

KNOWING YOUR FAITH

All Basic Catholic Beliefs

*With a Summary of
Chief Vatican II Messages*

Prepared for
Adult and Youthful Catholics

By
FATHER RAYMOND B. FULLAM, S.J.
S.T.L., M.ED.

Illustrated



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INTRODUCTION

Dear Adult or Youthful Reader:

ABOVE all, this book is intended to help reassure those adults who may have become somewhat unsure about just what the Catholic Church teaches these days.

While a professor of Theology develops religious nuances of a topic, the College and Seminary young men and women might well use this small compendium of Catholic doctrine to focus in on precisely what the Church holds and teaches while the students scan the horizons for religious truths today.

In either Sophomore or Junior years, High School youth are eager to learn clear Catholic teachings on doctrine, morality, and worship. Hence, this book would be most suitable for these times.

And since 8th grade is a fine opportunity to pull together all Catholic topics, this is a good time to employ this book. Certainly, for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Responsibility, "Knowing Your Faith" would be excellent for preparing for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation C.C.D. classes today.

All might memorize the chief religious definitions in the dark print for future use and for quick recall when consolation is needed.

Experienced teachers of religion will now know what to assign to be memorized by their students, when to stress certain important ideas, and how to help their students toward living the precious truths of our Catholic faith.

In addition to the doctrinal presentation within the chapters, the appendices include Useful Ques-

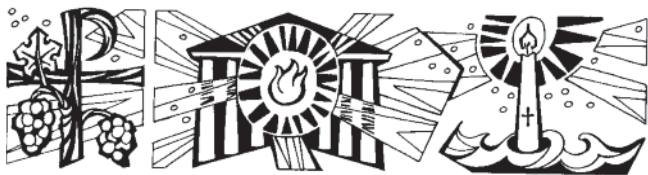
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*Christ's love opens the doors of His love
making our lives fruitful and bright.*

II. GOD REVEALS SAVING TRUTHS TO US

What Revelation Is All About

3. *Why must we believe what God has revealed?*

We must believe what God has revealed because God cannot err or lead us into error.

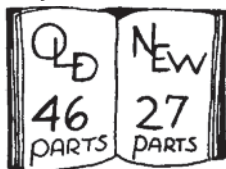
“To reveal” means to show or explain. Divine revelation pertains to God’s showing mankind His way to salvation.

And this revelation is contained in the Bible and in Sacred Tradition.

Oral tradition, a handing on by word of mouth, came before the written New Testament. Christ and His Apostles spoke the word of God in public discourse and informally with individuals and groups. There were Christians before any book of the New Testament was written.

The Holy Bible in Itself

4. *Why is the Bible considered as divinely inspired?*





Repentance over sin goes beyond falls into the light of Christ's strengthening mercy.

V. OF SIN, ORIGINAL AND PERSONAL

Our Original Sin Inherited
from Adam and Eve

22. What was God's most precious gift to Adam and Eve?

The most precious gift that God bestowed on the first man and woman was the life of His Grace.

The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, lost the life of grace by disobeying God, even after they had been warned.

23. What is meant by the Original Sin with which all people are born?

By original sin all human beings are born in need of God's sanctifying grace before they have been baptized even though they themselves have not actually sinned.

According to the clear words of Jesus, the Holy Eucharist is exactly the same Body and the same Blood with which Christ as Man was born, suffered, died, and rose from the dead.

134. What does the Church teach today about Christ's presence in the Holy Eucharist?

The Church today teaches what she has always taught from the time of the Apostles, namely that in the Holy Eucharist Jesus Christ is truly, actually, and uniquely present whole and entire.

“What seems bread is not bread, though it tastes so, but is the body of Christ; what seems wine is not wine, though it seems so to the taste, but is the blood of Christ” (St. Cyril of Jerusalem, d. 386). And also “Christ was holding Himself in His own hands as He held out His sacred Body and said, ‘This is My Body’” (St. Augustine, d. 430).

Jesus chose bread and wine as the outward signs of this Sacrament because they best symbolize the inward grace of the Sacrament as our spiritual food for needed strength.

Just as the human soul is totally present in every part of the human body, so also is Jesus totally present in the least particle of the consecrated Host and in every drop of the consecrated Blood.

Our Holy Sacrifice of the
Mass

135. What is the Sacrifice of the New Covenant?

The Sacrifice of the New Covenant is the Holy Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross, which becomes present on the altar as an unbloody sacrifice of the Mass, the Holy Eucharist.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK OR AGED

**The Sacrament of Peaceful
Anticipation**



**What This Sacrament Is and
Does for Our Sick and Aged**

***157. What is the Sacrament of the Anointing
of the Sick?***

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is the Sacrament for Catholics who are seriously ill as a result of some sickness or old age. Through it Christ strengthens the faithful who are afflicted by any illness, providing them with the strongest means of support.

Suffering and illness have always been among the greatest problems to challenge the human spirit. Christians experience pain as do all people; yet their faith helps them to grasp more fully the mystery of the “whys” and to bear their pain more bravely. From the words of Jesus they realize that their sickness can have meaning and value such as toward their own salvation and that of the world. They also know that Jesus loves the sick and that during His life He often visited and healed the sick.

***158. What are the three distinct aspects of
administering the Sacrament of the
Anointing of the Sick?***

The three distinct aspects of this sacrament are:

- a) the prayer of faith,
- b) the laying on of hands,
- c) and the anointing with holy oil especially blessed by the bishop on Holy Thursday.