

Saint Joseph

**NEW
AMERICAN
CATECHISM**

No. 1

*Prepared in accord with the
“Principal Elements of the Christian Message for Catechesis”
Chapter V, of the National Catechetical Directory
approved by the Bishops of the United States*

Primary Grade Edition

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Divine Word Missionary



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FOREWORD

To the Teacher:

The primary aim of this catechism is to state the official doctrine of the Church, using for the most part the words of the American Bishops in the “National Catechetical Directory” for Catholics of the United States (November 14-17, 1977).

In order to make children familiar with important terminology, and to impress the doctrine of the Church more deeply upon their minds, two methods are used:

(1) *Fill in the blanks*—to choose the correct words found in the answer of the question.

(2) *Can you answer these?*—to ask questions a different way, which will encourage the child to think, using ideas already stated in the official answer. These questions are points for discussion.

Both methods, which can be used for homework, will deepen the knowledge of the child.

The numbers in parentheses refer to the number of the question to enable the child to find the answers with ease.

Stories from the life of Christ, accompanied by pictures, will associate Catholic doctrine with the Word of God.

The material in the Appendices ought to be gradually memorized, since these are fundamental laws and prayers needed in Christian life.

Use visual aids and stories to impress these truths on the minds of your pupils.

Father Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D.

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THE HOLY TRINITY

THE Catholic Church teaches that the mystery we call God, has revealed himself to us as a Trinity of Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, each equal to each other. There are three Persons in one God.

The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of Catholic faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the Church.

Chapter

1 The Holy Trinity

1. What does the history of salvation tell us?

The history of salvation tells us how God saved us.

2. How do we know about God?

We know about God because he made himself known to us.

3. How did God make himself known to us?

In the Old Testament of the Bible we read about God showing himself to us as the one true God.

4. What is the Bible?

The Bible is the written story of God's actions in the world.

5. What is the Old Testament?

The Old Testament is that part of the Bible which was written before the coming of Christ.



Jesus became man and was born of the Virgin Mary so that he might suffer for us and teach us how to save our soul.

Mary and Joseph had to go to the town of Bethlehem. There was no room for them anywhere, so her Child was born in a stable.

Angels told some shepherds, and they went to see the Child. The Little Boy they saw was Jesus, the Son of God made man.

Three kings came from the East and brought him gifts. They adored him as the King of heaven and earth.

Chapter

7

The Sacraments

78. How is the work of Jesus continued in the Church?

The work of Jesus is continued in the Church through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

79. How does the Holy Spirit act in the Church?

The Holy Spirit acts in the Church especially in the sacraments which Christ began.

80. What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is a sign that we can see, which lets us know that Jesus is giving his grace to the soul of the person who receives the sacrament.

81. Why are the sacraments called actions of Christ?

The sacraments are called actions of Christ because through them he gives his Spirit to us and makes us a holy people.

82. Why did Jesus give us the sacraments?

Jesus gave us the sacraments to make us holy by his grace, to build up his Church, and to give worship to God.