

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.*