Contents

Abbreviations ................................................................. ix
Sacred Scripture ........................................................... ix
Documents of the Second Vatican Council ......................... ix
Other Abbreviations ....................................................... ix
Preface ........................................................................... 1
Introduction .................................................................... 10

PART ONE
CATECHESIS IN THE CHURCH'S
MISSION OF EVANGELIZATION

CHAPTER I
REVELATION AND ITS TRANSMISSION

1. Jesus Christ, revealer and revelation of the Father ............ 19
   Revelation in God's providential plan .............................. 19
   Jesus proclaims the Gospel of salvation ......................... 21
2. Faith in Jesus Christ: the response to God who reveals himself . 22
3. The transmission of Revelation in the faith of the Church ... 25
   Revelation and evangelization ...................................... 27
   The process of evangelization ..................................... 28
4. Evangelization in the contemporary world ....................... 32
   A new stage of evangelization ...................................... 32
   Evangelization of cultures and inculturation of the faith .... 35
   Catechesis at the service of the new evangelization ........ 38
      Catechesis "in a missionary going forth" ..................... 39
      Catechesis under the sign of mercy ......................... 39
      Catechesis as a "laboratory" of dialogue .................... 41

CHAPTER II
THE IDENTITY OF CATECHESIS

1. The nature of catechesis .............................................. 42
   The intimate relationship between kerygma and catechesis . 43
   The catechumenate as a source of inspiration for catechesis 45
2. Catechesis in the process of evangelization ..................... 50
First proclamation and catechesis ........................................ 50
Catechesis of Christian initiation ........................................ 51
Catechesis and ongoing formation in the Christian life ............ 53
3. Goals of catechesis ...................................................... 54
4. Tasks of catechesis ...................................................... 56
   Leading to knowledge of the faith .................................. 56
   Initiating into the celebration of the Mystery ................. 57
   Forming for life in Christ ............................................ 58
   Teaching prayer .......................................................... 59
   Introduction to community life .................................... 60
5. Sources of catechesis ................................................... 61
   The Word of God in Sacred Scripture and in
   Sacred Tradition ....................................................... 61
   The Magisterium ........................................................ 63
   The liturgy ................................................................. 64
   The testimony of the saints and martyrs ...................... 66
   Theology ................................................................. 66
   Christian culture ...................................................... 67
   Beauty ................................................................. 69

CHAPTER III
THE CATECHIST
1. The identity and vocation of the catechist ...................... 72
2. The bishop as first catechist ......................................... 75
3. The priest in catechesis .............................................. 76
4. The deacon in catechesis ............................................ 77
5. Consecrated persons in the service of catechesis ............ 78
6. Lay catechists .......................................................... 79
   Parents, active participants in catechesis .................. 80
     Godfathers and godmothers, co-workers with the parents 81
   The service of grandparents for the
   transmission of the faith .......................................... 82
   The great contribution of women to catechesis .......... 83

CHAPTER IV
THE FORMATION OF CATECHISTS
1. The nature and goal of the formation of catechists ............ 85
2. The Christian community as privileged place of formation .... 86
3. Criteria for formation ............................................ 87
4. The dimensions of formation. .................................... 90
   Being and "knowing-how to be with": human and
   Christian maturity and missionary awareness .......... 91
   Knowledge: biblical-theological formation and the
   understanding of human beings and the social context ... 92
   Savoir-faire: pedagogical and methodological formation .... 95
5. The catechetical formation of candidates for Holy Orders .... 97
6. Centers for formation ............................................. 98
   Centers for the basic formation of catechists ............ 98
   Centers of specialization for officials and
   leaders of catechesis ........................................... 98
   Higher institutes for experts in catechetics ............... 99

PART TWO
THE PROCESS OF CATECHESIS

CHAPTER V
THE PEDAGOGY OF THE FAITH
1. The divine pedagogy in salvation history .................... 103
2. Pedagogy in the faith of the Church .......................... 106
   Criteria for the proclamation of the evangelical message ... 108
      The Trinitarian and Christological criterion ............ 108
      The criterion of salvation history ....................... 110
      The criterion of the primacy of grace and of beauty .... 111
      The criterion of ecclesiality ............................ 113
      The criterion of the unity and integrity of the faith ... 113
3. Catechetical pedagogy ........................................... 114
   Relationship with the human sciences ...................... 115

CHAPTER VI
THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
1. The Catechism of the Catholic Church ....................... 117
   Historical note .................................................. 117
   Identity, aim, and audience of the Catechism ............ 118
   Sources and structure of the Catechism .................... 119
The theological-catechetical significance of the *Catechism* ........................................ 120

2. The *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* .......................... 122

CHAPTER VII
METHODOLOGY IN CATECHESIS

1. The relationship between content and method ........................................ 123
   The plurality of methods ................................................................. 123

2. Human experience ............................................................................ 124

3. Memory ............................................................................................. 126

4. Language ........................................................................................... 127
   Narrative language ............................................................................ 128
   The language of art .......................................................................... 129
   Digital languages and tools .............................................................. 131

5. The group ......................................................................................... 133

6. Space ............................................................................................... 134

CHAPTER VIII
CATECHESIS IN THE LIVES OF PERSONS

1. Catechesis and the family ................................................................. 137
   Areas of family catechesis ................................................................. 137
   *Catechesis in the family* ................................................................. 137
   *Catechesis with the family* ............................................................. 138
   *The catechesis of the family* ......................................................... 139
   Pastoral guidelines ........................................................................ 140
   New family scenarios ...................................................................... 142

2. Catechesis with children and teenagers ............................................ 143

3. Catechesis in the realm of young people .......................................... 147
   Catechesis with pre-adolescents ..................................................... 148
   Catechesis with adolescents ........................................................ 150
   Catechesis with young people ....................................................... 151

4. Catechesis with adults ..................................................................... 154

5. Catechesis with the elderly .............................................................. 160

6. Catechesis with persons with disabilities ....................................... 161

7. Catechesis with migrants ................................................................ 163

8. Catechesis with emigrants .............................................................. 166
   Religious assistance in countries of emigration .............................. 166
Catechesis in the countries of origin ......................... 166
9. Catechesis with marginal persons .......................... 167
   Catechesis in prison ....................................... 168

PART THREE
CATECHESIS IN THE PARTICULAR CHURCHES

CHAPTER IX
THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AS PARTICIPANT IN CATECHESIS
1. The Church and the ministry of God's Word ............... 173
2. The Eastern Churches ...................................... 176
3. The particular churches .................................... 178
4. Parishes ...................................................... 180
5. Associations, movements, and groups of the faithful .... 184
6. Catholic schools ............................................. 186
7. The teaching of the Catholic religion in schools ........ 188

CHAPTER X
CATECHESIS IN THE FACE OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL SCENARIOS
1. Catechesis in situations of pluralism and complexity .... 192
   The urban context ......................................... 196
   The rural context ......................................... 197
   Traditional local cultures ................................ 198
   Popular piety .............................................. 201
    Shrines and pilgrimage .................................. 204
2. Catechesis in the context of ecumenism and religious pluralism .............................................. 204
   Catechesis in the ecumenical context ................. 205
   Catechesis in relation to Judaism .................... 207
   Catechesis in the context of other religions ........ 208
   Catechesis in the context of the new religious movements .............................................. 210
3. Catechesis in socio-cultural contexts ................. 211
   Catechesis and the scientific mentality ............ 211
   Catechesis and digital culture ......................... 215
General characteristics ........................................ 215
Anthropological transformation .............................. 217
Digital culture as religious phenomenon .................... 218
Digital culture and educational questions ................... 219
Proclamation and catechesis in the digital era ................ 220
Catechesis and some questions of bioethics ................. 222
Catechesis and the integrity of the person ................... 224
Catechesis and environmental engagement .................. 225
Catechesis and the option for the poor ....................... 228
Catechesis and social engagement ............................ 230
Catechesis and the work environment ....................... 231

CHAPTER XI
CATECHESIS AT THE SERVICE OF THE
INCULTURATION OF THE FAITH

1. Nature and goal of the inculturation of the faith .......... 233
2. Local catechisms .............................................. 237
   Guidelines for obtaining the necessary approval of the
   Apostolic See for catechisms and other writings relative
   to catechetical instruction .................................. 239

CHAPTER XII
THE ORGANISMS AT THE
SERVICE OF CATECHESIS

1. The Holy See ................................................. 241
2. The Synods of Bishops or Councils of the
   Hierarchy of the Eastern Catholic Churches ............... 242
3. The episcopal conference ..................................... 243
4. The diocese ................................................ 244
   The diocesan catechetical office and its tasks ............. 244
   Analysis of the situation .................................... 245
   Coordination of catechesis ................................. 246
   The diocesan project of catechesis ......................... 247
   The practical program ...................................... 248
   Formation of catechists .................................... 249
Conclusion ...................................................... 250
Thematic Index .................................................. 252