

# Writing Our Catholic Faith

Revised Edition

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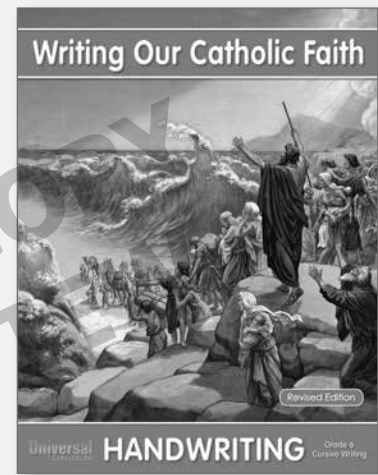
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# THE MAGNIFICAT

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden, for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the conceit of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree. He has filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

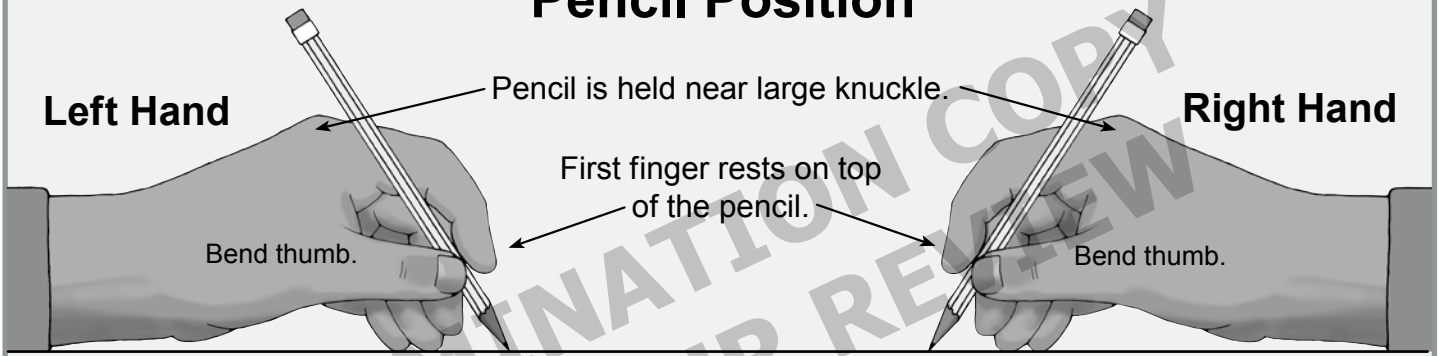
Write the prayer. Check your writing.

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FOR YOUR REVIEW

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**CHECK-UP**☐ Letter Spacing☐ Alignment☐ Letter Size☐ Word Spacing☐ Slant

## Pencil Position



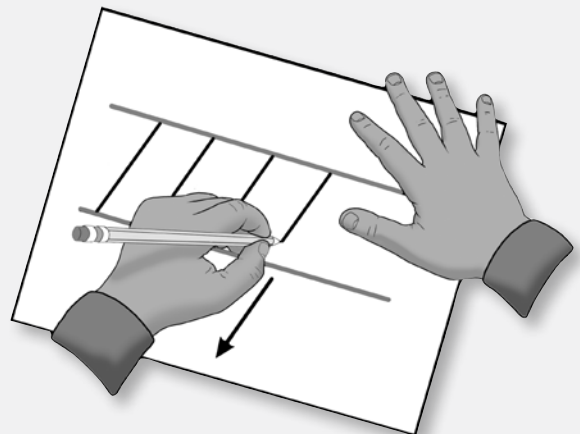
**Pencil Position:** You should hold the pencil in a manner that is comfortable and allows you to write fluently. Gripping the pencil too hard can cause fatigue in your hand, wrist, arm, and shoulder. Fatigue is a major cause of poor handwriting. The illustration above shows one of the most common ways to hold a pencil.

**Paper Position:** The position of your paper or book is important for maintaining consistent slant in your cursive writing. Consistent slant helps with the overall legibility of your handwriting. Study the paper position illustrations to the right.

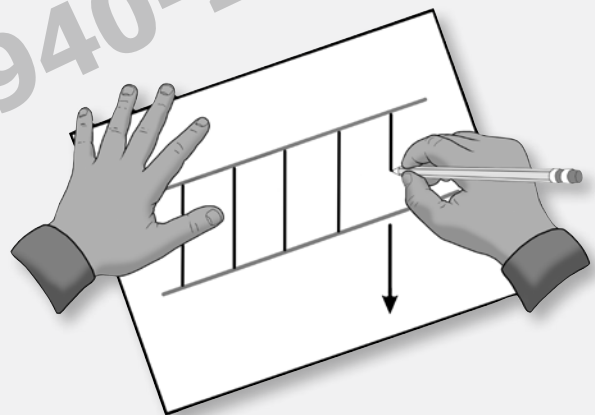
**Posture:** Listed below are five important elements that will help you maintain good posture while writing:

1. Keep both feet on the floor.
2. Keep your elbows just off the edge of the desk.
3. Sit back in your chair.
4. Keep your shoulders slightly forward, allowing both forearms to rest on the writing surface.
5. Be sure the desk is the proper height. Good body posture is impossible if the desk is too big (high) or too small (low) for your size.

## Paper Position for Cursive Writing



**LEFT HAND**



**RIGHT HAND**

# MANUSCRIPT ALPHABET

Write the manuscript letters, punctuation, and numerals directly below the models.

A a B b C c D d E e  
F f G g H h I i J j  
K k L l M m N n O o  
P p Q q R r S s T t  
U u V v W w X x Y y Z z  
. , ; : ' ? ! " " | 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

# CURSIVE ALPHABET

Write the cursive letters, punctuation, and numerals directly below the models.

A a B b C c D d E e  
F f G g H h I i J j  
K k L l M m N n O o  
P p Q q R r S s T t  
U u V v W w X x Y y  
Z z . , ; : ' ? ! " " | 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

## LETTER SPACING

This example shows good spacing between letters.  
Keep your letter spacing consistent for easy reading.

*This shows good letter spacing.*

Write the sentence. Check your spacing between letters.

*Anthony has a bright green tractor.*

## WORD SPACING

Allow enough space between words for a small oval.  
The example below shows good word spacing.

*This shows good word spacing.*

Write the sentence. Check your spacing between words.

*There are big fish in this stream.*

## SENTENCE SPACING

Allow enough space between sentences for a large oval. The example shows good sentence spacing.

*I heard thunder. I saw lightning.  
The wind blew hard. The storm  
is now over. The sun is shining.*

Write the two sentences below. Check your spacing between sentences.

*I have a horse. Her name is Flash.*

## PARAGRAPH SPACING

When you indent for a new paragraph, allow enough space for two large ovals. Study the example below.

*This shows correct indentation for  
a new paragraph.*

# LINE QUALITY

Line quality is the smoothness, evenness, color, and thickness of the pencil line.

## CORRECT

*blink*

- Consistent pressure on the pencil
- Good #2 pencil lead

## TOO HEAVY

*blink*

- Too much pressure on the pencil
- Pencil lead too soft

## TOO LIGHT

*blink*

- Not enough pressure on the pencil
- Pencil lead too hard

## VARYING

*blink*

- Varying pressure on the pencil
- Pencil lead too soft

# SIZE & ALIGNMENT

Size and alignment refer to the evenness of the letters along the bottom line and along their tops. All letters of the same size are even in height.

Maximum letters fill almost the entire writing space. All uppercase letters and the lowercase letters **b, f, h, k,** and **l** are maximum size.

*A B C D E F b f h k l*

Intermediate letters **d** and **t** fill approximately two-thirds of the writing space.

*d t*

Minimum letters fill approximately one-half of the writing space.

*a c e i m n o r s u v w x*

Descenders fill approximately one-half of the space below the bottom line.

*f g j p q y z Y Z*

Write the sentences.

Handwriting is a vehicle that carries a message to the reader. If the handwriting is illegible the message will never reach its destination. What you write, someone must read. Be sure it is legible.



**CHECK-UP**

☐ Letter Spacing

☐ Alignment

☐ Letter Size

☐ Word Spacing

# JOINING CURSIVE LETTERS

*ri be ol*

Joining one letter to another is what cursive writing is all about. Cursive means “flowing” or “continuous writing motion” where the letters are joined together. The joining stroke influences letter spacing, letter form, and slant. Study and then trace the joinings below.

*ri*

The undercurve-to-undercurve joining is easy because the ending stroke of the first letter is the same as the beginning stroke of the second letter.

*ge*

In the overcurve-to-undercurve joining, the overcurve changes into an undercurve at the bottom line.

*bi*

The checkstroke-to-undercurve joining never gets near the bottom line. The checkstroke ending swings right, into the top of the next letter.

## CHECKSTROKE JOININGS

The letters **b**, **o**, **v**, and **w** are checkstroke-ending letters. These letters join to the next letter above the bottom line. Study the examples below.

*br*

1. Pause, then retrace slightly.
2. Swing right forming the top of the letter **r**.

*oa*

1. Pause, swing wide right.
2. Swing right forming the top of the letter **a**.

*ve*

1. Pause, then retrace slightly.
2. Swing low and right forming the loop of the letter **e**.

*wo*

1. Pause, then retrace slightly.
- 2-3. Swing right, forming the top of the letter **o**.

Write each joining two times. Write the words.

*br*

*brief*

*brim*

*ve*

*veins*

*waive*

*wo*

*word*

*wool*

*oa*

*oats*

*boat*

*be*

*best*

*begin*

*oo*

*cook*

*pool*

## Pencil Position

**Left Hand**

Pencil is held near large knuckle.

**Right Hand**

First finger rests on top of the pencil.

Bend thumb.

Bend thumb.



# BASIC STROKES

The basic strokes are: slant, undercurve, downcurve, and overcurve.

## Slant

Trace and write the slant strokes. Is your book in the correct position?



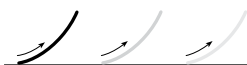
Study the slant strokes in the letters to the right.



Write the words **million**, **billion**, and **trillion**. Check your slant strokes.

## Undercurve

Trace and write the undercurves. Make your undercurves wide.



Study the undercurves in the letters to the right.



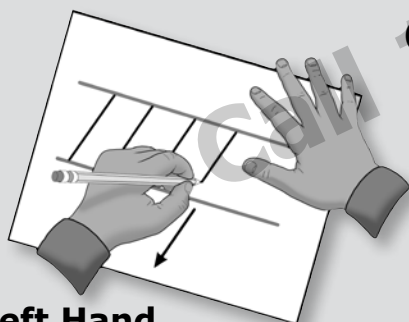
Trace and write the undercurve-slant exercises.



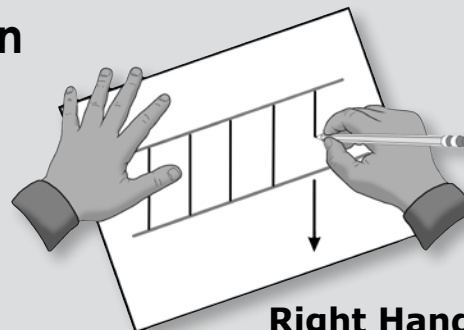
Write the words **maintaining**, **identified**, and **reference**. Check your undercurves.

## Cursive Paper Position

The position of your paper or book is important for maintaining consistent slant in your writing. It also helps with the overall legibility of your handwriting.



Left Hand



Right Hand



# BASIC STROKES

The basic strokes are the building blocks for cursive writing.

## Downcurve

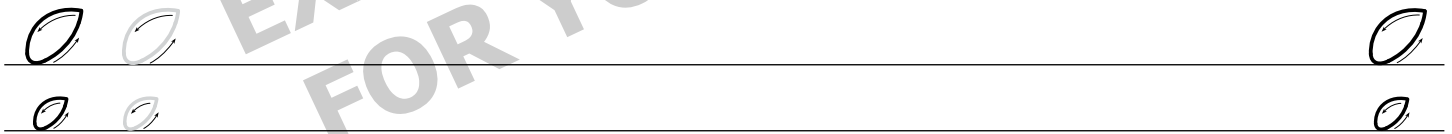
Trace and write the downcurves. Make your downcurves wide.



Study the downcurves in the letters to the right.



Trace and write the downcurve-undercurve strokes. Be sure you close the two strokes.



Write the words **addition**, **garage**, **drag**, and **gorge**. Check your downcurves.

## Overcurve

Write the tall and short overcurves. Make the overcurves wide.



Study the overcurves in the letters to the right.



Trace and write the overcurve-slant exercise.



Write the words **minimum**, **yummy**, and **gymnast**. Check your overcurves.

Write the sentence. **The cost of the new computer was minimal.** Check your basic strokes.

## Uppercase A



1. Downcurve
2. Undercurve
3. Slant
4. Undercurve

The initial direction of the downcurve is made wide to the left, then it curves down. The undercurve that follows ties to the beginning of the downcurve.

*A*

Trace and write the letter.

*a*

*a*

*a*

*a*

*a*

*a*

*a*

*a*

Write the joinings and words.

<i>An</i>	<i>Annunciation</i>	<i>As</i>	<i>Assumption</i>
<i>Ar</i>	<i>Ark of the Covenant</i>	<i>Ad</i>	<i>Advent</i>

Write the sentences. Check your writing.

*Another name for the Bible is  
Sacred Scripture. Sacred Scripture  
is the written Word of God. Sacred  
Scripture teaches us about God and  
the kind of life he wants us to  
live. During Mass, Sacred Scripture  
is read during the Liturgy of the Word.*



### CHECK-UP

☐ Letter Spacing

☐ Alignment

☐ Letter Size

☐ Word Spacing

☐ Slant

## Lowercase a



1. Downcurve
2. Undercurve
3. Slant
4. Undercurve

When you write the lowercase **a**, be sure to close the letter by joining the end of the undercurve to the beginning of the downcurve.



Trace and write the letter.

*a*

*a*

*a*

*a*

*a*

*a*

*a*

*a*

Write the joinings and words.

*ab*

*absolution*

*ad*

*adoration*

*al*

*altar*

*an*

*angel*

*ap*

*apostles*

*as*

*ascended*

Write the sentences. Check your writing.

*God inspired the authors of Sacred*

*Scripture in their writing. These*

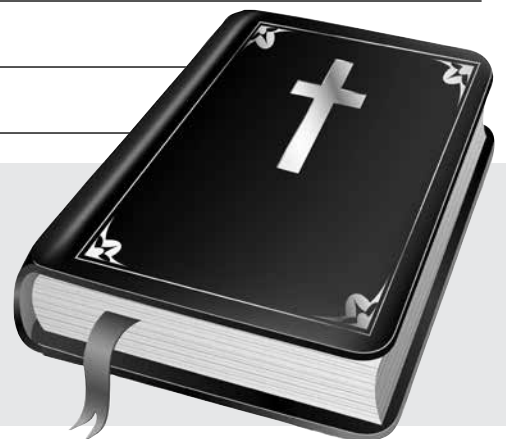
*authors used many different types*

*of writing such as parables, poems,*

*and proverbs.*

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*



## CHECK-UP

☐ Line Quality

☐ Letter Forms

☐ Word Spacing

☐ Slant

☐ Letter Spacing