) Quitting the Catholic Church
- 3) Joining a false church
- 4) Denying anything taught by the Catholic Church
- 5) Joining the Masons, or any society forbidden by the Church
- 6) Joining the Communists
- 7) Guiding my life by fortune telling, palmistry, phrenology, crystal gazing, horoscopes, dreams, the ouija board or spiritualism
- 8) Guiding my life by good luck or bad luck charms
- 9) Reading the literature of the false religions.

8. Am I ever allowed to go to a false church?

Yes, I am allowed to go to a false church for the wedding or funeral of a close relative or friend or of a public official.

9. Am I ever allowed to take part in the religious services of a false church?

No, I am never allowed to take part in the religious services of a false religion, by singing hymns or praying aloud with the congregation.

This also means that I am forbidden to act as best man or bridesmaid at a wedding that takes place in a false church.

10. Isn't the Catholic Church narrow-minded towards the non-Catholic churches?

No, the Catholic Church is not narrow-minded towards the non-Catholic churches, because the Catholic Church is the only true Church, and staying away from falsehood is not being narrow-minded.

"A man that is a heretic, avoid" (Titus 3:10).

11. What should be my attitude toward non-Catholics?

I should love non-Catholics as Jesus does, encourage them to take instructions, and by prayer and good example try to lead them to the True Church.

"Having your conversation good among the Gentiles (pagans): that whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by the good works which they shall behold in you, glorify God in the day of visitation (1st Peter 2:12).

12. Why does the Church condemn the Masons?

The Church condemns the Masons because Masonry is not only a secret fraternal organization but also a false religion which ignores Jesus Christ and has always been a very strong enemy of the True Church.

It is also forbidden to join the Knights of Pythias, Shriners, the Odd Fellows, the Sons of Temperance, Templars, also female societies affiliated with them, such as the Rebeccas, the Eastern Star, the Pythian Sisters.

13. Why is it a mortal sin to join the Communists?

It is a mortal sin to join the Communists because Communism denies that there is a God and seeks to wipe out Religion.

14. What happens to a Catholic who joins the Masons or the Communists?

A Catholic who knowingly and willingly joins the Masons, or the Communists is automatically excommunicated from the Catholic Church.

This means that a Catholic who has joined the Masons or the Communists willing and knowingly cannot receive any of the Sacraments or receive Catholic burial.

15. Why is it a sin to believe in fortune-telling and things like that?

It is a sin to believe in fortune-telling and the like because to do so is to attribute to a creature knowledge that belongs only to God.

Only God has knowledge of what I will do in the future. And God certainly will not reveal the future to me in silly and foolish ways, such as through tea leaves, the bumps on my head or the lines in my palm, or by cards or crystal balls.

16. Why is it a mortal sin to guide my life by dreams?

It is a mortal sin to guide my life by dreams because:

a) God forbids it

"You shall not observe dreams." (Leviticus 19:26).

b) it is foolish and ignorant and may lead to other sins.

"Dreams have deceived many, and they have failed that put their trust in them" (Ecclesiasticus 34:7).

17. Why is it a mortal sin to attend spiritualistic meetings?

It is wrong to attend the meetings of spiritualists in which the dead are supposed to appear because both the Bible and the Church forbid it.

"Neither let there be found among you any... that consulteth soothsayers, observeth dreams and omens, or fortune-tellers or that seeketh the truth from the dead. For the Lord abhorreth all these things and for these abominations he will destroy them at the coming" (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

18. Does God ever allow the dead to come back?

Yes, for very good reasons and always in keeping with His dignity, God, at different times, has allowed some of the Saints to appear to people.

19. Why is it a sin to read the literature of the false religions?

It is a sin to read the literature of the false religions because by reading them I expose my belief in the True Religion to danger.

"He that loveth danger, shall perish in it" (Ecclesiasticus 3:27).



## **LESSON 36: THE SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH COMMANDMENTS**

### 1. What is the Second Commandment?

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

Thy Name is worthy of praise and glorious forever" (Daniel 3:26).

### 2. What does the Second Commandment oblige me to do?

The Second Commandment obliges me always to use the Holy Name of God and of Jesus Christ reverently.

"In the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under the earth's (Philippians 2:10).

### 3. What does the Second Commandment forbid me to do?

The Second Commandment forbids me to use the Holy Name of God and of Jesus irreverently or without good reason, and to blaspheme or insult God, to curse, to swear falsely or to break an oath.

"He that blasphemeth the Name of the Lord, dying let him die" (Leviticus 24:16).

### 4. What kind of a sin is it to say "hell" or "damn" or to use vulgar language?

To say "hell" or "damn" or to use vulgar language usually is no sin at all unless I mean what I say or say it out of anger or impatience.

"Fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not so much as be named among you, as becometh saints, or obscenity, or foolish talking" (Ephesians 5:3, 4).

### 5. What is the Third Commandment?

The Third Commandment is: Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath Day.

"Six days shalt thou labor, and shalt do all thy works. But on the seventh is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: thou shalt do no work on it" (Exodus 20:9, 10).

### 6. What does the Third Commandment oblige me to do?

The Commandment obliges me to be present in church for Mass on all the Sundays of the year and on the six Holy Days of Obligation and to avoid all unnecessary manual(heavy) work on these days.

### 7. What are the six Holy Days of Obligation in the United States?

The six Holy Days of Obligation in the United States are:

- 1) Christmas (December 25), the feast of the Birth of Jesus
- 2) New Year's Day (January 1), the feast of the Circumcision of Jesus
- 3) Ascension Thursday (the 40th day after Easter)
- 4) Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (August 15)
- 5) All Saints (November 1)
- 6) Immaculate Conception (December 8)

8. Am I ever excused from the obligation of hearing Mass on Sundays or Holy Days?

I am excused from the obligation of hearing Mass on Sundays or Holy Days only for very serious reasons.

Example: sickness, working on my job during the hours when Mass is said, if my boss demands that I work.

9. What should I do if I foresee that it will be impossible to hear Mass?

If I foresee that it will be impossible for me to hear Mass on a Sunday or a Holy Day, then it would be well to ask my Pastor or the Priest in Confession to excuse me.

It should be borne in mind that frequent missing of Mass has caused many people to lose their Faith, and therefore I must be very strict with myself and not make up silly reasons for missing Mass.

10. What does the Third Commandment oblige me to do as a parent?

As a parent, I have the very serious obligation to see to it that my children hear Mass on Sundays and Holy Days; it is a mortal sin not to fulfill this obligation.

11. What kind of a sin is it to be late for Mass?

If, through my own fault, I come into the church

1) anytime before the Priest finishes the sermon, I commit a venial sin, unless I stay for this part in another Mass.

2) anytime shortly after the Priest finishes the sermon, I commit a mortal sin, unless I stay for another entire Mass.

12. What kind of work am I forbidden to do on Sundays and Holy Days?

On Sundays and Holy Days, I am forbidden to do manual (heavy) work, unless it is absolutely necessary, such as railroading, taking care of the sick, necessary housework.

13. Besides hearing Mass and not working, how should I spend Sunday?

I should remember that Sunday is the Lord's Day and should spend it accordingly, by attending services later in the day, saying extra prayers, reading the Bible, Catholic literature.

I may also enjoy amusements which are not sinful so long as they do not interfere with my religious obligations.

14. What is the fourth Commandment?

The Fourth Commandment is: Honor thy father and thy mother.

"Honour thy father, and forget not the groanings of thy mother; Remember that thou hadst not been born but through them; and make a return to them as they have done for thee"

(Ecclesiasticus 7:29, 30).

15. What are the duties of children toward their parents?

The duties of children toward their parents are:

1) to love and respect them as long as they live

2) to obey them in all things except sin

"Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is pleasing to the Lord" (Colossians 3:20).

3) to help them in their old age or when they are sick and helpless

"Son, support the old age of thy father, and grieve him not in his life. And if his understanding fail, have patience with him, and despise him not when thou art in thy strength; for the relieving of the father shall not be forgotten" (Ecclesiasticus 3:14-15).

4) to see that they receive the Last Sacraments and a Catholic funeral, if they are Catholic; if they are not, to encourage them to join the True Church.

16. What are the sins against the Fourth Commandment?

The sins against the Fourth Commandment are: disobeying one's parents, hating, threatening, cursing, striking, insulting them, being ashamed of them, wishing them evil, speaking or acting unkindly towards them, causing them anger or sorrow.

"Of what an evil fame is he that forsaketh his father: and he is cursed of God that angereth his mother's (Ecclesiasticus 3:18).

17. How long is a child obliged to obey his parents?

A child is obliged to obey his parents until his 21st birthday or until he or she leaves home to be married or to become a Priest or a Sister.

However, when a child gets married, his (or her) first duty is toward his (or her) married partner. Parents come second. See Genesis 2:24.

18. What are the duties of parents toward their children?

The duties of parents toward their children are to be found in Lesson 32.

19. What else does the Fourth Commandment oblige me to do?

The Fourth Commandment also obliges me to respect all lawful authority, especially the authority of the Church, the State and the School.

"Let every soul be subject to higher powers: for there is no power but from God ... Render therefore to all men their dues. Tribute, to whom tribute is due; custom, to whom custom; honor, to whom honor" (Romans 13:17).

## LESSON 37: THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

1. What is the Fifth Commandment?

The Fifth Commandment is: Thou shalt not kill.

2. What are the mortal sins against the Fifth Commandment?

The mortal sins against the Fifth Commandment are:

- 1) Murder, which is the unjust killing of an innocent person
- 2) Abortion, which is deliberately causing the death of an unborn baby
- 3) Suicide, which is taking my own life
- 4) "Mercy Killing", which is killing an innocent person who is dying of an incurable disease
- 5) Causing serious injury or death by criminal neglect
- 6) Sterilization, which is making the sex organs unfruitful
- 7) Getting seriously drunk
- 8) Serious anger and hatred
- 9) Helping another to commit a mortal sin.

3. Am I ever allowed to kill or use force?

As a private citizen, I am allowed to kill or use force only in self-defense:

- 1) if it is the only way I can protect my life, and
- 2) if it is impossible to get the help of a policeman, and
- 3) if my life is being seriously attacked here and now.

4. Is abortion ever allowed?

Abortion is never allowed, because deliberately to destroy the life of any innocent person, even that of an unborn baby, is murder.

Any Catholic who knowingly and willingly has anything to do with an abortion is automatically excommunicated from the Church. See Lesson 29, question 21.

5. Is suicide ever allowed?

Suicide is never allowed, because my life belongs to God and He alone has the right to take it away. A Catholic who commits suicide while in his right mind loses his right to have a Catholic funeral.

6. Is "mercy killing" ever allowed?

"Mercy killing", which is the killing of an innocent person dying of an incurable disease, is never allowed, because it is murder. A person who allows himself to be killed in this way is guilty of suicide.

7. Is sterilization ever allowed?

Having the Fallopian tubes or the seminal vesicles tied or cut, or having the uterus removed is always a mortal sin, unless these organs are diseased and are a danger to the whole body.

Women having abdominal operations should be very careful not to let the doctor talk them into being sterilized.

8. Is it a sin to drink alcoholic beverages?

No, it is not a sin to drink alcoholic beverages moderately, that is, if I do not get drunk.

9. What kind of a sin is it to get drunk?

To get slightly drunk is a venial sin; to get seriously drunk is a mortal sin, and I am guilty of any sins I commit while under the influence of alcohol, even though later on I do not remember them.

" And take heed to yourselves, lest perhaps your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and the cares of this life" (Luke 21:34).

10. Am I ever allowed to use dope?

I am allowed to use dope or narcotics only when it is recommended by a competent doctor, and then only in the amount and length of time the doctor prescribes.

11. Are hatred and anger always mortal sins?

Hatred and anger are not mortal sins unless I wish serious harm to my neighbor.

"Let every man be swift to hear, but slow to speak and slow to anger" (James 1:19).

12. Is there such a thing as sinless anger?

Yes, anger prompted by zeal for justice, honor to God, or some other good end.

For example, Jesus was angry with the buyers and sellers in the temple; a wife is angry with her husband who is drunk; a mother is angry with the disobedience of her child.

13. In what other way can I sin against the Fifth Commandment?

I can also sin against the Fifth Commandment by helping another to commit sin by my sinful words or actions or by giving another whatever is necessary to commit the sin.

"He that shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6).

## LESSON 38: THE SIXTH AND NINTH COMMANDMENTS

### 1. What is the Sixth Commandment?

The Sixth Commandment is: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

### 2. What is forbidden by the Sixth Commandment?

All sins of sex are forbidden by the Sixth Commandment. These sins are called sins of impurity, or impure sins.

### 3. Who are the only ones who may use sex at all?

The only ones who may use sex at all are husband and wife who are validly married. **ALL USE OF SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE IS A MORTAL SIN.**

### 4. What are the sins against the Sixth Commandment?

Any action intended to arouse the sexual passion is a mortal sin.

|                            |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| adultery                   | birth control                     |
| fornication                | impure touches                    |
| self-abuse or masturbation | petting                           |
| indecent dressing          | looking at impure pictures        |
| necking                    | looking at impure dances          |
| impure kisses              | looking at impure floor shows     |
| impure dancing             | looking at impure movies          |
| impure talk                | reading impure books or magazines |
| sins against nature        |                                   |

### 5. What is adultery?

Adultery is sexual intercourse which a married person has with someone to whom he (or she) is not married. "God will judge adulterers" (Hebrew 13:4).

### 6. What is fornication?

Fornication is sexual intercourse between an unmarried man and an unmarried woman.

"Do not err: neither fornicators ... nor adulterers . . . shall possess the kingdom of God" (1st Corinthians 6:9, 10).

### 7. What is the sin of self-abuse?

The sin of self-abuse, or masturbation, is enjoying the sexual pleasure alone.

"If you live according to the flesh, you shall die: but if by the Spirit you mortify the deeds of the flesh, you shall live" (Romans 8:13).

8. What are sins against nature?

Sins against nature are perversions committed with another person of the same sex or of the opposite sex, or with animals.

"Do not err: neither ... the effeminate, nor liers with mankind . . . shall possess the kingdom of heaven" (1st Corinthians 6, 9, 10).

9. What kind of kisses are forbidden by the Sixth Commandment?

The Sixth Commandment forbids kisses which arouse the sexual passion.

"For the flesh lusteth against the spirit: and the spirit against the flesh; for these are contrary one to another ... and they that are Christ's, have crucified their flesh, with the vices and concupiscences" (Galatians 5:17, 24).

10. What is the Ninth Commandment?

The Ninth Commandment is: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.

11. What is forbidden by the Ninth Commandment?

The Ninth Commandment forbids all impure thoughts and desires.

"I say to you that whosoever shall look on a woman to lust after her, hath already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).

12. When do I become guilty of impure thoughts?

I become guilty of impure thoughts when I knowingly and willingly keep such thoughts in my mind.

"Evil thoughts are an abomination to the Lord" (Proverbs 15:26).

13. Is it possible to lead a pure life?

Yes, it is possible to lead a pure life with God's help

1) if I stay away from all persons, places or things which easily lead me into sin,

2) if I pray often, and go to Confession and receive Holy Communion regularly.

"Watch ye and pray that ye enter not into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh weak" (Matthew 26:41).

3) if I practice giving up things which I like, or doing things which I don't like.

"And every one that striveth for the mastery, refraineth himself from all things: and they indeed that they may receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible one. (1st Corinthians 9:25).

4) if I keep busy.

**LESSON 39: THE SEVENTH AND TENTH COMMANDMENTS AND THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT**

1. What are the Seventh and Tenth Commandments?

"Thou shalt not steal.

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods."

2. What is meant by stealing?

Stealing means taking anything which does not belong to me and which the owner is not willing to give to me.

This includes:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Robbery and burglary                       | borrowing without permission   |
| not returning what I borrow                | not paying my bills  |
| running up a charge account and not paying | damaging the property of others through my fault and not paying        |
| not giving a workman a just wage           | depriving my family of necessary money by gambling or foolish spending |
| wasting time or materials on my job        | graft  |
| cheating another of some money             | demanding bribes   |
| not returning found articles               | selling articles with hidden defects spending                          |

3. What kind of a sin is it to steal?

It all depends on the value of the stolen goods Stealing something expensive is a mortal sin. Stealing something cheap is a venial sin.

4. Am I ever allowed to keep stolen goods?

I am obliged to give back the goods to the person from whom they were stolen, whether I stole the goods myself or got-them from somebody else.

No matter how small the theft, I must give it back, for example, silverware, ash trays, towels stolen from a hotel, articles taken from the place where I work. However, in some cases I may return it through another.

5. What must I do if I cannot find the owner?

If I cannot find the owner, I must give the stolen goods to charity, for example, the Catholic Charities or the Poor Box in the church.

6. What must I do if I damage or destroy someone's property?



I must pay for the damage if I willingly (through my fault) destroy or damage the property of another.

If I do not pay for the damages I commit a sin; the sin is mortal or venial depending on the value of the object destroyed or damaged.

7. What should I do with something I find?

I have to try to find the owner and give him the article found. If the article is expensive, then I must spend some money advertising for him. If the owner shows up, he must pay me for the money I spent in trying to find him.

8. Is gambling a sin?

It is no sin to gamble if

- 1) the money belongs to me, and if
- 2) I do not deprive my family of the things they need, and if
- 3) everyone has an equal chance to win.

9. What are the duties of employees?

The duties of employees are

- 1) Not to waste time or materials
- 2) To do the job as well as possible.

10. What are the duties of employers?

The duties of employers are

- 1) To pay their employees a just wage
- 2) To provide for the safety of all who work for them.

11. What is the Eighth Commandment? "

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

12. What kind of a sin is it to tell a lie?

- 1) If the lie harms someone seriously, it is a mortal sin.
- 2) If the lie does not harm anyone seriously, it is a venial sin.

"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord: but they that deal faithfully please Him" (Proverbs 12:22).

13. Am I ever allowed to tell a lie?

No, I am never allowed to tell a lie, even a small one, because every lie is a sin.

"Wherefore putting away lying, speak ye the truth every man with his neighbor; for we are members one of another! (Ephesians 4:25).

14. What must I do if I have told lies about another?

If I have told lies about another, I must do everything I can to restore his good name and must make up any losses he suffered because of my lies.

15. Is it a sin to make known the hidden sins or faults of another?

Yes, ordinarily it is a sin to make known the hidden sins or faults of another, but sometimes I am bound to do so.

16. When am I bound to make known the hidden sins or faults of another?

I am bound to make known to the proper authorities the hidden sins or faults of another if someone else would suffer harm by the sins or faults.

17. What is the sin of perjury?

Perjury is telling a lie after swearing to God to tell the truth. This is a mortal sin.

"A false witness shall not be unpunished: and he that speaketh lies shall perish" (Proverbs 19:9).

18. What other sins are forbidden by the Eighth Commandment?

The Eighth Commandment also forbids unjust and unnecessary criticism, fault finding, gossip, backbiting, insults and judging another without evidence.

"If any man think himself to be religious, not bridling his tongue, but deceiving his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26).

"Judge not, that you may not be judged. For with what judgement you judge, you shall be judged" (Matthew 7:1, 2).

## LESSON 40: FAST AND ABSTINENCE

### 1. What is fasting?

Fasting means that on certain days, I am allowed to eat

- 1) only one full meal with meat,
- 2) two small meals without meat, and
- 3) nothing between meals.

### 2. Who is obliged to fast?

Every Catholic over 21 years of age and not yet 59, who is not sick, pregnant or nursing a baby, is obliged to fast.

"Now, therefore, saith the Lord: Be converted to Me with all your heart, in fasting, in weeping, and in mourning" (Joel 12:12).

### 3. When must I fast?

I am obliged to fast

- 1) every day in Lent except Sundays
- 2) August 14, October 31, December 24 and the day before Pentecost Sunday
- 3) on the Ember Days.

### 4. When does Lent begin?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends forty days later on the Saturday before Easter at noon.

### 5. When are the Ember Days?

The Ember Days are the Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays following September 14, December 13, Pentecost Sunday and the 1st Sunday in Lent.

### 6. What kind of a sin is it not to fast on the prescribed days?

It is a mortal sin not to fast on the prescribed days.

### 7. What is abstinence?

Abstinence means that on certain days I am not allowed to eat meat at all.

### 8. When am I obliged to abstain from meat?

I am obliged to abstain from meat on all Fridays of the year, December 24 and August 14, Ash Wednesday and the Saturday before Easter until noon.

However, if a Holy Day of Obligation falls on Friday, I am allowed to eat meat as often as I wish.

9. What is meant by "meat"?

By meat is meant the flesh of any warm-blooded animal or bird, and the soups and gravies made from such flesh. I am allowed to eat sea food (fish, lobsters, turtles, crabs, oysters, frogs, and so on).

10. Who is obliged to abstain from meat?

Every Catholic over 7 years of age who has the use of his mind is obliged to abstain from meat on the prescribed days.

11. What kind of a sin is it to eat meat on forbidden days?

To eat meat on forbidden days is a mortal sin.

## IN GRATITUDE TO ALMIGHTY GOD

You have just finished this course of instructions in the True Religion. You must admit that taking this course has been the most profitable thing you have ever done. You have come to know God better and to love Him more. And now you should share this knowledge and love with others. So -

**GIVE THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF YOUR NON-CATHOLIC FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO THE PRIEST WHO GAVE YOU INSTRUCTIONS.**

He will send them an invitation to take the instructions. Also, bring them up to meet the Priest, so that he might extend a personal invitation to them.