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CATECHISM
THREE

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of CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE
NO. 3

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BALTIMORE CATECHISM THREE

*Prepared and Enjoined by Order of
The Third Plenary Council of Baltimore*

Supplemented by
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PREFACE

Adapted by TAN Books

I HAVE been requested by several priests to prepare a catechism which would be suitable as a class book for children who have been confirmed or who have completed the study of the Baltimore Catechism No. 2, which contains the 421 official Baltimore Catechism questions. The more advanced book entitled *An Explanation of the Baltimore Catechism* (Baltimore Catechism No. 4) contains more matter than some of these children can master, and it costs a little more than many of them can afford to pay. To compose a Baltimore Catechism No. 3, therefore, I have written a large number of additional questions on the most practical and important matters and have interspersed these questions among the 421 official Baltimore Catechism questions. However, the official Baltimore Catechism questions are identified by the numerals 1 to 421 in parentheses, so that all may see that the others are not a part of the Catechism prepared by the Council of Baltimore, but only a development of its meaning.

Whenever questions on the same subject are repeated in the book their object is to bring out some new point or to show their connection with the subject-matter there explained.

—AUTHOR

NOTE

These Catechisms of the Baltimore Series are arranged on a progressive plan. No. 2 contains the complete set of 421 official questions of the Baltimore Catechism. No. 1 contains one half of the 421 questions. No. 3 contains the complete set of 421 questions of the Baltimore Catechism plus almost one thousand additional questions authored by Fr. Kinkead, for a total of 1,400 questions; the 421 official Baltimore Catechism questions, which appear scattered throughout No. 3, are identified by the numerals 1 through 421 in parentheses. No. 4, also called *An Explanation of the Baltimore Catechism*, contains the 421 questions plus much additional information, with copious explanations and examples. It can be used by teachers of No. 2 or as a text for older students and adults.

The 421 official questions bear the same numbers throughout the series, and their wording is identical.

Apart from its educational advantages, the progressive plan aims at lessening the expense in providing children with Catechisms, but furnishing just what is necessary for each grade; it aims also at encouraging the children to learn by affording opportunity for promotion from book to book.

These Catechisms are intended to furnish a complete course of religious instruction, when used as follows:

No. 1 for First Communion classes.

No. 2 for Confirmation classes.

No. 3 for two years' course for Post-Confirmation classes.

No. 4 for Teachers and Teachers' Training classes.



P R A Y E R S

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 those who trespass against us: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Angelical Salutation

Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with thee: blessed art thou amongst 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 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, 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.

The Confiteor

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 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, and forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

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

An Act of Faith

O my God! I firmly believe that Thou art one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; I believe that Thy Divine Son became man, and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because Thou hast revealed them, who canst neither deceive nor be deceived.

An Act of Hope

O my God! Relying on Thy infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Thy grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

An Act of Love

O my God! I love Thee above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because Thou art all-good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of Thee. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

An Act of Contrition

O my God! I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life.

The Blessing before Meals

✠ Bless us, O Lord! and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Grace after Meals


✠ We give Thee thanks for all Thy benefits, O Almighty God, who livest and reignest forever; and may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

*The Manner in Which a Lay Person
Is to Baptize in Case of Necessity*

Pour common water on the head or face of the person to be baptized, and say while pouring it:

“I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

N.B. Any person of either sex who has reached the use of reason can baptize in case of necessity, but the same person must say the words while pouring the water.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

1. Q. Say the Lord's Prayer.

A. 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 those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

2. Q. Who made the Lord's Prayer?

A. Our Lord Himself made the Lord's Prayer for the use of His disciples and of all the faithful.

3. Q. Why is the "Our Father" the most excellent of all prayers?

A. The "Our Father" is the most excellent of all prayers because Our Lord Himself made it and because its petitions ask for all we can need for soul or body.

4. Q. How is the Lord's Prayer divided?

A. The Lord's Prayer is divided into seven requests or petitions. Three of these petitions refer to God's honor and glory, and the remaining four to our corporeal or spiritual wants.

5. Q. Whom do we address as "Our Father" when we say the Lord's Prayer?

A. When we say "Our Father" in the Lord's Prayer we address Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost united in the adorable Trinity.

6. Q. Why do we say “our” and not “my” Father?

A. We say “our” and not “my” Father to remind us that through our creation and redemption, we are all members of the great human family of which God is the Father; and that we should pray for and help one another.

7. Q. Why do we call God Father?

A. We call God Father because He does for us what a good father should do for his children. He gives us our existence; He protects us; He provides for us and teaches us; and because the name of “Father” fills us with love and reverence for Him, and with confidence in Him.

8. Q. Why do we say “Who art in Heaven” if God is everywhere?

A. We say “Who art in Heaven” to put us in mind: 1) that Heaven is our true home for which we were created; 2) that in Heaven we shall see God face to face as He is; 3) that Heaven is the place where God will be for all eternity, with the Blessed.

9. Q. What does “Hallowed be Thy Name” mean?

A. Hallowed means set apart for a holy or sacred use, and thus comes to mean treated or praised as holy or sacred. “Thy name” means God Himself and all relating to Him, and by this petition we ask that God may be known, loved and served by all.

10. Q. What do we ask for in the petition: “Thy kingdom come”?

A. In the petition “Thy kingdom come” we ask: 1) that God may reign in the souls of all men by His grace, so that they may attain eternal salvation; 2) that the true Church—Christ’s kingdom—may spread upon earth till all men embrace the true religion.

11. Q. Who do God's Will in Heaven?

A. In Heaven the angels and Saints do God's Will perfectly. They never disobey or even wish to disobey Him. In the petition, "Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven," we pray that all God's creatures may imitate the angels and Saints in Heaven by never offending Him.

12. Q. What do we ask for by "our daily bread"?

A. In the petition for "our daily bread" we ask not merely for bread, but for all that we need for the good of our body or soul.

13. Q. Why do we say "daily"?

A. We say "daily" to teach us that we are not to be avaricious but only prudent in providing for our wants; and that we are to have great confidence in the Providence of God.

14. Q. What do "trespasses" mean?

A. "Trespasses" mean here injuries done or offenses given to another, and when God is the person offended, "trespasses" mean sins.

15. Q. What do you mean by "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"?

A. In this petition we declare to God that we have forgiven all who have injured or offended us, and ask Him to reward us by pardoning our sins.

16. Q. When may we be said to forgive those who trespass against us?

A. We may be said to forgive our enemies when we act and, as far as possible, feel toward them as if they had never injured us.

17. Q. What is temptation?

A. A temptation is anything that incites, provokes, or urges us to offend God.

18. Q. What is the best means of overcoming temptation?

A. The best means of overcoming temptation is to resist its very beginning, by turning our attention from it; by praying for help to resist it; and by doing the opposite of what we are tempted to do.

19. Q. Does God tempt us to sin?

A. God does not tempt us to sin; but He permits us to be tempted to try our fidelity or punish our pride; and to give us an opportunity of meriting rewards for ourselves by overcoming the temptations.

20. Q. Can we always resist temptation?

A. We can always resist temptation if we wish, for God always gives us sufficient grace and never permits us to be tempted above our strength.

21. Q. Is it a sin to be tempted?

A. It is not a sin to be tempted, because we cannot prevent it. It is sinful only to consent or yield to the temptation or needlessly expose ourselves to it.

22. Q. From what do our temptations come?

A. Our temptations come either from the devil, our spiritual enemy, or from the world; that is, the wicked persons, places, or things in the world; or from the flesh; that is, our body with its strong passions and evil inclinations.

23. Q. Should we seek temptation for the sake of overcoming it?

A. We must not expose ourselves to temptation, but, on the contrary, carefully avoid it, yet resist it bravely when it assails us.

24. Q. From what evil do we ask to be delivered?

A. We ask to be delivered from every evil of body and mind, but particularly to be delivered from sin, which is the greatest of all evils.

25. Q. What does “Amen” mean?

A. “Amen” means, “so be it” and expresses a desire that the petition may be granted.

26. Q. What does Christian mean?

A. A Christian is a baptized person who professes to believe all that Christ has taught, and to do all that He has commanded as necessary for our salvation.



THE ANGELICAL SALUTATION

27. Q. Say the Angelical Salutation (Hail Mary).

A. Hail Mary, full of grace! the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst 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.

28. Q. What is a salutation?

A. A salutation is the customary words or actions by which the people of a country greet one another.

29. Q. Why is this salutation called angelical?

A. This salutation is called angelical because it was given by an angel.

30. Q. What does “hail” mean?

A. “Hail” means, “I wish you health.” It is an exclamation of respectful greeting.

31. Q. How is the “Hail Mary” divided?

A. The “Hail Mary” is divided into two parts. The first part, made by the angel Gabriel and St. Elizabeth, contains the praises of the Mother of God; and the second part, added by the Church, begs her intercession for sinners.

- 32. Q. Why is the “Hail Mary” usually placed after the Lord’s Prayer?**
- A. The “Hail Mary” is usually placed after the “Our Father” because it is an inspired prayer, the most excellent after the Lord’s Prayer, and also that the Blessed Mother may, by her powerful intercession, aid us in obtaining what we ask.
- 33. Q. Who was St. Elizabeth?**
- A. St. Elizabeth was the mother of St. John the Baptist and the cousin of the Blessed Virgin.
- 34. Q. What answer did the Blessed Virgin make to the words of St. Elizabeth?**
- A. The Blessed Virgin answered St. Elizabeth in the words of the beautiful Magnificat.
- 35. Q. What is the Magnificat?**
- A. The Magnificat is the splendid canticle or hymn in which the Blessed Virgin praises God and returns Him thanks for the great things He has done for her. It is usually sung at Vespers in the Church.
- 36. Q. Why do we address Mary as “full of grace”?**
- A. We address Mary as “full of grace” because she was never guilty of the slightest sin, was endowed with every virtue, and was blessed with a constant increase of grace in her soul.
- 37. Q. Why do we say “the Lord is with thee”?**
- A. We say “the Lord is with thee,” for besides being with her as He is with all His creatures on account of His presence everywhere, and as He is with the good on account of their virtue, He is with Mary in a very special manner on account of her dignity as Mother of His Son.

38. Q. Why is Mary called “blessed amongst women”?

A. Mary is called “blessed amongst women” on account of her personal holiness, her great dignity as Mother of God, and her freedom from original sin.

39. Q. Why is Mary called “holy”?

A. Mary is called “holy” because one full of grace and endowed with every virtue must be holy.

40. Q. Why do we need Mary’s prayers at the hour of death?

A. We need Mary’s prayers at the hour of death because at that time our salvation is in greatest danger, and our spiritual enemies most anxious to overcome us.

41. Q. Why do we say the “Hail Mary”?

A. We say the “Hail Mary” to put us in mind of the Incarnation, and to show our devotion to the Mother of God, and our confidence in her assistance.

42. Q. In what form of prayer is the “Hail Mary” most frequently repeated?

A. The “Hail Mary” is most frequently repeated in the recitation of the Rosary or beads.

43. Q. What is the Angelus?

A. The Angelus is a prayer giving a brief history of the Incarnation.

44. Q. Say the Angelus.

A. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. And she conceived of the Holy Ghost. Hail Mary, etc. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to Thy Word. Hail Mary, etc. 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.

45. Q. At what time is the Angelus usually said?

A. The Angelus is said in the evening, in memory of the Incarnation; in the morning, in memory of the Resurrection, and at noon in memory of the Passion of Our Lord.

46. Q. What does “the Word was made flesh” mean in the Angelus?

A. “The Word” means the second person of the Blessed Trinity, and “made flesh” means became man.

47. Q. What is the Litany of the Blessed Virgin?

A. The Litany is a form of prayer in which we address our Blessed Lady by many beautiful titles, such as Mother of God, Virgin Most Pure, Refuge of Sinners, etc., asking her after each to pray for us.

48. Q. Are there any other Litanies in use besides the Litany of the Blessed Virgin?

A. Besides the Litany of the Blessed Virgin there are other Litanies in use, especially the Litany of the Saints, the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus, the Litany of the Sacred Heart, etc.