

NINTH THROUGH TWELFTH GRADES

CURRICULUM STANDARDS

PILLAR I – THE PROFESSION OF FAITH - CREED

Theme 1: God’s Revelation and Our Response of Faith

“Through an utterly free decision, God has revealed himself and given himself to man ... God has fully revealed this plan by sending his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.” “By his Revelation, ‘the invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses men as friends, and moves among them, in order to invite and receive them into his own company.’ The adequate response to this invitation is faith.” (CCC 50, 142)

MESSAGE

1. What is the purpose of our life?

- a) The purpose of man’s life is to know and love God.
(CCC 1; John 17:3; 1 Tim 2:3-4)
- b) The desire for God is written in our hearts.
(CCC 27, 30; Ps 105:3)

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2. How do we come to know God?

- a) We can know something about God through the physical world and through human reason.
(CCC 31-35; Rom 1:19-20)
- b) But we can only come to know *who God is* and His plan of loving goodness because He has freely chosen to reveal Himself to us.
(CCC 50-53; 1 Tim 6:16; Eph 1:4-5)
- c) Jesus Christ is the fullness of God's Revelation.
(CCC 50, 65; Heb 1:1-2)

3. How is God's Revelation preserved and handed on to us?

- a) Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium transmit and interpret God's Revelation.
(CCC 80-82, 85-87, 97; DV 9)
- b) Sacred Tradition comes from the Apostles and hands on what they received from Jesus' teaching and example and what they learned from the Holy Spirit.

(CCC 83; Mt 28:19-20; Lk 10:16)
- c) The Magisterium of the Church preserves, guards, and interprets the sacred deposit of God's Revelation.
(CCC 85-87, 100, 171-172, 175, 182; 1 Tim 3:15; 1 Tim 6:20; Jude 3)

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4. What is Sacred Scripture and who wrote it?

- a) Sacred Scripture is the Word of God.
(CCC 124)
 - 1. God is the author of Sacred Scripture.
(CCC 105, 136; DV 11; Jn 20:31; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:19-21; 3:15-16)
 - 2. God employed men, inspired by the Holy Spirit, as authors.
(CCC 106, 136; DV 11)
- b) The Gospels were written in three stages:
(CCC 126)
 - 1. *The life and teaching of Jesus*
(CCC 126)
 - 2. *The oral tradition*
(CCC 126)
 - 3. *The written Gospels*
(CCC 126)

5. How is Sacred Scripture to be interpreted?

- a) The Holy Spirit is the interpreter of scripture.
(CCC 109-114, 137; DV 12)
- b) The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New.
(CCC 128-130; Lk 24:27; 1 Cor 5:6-8; 10:1-11)

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6. What is the role of Sacred Scripture in the Church?

- Sacred Scripture has always had an important place in the life of the Church. (CCC 105, 131, 141; DV 21, 22)

7. How is man to respond to God's Revelation?

- a) Man's response to God's Revelation is a response of faith. (CCC 142-143)
- b) Scripture gives us many examples of God's Revelation and man's response of faith:
 1. *Abraham*
(CCC 145; Gen 12:1-4; Gen 22: 1-14; Heb 11:8)
 2. *Moses*
(Ex 4:20)
 3. *Mary*
(CCC 148; cf. CCC 149; Lk 1:37-38)

8. What is faith?

- a) By faith, man submits his intellect and will to God. (CCC 143, 176)
- b) Faith is a grace, a gift of God. (CCC 153, 179; Mt 16:17)
- c) Faith is also a human act. (CCC 154-155, 180; Lk 1:45)
- d) Our response of faith is "We Believe". (CCC 166-167, 170, 181)

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9. How is faith expressed?

- The “Creed” is the expression of our belief.
(CCC 185-187, 189; Rom 10:9; 1 Cor 15:3-5)

APOLOGETICS

1. Is the Bible the sole source of God’s Revelation?

- a) “*Sacred Scripture* is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit.”
(CCC 81, DV 9)
- b) However, God’s Revelation is not limited to the Bible alone.
(CCC 80-83, 124-126; Jn 21:25)
- c) The books of the New Testament came from the teaching and the life (the Sacred Tradition) of the early Church.
(CCC 124-126)

2. Why does the Catholic Bible have seven Old Testament books not found in Protestant versions of the Bible?

- a) The canon of scripture consists of 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament.
(CCC 120)

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- b) This canon of scripture had been defined and consistently used throughout the life of the Church. During the Protestant Reformation of the 1500's, seven books of the Old Testament were removed by the Protestant reformers.

3. What does the Catholic Church teach about personal interpretations of the Bible?

- a) A proper interpretation of the Bible requires the assistance of the Holy Spirit and must take into consideration three criteria. A biblical passage must be:
 - 1) Interpreted in light of the whole Bible.
(CCC 112)
 - 2) Read within “the living Tradition of the whole Church”.
(CCC 113)
 - 3) Interpreted in light of all of the truths of the faith.
(CCC 114)

4. Why don't we always read or interpret the Bible literally?

- There are different types of literary forms in the Bible.
(CCC 110)

5. How are we to understand Marian apparitions and other revelations by God to individuals?

- Private revelations recognized by the Church do not improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but help people to live more fully by it in a certain period of history.
(CCC 67, 73)

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Theme 2: God the Father Almighty

“Our profession of faith begins with God, for God is the First and the Last, the beginning and the end of everything. The [Creed] begins with God the Father, for the Father is the first divine person of the Most Holy Trinity.” (CCC 198)

MESSAGE

1. Who is God?

- a) God is one.
(CCC 200-202; Deut 6:4-5; Is 45:22-24; Phil 2:10-11)
- b) God is merciful.
(CCC 210-211; Ex 34:6, 9; Eph 2:4)
- c) God is truth.
(CCC 215-217)
- d) God is love.
(1 Jn 4:8; CCC 218-221; Jn 3:16; Jer 31:3)
- e) God transcends time and space.
(CCC 212; Ps 102:26-27)

2. What does the Revelation of God’s name mean?

- God has revealed His name, which makes him “capable of being known more intimately and addressed personally.”
(CCC 203; cf. CCC 204-209; Ex 3:14)

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3. What are the implications of faith in one God?

- a) *Knowing God's greatness and majesty.* "We must serve God first."
(CCC 223)
- b) *Living in thanksgiving.*
(CCC 224; 1 Cor 4:7)
- c) *Knowing the unity and true dignity of all men.*
(CCC 225; Gen 1:26)
- d) *Making good use of created things.*
(CCC 226)
- e) *Trusting God in every circumstance.*
(CCC 227)

4. Can we completely know God?

- While we can come to know God because he has revealed himself to us, we do not completely know him.
(CCC 230)

5. What does it mean that God is our Father?

- God is the first origin of everything and He lovingly cares for all of his children.
(CCC 239)

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6. How do we know God as our Father?

- a) God has revealed Himself as our Father.
(2 Sam 7:14; Mt 7:32; Deut 32:6)
- b) Jesus reveals the Father to us.
(CCC 240, 2780; Jn 14:7)
- c) Jesus teaches us how to pray to our Father.
(CCC 2759; Mt 6:9)

7. What does it mean that God is almighty?

- a) It means he is all powerful.
(CCC 268, 269; Mt 19:26)
- b) God created the heavens and the earth, and he rules over them.
(CCC 269)

8. How does God show his almighty power?

- God shows his power most profoundly through his mercy.
(CCC 270; Wis 11:23)

9. How can God be both transcendent and immanent?

- a) God created the universe and rules over all things.
(CCC 269; Ps 115:3)
- b) At the same time, God, our almighty Father, is also close to us and takes care of our needs.
(CCC 270; cf. CCC 268-271; Mt 10:30; 2 Cor 6:18)

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10.If God is all powerful, then why do evil and suffering exist?

- a) God does not actively will evil and suffering. He permits them because they are possible when freedom is abused.
(CCC 397, 399, 400)

- b) God can sometimes appear powerless in the face of evil, “but in the most mysterious way God the Father has revealed his almighty power in the voluntary humiliation and Resurrection of his Son, by which he conquered evil.”
(CCC 272)

- c) In weakness, our faith can draw us closer to Christ’s power.
(CCC 273)

APOLOGETICS

1. Why don’t we call God our mother?

- a) Because God is pure spirit, he is actually neither male nor female. However, he has revealed himself to us as our loving Father.
(CCC 239, 270; 2 Cor 6:18; Mt 6:32)

- b) Jesus has revealed him to us as our Father.
(CCC 240; Mt 6:9; Mt 11:27)

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Theme 3: The Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

“Christians are baptized ‘in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’ Before receiving the sacrament, they respond to a three-part question when asked to confess the Father, the Son, and the Spirit: ‘I do.’ ‘The faith of all Christians rests on the Trinity.’” (CCC 232)

MESSAGE

1. What do we mean by the Trinity?

- a) There is only one God.
(CCC 201-202; Deut 6:4-5)
- b) There are three persons in one God.
(CCC 237)

2. How is the Trinity revealed to us?

- a) Jesus revealed the three persons of the Trinity.
(Jn 14:7; Jn 14:16-17)
- b) At Jesus’ Baptism (Mt 3:16-17; cf. Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-22; Jn 1:31-34) and Transfiguration (CCC 555; cf. Lk 9:35; Lk 3:22; Jn 12:28-30), the three persons of the Trinity are revealed.

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3. Who are the three Persons in the Trinity?

- a) God is Father and creator of the world.
(CCC 257; Deut 32:6)
- b) The Son (the Word) took on human flesh and became like one of us in all ways but sin.
(CCC 461-463; Jn 1:1, 14)
- c) The Holy Spirit, “at work since creation, having previously ‘spoken through the prophets,’ ... will now be with and in the disciples, to teach them and guide them ‘into all the truth.’”
(CCC 243; cf. Gen 1:2; Jn 14:17, 26; 16:13)

4. How important is the Trinity in our faith and in our lives?

- a) “The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself.”
(CCC 234)
- b) “By the divine missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit, God the Father fulfills the ‘plan of his loving goodness’ of creation, redemption, and sanctification.”
(CCC 235)
- c) The whole purpose of our lives is to enter into the perfect love and unity of the Blessed Trinity.
(CCC 260; Jn 14:23)

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5. How do we profess our belief in the Trinity?

- a) We are baptized “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
(CCC 232; Mt 28:19)
 - In the Nicene Creed, we profess that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one.
(Nicene Creed; CCC, p. 49; cf. CCC 240-246, 263)

APOLOGETICS

1. The word “Trinity” does not appear in the Bible.

- a) There are many words that describe the truths of our faith that are not found in the Bible. However, the truths themselves are found in the Bible. Words such as “Trinity” or “Incarnation” help us to understand the truths described.
- b) The Church, right from the beginning, believed in the Trinity.
(Mt 28:19; 2 Cor 13:13)

2. The First Commandment says there is only one God, how can you worship the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

- a) We do believe there is only one God. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three persons within the one God.
(CCC 232-237; Deut 6:4; Jn 17:21)
- b) This can be difficult to understand, and we can only know it because God revealed it to us.
(CCC 237)

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Theme 4: Creation

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
(Gen 1:1; CCC 279)

MESSAGE

1. What does creation tell us about the purpose of our lives?

- The fact that God created us answers the questions of where we came from and where we are going. We are called to a personal relationship with God. (CCC 299)

2. What are some characteristics of creation?

- a) Creation is ordered.
(CCC 299; Wis 11:20)
- b) Creation is good.
(CCC 299; Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 31)
 - ◆ The physical world is good, although it is affected by sin.
(CCC 299, 405)

3. Why did God create?

- a) “The world was made for the glory of God.” God did not *have* to create. He *chose* to create in order to share his glory.
(CCC 293, 298)
- b) God created us to be with him forever.
(CCC 294)

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4. How did God create?

- God created everything out of nothing.
(CCC 296-298)

5. What is God's relationship to his creation?

- God transcends creation and is present to it.
(CCC 300; Acts 17:28)

6. Is God guiding the world?

- a) God not only brings his creatures into existence, “but also, and at every moment, upholds and sustains them in being, enables them to act and brings them to their final end.”
(CCC 301)
- b) Through what we call “divine providence”, God guides his creation to their ultimate perfection.
(CCC 302-303; Mt 6:31-33; Mt 10:29-31)

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7. What does God give us to do in the world?

- a) Through his goodness, God allows us to cooperate in accomplishing his plan. (CCC 306)
 - 1. We collaborate with God’s plan through our actions, prayers and sufferings. (CCC 307)
 - 2. We can only reach our ultimate end with the help of God’s grace. (CCC 308)

8. If God created a good world and cares for all his creatures, then why does evil exist?

- a) God does not cause evil, but he permits it “because he respects the freedom of his creatures and, mysteriously, knows how to derive good from it.” (CCC 309, 311-313; Gen 50:20; Rom 5:20)
- b) “There is not a single aspect of the Christian message that is not in part an answer to the question of evil.” (CCC 309)
 - “From the greatest moral evil ever committed - the rejection and murder of God’s only Son, caused by the sins of all men - God ... brought the greatest of goods: the glorification of Christ and our redemption.” (CCC 312)
- c) The ways of God’s providence are not always known to us. (CCC 314)

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9. What does it mean that God created heaven and earth?

- It means that God created all that exists, both spiritual and physical.
(CCC 326-327)

10. What are angels?

- a) Angels are spiritual beings.
(CCC 328-329)
- b) They are servants and messengers of God.
(CCC 329, 331; Heb 1:6)
- c) Like human beings, angels have intellects and wills; unlike human beings, angels do not have bodies.
(CCC 329, 330)

11. What have angels done throughout salvation history?

- a) “They closed the earthly paradise; protected Lot; saved Hagar and her child; stayed Abraham’s hand; communicated the law by their ministry; led the People of God; announced births and callings; and assisted the prophets, just to cite a few examples.”
(CCC 332; cf. Gen 3:24; 19; 21:17; 22:11; Acts 7:53; Ex 23:20-23; Judg 13:6:11-24; Isa 6:6; 1 Kings 19:5)
- b) The life of Jesus is “surrounded by the adoration and service of angels.”
(CCC 333)

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- They sing praise at his birth, “protect Jesus in his infancy, serve him in the desert, strengthen him in his agony in the garden.” Angels proclaim the Good News of his Incarnation and Resurrection. “They will be present at [his] return, which they will announce, to serve at his judgment.”
(CCC 333; cf; Lk 2:14; Mt 1:20; 2:13, 19; 4:11; 26:53; Mk 1:13; Lk 22:43; 2 Macc 10:29-30; 11:8; Lk 2:8-14; Mk 16:5-7; Acts 1:10-11; Mt 13:41; 24:31; Lk 12:8-9)

12. What is the summit of all creation?

- Man is the summit of all creation.
(CCC 343; cf. Gen 1:26)

13. What does God’s work of creation tell us about the sabbath?

- God’s work of creation shows the importance of rest on the sabbath.
(CCC 347; Gen 2:2-3)

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Theme 5: Man – Created in the Image of God

“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.” (Gen 1:27; CCC 355)

MESSAGE

1. What does it mean that man is made “in the image of God”?

- a) Of all his creatures, only man is able to know and love God and to share in God’s own life.
(CCC 356)
- b) Man is capable of “freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons.”
(CCC 357)
- c) Man’s dignity comes from the fact that he is created in the image of God.
(CCC 356)
- d) Jesus shows us the truth about who man is.
(CCC 359)

2. What distinguishes the human person from all other creatures?

- The human person is composed of body and soul.
(CCC 362-366)

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3. Where does the soul come from?

- “Every spiritual soul is created immediately by God – it is not ‘produced’ by the parents.”
(CCC 366)

4. What happens to the soul after death?

- a) “The soul is immortal; it does not perish when it separates from the body at death.”
(CCC 366)
- b) The soul “will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection.”
(CCC 366)

5. What does it mean that God created them male and female?

- a) “God ... willed each for the other.”
(CCC 371; cf. 369-373; Gen 2:18)
- b) Man and woman are equal, but different and complementary.
(CCC 372)
- c) “In marriage God unites them in such a way that, by forming ‘one flesh,’ they can transmit life.”
(CCC 372; cf. Gen 2:24)

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6. What does it mean that God told man to “subdue the earth”?

- God created man and woman as stewards of his creation. We are to care for everything God created.
(CCC 373; cf. Gen 1:28)

7. What does it mean that man was created in paradise?

- a) “The first man was not only created good, but was also established in friendship with his Creator and in harmony with himself and with the creation around him.”
(CCC 374)
- b) As long as man remained in intimacy with God, he would not have to suffer or die.
(CCC 376; cf. Gen 2:17; 3:16, 19)
- c) There was harmony within the human person, between the man and woman, and between the first couple and all creation. (CCC 376)
- d) Man did not suffer from disordered passions, a disordered desire for earthly goods, or selfishness.
(cf. CCC 377)
- e) “Work is not yet a burden, but rather the collaboration of man and woman with God in perfecting the visible creation.”
(CCC 378)
- f) “This entire harmony of original justice ... will be lost by the sin of our first parents.”
(CCC 379)

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APOLOGETICS

1. What does the Church teach about evolution?

- a) The Church does not teach scientifically *how* God created all things. There are many theories about how creation occurred and has progressed. Evolution is one of these theories.
- b) Good scientific work can lead to a better understanding of how God created. However, one must be careful to discern good scientific work from endeavors that seek to undermine or even deny God's work in creation.
(CCC 2293-2294)
- c) The biblical account of creation helps us understand many things about creation:
 - 1. God created all things in an orderly way.
(CCC 340-344; Gen 1:1 - 2:4)
 - 2. Creation is good.
(CCC 339, 374; Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 31)
 - 3. At a point in time, there was one man and one woman, from whom all mankind descended.
(CCC 360; Gen 1:27; 2:18-24)
 - 4. God gave man and woman their human souls.
(CCC 362, 366; Gen 2:7)
 - 5. God gave man free will.
(CCC 396, 1730; Gen 2:16-17)
 - 6. Man abused his freedom and sinned.
(CCC 388-390, 397; Gen 3)

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d) Any proven theory of creation will have to include the above principles.

- There can be no discrepancy between *how* God actually created and what God revealed to us about creation in the Bible.

2. How come a man cannot marry a man or a woman marry a woman?

a) God created human beings male and female as complementary.
(CCC 369-372)

b) God created man and woman to be able to give themselves to each other in love and to procreate.
(CCC 2360-2363)

c) Marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

(CCC 1605, 1614, 1652; Gen 2:18-25; Mt 19:4; Rom 1:27)

d) God gave mankind the great gift of sexual intercourse to strengthen the love between a married man and woman and for the procreation of mankind. Any other use of sex is for selfish reasons and against God’s laws.
(CCC 1643, 1652; Gen 1:28; Mt 19:4)

e) Scripture makes the sinfulness of homosexual acts very clear.

(Gen 18:20; Gen 19:1-29; Rom 1:24-27; 1 Cor 6:9-10; 1 Tim 1:10)

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f) It is important to distinguish between the person who may have homosexual tendencies and a homosexual act.

1. We are to love all people and to treat those with homosexual tendencies with “respect, compassion, and sensitivity.” (CCC 2358)
2. However, we are not to accept the legitimacy of something sinful, such as homosexual activity.
(CCC 2357)
3. “Homosexual persons are called to chastity.”
(CCC 2359)

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Theme 6: Original Sin and Its Effect on Human Nature

“Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in God die in his heart and, abusing his freedom, disobeyed God’s command. This is what man’s first sin consisted of. All subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and lack of trust in his goodness.” (CCC #397)

MESSAGE

1. What is original sin?

- Man freely disobeyed God’s command.
(CCC 397; Gen. 3:1-5)

2. What are the consequences of original sin?

- “By one man’s disobedience many [that is, all men] were made sinners...”
(CCC 402; Rom. 5:12, 19; CCC 404; CCC 417)

3. Did original sin totally corrupt the human nature?

- ...human nature has not been totally corrupted; it is wounded...
(CCC 405)

4. What promise did God give after the fall that he would not abandon us?

- “I will put enmity between you and the woman...”
(Gen. 3:15)

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5. How did God fulfill this promise?

- By the Paschal Mystery
(CCC 1067; 411)

6. What has Jesus Christ established to turn people back to God?

- Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ’s grace, erases original sin and turns a man back toward God.
(CCC 405)

7. What keeps mankind from totally turning back to God?

- Yet certain temporal consequences of sin remain in the baptized... [called] concupiscence.
(CCC 1264; CCC 387)

APOLOGETICS

1. How can the sin of one man be transmitted, or affect, the entire human race?

- “The whole human race is in Adam ‘as one body of one man.’ By this ‘unity of the human race ‘all men are implicated in Adam’s sin.’”
(CCC 404)

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Theme 7: The Mystery of Christ's Life and How We Are to Imitate It

“Christ’s whole earthly life – his words and deeds, his silence and sufferings, indeed his manner of being and speaking – is *Revelation of the Father*...Christ’s whole life is a mystery of *redemption*.” (CCC 516-17)

MESSAGE

1. What is Christ’s greatest gift to us?

- Grace, salvation from sin and for the divine life as children of the Father.

2. Why is Christ’s life such a mystery?

- “From the swaddling clothes of his birth to the vinegar of his Passion and shroud of his Resurrection, everything in Jesus’ life is a sign of his mystery.” (CCC 515, 561)

3. Why are we called to share in this mystery?

- “Christ’s disciples are to conform themselves to him until he is formed in them” (CCC 562, 519-21)

4. What is a sacrament?

- “The visible sign of the hidden reality of salvation.” (CCC 774)

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5. How is Jesus Christ a “Sacrament”?

- “His humanity appeared as a ‘sacrament’, that is a sign and instrument, of his divinity and of the salvation he brings: what was visible in his earthly life leads to the invisible mystery of his divine sonship and redemptive mission.” (CCC 514)

APOLOGETICS

1. How did Catholics get Seven Sacraments out of the bible when they are not mentioned in it?

- “Jesus’ word and actions during his hidden life and public ministry...are the foundations of what he would henceforth dispense in the sacraments...” (CCC 1115)

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Theme 8: Jesus Christ: True God and True Man

“At the appointed time by God, the only Son of the Father, the eternal word, that is, the word and substantial Image of the Father, became incarnate; without losing his divine nature he has assumed human nature.” (CCC 479)

MESSAGE

1. What is the Incarnation?

- “...the Church calls ‘Incarnation’ the fact that the Son of God assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation...”
(CCC 461)

2. Is Jesus true God or true Man?

- “The unique and altogether a singular event of the Incarnation of the Son of God...He became truly man while remaining truly God.”
(CCC 464)

3. How is the Son of God Man?

- “Because ‘human nature was assumed not absorbed...’
(CCC 470)

4. Did Christ have a human soul?

- “...the Church confessed that the eternal Son also assumed a rational, human soul.
(CCC 471)

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5. Did Christ have a human limited knowledge?

- “This human soul that the Son of God assumed is endowed with a true human knowledge...could not in itself be unlimited...This is why the Son of God could, when he became man, ‘increase in wisdom and in stature...’” (CCC 472)

APOLOGETICS

1. If Jesus was true God, why did he have to die?

- “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man’s obedience many will be made righteous.” (CCC 615; Rom. 5:19)

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Theme 9: The Resurrection

“And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome...went to the tomb...And they were saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?...they saw that the stone was rolled back...And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, ‘Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him.’” (Mk. 16:1-6)

MESSAGE

1. What did Christ’s death accomplish?

- Through Christ’s death we have “the source of eternal salvation.”
(CCC 616-617)

2. What is the “justification” accomplished by Christ’s resurrection?

- “Justification consists in both victory over death caused by sin and a new participation in grace. It brings about filial adoption...”
(CCC 654)

3. How does Christ’s resurrection affect our own?

- “Christ’s Resurrection is the principle source of our future resurrection...”
(CCC 655)

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4. What does Christ's ascension do for us?

- Christ's ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' humanity into God's domain..."And I, when I am lifted up...I will draw all men to myself."

(CCC 665; 662; Jn 12:32)

5. What does it mean to be judged?

- Jesus announced the Judgment of the Last Days in his preaching where the conduct of each person will be brought to light.

(cf. CCC 678)

APOLOGETICS

1. How do we know that Christ actually rose from the grave?

- "The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ; a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community..."

(CCC 638; Lk 24:5-6; Jn 20:13; Mt 28:11-15; Lk 22:31-32)

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Theme 10: The Holy Spirit

“No one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.” (CCC 687)

MESSAGE

1. Can we “hear” the Spirit?

- “...we do not hear the Spirit himself. We know him only in the movement by which he reveals the Word to us...”
(CCC 687)

2. What is the mission of the Spirit?

- “...the mission of the Spirit of adoption is to unite them [the children of God] to Christ and make them live with him...” (CCC 690; 737)

3. Does the Holy Spirit have a “proper name”?

- “‘Holy Spirit’ is the proper name...”
(CCC 691)

4. Does he have titles?

- See CCC 692-693

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5. What are the symbols of the Holy Spirit?

- Water, anointing, fire, cloud and light, the seal, the hand, the finger the dove.
(CCC 694-701)

6. What are the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit?

- a) Gifts: See Is. 11:23
- b) Fruits: See Gal. 5:22-23

7. How does a person receive these gifts?

- “By Baptism...The Holy Spirit in the Church communicates to us...”
(CCC 683)

APOLOGETICS

1. How can a “spirit” be “one” with God?

- “When the Father sent his Word, he always sends his Breath. In their joint mission, the Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct but inseparable.”
(CCC 689)

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Theme 11: The Holy Catholic Church

“Christ is the light of humanity; and it is...the heart-felt desire of this sacred Council...that...it may bring to all men that light of Christ which shines out visibly from the Church.” (CCC 748)

MESSAGE

1. What does “Church” mean?

- “It designates the assemblies of people, usually for a religious purpose.”

(CCC 751; cf. Acts 19:39; cf. Ex. 1:9; cf. 1 Cor 11:18)

2. Does the Church have an origin?

- “The Father...determined to call together in a holy Church those who should believe in Christ.”

(CCC 759; LG 2)

3. Who instituted the Church?

- “The Lord Jesus inaugurated his Church by preaching the Good News...”

(CCC 763; 766; LG 5 cf. Jn 19:34)

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4. What is the Church's mission?

- "...the Church in her very nature is missionary, sent by Christ to all nations to make disciples of them."
(CCC 767; Mt. 28:19-20)

5. Who makes up the Church?

- "Christ...called together a race made up of Jews and Gentiles which would be one, not according to the flesh, but in the Spirit." i.e. the People of God
(CCC 781; Acts 10:35)

6. What is the role of the People of God?

- a) "The whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ (priestly, prophetic and royal office) and bears the responsibilities for mission and service..."
(CCC 783; cf. John Paul II, RH 18:21)
- b) priestly
(CCC 784; cf. Heb. 5:1-5; Rev. 1:6)
- c) prophetic
(CCC 785; Jude 3)
- d) royal office
(CCC 786; cf. Jn. 12:32)

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7. Who is the head of the Church?

- “Christ is the head of the body, the Church.”
(CCC 792; Col. 1:18)

8. Who constitutes the Body of Christ?

- “Believers who respond to God’s word and become members...”
(CCC 790; cf. Rom. 6:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:13)

9. In the Creed, it says that the Church is “one, holy, catholic and apostolic.” What does it mean?

- a) “These four characters...indicate essential features of the Church and her mission.”
(CCC 811; LG 8)
- b) The Church is One
(CCC 813-822; Eph 4:3)
- c) The Church is Holy
(CCC 823-829; cf. Eph. 5:25-26; Acts 9:13; 1 Cor. 6:1, 16:1)
- d) The Church is Catholic
(CCC 830-856; Mt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 5:14)
- e) The Church is Apostolic
(CCC 857-865; Eph. 2:20; Rev. 21:14; Mt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:8)

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10.If Christ is the head of the Church, who is the pope?

- Because Jesus knew he had to leave his apostles and followers and not leave them orphans, he chose Peter to succeed his role as physical head of the Church on earth.
(cf. CCC 880-881; Mt. 16:16-20; Jn. 21:15-17)

11.Where did the hierarchy of the Church come from?

- “To the Apostles and their successors Christ has entrusted the office of teaching, sanctifying and governing in his name and by his power.”
(CCC 873; Mt 16:16-19; Rom. 10:14-15, 17)

12.What is the College of Bishops?

- a) “When Christ instituted the Twelve, ‘he constituted [them] in the form of a college or permanent assembly...St. Peter and the rest of the apostles constitute a single apostolic college...”
(CCC 880; Lk. 6:13; Jn 21:15-17)
- b) The college of Bishops is the ruling authority and teaching office of the Church. It is also “the expression of the variety and universality of the People of God; and of the unity of the flock of Christ, in so far as it is assembled under one head.”
(CCC 885; 889)

13.What is meant by the word “laity”?

- “The term ‘laity’ is here understood to mean all the [baptized] faithful except those in Holy Orders [or in] religious life...” (CCC 897)

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14. What is the laity’s role in the hierarchy?

- “The Christian faithful...through Baptism...are called to exercise the mission...in accord with the condition proper for each one.”
(CCC 781)

APOLOGETICS

1. What makes the Catholic Church think it’s better than the rest?

- The Catholic Church was not made by man but instituted by Christ himself in fulfilling his Father’s plan.
(cf. CCC 763-766)

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Theme 12: The Vocation of the Laity

“By reason of their special vocation it belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God’s will...to illuminate and order all temporal things...” (CCC 898; LG 31)

MESSAGE

1. What is the task of the Laity?

- The lay Christian is to permeate every aspect of society with sound doctrine and life.
(cf. CCC 899)

2. Where does the laity get this responsibility?

- “...by virtue of their Baptism and Confirmation...”
(CCC 900; Mt. 28:19-20)

3. Is the laity really necessary?

- “Their activity in ecclesial communities is so necessary that...the apostolate of pastors cannot be fully effective without it.” (CCC 900)

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4. How does the lay Christian aid in the apostolate of the pastors?

- “...the faithful...are made sharers in their particular way in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ...”
(CCC 897; LG 31)

5. How does the lay Christian participate in the Priestly office?

- The lay Christian participation in the priestly office is to bring Christ to all aspects of their work and rest whereby “their holy actions, the laity consecrates the world itself to God, everywhere offering worship by the holiness of their lives.”
(cf. CCC 901; LG 34; cf. LG 10; 1 Pet. 2:5)

6. Are there any lay Christians who share this priestly office in a special way?

- “...parents share in the office of sanctifying ‘by leading a conjugal life...and by seeing to the Christian education of their children.’”
(CCC 902)

7. How does the lay Christian participate in the prophetic office?

- Christ “accordingly both establishes them as witnesses...provides them with a sense of faith... [and] fulfill their...mission by evangelization...”
(CCC 904-905; LG 35)

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8. What about the kingly office?

- “By obedience unto death, Christ communicated to his disciples the gift of freedom, so that they might ‘by the self-abnegation of a holy life, overcome the reign of sin in themselves...’”
(CCC 908; cf. Phil 2:8-9; LG 36)

APOLOGETICS

1. If the lay person is called to be “priest, prophet and king”, then why do we need the hierarchy?

- “To the apostles and their successors [deacons, priests, bishops, pope] Christ has instructed the office of teaching, sanctifying and governing in his name and by his power. But the laity are made to share in the [office] of Christ...their own...mission...”
(CCC 873)

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Theme 13: Mary and the Communion of Saints

“What is the Church if not the assembly of all the saints: The communion of saints is the Church... [with] Christ...the head...the riches...are communicated to all the members, through the sacraments.” (CCC 946-947)

“Mary’s role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it.” (CCC 964)

MESSAGE

1. What is a saint?

- A saint is a person who has “practiced heroic virtue and lived in fidelity to God’s grace...while the most Blessed Virgin...” is the perfect example. (CCC 628-629)

2. If we can go directly to God with our prayers why do we need the saints to intercede for us?

- “Being more closely united to Christ...[T]hey do not cease to intercede with the Father for us...” (CCC956; 510)

3. What is the Communion of Saints?

- The term “communion of saints”...has two closely linked meanings: communion “in holy things” and “among holy persons.” (CCC 948)

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4. The Catechism mentions three “states” of the Church, what are they?

- “...the present time some of his disciples are pilgrims on earth. Others have died and are being purified, while...others are in glory...”
(CCC 954)

5. Who is Mary?

- Mary is the mother of Jesus. “From the beginning he [Christ] was ‘the one whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world,’ conceived as ‘holy’ in Mary’s virginal womb.”
(CCC 437)

6. Why did God choose a woman as a vehicle to bring forth Redemption?

- Because of Eve’s disobedience, God promised that one of her descendants would conceive the Messiah. Throughout Old Testament times God chose women, some old, others in weak, humble positions to show His power. Mary “stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord...”
(cf. CCC 489)

7. Is Mary’s motherhood truly divine?

- “Called in the Gospels ‘the mother of Jesus’ Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth...as the ‘mother of my Lord.’”
(CCC 495)

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8. Was Mary truly a virgin and did she remain one?

- “The Gospel accounts understand the virginal conception...surpasses all human understanding... [it is also] the fulfillment...of the prophet Isaiah: ‘Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.’” (CCC 497)

9. Scripture speaks about the “brothers” of Jesus. Did Mary and Joseph have other children?

- “The Church has always understood these passages as not referring to other children of the Virgin Mary. In fact James and Joseph, ‘brothers of Jesus,’ are sons of another Mary.” (CCC 500)

10. Is it necessary for us to have a devotion to Mary?

- “*All generations will call me blessed:*” The Church’s devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship.” (CCC 971)

APOLOGETICS

1. Why do Catholics worship Mary and the Saints?

- a) Catholics worship only God. To do otherwise, we would be breaking the First Commandment of “You shall worship the Lord your God.” (CCC 2084; Mt 4:10)
- b) Catholics honor Mary and the Saints by having devotions/praying to them for aid. (CCC 971; 956)

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Theme 14: I believe in Life Everlasting.

“May you return to [your Creator] who formed you...” (CCC 1020; Prayer of Commendation)

MESSAGE

1. What is death?

- “Death is the end of earthly life... [and] is a consequence of sin.”

(CCC 1007-100-; Wis. 2:22-23; 1 Cor. 15:26)

2. Why do people suffer and die?

- “God did not create death...It was through the devil’s envy that death entered the world.”

(CCC 413; Wis. 1:13; 2:24)

3. What is the meaning of death?

- “Christian death has a positive meaning...He can transform his own death into an act of obedience and love towards the Father...”

(CCC 1010-1011; Phil. 1:21; 2 Tim. 2:11)

4. Why should a Christian not fear death?

- “Death is transformed by Christ...The obedience of Jesus has transformed the curse of death into a blessing.”

(CCC 1009; cf. Rom. 5:19-21)

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5. When can a Christian truly believe in an everlasting life?

- “The Christian who unites his own death to that of Jesus views it as a step towards him and an entrance into everlasting life.”
(CCC1020)

6. What is everlasting life?

- “Hell’s principal punishment consists of eternal separation from God in whom alone man can have the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs.”
(CCC 1057)

7. Who goes to heaven?

- “Those who die in God’s grace and friendship and are perfectly purified...”
(CCC 1023)

8. What does it mean to be “perfectly purified”?

- “To be purified is to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.”
(CCC 1030)

9. Why doesn’t everyone go to heaven right away?

- “Each man receives his eternal retribution in his immortal soul at the very moment of his death...either entrance into the blessedness of heaven...or...immediate and everlasting damnation.”
(CCC 1022)

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10. What, then, is the difference between heaven and hell?

- a) “Those who die in God’s grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live forever with Christ. They are like God for ever, for they ‘see him as he is,’ face to face.”
(CCC 1023)
- b) “...where as hell is for “those who to the end of their lives refuse to believe and be converted...”
(CCC 1034)

11. What is Purgatory?

- All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified...after death they undergo purification.”
(CCC 1030)

12. Does hell exist?

- “Jesus speaks of ‘Gehenna’...where both soul and body can be lost...”
(CCC 1034; Mt.13:41-42)

13. What is hell?

- A “...definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed...”
(CCC 1033)

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APOLOGETICS

1. If God is all love, does He really send people to hell?

- “God predestines no one to go to hell...a willful turning away from God (mortal sin) is necessary, and persistence in it until the end.”
(CCC 1037; 2 Pet. 3:9)

2. Where is Purgatory found in Scripture?

- In 1 Cor. 3:10-17 and 1 Pet. 1:7

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Theme 15: Church History

MESSAGE

1. When did the Church begin?

- a) During his ministry Jesus formed the Church.
(CCC 759-766; Lk 12:32; Jn 10:1-21)
- b) Jesus chose the Twelve Apostles as the first leaders of the Church.

(CCC 857; Mt 10:2-4; Mk 3:13-19; Lk 6:14-16; Mt 28:16-20)
- c) Jesus gave Peter primacy among the apostles.
(CCC 880-881; Mt 16:16-19; Jn 21:15-19)

2. What happened in the Early Church?

- a) The Church was made manifest on Pentecost.
(CCC 767-768; Acts 2:1-4)
- b) The Acts of the Apostles tells of the structure and growth of the Early Church.
- c) St. Paul's missionary work was important for the growth of the Church.
- d) The Early Church faced much persecution, especially from the Roman Empire.
- e) There were many martyrs who were willing to die for their Faith.

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- f) The Early Church had to combat many heresies, including Gnosticism and Arianism.
- g) Ecumenical councils were held to clarify doctrine and combat heresies. (CCC 464-469)
 - Council of Jerusalem, Council of Nicaea (325), Council of Ephesus (431), Council of Chalcedon (451)
- h) The canon of scripture was formed in the Early Church. (CCC 120, 126)
- i) In 324, Constantine legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire.
- j) Monasticism and religious orders began to develop and flourish (St. Anthony, St. Augustine, St. Benedict).
- k) The Church Fathers were teachers and writers in the Early Church whose teachings are a witness to the Tradition of the Church. (CCC glossary)
- l) Missionaries brought the Good News of Christ to foreign lands (St. Patrick).

3. What happened in the Church during the Middle Ages?

- a) There was a close unity between the Church and the Roman Empire for a period of time. This was called Christendom.
 - There were both benefits and difficulties with this arrangement.
- b) Christianity was often attacked by invaders from outside the Roman Empire.

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- c) The great schism of the Church of the East and West occurred in 1054.
- d) The crusades were military expeditions intended to free the Holy Land from Moslem control and to defend the Faith.
 - However, those leading the crusades often deviated from their mission and caused unnecessary violence and harm along the way.
- e) The Church had much influence on culture and education in the thirteenth century.
- f) New religious orders emerged in response to the excessive wealth in society (St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare, St. Dominic).
- g) In response to heresies, the Church established a legal procedure called the Inquisition to question those who were suspected of holding false teachings.
- h) Several great theologians emerged during the Middle Ages (Albert the Great, St. Thomas Aquinas).
- i) The papacy was moved from Rome to Avignon, France, for a period of time in the 1300's.
 - Following the papacy's return to Rome, there was a time where there were several invalid popes, along with the true pope.
- j) There were abuses by some within the Church.

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1. What is the Protestant Reformation?

- It was a revolt led by a monk, Martin Luther when he “protested” the abuses that were happening within much of the Roman Catholic Church of his time.

2. When was the Protestant Reformation?

- Although there were many influences leading up to it, 1517 is when Martin Luther posed his “95 Thesis on Indulgences” that would become the battle cry of “freedom” from the authority of the Church and its leaders.

3. What Caused the Reformation?

4. In the Middle Ages (beginning about 600 AD), the cultures in the west especially Europe had been through constant turmoil and change. Both king & rulers with earthly authority and popes & bishops with spiritual authority had bargained, purchased and fought in alliances or wars to preserve their properties and authority. This caused some kings and rulers to assume responsibility over Church affairs. Lay investiture, the awarding of church offices by kings and rulers, had become a common practice. This caused a weakening in the theological knowledge and spiritual strength of bishops, priests and even a few popes. Their involvement in political affairs also cost the church a lot of money. One of the ways some sought to raise money was the selling of indulgences. When Martin Luther posted his “95 Thesis on Indulgences” on the chapel door in Wittenberg, Germany, he became the focal point of change. The result was that Martin Luther renounced the authority of the Church and the Pope. He would say that a Christian needed only “faith alone” based on the Holy Scriptures. He saw the hierarchy and system of tradition within the Catholic Church as restricting and preventing one’s true conversion to Christ.

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5. What was the Result of the Reformation?

- The Catholic Church responded with the Council of Trent in 1545-63. In that Council the pope and bishops clarified and spelled out the truths that had been questioned by Luther and the other “reformers”. Many initially converted by the seeming “freedom” of the Reformation returned to the Catholic faith when they saw better leadership and instruction.

6. What is our understanding and response to the effects of the Reformation today?

- Today, our perspective on Protestant Christians needs to be one of love and understanding. Catholics and Protestants are NOT on “opposite sides of the fence”. Many of our beliefs are the same because they do come from the Holy Scriptures. On those points of doctrine and authority where we differ, we will only reach consensus by open, informed and peaceful discussions. Our Holy Father, John Paul II has been a powerful example of this true ecumenism.

7. What happened in the Church in the years following the Reformation?

- a) The Council of Trent (1545-1563) clarified several important Church doctrines.
 - Catechisms were written to assist in teaching the truths of the faith.
- b) New religious orders emerged (Jesuits ~ St. Ignatius of Loyola).
- c) Seminaries were established to assist in priestly formation.
- d) There was much missionary work throughout the world (St. Francis Xavier, Jesuits, Franciscans, St. Isaac Jogues, St. John de Brebeuf, Blessed Junipero Serra).

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8. What has happened in the Church in the modern world?

- a) The Church faced the Age of Enlightenment, with many advances in science and technology.
- b) The Church faced the philosophy of rationalism, which placed great emphasis on the use of human reason.
- c) Vatican I clarified Church doctrine and combated errors of modernism.
- d) Vatican II showed the relevance of the Church in the modern world.
- e) Pope John Paul II assisted in spreading the Gospel through his writings, travels, and attempts at reconciliation throughout the world.

APOLOGETICS

1. How could the Church lead something as destructive as the Crusades?

- a) One must understand the historical situation at the time of the Crusades. Christianity was under a great threat. Drastic measures were taken to preserve Christianity in key parts of the world.
- b) While the intention of the Crusades may have been noble, the ways in which they were carried out were often misdirected by the individuals leading them.
- c) In modern times, the Church attempts to defend Christianity through sharing God’s mercy and love, and not by resorting to physical means.

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2. How could people be treated so badly by the Church through the Inquisition?

- a) At that time in history, there were many heretical groups drawing people away from the true Faith. The Inquisition was set up to identify heretics and to turn people back to the Catholic Faith. However, the methods sometimes used in the Inquisition were unjustifiably severe.
- b) The Catholic Church saw the Inquisition as a way of preserving Christianity and of saving souls.
- c) Today, there is a much better understanding of religious freedom, which respects a person's right to worship as he chooses. At the same time, the Church never ceases to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people.

3. How do you explain the immorality of some of the popes throughout the history of the Church?

- a) The Church has both a human and divine dimension. With Christ at the head of the Church, the Church remains holy, despite the sins of its members.
- b) The grace of the sacraments does not depend on the holiness of the minister. At the same time, those in positions of authority must remember that their bad example can be the cause of great scandal.
- c) The teachings of Christ have continued to be preserved in the Church, even through the times of immoral popes.
(Mt 16:18)

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4. Are faith and reason compatible?

- a) Yes, faith and reason are compatible because both are gifts from God that help draw us to God.

- b) Human reason can help us understand some things about God, but it takes faith to understand those things that can only be known because God has revealed them.

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STUDENTS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING TERMS

actual sin	hierarchy	Schism
adoration	humility	seminary
Age of Enlightenment	Image of God	sin of commission
angels	Immaculate Conception	sin of omission
apostles	immanent	soul
Arianism	immortal soul	steward
Assumption	Incarnation	Temple of the Holy Spirit
authority	infallibility	theologian
Body of Christ	Inquisition	transcendent
Bride of Christ	inspiration	trinity
Canon of scripture	intellect	venial sin
catechism	intercessor	vice
charism	intercessory prayer	virtue
College of Bishops	judgment	will
communion	justification	word
communion of persons	laity	worship
concupiscence	last judgment	Yahweh
consecrated Life	magisterium	
consubstantial	martyr	
council	mediator	
creed	missionaries	
Crusades	Modernism	
death	Monasticism	
demons	mortal sin	
devotion	mystery	
dignity of the human person	Mystical Body of Christ	
	obedience	
divine economy	original justice	
Divine Providence	original sin	
dogmatic constitution	Paraclete	
ecumenical council	particular judgment	
evangelical counsels	Paschal Mystery	
evil	Pentecost	
faith	private revelation	
Fathers of the Church	public revelation	
Fiat	purgatory	
filial adoption	rationalism	
Four Last Things	recapitulation	
Four Marks of the Church	redemption	
glory	Resurrection	
Gnosticism	revelation	
gospel	reverence	
grace	Sabbath	
heaven	sacraments	
hell	Sacred Scripture	
heresy	Sacred Tradition	
	saints	

PRAYER

Review the following prayers and concepts:

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory Be
Angel of God
A Morning Prayer
Prayer Before Meals
Prayer After Meals
Act of Contrition
Apostles Creed
Prayer of St. Francis
Duluth Diocesan Vocation Prayer
The Ten Commandments
The Seven Sacraments

Learn the following prayers and concepts:

Nicene Creed
Magnificat
Marks of the Church
Eucharistic Fast

Creed

Community

1. Understand we are called to continue Christ's mission of forgiving, healing and reconciling one another.
2. Treat others with respect because of our understanding of the dignity of all persons.
3. Follow Jesus' obedience to His parents, by being obedient to your parents.
4. Identify your special gifts and talents which can be shared with others.
5. Find ways in assisting needy people in meeting their basic needs.
6. Become involved with or begin a "right to life" group.
7. Organize ways to help people share their goods with others who are less fortunate.

Worship

1. Plan and participate in a class or youth liturgy.
2. Participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
3. Organize ways of helping people attend Mass who need transportation.
4. Attend days of reflection and retreats as ways for spiritual growth.
5. Encourage others to keep Sunday holy by keeping it holy yourself.
6. Spend time reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture.

Service

1. Become involved in service outreach projects. i.e. clothing, food and fund-raising drives.
2. Give personal witness to your faith at your work place, school, sports, etc.
3. Develop ways to practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
4. Take time to find out about a Catholic saint who dedicated their life to the service of others and share that story with your class and others.
5. Start a bible study group to help explore the depth of the Catholic faith.