

LESSON FIRST

ON THE END OF MAN

1. Q. Who made the world?

God made the world.

2. Q. Who is God?

God is the Creator of heaven
and earth, and of all things.

3. Q. What is man?

Man is a creature composed
of body and soul, and made
to the image and likeness of
God.

6. Q. Why did God make you?

God made me to know Him, to
love Him, and to serve Him in
this world, and to be happy
with Him forever in the next.

9. Q. What must we do to save our souls?

To save our souls, we must
worship God by faith, hope,
and charity; that is, we must
believe in Him, hope in Him,
and love Him with all our
heart.

10. Q. How shall we know the things which we are to believe?

We shall know the things
which we are to believe from
the Catholic Church, through
which God speaks to us.

11. Q. Where shall we find the chief truths which the Church teaches?

We shall find the chief truths
which the Church teaches in
the Apostles' Creed.

12. Q. Say 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 arose 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

LESSON SECOND

ON GOD AND HIS PERFECTIONS

13. Q. What is God?

God is a spirit infinitely
perfect.

14. Q. Had God a beginning?

God had no beginning; He
always was and He always
will be.

15. Q. Where is God?

God is everywhere.

16. Q. If God is everywhere, why do we not see Him?

We do not see God, because
He is a pure spirit and cannot
be seen with bodily eyes.

17. Q. Does God see us?

God sees us and watches
over us.

18. Q. Does God know all things?

God knows all things, even our
most secret thoughts, words,
and actions.

19. Q. Can God do all things?

God can do all things, and
nothing is hard or impossible
to Him.

20. Q. Is God just, holy, and merciful?

God is all just, all holy, all
merciful, as He is infinitely
perfect.

LESSON THIRD

ON THE UNITY AND TRINITY OF GOD

21. Q. Is there but one God?

Yes, there is but one God.

22. Q. Why can there be but one God?

There can be but one God,
because God, being supreme
and infinite, cannot have an
equal.

23. Q. How many Persons are there in God?

In God there are three Divine
Persons, really distinct, and
equal in all things — the

Father, the Son, and the Holy
Ghost.

24. Q. Is the Father God?

The Father is God and the
first Person of the Blessed
Trinity.

25. Q. Is the Son God?

The Son is God and the
second Person of the Blessed
Trinity.

26. Q. Is the Holy Ghost God?

The Holy Ghost is God and the
third Person of the Blessed
Trinity.

27. Q. What is the Blessed Trinity?

The Blessed Trinity is one God
in three Divine Persons.

29. Q. Are the three Divine Persons one and the same God?

The three Divine Persons are
one and the same God,
having one and the same
Divine nature.

LESSON FOURTH

ON THE ANGELS AND OUR FIRST PARENTS

34. Q. Which are the chief creatures of God?

The chief creatures of God
are men and angels.

35. Q. What are angels?

Angels are bodiless spirits
created to adore and enjoy
God in heaven.

39. Q. Who were the first man and woman?

The first man and woman
were Adam and Eve.

40. Q. Were Adam and Eve innocent and holy when they came from the hand of God?

Adam and Eve were innocent
and holy when they came
from the hand of God.

43. Q. Did Adam and Eve remain faithful to God?

Adam and Eve did not remain
faithful to God; but broke His
command by eating the
forbidden fruit.

44. Q. What befell Adam and Eve on account of their sin?

Adam and Eve, on account of
their sin, lost innocence and

holiness, and were doomed to
misery and death.

45. Q. What evil befell us through the disobedience of our first parents?

Through the disobedience of
our first parents we all inherit
their sin and punishment, as
we should have shared in
their happiness if they had
remained faithful.

47. Q. What is the sin called which we inherit from our first parents?

The sin which we inherit from
our first parents is called
original sin.

50. Q. Was any one ever preserved from original sin?

The Blessed Virgin Mary,
through the merits of her
Divine Son, was preserved
free from the guilt of original
sin, and this privilege is called
her Immaculate Conception.

LESSON FIFTH

ON SIN AND ITS KINDS

51. Q. Is original sin the only kind of sin?

Original sin is not the only kind of sin; there is another kind of sin, which we commit ourselves, called actual sin.

52. Q. What is actual sin?

Actual sin is any wilful thought, word, deed or omission contrary to the law of God.

53. Q. How many kinds of actual sin are there?

There are two kinds of actual
sin—mortal and venial.

54. Q. What is mortal sin?

Mortal sin is a grievous
offense against the law of
God.

57. Q. What is venial sin?

Venial sin is a slight offense
against the law of God in
matters of less importance; or
in matters of great
importance it is an offense

committed without sufficient
reflection or full consent of
the will.

59. Q. Which are the chief sources of sin?

The chief sources of sin are
seven: Pride, Covetousness,
Lust, Anger, Gluttony, Envy,
and Sloth; and they are
commonly called capital sins.

LESSON SIXTH

ON THE INCARNATION AND REDEMPTION

60. Q. Did God abandon man after he fell into sin?

God did not abandon man
after he fell into sin, but
promised him a Redeemer,
who was to satisfy for man's
sin and reopen to him the
gates of heaven.

61. Q. Who is the Redeemer?

Our Blessed Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ is the Redeemer
of mankind.

62. Q. What do you believe of Jesus Christ?

I believe that Jesus Christ is
the Son of God, the second
Person of the Blessed Trinity,
true God and true man.

69. Q. What do you mean by the Incarnation?

By the Incarnation I mean
that the Son of God was
made man.

70. Q. How was the Son of God made man?

The Son of God was
conceived and made man by
the power of the Holy Ghost,

in the womb of the Blessed
Virgin Mary.

74. Q. On what day was the Son of God conceived and made man?

The Son of God was
conceived and made man on
Annunciation day—the day
on which the Angel Gabriel
announced to the Blessed
Virgin Mary that she was to
be the Mother of God.

75. Q. On what day was Christ born?

Christ was born on Christmas
day in a stable at Bethlehem,

over nineteen hundred years

ago.

LESSON SEVENTH

ON OUR LORD'S PASSION, DEATH, RESURRECTION, AND ASCENSION

78. Q. What did Jesus Christ suffer?

Jesus Christ suffered a

bloody sweat, a cruel

scourging, was crowned with

thorns, and was crucified.

79. Q. On what day did Christ die?

Christ died on Good Friday.

83. Q. Why did Christ suffer and die?

Christ suffered and died for

our sins.

89. Q. On what day did Christ rise from the dead?

Christ rose from the dead,
glorious and immortal, on
Easter Sunday, the third day
after His death.

91. Q. After Christ had remained forty days on earth, whither did He go?

After forty days Christ
ascended into heaven, and
the day on which He
ascended into heaven is
called Ascension day.

LESSON EIGHTH

ON THE HOLY GHOST AND HIS DESCENT UPON THE APOSTLES

94. Q. Who is the Holy Ghost?

The Holy Ghost is the third
Person of the Blessed Trinity.

97. Q. On what day did the Holy Ghost come down upon the Apostles?

The Holy Ghost came down
upon the Apostles ten days
after the Ascension of our
Lord, and the day on which
He came down upon the
Apostles is called
Whitsunday, or Pentecost.

99. Q. Who sent the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles?

Our Lord Jesus Christ sent
the Holy Ghost upon the
Apostles.

100. Q. Why did Christ send the Holy Ghost?

Christ sent the Holy Ghost to
sanctify His Church, to
enlighten and strengthen the
Apostles, and to enable them
to preach the Gospel.

LESSON NINTH

ON THE EFFECTS OF THE REDEMPTION

102. Q. Which are the chief effects of the Redemption?

The chief effects of the Redemption are two: The satisfaction of God's justice by Christ's sufferings and death, and the gaining of grace for men.

103. Q. What do you mean by grace?

By grace I mean a supernatural gift of God bestowed on us, through the

merits of Jesus Christ, for our
salvation.

104. Q. How many kinds of grace are there?

There are two kinds of grace,
sanctifying grace and actual
grace.

105. Q. What is sanctifying grace?

Sanctifying grace is that
grace which makes the soul
holy and pleasing to God.

110. Q. What is actual grace?

Actual grace is that help of
God which enlightens our

mind and moves our will to
shun evil and do good.

{T.N.: The above question is out of numerical order in the printed source of Baltimore Catechism No. 1.}

107. Q. What is Faith?

Faith is a Divine virtue by
which we firmly believe the
truths which God has
revealed.

108. Q. What is Hope?

Hope is a Divine virtue by
which we firmly trust that God
will give us eternal life and the
means to obtain it.

109. Q. What is Charity?

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

LESSON TENTH

ON THE CHURCH

114. Q. Which are the means instituted by our Lord to enable men at all times to share in the fruits of the Redemption?

The means instituted by our
Lord to enable men at all
times to share in the fruits of
His Redemption are the
Church and the Sacraments.

115. Q. What is the Church?

The Church is the
congregation of all those who
profess the faith of Christ,
partake of the same

Sacraments, and are
governed by their lawful
pastors under one visible
Head.

116. Q. Who is the invisible Head of the Church?

Jesus Christ is the invisible
Head of the Church.

117. Q. Who is the visible Head of the Church?

Our Holy Father the Pope, the
Bishop of Rome, is the Vicar
of Christ on earth, and the
visible Head of the Church.

128. Q. Has the Church any marks by which it may be known?

The Church has four marks by
which it may be known: it is
One, it is Holy, it is Catholic, it
is Apostolic.

133. Q. In which Church are these marks found?

These marks are found in the
Holy Roman Catholic Church
alone.

LESSON ELEVENTH

ON THE SACRAMENTS IN GENERAL

136. Q. What is a Sacrament?

A Sacrament is an outward
sign instituted by Christ to
give grace.

137. Q. How many Sacraments are there?

There are seven Sacraments:
Baptism, Confirmation, Holy
Eucharist, Penance, Extreme
Unction, Holy Orders, and
Matrimony.

138. Q. Whence have the Sacraments the power of giving grace?

The Sacraments have the
power of giving grace from
the merits of Jesus Christ.

147. Q. Do the Sacraments always give grace?

The Sacraments always give
grace, if we receive them with
the right dispositions.

148. Q. Can we receive the Sacraments more than once?

We can receive the
Sacraments more than once,
except Baptism, Confirmation,
and Holy Orders.

LESSON TWELFTH

ON BAPTISM

152. Q. What is Baptism?

Baptism is a Sacrament
which cleanses us from
original sin, makes us
Christians, children of God,
and heirs of heaven.

153. Q. Are actual sins ever remitted by Baptism?

Actual sins and all the
punishment due to them are
remitted by Baptism, if the

person baptized be guilty of
any, and is rightly disposed.

154. Q. Is Baptism necessary to salvation?

Baptism is necessary to
salvation, because without it
we cannot enter into the
kingdom of heaven.

155. Q. Who can administer Baptism?

The priest is the ordinary
minister of Baptism; but in
case of necessity any one
who has the use of reason
may baptize.

156. Q. How is Baptism given?

Whoever baptizes should
pour water on the head of the
person to be baptized, and
say, while pouring the water: I
baptize thee in the name of
the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Ghost.

LESSON THIRTEENTH

ON CONFIRMATION

166. Q. What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a Sacrament through which we receive the Holy Ghost to make us strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ.

167. Q. Who administers Confirmation?

The bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation.

168. Q. How does the bishop give Confirmation?

The bishop extends his hands over those who are to be

confirmed, prays that they
may receive the Holy Ghost,
and anoints the forehead of
each with holy chrism in the
form of a cross.

170. Q. What does the bishop say in anointing the person he confirms?

In anointing the person he
confirms the bishop says: 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.

173. Q. To receive Confirmation worthily is it necessary to be in the state of grace?

To receive Confirmation
worthily it is necessary to be
in the state of grace.

173. Q. What is a state of grace?

A state of grace is freedom
from mortal sin.

{T.N.: The above question is numbered 174 in the printed source, but a different question is given in its place in Baltimore Catechism Nos. 2 and 4, where the topic is covered in Q. 55 and elsewhere.}

175. Q. Is it a sin to neglect Confirmation?

It is a sin to neglect
Confirmation, especially in

these evil days when faith
and morals are exposed to so
many and such violent
temptations.

LESSON FOURTEENTH

ON THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

187. Q. What is the Sacrament of Penance?

Penance is a Sacrament in which the sins committed after Baptism are forgiven.

191. Q. What must we do to receive the Sacrament of Penance worthily?

To receive the Sacrament of Penance worthily we must do five things:

1. We must examine our conscience.

2. We must have sorrow for
our sins.

3. We must make a firm
resolution never more to
offend God.

4. We must confess our
sins to the priest.

5. We must accept the
penance which the priest
gives us.

192. Q. What is the examination of conscience?

The examination of
conscience is an earnest
effort to recall to mind all the
sins we have committed since
our last worthy confession.

LESSON FIFTEENTH

ON CONTRITION

195. Q. What is contrition, or sorrow for sin?

Contrition, or sorrow for sin, is a hatred of sin and a true grief of the soul for having offended God, with a firm purpose of sinning no more.

201. Q. Why should we be sorry for our sins?

We should be sorry for our sins, because sin is the greatest of evils and an offense against God our

Creator, Preserver, and
Redeemer, and because
mortal sin shuts us out of
heaven and condemns us to
the eternal pains of hell.

206. Q. What do you mean by a firm purpose of sinning no more?

By a firm purpose of sinning
no more I mean a fixed
resolve not only to avoid all
mortal sin, but also its near
occasions.

207. Q. What do you mean by the near occasions of sin?

By the near occasions of sin I
mean all the persons, places,
and things that may easily
lead us into sin.

LESSON SIXTEENTH

ON CONFESSION

208. Q. What is Confession?

Confession is the telling of
our sins to a duly authorized
priest, for the purpose of
obtaining forgiveness.

209. Q. What sins are we bound to confess?

We are bound to confess all
our mortal sins, but it is well
also to confess our venial sins.

214. Q. What should we do if we cannot remember the number of our sins?

If we cannot remember the
number of our sins, we should

tell the number as nearly as possible.

216. Q. Is it a grievous offense wilfully to conceal a mortal sin in Confession?

It is a grievous offense wilfully to conceal a mortal sin in Confession, because we thereby tell a lie to the Holy Ghost, and make our Confession worthless.

217. Q. What must he do who has wilfully concealed a mortal sin in Confession?

He who has wilfully concealed a mortal sin in Confession must not only confess it, but

must also repeat all the sins
he has committed since his
last worthy Confession.

218. Q. Why does the priest give us a penance after Confession?

The priest gives us a penance
after Confession that we may
satisfy God for the temporal
punishment due to our sins.

LESSON SEVENTEENTH

ON INDULGENCES

231. Q. What is an Indulgence?

An Indulgence is the
remission in whole or in part
of the temporal punishment
due to sin.

233. Q. How many kinds of Indulgences are there?

There are two kinds of
Indulgences — Plenary and
Partial.

234. Q. What is a Plenary Indulgence?

A Plenary Indulgence is the full remission of the temporal punishment due to sin.

235. Q. What is a Partial Indulgence?

A Partial Indulgence is the remission of a part of the temporal punishment due to sin.

237. Q. What must we do to gain an Indulgence?

To gain an Indulgence we must be in the state of grace

and perform the works
enjoined.

LESSON EIGHTEENTH

ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST

238. Q. What is the Holy Eucharist?

The Holy Eucharist is the
Sacrament which contains
the body and blood, soul and
divinity, of our Lord Jesus
Christ under the appearances
of bread and wine.

245. Q. What do you mean by the appearances of bread and wine?

By the appearances of bread
and wine I mean the figure,
the colour, the taste, and

whatever appears to the
senses.

249. Q. When did Christ give His priests the power to change bread and wine into His body and blood?

Christ gave His priests the
power to change bread and
wine into His body and blood
when He said to the Apostles,
Do this for a commemoration
of Me.

250. Q. How do the priests exercise this power of changing bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ?

The priests exercise this
power of changing bread and

wine into the body and blood
of Christ through the words of
consecration in the Mass,
which are the words of Christ:
This is My body; this is My
blood.

LESSON NINETEENTH

ON THE ENDS FOR WHICH THE HOLY EUCHARIST WAS INSTITUTED

251. Q. Why did Christ institute the Holy Eucharist?

Christ instituted the Holy
Eucharist

1. To unite us to himself and
to nourish our soul with his
body and blood.

2. To increase sanctifying
grace and all virtues in our
soul.

3. To lessen our evil
inclinations.

4. To be a pledge of
everlasting life.

5. To fit our bodies for a
glorious resurrection.

6. To continue the sacrifice
of the cross in His Church.

253. Q. What is Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is the
receiving of the body and
blood of Christ.

254. Q. What is necessary to make a good Communion?

To make a good Communion
it is necessary to be in the
state of grace and to be
fasting for one hour from
food and all drinks, except
water.

[This answer has been changed in the 1977 edition to bring it up to date with the current rules.]

255. Q. Does he who receives Communion in mortal sin receive the body and blood of Christ?

He who receives Communion
in mortal sin receives the
body and blood of Christ, but
does not receive His grace,

and he commits a great
sacrilege.

LESSON TWENTIETH

ON THE SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

262. Q. When are the bread and wine changed into the body and blood of Christ?

The bread and wine are
changed into the body and
blood of Christ at the
consecration in the Mass.

263. Q. What is the Mass?

The Mass is the unbloody
sacrifice of the body and
blood of Christ.

265. Q. Is the Mass the same sacrifice as that of the cross?

The Mass is the same
sacrifice as that of the cross.

269. Q. How should we assist at Mass?

We should assist at Mass
with great interior recollection
and piety, and with every
outward mark of respect and
devotion.

LESSON TWENTY-FIRST

ON EXTREME UNCTION AND HOLY ORDERS

271. Q. What is the Sacrament of Extreme Unction?

Extreme Unction is the
Sacrament which, through the
anointing and prayer of the
priest, gives health and
strength to the soul, and
sometimes to the body, when
we are in danger of death
from sickness.

274. Q. Which are the effects of the Sacrament of Extreme Unction?

The effects of Extreme Unction are: 1st, to comfort us in the pains of sickness and to strengthen us against temptation; 2d, to remit venial sins and to cleanse our soul from the remains of sin; 3d, to restore us to health, when God sees fit.

278. Q. What is the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

Holy Orders is a Sacrament by which bishops, priests, and

other ministers of the Church
are ordained and receive the
power and grace to perform
their sacred duties.

LESSON TWENTY-SECOND

ON MATRIMONY

282. Q. What is the Sacrament of Matrimony?

The Sacrament of Matrimony
is the Sacrament which unites
a Christian man and woman
in lawful marriage.

285. Q. Which are the effects of the Sacrament of Matrimony?

The effects of the Sacrament
of Matrimony are: 1st, to
sanctify the love of husband
and wife; 2d, to give them
grace to bear with each

other's weaknesses; 3d, to
enable them to bring up their
children in the fear and love
of God.

286. Q. To receive the Sacrament of matrimony worthily is it necessary to be in the state of grace?

To receive the Sacrament of
Matrimony worthily it is
necessary to be in the state
of grace, and it is necessary
also to comply with the laws
of the Church.

LESSON TWENTY-THIRD

ON THE SACRAMENTALS

292. Q. What is a sacramental?

A sacramental is anything set
apart or blessed by the
Church to excite good
thoughts and to increase
devotion, and through these
movements of the heart to
remit venial sin.

294. Q. Which is the chief sacramental used in the Church?

The chief sacramental used in the Church is the sign of the cross.

295. Q. 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 on the breast, and then to the left and right shoulders, saying, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

296. Q. Why do we make the sign of the cross?

We make the sign of the cross to show that we are Christians and to profess our belief in the chief mysteries of our religion.

300. Q. What other sacramental is in very frequent use?

Another sacramental in very frequent use is holy water.

301. Q. What is holy water?

Holy water is water blessed by the priest with solemn prayer to beg God's blessing

on those who use it, and
protection from the powers of
darkness.

302. Q. Are there other sacramentals besides the sign of the cross and holy water?

Besides the sign of the cross
and holy water there are
many other sacramentals,
such as blessed candles,
ashes, palms, crucifixes,
images of the Blessed Virgin
and of the saints, rosaries
and scapulars.

LESSON TWENTY-FOURTH

ON PRAYER

303. Q. Is there any other means of obtaining God's grace than the Sacraments?

There is another means of
obtaining God's grace, and it
is prayer.

304. Q. What is prayer?

Prayer is the lifting up of our
minds and hearts to God to
adore Him, to thank Him for
His benefits, to ask His
forgiveness, and to beg of

Him all the graces we need,
whether for soul or body.

305. Q. Is prayer necessary to salvation?

Prayer is necessary to
salvation, and without it no
one having the use of reason
can be saved.

306. Q. At what particular times should we pray?

We should pray particularly
on Sundays and holydays,
every morning and night, in all
dangers, temptations, and
afflictions.

308. Q. Which are the prayers most recommended to us?

The prayers most
recommended to us are the
Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary,
the Apostles' Creed, the
Confiteor, and the Acts of
Faith, Hope, Love and
Contrition.

309. Q. Are prayers said with distractions of any avail?

Prayers said with wilful
distractions are of no avail.

LESSON TWENTY-FIFTH

ON THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

310. Q. Is it enough to belong to God's Church in order to be saved?

It is not enough to belong to
the Church in order to be
saved, but we must also keep
the Commandments of God
and of the Church.

313. Q. Which are the Commandments of God?

The Commandments of God
are these ten:

1. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.

2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

3. Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

4. Honor thy father and thy mother.

5. Thou shalt not kill.

6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

7. Thou shalt not steal.

8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.

10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

LESSON TWENTY-SIXTH

ON THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

315. Q. What is the first Commandment?

The first Commandment is: I
am the Lord thy God: thou
shalt not have strange gods
before Me.

317. Q. How do we adore God?

We adore God by faith, hope,
and love, by prayer and
sacrifice.

318. Q. How may the first Commandment be broken?

The first Commandment may
be broken by giving to a

creature the honour which
belongs to God alone; by false
worship; and by attributing to
a creature a perfection which
belongs to God alone.

320. Q. Are sins against faith, hope, and charity also sins against the first Commandment?

Sins against faith, hope, and
charity are also sins against
the first Commandment.

321. Q. How does a person sin against faith?

A person sins against faith:
1st, by not trying to know what
God has taught; 2d, by

refusing to believe all that
God has taught; 3d, by
neglecting to profess his
belief in what God has taught.

326. Q. Are we obliged to make open profession of our faith?

We are obliged to make open
profession of our faith as
often as God's honor, our
neighbor's spiritual good, or
our own requires it.

327. Q. Which are the sins against hope?

The sins against hope are
presumption and despair.

328. Q. What is presumption?

Presumption is a rash
expectation of salvation
without making proper use of
the necessary means to
obtain it.

329. Q. What is despair?

Despair is the loss of hope in
God's mercy.

LESSON TWENTY-SEVENTH

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT--ON THE HONOR AND INVOCATION OF SAINTS

331. Q. Does the first Commandment forbid the honoring of the saints?

The first Commandment does not forbid the honoring of the saints, but rather approves of it, because by honoring the saints, who are the chosen friends of God, we honor God Himself.

332. Q. Does the first Commandment forbid us to pray to the saints?

The first Commandment does not forbid us to pray to the saints.

333. Q. What do we mean by praying to the saints?

By praying to the saints we mean the asking of their help and prayers.

340. Q. Does the first Commandment forbid us to honor relics?

The first Commandment does not forbid us to honor relics, because relics are the bodies of the saints or objects

directly connected with them
or with our Lord.

341. Q. Does the first Commandment forbid the making of images?

The first Commandment does
forbid the making of images
if they are made to be adored
as gods, but it does not forbid
the making of them to put us
in mind of Jesus Christ, His
Blessed Mother, and the
saints.

342. Q. Is it right to show respect to the pictures and images of Christ and His saints?

It is right to show respect to the pictures and images of Christ and His saints, because they are the representations and memorials of them.

343. Q. Is it allowed to pray to the crucifix or to the images and relics of the saints?

It is not allowed to pray to the crucifix or images and relics of the saints, for they have no life, nor power to help us, nor sense to hear us.

344. Q. Why do we pray before the crucifix and the images and relics of the saints?

We pray before the crucifix
and images and relics of the
saints because they enliven
our devotion by exciting pious
affections and desires, and by
reminding us of Christ and of
the saints, that we may
imitate their virtues.

LESSON TWENTY-EIGHTH

FROM THE SECOND TO THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

345. Q. What is the second Commandment?

The second Commandment is:
Thou shalt not take the name
of the Lord thy God in vain.

346. Q. What are we commanded by the second Commandment?

We are commanded by the
second Commandment to
speak with reverence of God
and of the saints, and of all
holy things, and to keep our
lawful oaths and vows.

347. Q. What is an oath?

An oath is the calling upon
God to witness the truth of
what we say.

350. Q. What is a vow?

A vow is a deliberate promise
made to God to do something
that is pleasing to Him.

351. Q. Is it a sin not to fulfill our vows?

Not to fulfill our vows is a sin,
mortal or venial, according to
the nature of the vow and the
intention we had in making it.

352. Q. What is forbidden by the second Commandment?

The second Commandment
forbids all false, rash, unjust,
and unnecessary oaths,
blasphemy, cursing, and
profane words.

353. Q. What is the third Commandment?

The third Commandment is:
Remember thou keep holy the
Sabbath day.

355. Q. How are we to worship God on Sundays and holydays of obligation?

We are to worship God on
Sundays and holydays of

obligation by hearing Mass, by
prayer, and by other good
works.

358. Q. What is forbidden by the third Commandment?

The third Commandment
forbids all unnecessary servile
work and whatever else may
hinder the due observance of
the Lord's day.

359. Q. What are servile works?

Servile works are those which
require labor rather of body
than of mind.

360. Q. Are servile works on Sunday ever lawful?

Servile works are lawful on
Sunday when the honor of
God, the good of our neighbor,
or necessity requires them.

LESSON TWENTY-NINTH

FROM THE FOURTH TO THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

361. Q. What is the fourth Commandment?

The fourth Commandment is:

Honor thy father and thy

mother.

362. Q. What are we commanded by the fourth Commandment?

We are commanded by the

fourth Commandment to

honor, love, and obey our

parents in all that is not sin.

363. Q. Are we bound to honor and obey others than our parents?

We are also bound to honor
and obey our bishops,
pastors, magistrates,
teachers, and other lawful
superiors.

365. Q. What is forbidden by the fourth Commandment?

The fourth Commandment
forbids all disobedience,
contempt, and stubbornness
towards our parents or lawful
superiors.

366. Q. What is the fifth Commandment?

The fifth Commandment is:
Thou shalt not kill.

367. Q. What are we commanded by the fifth Commandment?

We are commanded by the
fifth Commandment to live in
peace and union with our
neighbor, to respect his rights,
to seek his spiritual and bodily
welfare, and to take proper
care of our own life and
health.

368. Q. What is forbidden by the fifth Commandment?

The fifth Commandment
forbids all wilful murder,
fighting, anger, hatred,
revenge, and bad example.

369. Q. What is the sixth Commandment?

The sixth Commandment is:
Thou shalt not commit
adultery.

370. Q. What are we commanded by the sixth Commandment?

We are commanded by the
sixth Commandment to be
pure in thought and modest in

all our looks, words, and
actions.

371. Q. What is forbidden by the sixth Commandment?

The sixth commandment
forbids all unchaste freedom
with another's wife or
husband; also all immodesty
with ourselves or others in
looks, dress, words, or actions.

372. Q. Does the sixth Commandment forbid the reading of bad and immodest books and newspapers?

The sixth Commandment
does forbid the reading of

bad and immodest books and
newspapers.

LESSON THIRTIETH

FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE END OF THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

373. Q. What is the seventh Commandment?

The seventh Commandment

is: Thou shalt not steal.

374. Q. What are we commanded by the seventh Commandment?

By the seventh

Commandment we are

commanded to give to all

men what belongs to them

and to respect their property.

375. Q. What is forbidden by the seventh Commandment?

The seventh Commandment
forbids all unjust taking or
keeping what belongs to
another.

376. Q. Are we bound to restore ill-gotten goods?

We are bound to restore ill-
gotten goods, or the value of
them, as far as we are able;
otherwise we cannot be
forgiven.

377. Q. Are we obliged to repair the damage we have unjustly caused?

We are bound to repair the
damage we have unjustly
caused.

378. Q. What is the eighth Commandment?

The eighth Commandment is:
Thou shalt not bear false
witness against thy neighbor.

379. Q. What are we commanded by the eighth Commandment?

We are commanded by the
eighth Commandment to
speak the truth in all things,
and to be careful of the

honour and reputation of
every one.

380. Q. What is forbidden by the eighth Commandment?

The eighth Commandment
forbids all rash judgments,
backbiting, slanders, and lies.

382. Q. What is the ninth Commandment?

The ninth Commandment is:
Thou shalt not covet thy
neighbor's wife.

383. Q. What are we commanded by the ninth Commandment?

We are commanded by the
ninth Commandment to keep

ourselves pure in thought and
desire.

384. Q. What is forbidden by the ninth Commandment?

The ninth Commandment
forbids unchaste thoughts,
desires of another's wife or
husband, and all other
unlawful impure thoughts and
desires.

386. Q. What is the tenth Commandment?

The tenth Commandment is:
Thou shalt not covet thy
neighbor's goods.

387. Q. What are we commanded by the tenth Commandment?

By the tenth Commandment
we are commanded to be
content with what we have,
and to rejoice in our
neighbor's welfare.

388. Q. What is forbidden by the tenth Commandment?

The tenth Commandment
forbids all desires to take or
keep wrongfully what belongs
to another.

LESSON THIRTY-FIRST

ON THE FIRST AND SECOND COMMANDMENTS OF THE CHURCH

389. Q. Which are the chief commandments of the Church?

The chief commandments of
the Church are six:

1. To hear Mass on Sundays
and holydays of obligation.

2. To fast and abstain on
the days appointed.

3. To confess at least once
a year.

4. To receive the Holy
Eucharist during the Easter
time.

5. To contribute to the
support of our pastors.

6. Not to marry persons
who are not Catholics, or
who are related to us within
the third degree of kindred,
nor privately without
witnesses, nor to solemnize

marriage at forbidden
times.

390. Q. Is it a mortal sin not to hear Mass on a Sunday or a holyday of obligation?

It is a mortal sin not to hear
Mass on a Sunday or a
holyday of obligation unless
we are excused for a serious
reason. They also commit a
mortal sin who, having others
under their charge, hinder
them from hearing Mass,
without a sufficient reason.

393. Q. What do you mean by fast-days?

By fast-days I mean days on
which we are allowed but one
full meal.

394. Q. What do you mean by days of abstinence?

By days of abstinence, I mean
days on which we are
forbidden to eat flesh-meat,
but are allowed the usual
number of meals.

395. Q. Why does the Church command us to fast and abstain?

The Church commands us to
fast and abstain in order that

we may mortify our passions
and satisfy for our sins.

LESSON THIRTY-SECOND

ON THE THIRD, FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH COMMANDMENTS OF THE CHURCH

397. Q. What is meant by the command of confessing at least once a year?

By the command of
confessing at least once a
year is meant that we are
obliged, under pain of mortal
sin, to go to Confession within
the year.

400. Q. What sin does he commit who neglects to receive Communion during the Easter time?

He who neglects to receive
Communion during the Easter
time commits a mortal sin.

401. Q. What is the Easter time?

The Easter time is, in this country, the time between the first Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday.

402. Q. Are we obliged to contribute to the support of our pastors?

We are obliged to contribute to the support of our pastors, and to bear our share in the expenses of the Church and school.

LESSON THIRTY-THIRD

ON THE LAST JUDGMENT AND THE RESURRECTION, HELL, PURGATORY, AND HEAVEN

408. Q. When will Christ judge us?

Christ will judge us

immediately after our death,

and on the last day.

409. Q. What is the judgment called which we have to undergo immediately after death?

The judgment we have to

undergo immediately after

death is called the Particular

Judgment.

410. Q. What is the judgment called which all men have to undergo on the last day?

The judgment which all men
have to undergo on the last
day is called the General
Judgment.

412. Q. What are the rewards or punishments appointed for men's souls after the Particular Judgment?

The rewards or punishments
appointed for men's souls
after the Particular Judgment
are Heaven, Purgatory, and
Hell.

413. Q. What is Hell?

Hell is a state to which the wicked are condemned, and in which they are deprived of the sight of God for all eternity, and are in dreadful torments.

414. Q. What is Purgatory?

Purgatory is a state in which those suffer for a time who die guilty of venial sins, or without having satisfied for

the punishment due to their
sins.

417. Q. Will our bodies share in the reward or punishment of our souls?

Our bodies will share in the
reward or punishment of our
souls, because through the
resurrection they will again be
united to them.

420. Q. What is Heaven?

Heaven is the state of
everlasting life in which we
see God face to face, are

made like unto Him in glory,
and enjoy eternal happiness.