# Understanding Catholic Christianity Student Workbook

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<sup>\*</sup> This is a resource, not a handout.

### TEXT ACTIVITIES

### How to Use This Workbook

**Directions:** Use all of the lines to answer the questions—probably one or two per page—that your teacher assigns.

Look up the origin of some other custom associated with a Christian feast—like Easter eggs, the Easter bunny, or Christmas stockings. Write a brief explanation of how the custom got started.

#### The Liturgical Year: God's "Time" Enters Our Time

Write about a "dying and rising" experience you had in the last year—in other words, a time when you had to go through struggles or suffering to grow as a person.

### Through a Year of Grace

What is your favorite tradition of Christmastime? Describe in a paragraph why it means so much to you.

Choose one statement and explain your choice in writing: I would prefer to have (a) more time in my personal life that is ordinary rather than extraordinary, (b) more time that is extraordinary rather than ordinary, or (c) an equal mixture of both.

(5) Last year I tried out for the play, and got a part. In the first few rehearsals, I was really SELF-conscious and felt stupid on stage. I wouldn't talk loudly enough, or "pretend" to use props that weren't there. At home, I worried I would ruin the play, I was so bad. I wanted to quit. Later, I got botter and found I was pretly good! I want to try out again this year. 6 on Christmas Eve, my Family reads certain stories. We read from the Bible, The Night Before Christmas, and The Polar Express. We take turns reading, and pass the books around. I love this because it brings us all together on Christmas Eve, and we are all part of it. We do it every year, and it's part of what Christmas means to me

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### Chapter 1

### IDENTITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Becoming Who You Are Called to Be

### Unique in All the World

Have you been told about your origins about how your parents met, the circumstances of your coming into the world, the day or night you were born? If you were adopted and do not know about your biological parents, have you been told about the day you came to live with your family? Write about any stories you have been told.

Find four photos of yourself, one taken recently and three from younger ages. For the "you" in each photo, describe in writing a memory you have (or have been told) that expresses what you were like at each age.

If you are Catholic and have celebrated your first Communion, try to locate a photo of yourself on that occasion. Recall what you felt on that day. Then write a paragraph comparing your attitude toward religion at the time of your first Communion with what you feel about it now.


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#### 4

Recall images of God or religious beliefs held by young children that now seem humorous to you. Draw upon your own childhood as well as that of other children you know. Briefly describe a couple of these humorous images in writing.

#### 5

In a one-page essay, answer this question: Why are you taking this course, and how do you feel about it?

#### 6

What are the gifts and givens in your life? In a paragraph, summarize what has been given to you as part of your heritage or background.

# Adolescence: Journeying from Childhood to Adulthood

Do boys experience the same social pressure as girls to measure up to certain physical standards of attractiveness? Explain briefly in writing.

### 8

Based on current magazine and TV ads, describe in writing what is considered attractive nowadays in women's looks. Then answer this question: *How are most teenage girls likely to feel about themselves when compared with this standard?* 

#### 9

Write down five suggestions for parents on how they might respond positively to the growing independent thinking, or intellectual independence, of their adolescent children.

### 10

Explain, in writing, whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: *Boys tend to treat girls as sex objects, but girls do not tend to treat boys as sex objects.* 

### 11

Write about some change each of the young people described in the text is going through at either the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, or spiritual level. Then compare those changes with what you are going through at each of those levels.

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