Table of Contents

Foreword 7
An Introduction to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 9
Test Your Faith IQ 11



UNIT 1
The Profession of Faith

Being Catholic: Our Relationship with God Through the Sacraments 13

1 The Revelation of God and Sacred Scripture 17
- The Guidance of the Scriptures
- Sacred Scripture and Tradition
- Saint Jerome
- Lesson 1 Review

2 I Believe in God the Father 25
- The Father Sends the Holy Spirit
- God, Our Loving Father
- Saint Thomas Aquinas
- Lesson 2 Review

3 I Believe in Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God 33
- The Birth of Jesus
- Jesus: True God and True Man
- Saint John the Baptist
- Lesson 3 Review

4 I Believe in the Holy Spirit 41
- The Coming of the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit Shares in Jesus' Mission
- Saint Catherine of Siena
- Lesson 4 Review

5 One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church 49
- The Commissioning of the Disciples
- The Church Founded by Jesus Christ
- Saint Peter
- Lesson 5 Review

6 The Virgin Mary 57
- The Announcement of the Birth of Jesus
- Mary, Mother of God
- Saint Juan Diego
- Lesson 6 Review

7 Life Everlasting 65
- The Judgment of the Nations
- We Believe in Everlasting Life
- Saint Thérèse of Lisieux
- Lesson 7 Review





UNIT 2

Celebrating the Christian Mystery

Being Catholic: Personal Prayer and Silence — Communicating with God 73

8 **The Mass** 77

- The Lord's Supper
- Jesus Christ in the Eucharist
- Saint Padre Pio
- Lesson 8 Review

9 **Sacraments of Christian Initiation** 85

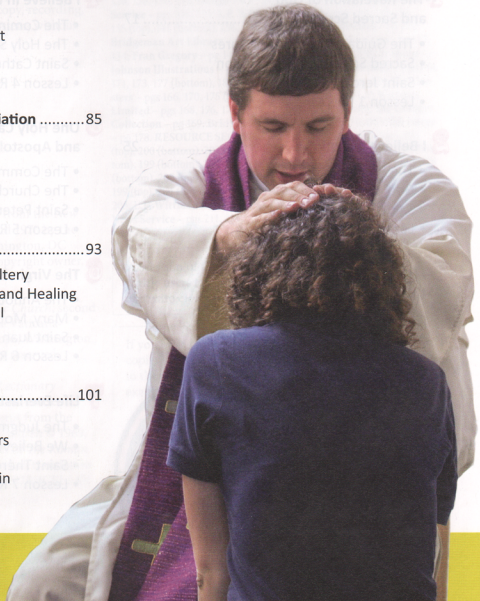
- The Baptism of Jesus
- New Life in Christ
- Saint Francis Xavier
- Lesson 9 Review

10 **Sacraments of Healing** 93

- The Woman Caught in Adultery
- God Offers Us Forgiveness and Healing
- Venerable Pope John Paul II
- Lesson 10 Review

11 **Sacraments at the Service of Communion** 101

- The Wedding at Cana
- Serving God Through Others
- Saints Joachim and Anne
  Saints Louis and Zélie Martin
- Lesson 11 Review





UNIT 3
The Christian Life



Being Catholic: Liturgical Prayer 109

12 **Created in God's Image** 113
- God Creates Man in His Own Image
- Created in the Likeness of God
- Saint Martin de Porres
- Lesson 12 Review

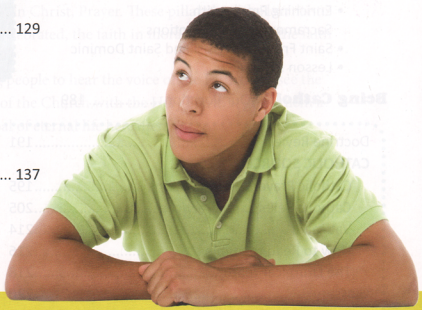
13 **The Fall of Man and the Gift of God's Grace** 121
- The Fall of Adam and Eve
- The Fall from Grace
- Saint Augustine
- Lesson 13 Review

14 **The Church as Mother and Teacher** 129
- Jesus Gives Authority to the Church
- The Church, Mother and Teacher
- Blessed Pope John XXIII
- Lesson 14 Review

15 **The Ten Commandments: Love the Lord Your God** 137
- The Ten Commandments
- Commandments 1–3: Love of God
- Saint Andrew Kim Taegon
- Lesson 15 Review

16 **The Ten Commandments: Love Your Neighbor** 145
- The Great Commandment
- Commandments 4–10: Love of Neighbor
- Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
- Lesson 16 Review

17 **Living the Beatitudes** 153
- The Beatitudes
- Living the Beatitudes
- Blessed Mother Teresa
- Lesson 17 Review





UNIT 4
Christian Prayer

Being Catholic: Christian Charity in Action 161

18 **Prayer in the Christian Life** 165
- The Parable of the Persistent Widow
- God Calls Us to Pray
- Saint Francis de Sales
- Lesson 18 Review

19 **The Lord's Prayer** 173
- The Lord's Prayer
- Jesus Teaches Us to Pray
- Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Lesson 19 Review

20 **Enriching Christian Prayer: Sacramentals and Devotions** 181
- Jesus Teaches About Prayer and Almsgiving
- Enriching Prayer with Sacramentals and Devotions
- Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Dominic
- Lesson 20 Review

Being Catholic: Our Vocation 189

Doctrine Review 191

CATHOLIC SOURCE BOOK

Catholic Prayers and Devotions 195
Catholic Beliefs and Practices 205
Vatican II 214
How to Read the Bible 216
The Liturgical Year 218

Glossary 220
Index 222



Two-sided pullout poster features a timeline of Church history events from the birth of Jesus through the election of Pope Benedict XVI, placed in the context of world history events from the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem to the election of the first African-American U.S. president.

LESSON 2

I Believe in God the Father

A Prayer of Praise

O LORD, our Lord,
how awesome is your name above all the earth!
You have set your majesty above the heavens!
What are humans that you are mindful of them,
mere mortals that you should care for them?
—Psalm 8:2, 5



Live It Out

God is our loving Father who looks after all our needs. How does a loving father care for his children? How do you live your life in a way that welcomes God as your loving Father?

BIBLE BOOST

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always.

The Father Sends the Holy Spirit

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus makes repeated references to God the Father, who calls us to share in eternal glory with him. In the following Scripture reading, Jesus tells his disciples that he will ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to those who believe in him.



Trinity, Andrei Rublev, 1411 (tempera on panel, Moscow)

SACRED SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always. Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

"I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."

—John 14:15–16, 23–26

START LIVING

When Jesus speaks to his disciples about the relationship they are to have with him and with God the Father, he tells them that God will be with those who follow his commandments and will provide to them all the help they need.

Describe one way that you try to live according to God's commandments, and one way that God helps you to do so.

The guidance that God gives us to live according to his commandments often comes through people in our lives. **Identify two people in your life who help you live as a follower of Jesus and at least one way that you can be more open to guidance from these people.**

Person who helps me follow Jesus	Ways I can be more open to this person's guidance

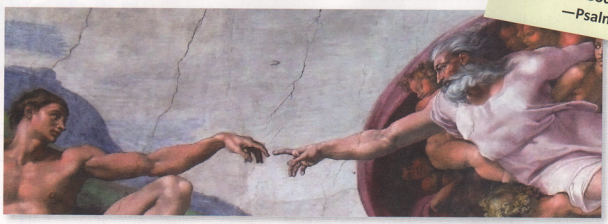


Stop and Think

Choose a phrase from the Scripture reading that can guide you in how you live your life. What is its message for you?

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION

As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God.
—Psalm 42:2



Creation of Adam, Michelangelo Buonarroti, c. 1510 (fresco, Sistine Chapel, Vatican City)

God, Our Loving Father

In the Old Testament, God gradually revealed himself to his people in deeds and in words, and through the **covenants** he made with our first parents, with Noah, and with Abraham and his descendants. In the New Testament we learn that it is in Jesus, his only Son, that God the Father establishes his covenant forever.

Through Noah, Abraham, and the law God gave to his people through Moses, the Jews of the Old Testament had come to believe in the one true God. But Jesus taught his followers more about God: that he is a loving Father, who looks after all our needs. Jesus also promised us that God would send the Holy Spirit to guide us to himself. The Holy Spirit guides the Church to do the work of Christ. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are Three Divine Persons in one God, the **Blessed Trinity**.

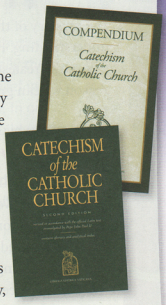
God the Father is the First Person of the Blessed Trinity. He is our loving Creator. He alone is the Creator of the universe, which he created freely and of his own will. Although the work of Creation is attributed to God the Father, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one, and are together the source of all Creation. God's love for us is everlasting, and was first shown to us when he created the world. He created us that we may live in communion with him, and he created the universe out of love for us, so that we may share in his goodness and glory.

As Catholics, we believe in one true God in Three Divine Persons. Although this mystery of the Blessed Trinity is beyond our ability to understand, it is the central mystery of our Christian faith.

CATECHISM Q&A

Q. Which of the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity is recognized as the Creator?

A. God the Father is recognized as the Creator, yet the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one and indivisible, and are together the source of Creation. (See *Compendium*, Question 52; *CCC*, 316.)



Q. What is the central mystery of our Christian faith?

A. The central mystery of our faith is the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, one God in Three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (See *Compendium*, Question 44; *CCC*, 261.)



Calendar Connection

The Nicene Creed

WHO The Fathers of the Church

WHAT The Nicene Creed, which expresses our belief in one God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We pray the Nicene Creed at Mass every Sunday.

WHERE Nicea, in modern-day Turkey

WHEN A.D. 325, at the Council of Nicea, and at the following three Church councils

WHY To develop a way of describing the mystery of the Trinity

KNOW and BELIEVE

God is our loving Father. He has a special love for every person, and a special plan for each of us. In what ways can you be more accepting of God's plan for you and more open to following his will?

KNOW IT!

covenant
in Scriptures, a sacred agreement between God and his people

Blessed Trinity
the one God in Three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit

SAINTLY *profiles*



The mystery of the Blessed Trinity is beyond our human understanding. However, Saint Thomas Aquinas, one of the Church's greatest thinkers, showed that through human reason we can grow in our knowledge of God and in our faith.

Saint Thomas Aquinas 1225–1274

Thomas Aquinas was born to a noble Italian family. At the age of five his family placed him in the care of the Benedictine monks at the monastery in Monte Cassino. Thomas showed exceptional intelligence from an early age, often asking his teachers, "Who is God?" When he was seventeen, Thomas joined the Dominican order of religious, despite his family's opposition. With the Dominicans, he began his studies at the University of Paris, where he studied theology and philosophy and later was a teacher.

Thomas Aquinas was a brilliant scholar, and his writings are a great contribution to our understanding about God. He viewed theology, or the study of God, as a science, drawn from the Scriptures and Church Tradition, and believed that both faith and logic were necessary for knowing God. In his greatest work, the *Summa Theologiae*, he wrote that God is eternal and is the cause of everything in the universe, and that through human reason, he can be known with certainty from his works.

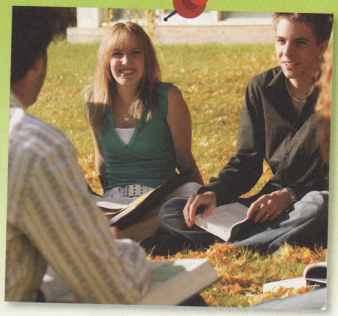
Aquinas's writings also help us understand the Blessed Trinity. He wrote that God is perfectly described by the Three Persons of the Trinity, where the Father sends the Son, who together with the Father generates an eternal Spirit—the Holy Spirit.

ALL ABOUT
SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

- One of the great teachers of the Catholic Church
- Asked by Pope Gregory X to participate in the Council of Lyon (1271–1276), but died on his way there
- Depicted in art holding a book or a church with rays of light emanating from his chest
- Symbols: Chalice, dove, and ox (because as a young student he was nicknamed "dumb ox"!)
- Canonized in 1323
- Named a Doctor of the Church in 1567

FEAST DAY: January 28
PATRONAGE: Catholic education

MAKE IT HAPPEN



Saint Thomas Aquinas made a great contribution to the Church by his brilliant writings, especially the *Summa Theologiae*, which showed that belief in God can be supported by faith and reason. In our own way, each of us is called to work to build up the Church.

Describe two ways in which you can build up the Church by helping others grow in their faith.

KNOW IT!



Triqueta

This is an early Christian symbol of the Blessed Trinity. The interwoven continuity of the symbol represents the unity of the Three Persons of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and its arc of equal length signify their equality.

LET US PRAY

The Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in Three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your Divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because you have revealed them, who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.

YOUR TURN

LESSON 2

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1 The mystery of _____ is the central mystery of our Christian faith.

a Scriptures
b the Holy Spirit
c the Blessed Trinity
d the Nicene Creed

2 In his greatest work, the *Summa Theologiae*, Saint _____ wrote that God is eternal, and that his existence can be proved by human reason.

a Thomas More
b Jerome
c Ignatius
d Thomas Aquinas

3 Jesus taught us that God _____ .

a is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity
b loves us only when we obey him
c is only the God of the Jews
d is a loving Father

4 A(n) _____ is a sacred agreement between God and his people.

a oath
b covenant
c creed
d ceremony

5 The creed we recite at Mass each Sunday is called the _____ .

a Nicene Creed
b Apostles' Creed
c *Summa Theologiae*
d Lord's Prayer

6 In the _____ , God gradually revealed himself to his people in words and in deeds.

a Old Testament
b New Testament
c *Summa Theologiae*
d Gospels

Respond to the following.

How did God the Father show his love for us through Creation?

In what ways can you respond to God's love for you?