A CATECHISM OF CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

APPROVED BY THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS OF IRELAND

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PRAYERS

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. (An Indulgence of 100 days; with holy water, 300 days).

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

THE HAIL MARY

Hail Mary! full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary! Mother of God, pray for us, sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

THE GLORY BE

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.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into
heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

THE CONFEITEOR

I confess to Almighty God, to blessed Mary ever Virgin, to blessed Michael the Archangel, to blessed John the Baptist, to the holy apostles Peter and Paul, and to all the saints, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore I beseech the blessed Mary ever Virgin, blessed Michael the Archangel, blessed John the Baptist, the holy apostles Peter and Paul, and all the saints, to pray to the Lord our God for me.

May the almighty God have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant me pardon, absolution, and remission of my sins. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE THE ACTS

O almighty and eternal God! grant unto us an increase of faith, hope and charity; and that we may obtain what Thou hast promised, make us to love and practise what Thou commandest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AN ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God! I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest my sins above every other evil, because they displease Thee, my God, who for thy infinite goodness art so deserving of all my love; and I firmly resolve, by Thy holy grace, never more to offend Thee, and to amend my life. (An Indulgence of three years: A Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions if recited daily for an entire month).

AN ACT OF FAITH

O my God! I firmly believe that Thou art one only God, the Creator and Sovereign Lord of heaven and earth, infinitely great and infinitely good. I firmly believe that in Thee, one only God, there are three Divine Persons, really distinct, and equal in all things—the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost. I firmly believe that God the Son, the Second Person of the most Holy Trinity, became man; that He was conceived of the Holy Ghost and was born of the Virgin Mary; that He suffered and died on a cross to redeem and save us; that He arose the third day from the dead; that He ascended into heaven; that He will come at the end of the world to judge mankind; that He will reward the good with eternal happiness, and condemn the wicked to the everlasting pains of hell. I believe these and all other articles which the Holy Catholic Church proposes to our belief, because Thou, my God, the infallible Truth, hast revealed them, and because Thou hast commanded
us to hear the Church, which is the pillar and the ground of truth. In this faith I am firmly resolved, by Thy holy grace, to live and die. (Matt. xviii, 17; I. Tim. iii, 15). (An indulgence of three years: A plenary indulgence under the usual conditions if recited daily for an entire month).

AN ACT OF HOPE

O my God! Who hast graciously promised every blessing, even heaven itself, through Jesus Christ, to those who keep thy commandments; relying on thy infinite power, goodness, and mercy, and on thy sacred promises, to which Thou art always faithful, I confidently hope to obtain pardon of all my sins, grace to serve Thee faithfully in this life by doing the good works Thou hast commanded, and which, with thy assistance, I now purpose to perform, and eternal happiness in the next, through my Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. (An indulgence of three years: A plenary indulgence under the usual conditions if recited daily for an entire month).

AN ACT OF CHARITY

O my God! I love Thee with my whole heart and soul, and above all things, because Thou art infinitely good and perfect, and most worthy of all my love: and for thy sake I love my neighbour as myself. Mercifully grant, O my God! that having loved Thee on earth, I may love and enjoy Thee for ever in heaven. Amen. (An indulgence of three years: A plenary indulgence under the usual conditions if recited daily for an entire month).
A Short Act of Faith

O my God! I believe in Thee and in all that Thou teachest through Thy Holy Church, because Thy word is true.

A Short Act of Hope

O my God! I hope in Thee for all the graces that I need for my eternal salvation and for heaven itself, because Thou art infinitely powerful, good and merciful and because Thou art faithful to Thy word.

A Short Act of Charity

O my God! I love Thee above all things, because Thou art infinitely good, and for Thy sake I love my neighbour as myself.

A Short Act of Contrition

O my God! I am heartily sorry for all my sins, because they offend Thee, who art infinitely good, and I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, never to offend Thee again. (An indulgence of three years for each of these Acts: A plenary indulgence under the usual conditions if recited daily for an entire month).

The Angelus

1. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:
   And she conceived of the Holy Ghost.
   Hail Mary! etc.
2. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
   Be it done unto me according to Thy word.
   Hail Mary! etc.

3. And the Word was made flesh:
   And dwelt among us.
   Hail Mary! etc.
   Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
   That we may be made worthy of the promises
   of Christ.

Let us pray

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may, by His passion and cross, be brought to the glory of His resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the divine assistance always remain with us.

And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. (Indulgence of 10 years).

Regina Coeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia.
For He, Whom thou wast worthy to bear, Alleluia.
Has risen, as He promised. Alleluia.
Pray for us to God. Alleluia.
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia.
R. Because the Lord has truly risen. Alleluia.

Let us pray

O God, Who didst deign to gladden the world
by the Resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus
Christ; grant, we pray, that through the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may enter into the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord. R/. Amen.

HAIL, HOLY QUEEN

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! (An indulgence of 5 years. A plenary indulgence once a month under the usual conditions for the daily recitation of this prayer).

THE MEMORARE

The Prayer of St. Bernard

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the Word incarnate, do not reject my petition, but graciously hear and grant it. Amen. (An indulgence of 3 years. A plenary indulgence once a month under the usual conditions for the daily recitation of this prayer).

EN EGO

Behold, O good and most sweet Jesus, I cast myself upon my knees in Thy sight, and with the most fervent desire of my soul I pray and beseech Thee to impress upon my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity, with true repentance for my sins and a most firm desire of amendment: whilst with deep affection and grief of soul I consider within myself and mentally contemplate thy five most precious Wounds, having before mine eyes that which David, the prophet, long ago spoke in thine own person concerning Thee, O good Jesus: They have pierced my hands and my feet; they have numbered all my bones (Ps. xxi, 17-18). (The faithful who recite this prayer devoutly before an image of Jesus Christ Crucified, may gain an indulgence of 10 years, and a plenary indulgence if, moreover, they go to Confession, receive Holy Communion and pray for the Pope's intentions).

GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which of thy bounty we are about to receive, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GRACE AFTER MEALS

We give Thee thanks, Almighty God, for all thy benefits; who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen. (An indulgence of 300 days). May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
MORNING OFFERING

O my God! I offer Thee all the thoughts, words and actions of this day for thy greater honour and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANOTHER MORNING OFFERING

(Apostleship of Prayer)

O Jesus! through the most pure heart of Mary, I offer Thee all my prayers, works and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of thy Sacred Heart, and particularly for the intentions of our Holy Father the Pope.

PRAYER TO OUR ANGEL GUARDIAN

O Angel of God, my guardian dear
To whom his love commits me here;
Ever this day be at my side
To light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

(An indulgence of 300 days).

INDULGENCED PRAYERS

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I offer you my heart and my soul.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.

(300 days' indulgence).

THE CHIEF SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. To admonish sinners.
2. To instruct the ignorant.
3. To counsel the doubtful.
4. To comfort the sorrowful.
5. To bear wrongs patiently.
6. To forgive all injuries.
7. To pray for the living and the dead.

THE CHIEF CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. To feed the hungry.
2. To give drink to the thirsty.
3. To clothe the naked.
4. To visit the imprisoned.
5. To shelter the homeless.
6. To visit the sick.
7. To bury the dead.

THE EIGHT BEATITUDES

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.
3. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
4. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill.
5. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

The Five Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation to Our Lady that she was to be the Mother of God.
2. The Visitation of St. Elizabeth by Our Blessed Lady.
4. The Presentation of the Infant Jesus in the Temple.

The Five Sorrowful Mysteries

2. The Scourging of Our Lord at the Pillar.
3. The Crowning of Our Lord with Thorns.
5. The Crucifixion and Death of Our Saviour on the Cross.

The Five Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection of Our Divine Lord from the dead.
4. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven.
5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Heaven.
Part I

THE CREED

CHAPTER I

GOD: HIS NATURE AND PERFECTIONS

* 1. Who made the world?
   God made the world.

* 2. Who is God?
   God is our Father in heaven, the Creator and Lord of all things.

* 3. Why do we call God our Father?
   We call God our Father, because He gave us life and provides for us with fatherly care.

* 4. Had God a beginning?
   God had no beginning: He always was, and always will be; He is eternal.

* 5. Can God do all things?
   God can do all things; He is almighty.

* 6. Where is God?
   God is everywhere, but in a special way He is in heaven, where He is seen by the angels and saints.

Note: The * indicates the easier questions which should be memorised by the smaller children.

* 7. If God is everywhere, why do we not see Him?
   We do not see God, because He is a spirit, and therefore cannot be seen with bodily eyes.

* 8. Does God see us?
   God sees us, for nothing is hidden from His all-seeing eye (Heb. iv, 13).

* 9. Does God know all things?
   God knows all things, past, present and to come, even our most secret thoughts and actions.

* 10. Is God holy, just and merciful?
   Yes, God is infinitely holy, just and merciful.

* 11. Why do we call God just?
   We call God just, because He will reward the good and punish the wicked.

CHAPTER II

THE UNITY AND TRINITY OF GOD

* 12. What is meant by the unity of God?
   By the unity of God is meant that there is only one God and there cannot be more than one.

13. Why can there be only one God?
   There can be only one God, because God is supreme and infinite.
14. What do we mean by the Blessed Trinity?
   By the Blessed Trinity we mean that in the one God there are three divine persons, really distinct and equal in all things, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

15. Is the Father God?
   The Father is God and the first person of the Blessed Trinity.

16. Is the Son God?
   The Son is God and the second person of the Blessed Trinity.

17. Is the Holy Ghost God?
   The Holy Ghost is God and the third person of the Blessed Trinity.

18. Are the three divine persons one and the same God?
   The three divine persons are one and the same God, because they have one and the same divine nature.

19. Can we understand how there can be three divine persons in the one God?
   We cannot fully understand this truth, because our human minds are limited and therefore cannot fully understand the infinite God (Rom. xi, 33).

20. How do we show our belief in the Blessed Trinity?
   We show our belief in the Blessed Trinity especially by making the sign of the Cross.

21. How do we make the sign of the Cross?
   We make the sign of the Cross by putting the right hand to the forehead, then under the breast, then to the left and right shoulders, saying: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

CHAPTER III

CREATION AND THE ANGELS

22. How did God make the world?
   God created the world, that is, He made it out of nothing.

23. Why did God make the world?
   God made the world for his own glory and for man's use and benefit.

24. Which are the chief creatures of God?
   The chief creatures of God are angels and men.

25. What are angels?
   Angels are pure spirits created by God for his glory and for his service.
26. What gifts did God give the angels when He created them?
   When God created the angels, He gave them very great knowledge, power and grace.

*27. Did the angels remain faithful to God?
   Some of the angels remained faithful to God; others, through pride, rebelled against Him.

*28. How did God reward the angels who remained faithful?
   God rewarded the angels who remained faithful by giving them the happiness of heaven forever.

*29. Do the good angels help us?
   The good angels help us by praying for us and by acting as our guardians.

*30. Has each of us a guardian angel?
   Each of us has a guardian angel who prays for him, protects him from harm and helps him to do good.

*31. How did God punish the angels who rebelled?
   God punished the angels who rebelled by condemning them to the everlasting pains of hell.

*32. Who is the leader of the bad angels?
   The leader of the bad angels is called Satan or the Devil.

*33. Do the Devil and his angels try to harm us?
   The Devil and his angels try to harm us chiefly by tempting us to sin (I. Pet. v, 8).

Chapter IV
MAN AND THE PURPOSE OF HIS CREATION

*34. What is man?
   Man is a creature composed of body and soul, and made by God to his own likeness.

*35. In what is man made like to God?
   Man is made like to God in his soul.

*36. How is man's soul like to God?
   Man's soul is like to God because it is a spirit, capable of knowing and loving God.

37. How do we know that the soul is a spirit?
   We know that the soul is a spirit, because man thinks, reasons and freely wills.

*38. Is man's soul immortal?
   Man's soul is immortal, that is, it can never die.

*39. Why did God make us?
   God made us to know, love and serve Him here on earth, and, by this means, to be happy with Him forever in Heaven.

40. How can we know God?
   We can know God by our reason and from divine revelation.
41. How can we know God by our reason?

We can know God by our reason from the existence, order and beauty of the world which He has made.

42. What do we mean by divine revelation?

By divine revelation we mean that God has made known to us certain truths about Himself and our duties to Him.

43. How has God made known these truths?

God has made known these truths to us through his chosen messengers, and especially through his Divine Son, Jesus Christ.

44. Where are the truths of revelation to be found?

The truths of revelation are to be found in Sacred Scripture and Tradition.

45. What do we mean by Sacred Scripture?

By Sacred Scripture we mean the books of the Bible, which were all so written under the inspiration of God that He is truly their author.

46. What do we mean by Tradition?

By Tradition we mean those revealed truths not written in the Bible, but handed down to us by the Church.

47. Which prayer contains the principal truths that God has revealed?

The principal truths that God has revealed are contained in the Apostles' Creed.

48. Are there some truths revealed by God that we cannot fully understand?

There are some truths revealed by God that we cannot fully understand; these truths are called mysteries of religion.

49. Why do we believe mysteries of religion?

We believe mysteries of religion because they were made known to us by God who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

Chapter V

OUR FIRST PARENTS: ORIGINAL SIN

*50. Who were the first man and woman?

The first man and woman were Adam and Eve, the first parents of the whole human race.

*51. What special gifts did God give our first parents?

God gave our first parents sanctifying grace, full control of their passions, and freedom from suffering and death.

*52. Did God intend the special gifts of Adam and Eve for their descendants also?

Yes; God would have given these gifts to the descendants of our first parents, if Adam, the head of the human race, had obeyed his command.
*53. What special command did God give Adam and Eve?
   God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit of a certain tree in the Garden of Paradise.

*54. Did Adam and Eve obey the command of God?
   Adam and Eve did not obey the command of God: they were tempted by the devil, and ate the forbidden fruit.

*55. How were our first parents punished by God for their sin?
   Our first parents lost sanctifying grace and their other special gifts, and were driven out of the garden of Paradise.

56. Have we, the children of Adam, suffered because of his sin?
   Because of Adam’s sin, we are born without sanctifying grace, our intellect is darkened, our will is weakened, our passions incline us to evil, and we are subject to suffering and death.

*57. How do we call the state in which we are born because of the sin of Adam?
   The state in which we are born because of the sin of Adam is called the state of original sin.

58. Why is original sin so called?
   Original sin is so called because it comes down to us through our origin, or descent from Adam, the head of the human race.

*59. Was any human person ever preserved from original sin?
   The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, was preserved free from original sin, and this privilege is called her Immaculate Conception.

CHAPTER VI
ACTUAL SIN

*60. What is actual sin?
   Actual sin is the sin which we ourselves commit by any wilful thought, word, deed or omission contrary to the law of God.

*61. How many kinds of actual sin are there?
   There are two kinds of actual sin: mortal sin and venial sin.

*62. When is a sin mortal?
   A sin is mortal when the act is grievously wrong, and is committed with clear knowledge and full consent.

*63. Why is mortal sin so called?
   The word mortal means deadly, and a sin is called mortal, because it takes away the supernatural life of the soul, which is sanctifying grace.

64. What other evil effects has mortal sin?
   Mortal sin takes away the friendship of God, the merit of good works already performed, and the right to heaven.
*65. Where do they go who die in mortal sin?
They who die in mortal sin go to hell for all eternity.

*66. When is a sin venial?
A sin is venial when the act is not grievously wrong, or is committed without clear knowledge or without full consent.

67. What are the effects of venial sin?
Venial sin makes us less fervent in the service of God, weakens our power to resist temptation, and renders us liable to punishment by God in this life or in purgatory, but it does not deprive the soul of sanctifying grace.

68. What are the capital or deadly sins?
The capital or deadly sins are: pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and sloth.

69. Why are they called capital sins?
They are called capital sins, because they are the chief vices in which sin has its source.

70. How are people led to commit sin?
People are led to commit sin by the temptations of the devil, by their own evil passions, and by sinful occasions.

*71. What is an occasion of sin?
By an occasion of sin is meant any person, place or thing, that entices us to sin.

*72. How can we avoid committing sin?
We can avoid sin, by being on our guard against temptation, by practising self-denial and by praying earnestly for the grace of God (John xv, 5; Mark xiii, 33; viii, 34).

CHAPTER VII

THE INCARNATION

*73. What is meant by the Incarnation?
The Incarnation means that God the Son, the second person of the Blessed Trinity, became man.

*74. Why did God the Son become man?
God the Son became man to redeem us from sin, and to restore to us the life of divine grace.

75. Did God the Son become man soon after the fall of our first parents?
God the Son did not become man for thousands of years after the fall of our first parents.

76. In what condition was mankind before the Incarnation?
Before the Incarnation, mankind was steeped in idolatry, ignorance of the true religion and vice (Rom. i, 21–32).
77. How could they be saved who lived before the Incarnation?

They who lived before God the Son became man could be saved by believing in the Redeemer to come and by keeping the law of God.

*78. How did God the Son become man?

God the Son became man by taking a body and soul like ours, in the chaste womb of the Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Ghost (Luke i, 35).

*79. On what day did God the Son become man?

God the Son became man on the day of the Annunciation, about two thousand years ago.

80. Why is the day of the Annunciation so called?

The day of the Annunciation is so called, because on that day the Angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary: Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus (Luke i, 31).

*81. What is the meaning of the word Jesus?

The word Jesus means Saviour; and this name was given to the Son of God made man, because He was to save his people from their sins (Matt. i, 21).

*82. Why is Jesus also called Christ?

Jesus is called Christ, that is the Anointed, because He was the anointed Redeemer promised by God.
83. What do we believe Jesus Christ to be?  
We believe Jesus Christ to be true God and true man.

84. Who is the Father of Jesus Christ?  
God is the Father of Jesus Christ: St. Joseph was his foster-father or guardian.

85. Is the Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of God?  
The Blessed Virgin Mary is the mother of God, because Jesus Christ her Son is truly God.

86. On what day was Christ born?  
Christ was born on Christmas Day in a stable at Bethlehem.

87. How long did Christ live on earth?  
Christ lived on earth about thirty-three years and led a most holy life, in poverty and suffering.

88. How did Christ spend the early years of his life on earth?  
Until He was about thirty, Christ lived in subjection to his parents at Nazareth, and helped by his labours to provide for the needs of the home.

89. How did Christ spend the last years of his life?  
Christ spent the last years of his life preaching to the people, instructing his apostles and disciples, healing the sick and working many other miracles.

90. Did Jesus Christ claim to be God?  
Yes; Jesus claimed to be truly God, and proved his claim by the wonderful miracles which He worked (John v, 36–38).

91. Who were the disciples of Jesus?  
The disciples of Jesus were the men and women who believed in Him.

92. Who were the apostles of Jesus?  
The apostles were the twelve men specially chosen by Our Divine Lord to preach his doctrine to mankind.

Chapter VIII  
THE REDEMPTION

93. What is meant by the Redemption?  
By the Redemption is meant that Jesus Christ made atonement to God for our sins and merited for us the grace by which, from being enemies of God, we can become his adopted children (John i, 12).

94. How did Christ redeem us?  
Christ redeemed us by his sufferings and by his death on the Cross.

95. How did Christ die?  
On Good Friday Christ was crucified on Mount Calvary and died nailed to the Cross.

96. Who condemned Christ to death?  
Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, condemned Christ to death at the desire of the Jews.
97. What lessons do the sufferings and death of Christ teach us?
   The sufferings and death of Christ teach us the wickedness of sin, the necessity of penance and the greatness of God's love for us.

98. How do we show our belief in the Redemption?
   We show our belief in the Redemption by making upon ourselves the sign of the Cross.

99. Where did Christ's soul go after his death?
   After Christ's death his soul descended into hell; this was not the hell of the damned, but a place or state of rest called limbo.

100. Who were in limbo?
   The souls of the just who died before Christ were in limbo, awaiting the redemption.

101. Why were the souls of the just detained in limbo?
   The souls of the just were detained in limbo, because heaven was shut against mankind by the sin of Adam, and was opened only by the death of Christ.

102. Why did Christ descend into limbo?
   Christ descended into limbo to announce to the just the joyful news of their redemption (I. Pet. iii, 19).

103. Where was Christ's body, while his soul was in limbo?
   While Christ's soul was in limbo, his body was in the tomb.
104. Did Christ rise from the dead?

On Easter Sunday, the third day after his death, Christ arose, body and soul, glorious and triumphant, from the dead.

105. What does the resurrection of Christ prove?

By raising Himself from the dead Christ proved that He is truly God (John ii, 19-22).

106. How long did Christ remain on earth after his resurrection?

Christ remained on earth forty days after his resurrection, to show that He was truly risen from the dead and to instruct his apostles.

107. When did Christ ascend into heaven?

On Ascension Thursday, forty days after his resurrection, Christ ascended from Mount Olivet, body and soul, into heaven.

108. Where is Christ in Heaven?

In heaven, Christ sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

109. What do we mean when we say that Christ sits at the right hand of God?

We mean that while Christ as God is equal to the Father in all things, as man He is in the highest place in Heaven, next to God in power and glory.

110. What do we mean when we say: from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead?

We mean that on the last day Christ will come again to judge all men according to their works.
CHAPTER IX

THE HOLY GHOST AND GRACE

*111. Did Christ make any special promise to his apostles before He ascended into Heaven?
Before He ascended into heaven, Christ promised his apostles that He would send the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, to teach them all things, and to abide with them forever (John xiv, 16, 26).

*112. On what day did the Holy Ghost descend on the apostles?
On Pentecost or Whit Sunday, ten days after the Ascension, the Holy Ghost descended on the apostles in the form of tongues of fire (Acts ii, 2-4).

*113. Why did Christ send the Holy Ghost?
Christ sent the Holy Ghost to teach and strengthen his apostles, and to guide and sanctify his Church until the end of time.

114. How does the Holy Ghost guide and sanctify the Church?
The Holy Ghost guides and sanctifies the Church by dwelling in it, by enlightening its rulers, and by making its members holy through the gift of grace.

115. What is grace?
Grace is a supernatural gift bestowed on us by God for our salvation.

*116. How many kinds of grace are there?
There are two kinds of grace: sanctifying grace and actual grace.

*117. What is sanctifying grace?
Sanctifying grace is that grace which makes the soul holy and pleasing to God, and confers on it a new and supernatural life which makes it share in the nature of God Himself (II. Pet. i, 4).

118. What other effects has sanctifying grace?
Sanctifying grace makes us the adopted children of God, the temples of the Holy Ghost and heirs to the kingdom of heaven.

*119. Is sanctifying grace necessary for salvation?
Sanctifying grace is necessary for salvation, for without it we are the enemies of God and have not a right to the kingdom of heaven.

*120. What is actual grace?
Actual grace is a special help given to us by God to do good acts and avoid sin.

*121. Is actual grace necessary for salvation?
Actual grace is necessary for all who have reached the use of reason, for without it we can do nothing to merit heaven.

*122. What are the principal means of obtaining grace?
The principal means of obtaining grace are prayer and the sacraments.

123. Can we merit grace and a heavenly reward?
Provided we are in the state of grace, we can, by our good works, merit an increase of grace and eternal life (I. Cor. x, 31).
CHAPTER X

THE VIRTUES: THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY GHOST

124. What are the chief supernatural gifts bestowed on us with sanctifying grace?
The chief supernatural gifts that we receive with sanctifying grace are the three divine virtues and the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost.

125. What is a virtue?
A virtue is a habit which enables or disposes us to do good acts.

126. Which are the three divine virtues?
The three divine virtues are faith, hope and charity.

127. Why are faith, hope and charity called divine virtues?
These virtues are called divine, because they have God for their direct object.

128. What is faith?
Faith is the divine virtue by which we firmly believe the truths revealed by God.

129. Why do we believe the truths revealed by God?
We believe the truths revealed by God, because He can neither deceive nor be deceived.

130. What is hope?
Hope is the divine virtue by which we desire and firmly expect eternal happiness with God Himself and the means to obtain it.
131. Why do we hope in God?

We hope in God, because He has promised us eternal life, and because He is infinitely powerful, good and merciful and is faithful to His promises.

132. What is charity?

Charity is the divine virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God.

133. Why should we love God above all things?

We should love God above all things, because He is infinitely good.

134. Why should we love our neighbour for the love of God?

We should love our neighbour for the love of God, because He is made to the image and likeness of God, and is destined for eternal happiness with God in heaven.

135. Name the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost?

The seven gifts of the Holy Ghost are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and the fear of the Lord.

136. How do the gifts of the Holy Ghost help us?

The gifts of the Holy Ghost help us by making us more alert to see the things of God and more prompt to obey His will.

137. What are the principal virtues that help us to do our duty to our neighbour and ourselves?

The principal virtues that help us to do our duty to our neighbour and ourselves are the four cardinal virtues, prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.

CHAPTER XI

THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH

138. What is the Church?

The Church is the visible society founded by Christ Himself, to continue on earth His work of teaching, sanctifying and ruling mankind, for their eternal salvation.

139. To whom did Christ give power to govern His Church?

Christ gave to St. Peter and the other apostles and to their lawful successors the power to teach, sanctify and rule the members of His Church.

140. Did Christ found only one Church?

Jesus Christ founded only one Church, for He declared: there shall be one fold and one Shepherd (John x, 16).

141. Did Christ give to His Church any marks by which it can be clearly known?

Yes; Christ gave His Church four marks: He intended His Church to be one, holy, catholic and apostolic (John x, 16; Eph. v, 25–27; Matt. xxiv, t4; Eph. ii, 20).
142. Which of the many bodies claiming to be the Church is the one true Church founded by Christ?
   The Catholic Church is the one true Church founded by Christ, because it alone has the four marks of the true Church.

143. How is the Catholic Church one?
   The Catholic Church is one, because all its members profess the same faith, have the same sacrifice and sacraments, and obey the same visible head on earth.

144. How is the Catholic Church holy?
   The Catholic Church is holy, because its doctrines, sacraments and sacrifice enable men to become holy, and because so many of its members have been eminent for holiness in all ages.

145. How is the Catholic Church catholic or universal?
   The Catholic Church is catholic or universal, because by its nature it is not limited to any nation, but has existed in every age, and has spread throughout the world.

146. How is the Catholic Church apostolic?
   The Catholic Church is apostolic, because it traces back its origin to the apostles, is governed by their successors and teaches their doctrine.

147. Are these four marks to be found in any other body claiming to be the Church of Christ?
   No: these four marks are found only in the Catholic Church: other bodies are divided among themselves in faith and worship, or have not the means of holiness, or are not catholic or apostolic.

*148. Must everyone belong to the Catholic Church?
   Everyone must belong to the Catholic Church, and no one can be saved who, through his own fault, remains outside it.

149. Who are the members of the Catholic Church?
   The members of the Catholic Church are all baptised persons who profess the faith it proposes, partake of its sacrifice and sacraments and are governed by the Pope and the Bishops united with him.

150. Will the Church last to the end of the world?
   The Church will last to the end of the world because Christ has promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it, and that He will be with it all days, even to the end of the world (Matt. xvi, 18; xxviii, 20).

CHAPTER XII

THE RULERS OF THE CHURCH

*151. Who is the head of the Church?
   Our Lord Jesus Christ is the invisible head of the Church, which is his Mystical Body.

*152. Has the Church a visible head on earth?
   The Pope, who is bishop of Rome, is Christ’s vicar on earth and visible head of the Church.

*153. Why is the Pope the visible head of the Church?
   The Pope is the visible head of the Church
because he is the successor of St. Peter, who was chief of the apostles, and first bishop of Rome.

154. When did Christ promise to make St. Peter head of the Church?

Christ promised to make St. Peter head of the Church when He said to him: *Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church... and I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Matt. xvi, 18-19).*

155. When did Christ fulfill his promise and make St. Peter head of the Church?

Christ made St. Peter head of the Church when, after the resurrection, He said to him: *Feed my lambs, feed my sheep (John xxii, 15-17).*

156. What power has the Pope over the Church?

The Pope, as successor of St. Peter has supreme power over the whole Church and every part of it, in matters of faith, of morals and of discipline.

*157. Who are the successors of the other apostles?

The bishops of the Holy Catholic Church are the successors of the other apostles.

158. Is the Church infallible?

The Church is infallible, that is, it cannot err, when it teaches doctrines of faith and morals to be held by all the faithful.

159. How do we know that the Church is infallible?

We know that the Church is infallible, because Christ promised the apostles and their successors that He would send the Holy Ghost to guide and teach them, and that He Himself would be with them all days, even to the end of the world.

160. Who in the Church can teach infallibly?

The infallible teachers in the Church are the Pope, and the general body of the bishops united with the Pope.

161. What is the authority of the bishop in his own diocese?

The bishop in his own diocese has power from God to teach, to sanctify and to rule the faithful, in subjection to the Pope, and in accordance with the laws of the Church.

162. How can the faithful help the Church?

The faithful can help the Church in its work, by defending it against attack, by being active members of Catholic societies, and by giving good example in their own lives.

**CHAPTER XIII**

**THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

*163. What is meant by the Communion of Saints?

By the Communion of Saints is meant the union of the faithful on earth, the blessed in heaven, and the souls in purgatory, under Jesus Christ as their head.*
*164. Can the blessed in heaven help the souls in purgatory and the faithful on earth?

The blessed in heaven can help the souls in purgatory and the faithful on earth by praying for them.

*165. Can the faithful on earth help the souls in purgatory?

The faithful on earth can help the souls in purgatory by prayer and good works, by indulgences and especially by the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

166. Can the faithful on earth help one another?

The faithful on earth can help one another by their prayers and good works.

167. What is meant by the forgiveness of sins?

By the forgiveness of sins is meant that Christ has given to the pastors of his Church the power of forgiving sins.

CHAPTER XIV

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY AND LIFE EVERLASTING

168. What is death?

Death is the separation of the soul from the body; it is part of the penalty now incurred by mankind because of original sin.

*169. Is every soul judged immediately after death?

Every soul is judged immediately after death, and this is called the particular judgment. Sacred
Scripture says: *It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment* (Heb. ix, 27).

170. What happens at the particular judgment?

At the particular judgment souls in the state of grace are judged worthy of heaven, and souls in the state of mortal sin are condemned to hell.

**171. What is heaven?**

Heaven is the place or state of perfect happiness where the blessed see and enjoy God for ever.

172. What does Sacred Scripture say of the happiness of heaven?

Sacred Scripture says: *Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard: nor hath it entered into the heart of man, what things God hath prepared for them that love Him* (I. Cor. ii, 9).

173. Do the souls in the state of grace enter heaven immediately after the particular judgment?

Souls in the state of grace enter heaven immediately after the particular judgment, if they are fully purified from sin and its effects; otherwise they go to purgatory.

**174. What is purgatory?**

Purgatory is a place or state of punishment in the next life, where souls are purified before they can enter heaven.

**175. What souls go to purgatory?**

The souls of those who die in venial sin, or who have not fully satisfied for the temporal punishment due to sin, go to purgatory.

*176. What is hell?*

Hell is a place or state of punishment in the next life, where the wicked undergo everlasting suffering with the Devil and his angels.

177. How do they suffer who are condemned to hell?

They who are condemned to hell are deprived of the vision of God, and suffer dreadful torments, especially that of fire, for all eternity.

**178. What is meant by the resurrection of the body?**

*The resurrection of the body* means that on the last day the bodies of all men will rise again, united to their souls.

**179. What is meant by the last day?**

By the last day is meant the day of general judgment, when *the Son of Man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels: and then will He render to everyone according to his works* (Matt. xvi, 27).

180. If every soul is judged immediately after death, why should there be a general judgment?

A general judgment is required in order that the providence of God, which sometimes permits the good to suffer and the wicked to prosper in this life, may appear just before all men.

181. How will the bodies of the just rise?

The bodies of the just will rise like the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, glorious and immortal.
182. What will Christ say to the just on the last day?

Christ will say to the just on the last day: *Come, ye blessed of my Father, possess you the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world (Matt. xxv, 34).*

183. How will the bodies of the damned rise?

The bodies of the damned will not rise glorious, but they will be immortal, to share in the everlasting punishment of the soul.

184. What will Christ say to the wicked on the last day?

Christ will say to the wicked on the last day: *Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, which was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt. xxv, 41).*

185. What does life everlasting mean?

*Life everlasting* means that, if we serve God faithfully in this life, we shall see, love and enjoy Him for ever in heaven.

186. What is the meaning of the word *Amen*?

By the word *Amen* is meant *so be it:* at the end of the Apostles' Creed it expresses our firm belief in all the doctrines that the Creed contains.
187. Besides believing the truths which God has revealed, what else must we do to be saved?
Besides believing the truths which God has revealed, we must keep his commandments.

188. Which are the commandments of God?
The commandments of God are these ten:
First: I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.
Second: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
Third: Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.
Fourth: Honour thy father and thy mother.
Fifth: Thou shalt not kill.
Sixth: Thou shalt not commit adultery.
Seventh: Thou shalt not steal.
Eighth: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
Ninth: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife.
Tenth: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods. (Exod. xx, 2-17).

189. Repeat the first commandment?
The first commandment is: I am the Lord thy God: thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.

190. What are we required to do by the first commandment?
By the first commandment we are required to adore God, that is, humbly to acknowledge his infinite excellence and our complete dependence upon Him.

191. How do we adore God?
We adore God by acts of faith, hope and charity, by prayer, and especially by the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

192. What does faith oblige us to do?
Faith obliges us to believe what God has revealed, to learn the truths of our religion, and to profess them openly when necessary.

193. How can we know with certainty what God has revealed?
We can know with certainty what God has revealed from the teaching of his Church, which is the pillar and the ground of truth (I. Tim. iii, 15).

194. What does hope oblige us to do?
Hope obliges us to trust firmly that God will give us eternal life and the means to obtain it.

195. What does charity oblige us to do?
Charity obliges us to love God above all things for his own sake and our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God.
Chapter XVI

SINS FORBIDDEN BY
THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

196. What is forbidden by the first commandment?
The first commandment forbids all sins against faith, hope and charity and other duties of religion.

197. How does a person sin against faith?
A person sins against faith by not believing the truths revealed by God, by not learning

them, by denying them, or by not professing them openly.

198. What does Christ say of those who deny His teaching?
Christ says: He that shall deny me before men, I will also deny him before my Father who is in heaven (Matt. x, 33).

199. When are we bound to profess our faith openly?
We are bound to profess our faith openly, as often as God’s honour, our own spiritual good or the good of our neighbour requires it.

200. Are we bound to avoid dangers to faith?
Yes, we are bound under pain of sin to avoid dangers to our faith.

201. What are the principal dangers to faith?
The principal dangers to faith are: attendance at non-catholic worship or schools, marriage with non-catholics, and books or companions hostile to the Church or its teaching.

202. What are the sins against hope?
The sins against hope are despair and presumption.

203. What is despair?
Despair is the refusal to trust in God for the graces necessary for salvation.

204. What is presumption?
Presumption is a foolish expectation of salvation without making use of the means necessary to obtain it.
205. What are the principal sins against charity?
The principal sins against charity are hatred of God or of our neighbour, and the sin of scandal.

206. What is scandal?
By scandal is meant any word, act or omission, which tends to lead another into sin.

207. What else is forbidden by the first commandment?
The first commandment also forbids idolatry, superstition and sacrilege.

208. What is Idolatry?
Idolatry is the sin of giving to a creature the supreme worship of adoration, which is due to God alone.

209. Is it lawful to honour the angels and saints and to pray to them?
It is lawful to honour the angels and saints and to pray to them, because they are the friends of God, and can help us by their powerful intercession with Him.

210. Should we honour the Blessed Virgin more than any other saint?
We should honour the Blessed Virgin more than all the angels and saints, because she is the Mother of God.

211. Is it lawful to honour the crucifix, holy images and relics?
It is lawful to honour the crucifix, holy images and relics, because, in honouring them, we honour Christ and his saints, whom they recall to our minds.

212. What is superstition?
Superstition is any express or implied appeal to the Devil for his help.

213. What are the chief kinds of superstition?
The chief kinds of superstition are magic, charms, spells, fortune-telling and spiritualism.

214. What is sacrilege?
It is sacrilege to violate the sacred character of a person, place or thing consecrated to God.

CHAPTER XVII
THE SECOND AND THIRD COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

215. What is the second commandment of God?
The second commandment of God is: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

216. What is forbidden by the second commandment?
The second commandment forbids us to speak with irreverence of God or his saints, or of sacred persons and things.

217. What is commanded by the second commandment?
We are commanded by the second commandment to speak with reverence of God and of his saints, and of sacred persons and things, and to keep our lawful oaths and vows.
218. How should we use the name of God?
We should always use the name of God with
great respect and reverence.

219. What is a vow?
A vow is a binding promise made to God to
do something that is especially pleasing to Him.

220. What is an oath?
An oath is the calling of God to witness that
what we say is true, or that we will do what we
promise.

221. When is an oath lawful?
For an oath to be lawful we must have
sufficient reason for taking it, and we must say
only what is true, or promise only what is lawful.

222. What are the chief sins against the second com-
mandment?
The chief sins against the second command-
ment are blasphemy, perjury and cursing.

223. What is blasphemy?
It is blasphemy to express contempt of God,
or of sacred persons or things in so far as they
are dedicated to God.

224. What is perjury?
It is perjury to take a false oath, that is,
to swear to be true what we know to be false.

225. Is perjury a great sin?
Perjury is a most grievous sin, because it
is a great insult to God to call Him as witness
to a lie.

226. What is cursing?
It is cursing to call on God to inflict evil on
any person or thing.

227. What is the third commandment of God?
The third commandment of God is: Remember
that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

228. What day is now the Sabbath day?
The Church has appointed Sunday to be the
Sabbath or the Lord's Day, because it was on
Sunday Our Lord rose from the dead, and the
Holy Ghost descended on the apostles.

229. How are we to keep holy the Lord's day?
The Church commands us to keep holy the
Lord's day by assisting at Mass and abstaining
from servile work.

230. What is servile work?
Servile work is that which requires labour of
body rather than of mind.

231. Is it ever lawful to engage in servile work on Sunday?
It is lawful to engage in servile work on
Sunday, when an urgent need of ourselves or our
neighbour or the service of God requires it.

232. Are we recommended to perform other good works
on Sunday?
We are recommended to sanctify the Lord's
day by such good works as attending evening
devotions, reading religious books and papers,
and visiting the sick.
233. Is it lawful to take part in games and other amusements on Sundays?

It is lawful to take part in games and other amusements on Sundays, provided they do not interfere with assistance at Mass, and are not forbidden by God or his Church.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

234. What is the fourth commandment of God?

The fourth commandment of God is: Honour thy father and thy mother.

*235. What is commanded by the fourth commandment?

We are commanded by the fourth commandment to love, honour and obey our parents.

236. How are we to love our parents?

We are to love our parents by wishing them well, by being kind to them in word and deed, and by helping them in their necessities.

237. How are we to honour our parents?

We are to honour our parents by treating them always with respect, by showing gratitude to them and by bearing patiently with their faults and weaknesses.
238. How are we to obey our parents?

We are to obey our parents while under their care by doing readily what they command, provided it be not sinful.

239. What are the chief duties of parents?

The chief duties of parents are: to provide for their children, to watch over and correct them, and by instruction and good example to lead them to God.

240. Does the fourth commandment oblige us to respect and obey others besides our parents?

Besides our parents, the fourth commandment obliges us to respect and to obey all our lawful superiors, both spiritual and temporal.

241. What are the chief duties of employers?

The chief duties of employers are: to pay their employees a just wage, to treat them kindly as brothers in Christ, and to help them to observe their moral and religious duties.

242. What are the chief duties of employees?

The chief duties of employees are: to work honestly, to obey the lawful commands of their employer, and to safeguard his property when committed to their care.

243. What are our chief duties as citizens?

Our chief duties as citizens are: to love and serve our country, and to respect and obey the lawful government.

244. How do we love and serve our country?

We love and serve our country principally by observing its laws, defending its rights, voting honestly, and paying just taxes.

245. Why should we respect and obey the lawful government?

We should respect and obey the lawful government because its authority comes from God.

246. Is it sinful to join a society that plots against the lawful government?

Yes; it is a mortal sin to join a society that plots to overthrow by force or other sinful measures the lawful government.

247. What are the chief duties of those who hold public office?

The chief duties of those who hold public office are: to be just and impartial and to promote the general welfare.

248. What is the fifth commandment of God?

The fifth commandment of God is: Thou shalt not kill.

249. What is forbidden by the fifth commandment?

The fifth commandment forbids murder and suicide, and all other acts that inflict bodily injury on ourselves or on others.
250. What else is forbidden by the fifth commandment?
The fifth commandment also forbids drunkenness, quarrelling, anger and revenge, because they lead to injury of ourselves or of others.

251. What are they bound to do who have caused bodily injury to others?
They who have inflicted bodily injury on others are bound to make good the loss they have caused.

252. What are we commanded by the fifth commandment?
We are commanded by the fifth commandment to take reasonable care to preserve our own life and health and to avoid causing bodily injury to others.

253. What is the sixth commandment?
The sixth commandment is: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

254. What is the purpose of the sixth commandment?
The purpose of the sixth commandment is to safeguard the sanctity of marriage and to maintain right conduct between men and women.

255. What is forbidden by the sixth commandment?
The sixth commandment forbids not only adultery, but all looks, words and actions against the virtue of chastity.

256. What are the chief dangers to chastity?
The chief dangers to chastity are idleness, intemperance, bad companions, improper dances, immodest dress, company-keeping, and indecent conversation, books, plays and pictures.

257. What are the chief means of preserving chastity?
The chief means of preserving chastity are: to be modest in our dress and conduct, to avoid the occasion of sin, to cultivate devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and above all to seek the help of God through prayer and the sacraments.

Chapter XIX

The Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Commandments of God

258. What is the seventh commandment of God?
The seventh commandment of God is: Thou shalt not steal.

259. What is forbidden by the seventh commandment?
The seventh commandment forbids us to take, to keep or to damage unjustly, what belongs to another.

260. What is commanded by the seventh commandment?
We are commanded by the seventh commandment to be honest in all our dealings with others, to pay our lawful debts, and to give every one his own.
261. What are they bound to do who have injured, or stolen, or who unjustly keep the property of others?

They who have injured, or stolen, or who unjustly keep the property of others, are bound to repair the injury or restore the property.

262. What is the eighth Commandment of God?

The eighth commandment of God is: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

263. What is forbidden by the eighth commandment?

The eighth commandment forbids us to tell lies, to injure our neighbour’s character or to make known his secrets.

264. Is a lie always sinful?

A lie is always sinful, and nothing can excuse it; it is a mortal sin when it does serious injury to our neighbour.

265. What sins injure our neighbour’s character?

Our neighbour’s character is injured chiefly by the sins of rash judgment, calumny and detraction.

266. What is rash judgment?

Rash judgment is the sin committed by those who, without sufficient reason, believe something injurious to another’s character.

267. What is calumny?

Calumny is the sin committed by those who, by lying statements, injure the good name of another.

268. What is detraction?

Detraction is the sin committed by those who, without sufficient reason, make known the hidden faults of another.

269. Why are we obliged to keep secrets?

We are obliged to keep secrets because the interest of our neighbour and the public good require it.

270. What must they do who have injured their neighbour’s character?

They who have injured their neighbour’s character must restore his good name, and repair any other injury done him.

271. What is commanded by the eighth commandment?

We are commanded by the eighth commandment to speak the truth in all things, especially in what concerns our neighbour.

272. What is the ninth commandment of God?

The ninth commandment of God is: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife.

273. What is forbidden by the ninth commandment?

The ninth commandment forbids all deliberate pleasure in impure thoughts, and all deliberate consent to impure desires.

274. What should one do when tempted by impure thoughts or desires?

A person tempted by impure thoughts or desires should at once pray for grace to resist them, turn his mind to good thoughts, and occupy himself with useful activities.
275. What is the tenth commandment of God?
   The tenth commandment of God is: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods.

*276. What is forbidden by the tenth commandment?
   The tenth commandment forbids all envy and jealousy of our neighbour's good fortune and position.

277. To how many commandments may the ten commandments be reduced?
   The ten commandments may be reduced to the two great commandments of charity, namely: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind; and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself (Matt. xxii, 37-39).

278. How do we show our love for God?
   We show our love for God by keeping his commandments. If you love Me, says Christ, keep my commandments (John xiv, 15).

279. Who is my neighbour?
   My neighbour is all mankind, even those who injure me, or differ from me in religion.

280. How are we to love our neighbour as ourselves?
   We are to love our neighbour as ourselves according to the golden rule of charity, given us by Our Lord: As you would that men should do to you, do you also to them in like manner (Luke vi, 31).

281. Are we obliged to love our enemies?
   We are obliged to love our enemies. Love your enemies, says Christ, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that persecute and calumniate you (Matt. v, 44).

CHAPTER XX

THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE CHURCH

*282. Are we bound by any other commandments besides the ten commandments of God?
   Besides the ten commandments of God, we are also bound by the commandments of the Church, which are chiefly six.

*283. Which are the chief commandments of the Church?
   The chief commandments of the Church are:
   First: To hear Mass on Sundays and holy-days of obligation.
   Second: To fast and abstain on the days appointed.
   Third: To confess our sins at least once a year.
   Fourth: To receive worthily the Blessed Eucharist at Easter time.
   Fifth: To contribute to the support of our pastors.
   Sixth: To observe the marriage laws of the Church.
284. Who gave the Church the power to make commandments?
Christ gave the Church the power to make commandments when He said to His apostles: *Whatsoever you shall bind upon earth shall be bound also in heaven* (Matt. xviii, 18).

285. Has the Church power to dispense in her commandments?
The Church has power to dispense in her commandments, because the spiritual good of her children sometimes requires it (Luke xiii, 15; Matt. xvi, 19).

286. Repeat the first commandment of the Church?
The first commandment of the Church is: to hear Mass on Sundays and holy-days of obligation.

287. What sin do they commit who do not assist at Mass on a Sunday or holy-day of obligation?
They who, through their own fault, do not assist at Mass on a Sunday or holy-day of obligation commit a mortal sin.

288. Why were holy-days instituted by the Church?
Holy-days were instituted by the Church to recall to our minds the great mysteries of religion, and the virtues and rewards of the saints.

289. Are we bound to abstain from unnecessary servile work on holy-days?
We are bound to abstain from unnecessary servile work on holy-days, except where lawful custom has removed the obligation.

290. Repeat the second commandment of the Church?
The second commandment of the Church is: to fast and abstain on the days appointed.

291. What are fast days?
Fast days are days on which we are allowed only one full meal.

292. Is any other food allowed on fast days besides the one full meal?
Besides the one full meal we are also allowed a smaller meal in the morning and the evening, in accordance with approved custom.

293. Who are bound to observe fast days?
All those between the ages of twenty-one and sixty are bound to observe fast days, unless they are excused or dispensed.

294. On what days are we bound to fast?
We are bound to fast on the week-days of Lent, the Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays of Quarter Tense, and certain vigils.

295. What are days of abstinence?
Days of abstinence are days on which we are forbidden the use of flesh-meat and its products.

296. Who are bound to observe days of abstinence?
Those who have completed their seventh year are bound to observe days of abstinence.

297. Why does the Church command us to fast and abstain?
The Church commands us to fast and abstain
in order that, by mortifying ourselves, we may do penance for our sins, and be better able to control our passions.

298. Why does the Church appoint Friday as a day of abstinence?

The Church appoints Friday as a day of abstinence to remind us of our Saviour’s death on Good Friday.

CHAPTER XXI

THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE CHURCH

(Continued)

299. Repeat the third commandment of the Church.

The third commandment of the Church is: to confess our sins at least once a year.

300. Who are bound by the law of yearly confession?

They who have committed mortal sin are bound by the law of yearly confession.

301. Do they who make a bad confession satisfy the law of yearly confession?

They who make a bad confession fail to satisfy the law of yearly confession, and also commit the sin of sacrilege.

302. Repeat the fourth commandment of the Church.

The fourth commandment of the Church is: to receive worthily the Blessed Eucharist at Easter-time.

303. Who are bound to receive the Blessed Eucharist at Easter-time?

All who have reached the use of reason are bound to receive worthily the Blessed Eucharist at Easter-time, that is, in Ireland, from Ash Wednesday to Trinity Sunday.

304. Is it a sin not to receive the Blessed Eucharist at Easter-time?

It is a mortal sin to neglect one’s Easter duty, that is, not to receive worthily the Blessed Eucharist at Easter-time.

305. Repeat the fifth commandment of the Church.

The fifth commandment of the Church is: to contribute to the support of our pastors.

306. Who are bound to contribute to the support of their pastors?

All the faithful, according to their means, are bound to contribute to the support of their pastors.

307. Why does the Church oblige us to contribute to the support of our pastors?

The Church oblige us to contribute to the support of our pastors, in order that they may be able to devote themselves to our spiritual care, and because the Lord ordained that they who preach the Gospel should live by the Gospel (I. Cor. ix, 14).

308. Repeat the sixth commandment of the Church.

The sixth commandment of the Church is: to observe the marriage laws of the Church.
309. How must the marriage of a Catholic be celebrated?

The marriage of a Catholic must be celebrated in the presence of an authorised priest and two witnesses, otherwise it would be no true marriage in the sight of God and of His Church.

310. Is the marriage of a Catholic in a registry office, or before a non-Catholic minister, a true marriage?

The marriage of a Catholic in a registry office, or before a non-Catholic minister, is not a true marriage, and a Catholic who lives as husband or wife after such a marriage, is living in sin.

311. Does the Church forbid marriage between certain persons?

Yes; the Church forbids marriage between certain persons, as, for instance, between near relatives, or between a Catholic and a non-Catholic.

312. Why does the Church forbid marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic?

The Church forbids marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic, because such mixed marriages are a danger to the faith of the Catholic party, break the unity of the home, and make difficult the Catholic upbringing of the children.

Part III

PRAYER AND THE SACRAMENTS

Chapter XXII

PRAYER: THE LORD'S PRAYER AND THE HAIL MARY

*313. What is necessary to enable us to keep the commandments?

To keep the commandments we need the grace of God, which is obtained chiefly by prayer and the sacraments.

*314. What is prayer?

Prayer is a raising up of the mind and heart to God, to adore and praise Him, to thank Him for His favours, to beg His grace and blessings, and to obtain pardon of our sins.

*315. When should we pray?

We should pray very often, but especially on Sundays and holy-days, every morning and every night, and in all dangers, temptations and afflictions.

316. How should we pray?

We should pray with a humble and contrite heart, with attention and perseverance, with confidence in God's goodness and resignation to His will, and in the name of Jesus Christ.
317. What prayers are most recommended to us?
   The prayers most recommended to us are the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Apostles' Creed, the Confiteor, and acts of contrition, faith, hope and charity.

318. Who made the Our Father?
   Our Lord Jesus Christ made the Our Father and therefore it is called the Lord's Prayer.

319. Whom do we mean by Our Father when we say the Lord's Prayer?
   By Our Father in the Lord's Prayer we mean Almighty God, who is the common Father of all.

320. What do we mean when we say hallowed be thy name?
   When we say hallowed be thy name, we pray that God's name may be praised and glorified.

321. What do we mean when we say thy kingdom come?
   When we say thy kingdom come, we pray that God by his grace may reign in the hearts of all men in this life, and that they may reign for ever with Him in the next.

322. What do we mean when we say thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven?
   When we say thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, we pray that all men may obey God on earth as the angels and saints do in heaven.

323. What do we mean when we say give us this day our daily bread?
   When we say give us this day our daily bread, we ask God for all things necessary and useful for soul and body.

324. What do we mean when we say forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them who trespass against us?
   When we say forgive us our trespasses, we ask God to forgive us our offences against Him, as we forgive those who offend us.

325. What does Our Divine Lord say of those who will not forgive offences?
   Our Divine Lord says: If you will not forgive men, neither will your Father forgive you your offences (Matt. vi, 15).

326. What do we mean when we say lead us not into temptation?
   When we say lead us not into temptation, we ask God to preserve us from temptation, and to strengthen us in all our trials.

327. What do we mean when we say deliver us from evil?
   When we say deliver us from evil, we ask God to keep us from all evil of soul and body, and particularly from sin.

328. Who made the Hail Mary?
   The Angel Gabriel and St. Elizabeth made the first part of the Hail Mary, and the Church made the second part.
329. Why do we so frequently repeat the *Hail Mary*?
We frequently repeat the *Hail Mary* to recall the mystery of the Incarnation, to honour the Mother of God, and to obtain her assistance, especially at the hour of death.

330. What is the Rosary?
The Rosary is a prayer in honour of the Blessed Virgin in which we repeat in a fixed order the *Our Father* and *Hail Mary*, and meditate on the chief mysteries of the Redemption.

331. Does the Church recommend the Rosary?
Yes; the Church strongly recommends the Rosary and especially the practice of reciting it in common as the prayer of the Christian family.

**Chapter XXIII**

**THE SACRAMENTS IN GENERAL**

*332. What is a sacrament?*
A sacrament is a sensible or outward sign instituted by Christ to signify grace and confer it on our souls.

*333. Whence have the sacraments the power of giving grace?*
The sacraments have the power of giving grace from the merits of Christ, which they apply to our souls.
334. Do the sacraments always give grace?
   To those who receive them worthily the sacraments always give sanctifying grace, and a special help to attain the purpose for which each sacrament has been instituted.

*335. How many sacraments are there?
   There are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders and Matrimony.

336. Which are the sacraments of the dead?
   Baptism and Penance are called the sacraments of the dead, because they forgive sin, and thus give the life of grace to souls that are dead in sin.

337. Which are the sacraments of the living?
   All the other sacraments are called sacraments of the living, because they were instituted to give increase of spiritual life to souls already in the state of grace.

338. Which sacraments can be received only once?
   Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders can be received only once, because they imprint on the soul a character or spiritual mark which lasts for ever.

*339. Is it a great sin to receive a sacrament unworthily?
   It is a mortal sin of sacrilege to receive a sacrament unworthily.

Chapter XXIV

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

*340. What is Baptism?
   Baptism is the sacrament which first gives to our souls the new life of sanctifying grace, cleanses us from original sin, makes us children of God, members of the Church of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of heaven.

341. Does Baptism remit actual sins already committed?
   Baptism remits actual sins already committed, and all the punishments due to them, if the person receiving it has true sorrow for his sins.

*342. Who can give the sacrament of Baptism?
   Every person has the power to give Baptism but, except in case of necessity, only a priest can lawfully give it.

*343. How does a person give Baptism?
   A person gives Baptism by pouring water on the head of the person to be baptised, saying at the same time: I baptise thee in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

*344. Is Baptism necessary for salvation?
   Baptism is necessary for salvation, because our Divine Lord has said: Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Ghost, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God (John iii, 5).
345. Can persons be saved who have not received the sacrament of Baptism?

They who have not received the sacrament of Baptism can be saved by martyrdom, which is called Baptism of blood, or by perfect contrition, which is called Baptism of desire.

346. What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the sacrament through which the Holy Ghost is given to us, with his graces and his seven gifts, to make us strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ.

347. Who has the power to give Confirmation?

The bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation but, in his absence, the parish priest can give it to a person in danger of death.

348. How does the bishop give Confirmation?

The bishop gives Confirmation by the imposition of hands, making the sign of the Cross with chrism on the forehead of the person to be confirmed, and saying: 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.

349. Why does the bishop give those he confirms a stroke on the cheek?

The bishop gives those he confirms a stroke on the cheek to remind them that they are soldiers of Christ, and that for his sake they must be ready to suffer anything, even death itself, rather than deny the faith.

350. What is necessary to receive Confirmation worthily?

To receive Confirmation worthily it is necessary to be in the state of grace; and they who have reached the use of reason should be sufficiently instructed in Christian doctrine.

351. What is the special grace given in Confirmation?

Confirmation gives us a special help to profess our faith with fortitude and to die rather than deny it.

CHAPTER XXV

THE BLESSED EUCHARIST

352. What is the Blessed Eucharist?

The Blessed Eucharist is the sacrifice and sacrament of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, under the appearances of bread and wine.

353. When did Christ institute the Blessed Eucharist?

Christ instituted the Blessed Eucharist at his Last Supper when, taking bread and wine, He said: This is my body; This is my blood; and then, giving power to his apostles to do what He had done, said to them: Do this for a commemoration of me (Matt. xxvi, 28; Mark xiv, 22; Luke xxii, 19).

354. Have the priests of the Church power to change bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ?

The priests of the Church have power to change bread and wine into the body and blood...
of Christ, because they have received this power from Christ through the apostles and their successors in every age.

I. THE REAL PRESENCE

355. What do we mean by the Real Presence?

By the Real Presence we mean that our Lord Jesus Christ is really, truly and substantially present in the Blessed Eucharist.

* 356. Is Jesus Christ present, whole and entire, under the appearances of bread and wine?

Jesus Christ is present, whole and entire, body and blood, soul and divinity, under the appearance of bread, and under the appearance of wine.

357. What do we mean by the appearances of bread and wine?

By the appearances of bread and wine we mean the taste, colour and form of bread and wine, which still remain after the substance of the bread and wine has been changed into the body and blood of Christ.

* 358. How do the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ?

The bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ by the power of God, to whom nothing is impossible.

* 359. When does a priest change bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ?

The priest changes bread and wine into the
body and blood of Christ at the consecration of the Mass, when he repeats the words of Christ: 
This is my body; This is my blood.

360. Why did Christ institute the Blessed Eucharist?
Christ instituted the Blessed Eucharist in order that we might have an acceptable sacrifice to offer to God, and a heavenly food to nourish our souls.

II. **The Sacrifice of the Mass**

361. What is the sacrifice of the Blessed Eucharist usually called?
The sacrifice of the Blessed Eucharist is usually called the Mass.

* 362. What is a sacrifice?
A sacrifice is the offering of a victim to God, by a priest, to acknowledge that He is the supreme Lord over us and over all things.

363. Did Christ when on earth offer a sacrifice to God?
Yes; Christ offered Himself as a victim for us to his heavenly Father, at the Last Supper and on the Cross.

* 364. What is the Mass?
The Mass is the sacrifice of the New Law in which Christ, through the ministry of the priest, offers Himself for us as a victim to his heavenly Father.

365. Is the Mass the same sacrifice as that of the Cross?
The Mass is the same sacrifice as that of the Cross, though offered in a different manner.

366. How is the Mass the same sacrifice as that of the Cross?
The Mass is the same sacrifice as that of the Cross, because the same Christ who offered Himself a bleeding victim on the Cross, offers Himself in an unbloody manner by the hands of his priests, in the Mass.

* 367. What are the purposes for which Mass is offered?
The purposes for which Mass is offered are: to adore God, to thank Him for his benefits, to make satisfaction for our sins, and to obtain from Him other graces and blessings.

* 368. What is the best manner of assisting at Mass?
The best manner of assisting at Mass is to offer it to God with the priest for the purposes for which it is said, to meditate on Christ's sufferings, and to receive Holy Communion.

III. **The Sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist**

* 369. What is the sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist?
The sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist is the sacrament of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which are given us for our spiritual food under the appearances of bread and wine.

370. How should we show our devotion to Our Divine Lord in the sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist?
We should show our devotion to our Divine Lord by visiting Him frequently in our churches, by attending Benediction, but above all by receiving Him in Holy Communion.
371. Should we often receive Holy Communion?

We should often receive Holy Communion because in it we receive Jesus Christ, the heavenly food, which is so necessary for the spiritual life of our souls.

372. What does Our Divine Lord say of those who receive Holy Communion worthily?

Our Divine Lord says: He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath life everlasting, and I will raise him up on the last day (John vi, 55).

373. What is necessary in order to receive Holy Communion worthily?

To receive Holy Communion worthily we must be in the state of grace, be fasting according to the laws of the Church, and have the right intention.

* 374. If a person is in mortal sin what must he do before receiving Holy Communion?

Before receiving Holy Communion, a person in mortal sin must obtain pardon in the sacrament of Penance, and not merely by an act of perfect contrition.

375. What is the law of the Church in regard to the Eucharistic Fast?

The law of the Church in regard to the Eucharistic Fast is:

1. Solid food and alcoholic drink may not be taken later than three hours before receiving Holy Communion.

2. Non-alcoholic drink (such as tea, coffee, milk, etc.) may not be taken later than one hour before receiving Holy Communion.

3. Those who are indisposed, however, may take any non-alcoholic drink and any medicine properly so-called, either liquid or solid, at any time before receiving Holy Communion. It is not necessary that they consult a confessor.

4. The taking of water at any time does not break the Eucharistic Fast.

376. What is the right intention for receiving Holy Communion?

We should receive Holy Communion for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and the spiritual strength of our souls, and not for vainglory or human respect.

* 377. How should we prepare ourselves for Holy Communion?

We should make fervent acts of faith, hope and love to our Lord Jesus Christ, whom we are about to receive.

* 378. What should we do after Holy Communion?

After Holy Communion we should spend some time in adoring our Divine Lord, in thanking Him for having come to us, and in asking Him for the graces and blessings which we need.

* 379. Is it a mortal sin to receive Holy Communion unworthily?

Yes; for whosoever receives unworthily is guilty of sacrilege against the body and blood of the Lord (I. Cor. xi, 27).


** CHAPTER XXVI

** THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

* 380. What is the sacrament of Penance?

Penance is the sacrament by which sins are forgiven which are committed after Baptism.

* 381. By whose power are sins forgiven in the sacrament of Penance?

Sins are forgiven in the sacrament of Penance by the power of God, which Christ gave to his apostles, and through them to the priests of his Church.

382. When did Christ give to his apostles the power to forgive sins?

Christ gave to his apostles the power to forgive sins when 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 xx, 23).

383. How does the priest exercise the power of forgiving and retaining sins?

The priest grants absolution from their sins to those who are rightly disposed, and refuses it to those who are not yet rightly disposed.

* 384. What is absolution?

Absolution is the sentence of pardon given by the priest when he says: I absolve thee from thy sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

JESUS IS SCOURGED AT THE PILLAR.
385. What must a sinner do to dispose himself to obtain pardon in the sacrament of Penance?

To obtain pardon in the sacrament of Penance a sinner must have true contrition for his sins, confess them to the priest, and accept the satisfaction or penance imposed on him.

386. How are we to prepare for the sacrament of Penance?

To prepare for the sacrament of Penance we should pray to God for the grace to receive it worthily, examine our conscience to discover the sins we have committed, and strive earnestly to be truly sorry for them.

387. How should we examine our conscience?

We should examine our conscience by calling to mind the commandments of God, and of the Church, and the duties of our state in life, to find out in what things and how often we have sinned by thought, word, deed or omission.

I. Contrition

388. What is contrition?

Contrition is a sincere sorrow and hatred of our sins, because they offend God, with a firm resolution of sinning no more.

389. How many kinds of contrition are there?

There are two kinds of contrition: perfect contrition and imperfect contrition, which is also called attrition.

390. What is perfect contrition?

Contrition is perfect, when we are sorry for our sins, because they offend God who is infinitely good in Himself.

391. What is imperfect contrition?

Contrition is imperfect when we are sorry for our sins from some supernatural motive less than the pure love of God, such as gratitude to God, or fear of his punishments.

392. What kind of contrition is sufficient in the sacrament of Penance?

To receive the sacrament of Penance worthily, imperfect contrition is sufficient, but we should always strive to have perfect contrition.

393. Can a person in mortal sin regain the state of grace before receiving the sacrament of Penance?

A person in mortal sin can regain the state of grace by making an act of perfect contrition, but he must intend to receive the sacrament, and must confess the sin in his next confession.

394. What qualities must all sorrow have to obtain pardon of sin?

Sorrow for sin must have these four qualities: it must be true sorrow of the heart, it must spring from a supernatural motive, it must extend to all mortal sins committed, and must regard sin as the greatest of all evils.

395. Is a purpose of amendment always necessary for forgiveness?

A purpose of amendment, that is, a firm resolution of sinning no more, is always necessary
for forgiveness, because we are not truly sorry for
sin, unless we are firmly resolved to avoid sin
and to take the means needed for avoiding it.

* 396. How can we acquire true sorrow for our sins?

We can acquire true sorrow for our sins by
thinking of the goodness of God, the love of our
Divine Redeemer, as shown in his Passion and
Death, the loss of heaven, and the torments of hell.

II. CONFESSION

* 397. What is confession?

Confession is a declaration of our sins made
to a priest in the sacrament of Penance in order
to obtain absolution.

* 398. What sins is a penitent bound to confess?

A penitent is bound to confess all mortal
sins, with their number and kind, which have not
yet been confessed and forgiven in the sacrament
of Penance.

* 399. Is it wrong to conceal a mortal sin in confession?

To conceal a mortal sin in confession is a
grievous sin of sacrilege, and the sins confessed
are not forgiven.

* 400. What must they do who have concealed a mortal
   sin in confession?

They who have concealed a mortal sin in
confession must confess that sin, the sacrilege
of which they have been guilty, and all the other
mortal sins committed since their last good
confession.
401. Is a mortal sin forgiven which has been omitted without fault in confession?

Yes; a mortal sin omitted without fault in confession is forgiven, but it must be told in the next confession.

402. Can a person receive the sacrament of Penance who has no mortal sin to confess?

Yes; a person can receive the sacrament of Penance if he confesses a sin of his past life, or at least one venial sin for which he is truly sorry.

III. SATISFACTION

403. What should we do after receiving the sacrament of Penance?

After receiving the sacrament of Penance, we should give God thanks for having forgiven us our sins, and perform the penance or satisfaction imposed by the confessor.

404. What is meant by satisfaction?

By satisfaction we mean the prayers or other good works imposed on the penitent by the confessor to satisfy for the temporal punishment, which is often due to sin after its guilt has been remitted.

405. Does the sacrament of Penance remit all punishment due to sin?

The sacrament of Penance remits the eternal punishment due to mortal sin, but it does not always remit the temporal punishment, which God requires as satisfaction for our sins.

406. Why does God require a temporal punishment as a satisfaction for sin already forgiven?

God requires a temporal punishment, in order to repair the offence against his divine majesty, to teach us the evil of sin and to prevent us from sinning again.

407. Does the penance imposed by the confessor satisfy in full for the temporal punishment due to sin?

The penance imposed by the confessor does not always satisfy in full for the temporal punishment, but whatever is wanting can be supplied by our other good works and by indulgences.

408. By what good works can we satisfy for the temporal punishment due to sin?

We can satisfy for the temporal punishment due to sin by any good work performed in the state of grace, especially by prayer, fasting, almsgiving and other works of mercy, and the patient endurance of sufferings.

IV. INDULGENCES

409. What is an indulgence?

An indulgence is a remission by the Church of the temporal punishment due to sin already forgiven.

410. How many kinds of indulgences are there?

There are two kinds: a plenary indulgence, which remits all the temporal punishment due to our sins, and a partial indulgence, which remits a portion of such punishment.
411. Why can the Church grant indulgences?
   The Church can grant indulgences, because she can apply to us the satisfaction of Christ and the saints.

* 412. What are the conditions necessary for gaining an indulgence?
   To gain an indulgence we must be in the state of grace, have at least a general intention of gaining the indulgence, and perform the special works required by the Church.

* 413. For whom can we gain indulgences?
   We can gain indulgences only for ourselves and for the souls in purgatory.

CHAPTER XXVII
EXTREME UNCTION AND HOLY ORDERS

* 414. What is Extreme Unction?
   Extreme Unction is a sacrament which gives grace to die well, and is instituted chiefly for the spiritual strength and comfort of dying persons.

* 415. Is Extreme Unction given to all persons in danger of death?
   Extreme Unction is given only to those who have reached the use of reason, and are in danger of death from sickness or old age.

416. What are the special effects of Extreme Unction?
   Extreme Unction gives resignation in sickness and strength against temptation; it prepares the
soul to enter heaven by the remission of sin and its effects; and it sometimes restores bodily health.

417. Is mortal sin ever remitted through Extreme Unction?
Mortal sin is remitted through Extreme Unction, when the sick person is unable to receive the sacrament of Penance and has imperfect contrition.

418. How should we prepare for Extreme Unction?
We should prepare for Extreme Unction by receiving the sacraments of Penance and the Blessed Eucharist, by making acts of contrition, faith, hope and charity, and by resigning ourselves to the will of God.

419. Who can administer Extreme Unction?
Only the priests of the Church have power to administer Extreme Unction.

420. How is Extreme Unction administered?
Extreme Unction is administered by anointing with oil and by prayer.

421. What is the chief duty of those in charge of the sick?
The chief duty of those in charge of the sick is to call in the priest when a patient is dangerously ill, that he may be prepared to receive worthily and in good time the sacraments of Penance, the Blessed Eucharist and Extreme Unction.

*422. What is Holy Orders?
Holy Orders is the sacrament by which men are made bishops, priests and other ministers of the Church, and are given the graces necessary for their sacred duties.

423. Which are the chief powers given to a priest in Holy Orders?
The chief powers given to a priest are to offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass, and to forgive sins in the sacrament of Penance.

424. Who can confer Holy Orders?
Only bishops have the power to confer the sacrament of Holy Orders.

425. How should Catholics look upon their priests?
Catholics should reverence their priests as the representatives of Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER XXVIII

MATRIMONY

*426. What is Matrimony?
Matrimony is the sacrament by which man and woman become husband and wife, and receive the graces to live happily together and to fulfil the duties of the married state.

427. Who can receive the Sacrament of Matrimony?
All baptised persons can receive the sacrament of Matrimony, unless forbidden by the law of God or of the Church.
428. Why has the Church power to make laws concerning marriage?

The Church has power to make laws concerning marriage, because Christ made the marriage of baptised persons a sacrament.

429. Which are the chief duties of husband and wife?

The chief duties of husband and wife are to be faithful to their marriage promises, to love and help each other, and to provide for the spiritual and temporal welfare of their children.

430. What is necessary for the worthy reception of the sacrament of Matrimony?

To receive worthily the sacrament of Matrimony, it is necessary to be in the state of grace.

431. What is the best preparation for a happy marriage?

The best preparation for a happy marriage is to be chaste, temperate and charitable, to pray to God for guidance in choosing a partner, and to ask the advice of parents and confessor.

432. Can the bond of marriage be ever broken?

When baptised persons have been validly married and have lived together as husband and wife, the bond of their marriage cannot be broken, except by the death of either party.

433. Can the State break the bond of a valid marriage?

The State has no power to break the bond of a valid marriage and hence civil laws authorising divorce are null and void.
CHAPTER XXIX
SACRAMENTALS

434. What are sacramentals?
Sacramentals are certain objects and actions which the Church uses, in imitation of the sacraments, to obtain from God spiritual and temporal favours.

435. How do sacramentals obtain from God spiritual and temporal favours?
Sacramentals obtain spiritual and temporal favours through the prayers of the Church, and through the acts of devotion which their use inspires.

436. What are the principal favours obtained by sacramentals?
The principal favours obtained by sacramentals are: actual graces, forgiveness of venial sin, remission of the temporal punishment due to forgiven sin, protection against evil spirits, restoration of bodily health, and other temporal blessings.

437. What are the principal kinds of sacramentals?
The principal kinds of sacramentals are: consecrations, blessings, exorcisms, and objects blessed by the Church for the use of the faithful.

438. What are the principal consecrations and blessings?
The principal consecrations and blessings are those by which the Church sets aside entirely for religious uses certain things, such as churches, cemeteries and chalices.

439. What are the principal blessings used by the Church to obtain for us spiritual and temporal favours?
The principal blessings used by the Church for the benefit of the faithful are: blessings of the sick, the nuptial blessing, the blessing of a mother after childbirth, and the blessings of houses, food, crops, animals and machinery.

440. What are exorcisms?
Exorcisms are solemn prayers and ceremonies used by the Church to restrain or expel evil spirits.

441. What are the principal objects blessed by the Church for the use of the faithful?
The principal objects blessed by the Church for the use of the faithful are water, palms, ashes, crucifixes, medals, rosaries and scapulars.

442. What are sacred ceremonies?
Sacred ceremonies are actions and words used by the Church to express our worship of God, to prepare the faithful for the proper reception of the sacraments, and to obtain special favours.

443. Which are the principal ceremonies?
The principal ceremonies are those of the Mass and the sacraments, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the reception and profession of religious, sacred processions, and the burying of the dead.
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN.