

Cath. Church - Cat. 4 BX
Creeds 1960
The

Chaplain's Catechism

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Of the Paulist Fathers

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THE
CHAPLAIN'S CATECHISM

A BOOK FOR BEGINNERS

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OF THE
PAULIST FATHERS

THE PAULIST PRESS
120-122 West 60th Street
NEW YORK

1917

Nihil Obstat:

ARTHUR J. SCANLAN, S.T.D.

Censor Librorum.

Imprimatur:

✠ JOHN CARDINAL FARLEY,

Archbishop of New York.

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St. Paul the Apostle in the State
of New York"*

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THE CHAPLAIN'S CATECHISM

I.

GOD.

Who made us? God.

Who is God? God is the Creator of heaven and earth.

What is God to us? God is our Father in heaven.

Is God all powerful? Yes; He can do anything.

Is God all good? Yes, He is perfectly good and He loves everyone.

Does God know everything? Yes; He sees our most secret actions and knows even our thoughts.

Can we understand all that God does? No, God does many mysterious things which we cannot explain.

II.

JUDGMENT.

What did God make us for? To be good.

What will happen to us immediately after death? We shall be judged.

Where will the good go? To heaven.

For how long? Forever.

Where will the bad go? To hell.

For how long? Forever.

If we are not good enough for heaven and not bad enough for hell, where shall we go? To purgatory.

For how long? Until we are good enough to go to heaven.

III.

THE BLESSED TRINITY.

Is there more than one God? No.

How many persons are there in God? Three: God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Ghost.

Is each Person really and truly God? Yes.

Are there three Gods? No, there are Three Persons in God, but there is only One God.

IV.

JESUS CHRIST.

Did One of the Three Persons become man? Yes, the Second Person, God, the Son, became man.

What name did He take when He became man? Jesus Christ.

Who was His Mother? The Blessed Virgin Mary.

Did He love His Mother? Of course Jesus Christ loved His mother.

Does He wish us to love her? Of course He wishes us to love her.

Why did God, the Son, come into this world? To save us from sin and hell.

On what day was Jesus Christ born?
On Christmas Day.

On what day did He die? On Good Friday.

On what day did He rise from the dead? On Easter Sunday.

V.

THE CHURCH.

What is the Catholic Church? It is a world-wide Society composed of all the children of God.

Who founded the Catholic Church?
Jesus Christ.

What person did He put at the head of His Church? Saint Peter.

Who is head of the Church today?
The successor of Saint Peter.

What do we call the successor of Saint Peter? The Pope.

How do we know which is the true Church? The true Church has the Pope at its head.

VI.

THE SACRAMENTS.

What are the Sacraments? Gifts of God to help us to heaven.

How many Sacraments are there?
Seven: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders and Matrimony.

Where do we get the Sacraments?
Jesus Christ gave them to the Church; and the Church gives them to us.

VII.

BAPTISM.

Are we born in a state of sin?

Yes.

What do we call the sin in which we are born? Original Sin.

Why? Because it comes to us from our first parents.

How do we get rid of Original Sin?
By Baptism.

What does Baptism do for us? It makes us Christians and children of God.

Who can be baptized? Anyone who is sorry for his sins, and wants to become a Catholic.

How would you baptize a man, if no priest could be obtained? I would pour water on his forehead and at the same time say the proper words.

What are the words used in Baptism? They are these: "I baptize thee in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

Was the Blessed Virgin Mary born in Original Sin? No; she was an exception.

VIII.

CONFIRMATION.

What do we receive in Confirmation? We receive God, the Holy Ghost, the third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

What does He do for us? He makes us strong Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ.

IX.

PENANCE (OR CONFESSION).

What is the other name of the Sacrament of Penance? Confession.

What does Confession do for us?
It forgives us the sins we may have committed after Baptism.

Tell me what is the worst evil in the world? To die in sin.

Can a bad man become good? Yes, by making a good confession.

What must we do to make a good Confession? Three things: 1. Be sorry for our sins. 2. Tell all our sins to the priest. 3. Promise God not to sin any more.

Does the priest give us any punishment for our sins? Yes; he tells us to say some prayers.

What are those prayers called? They are called our penance, or our punishment.

Would confession forgive our sins if we were not sorry for them? No.

When should we go to Confession?
Whenever we feel that we have fallen into sin.

X.

HOLY EUCHARIST (OR COMMUNION).

What is Holy Eucharist? The Sacrament which is the food of our souls.

What do we call it? Holy Communion.

What do we receive in Holy Communion? The Body and Blood of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Under what form, or appearance, do we receive the Body of Christ? Under the form, or appearance, of bread.

Is it really bread? No; it looks like bread, but it is really the Body of Jesus Christ.

When does the bread become the Body of Jesus Christ? At Holy Mass.

What is Holy Mass? Holy Mass is the renewal of the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross.

What is the most important preparation for Holy Communion? To make a good confession.

What else is necessary on the morning of Holy Communion? To eat nothing from midnight until after our Communion.

How often are we bound to receive Holy Communion? At least once a year.

At what season of the year? About Easter time.

Is it good to receive Holy Communion often? Yes; we should receive Holy Communion as often as we can.

XI.

EXTREME UNCTION.

What is Extreme Unction? The

Sacrament which gives strength to both soul and body in time of serious illness.

XII.

HOLY ORDERS.

What is Holy Orders? The Sacrament which makes a man a priest.

XIII.

MATRIMONY.

What is Matrimony? The Sacrament which unites a man and woman in lawful marriage.

Can Catholics be married except by a priest? No; Catholics cannot be truly married except by a priest.

XIV.

CONCLUSION.

What is an indulgence? It is a less-

ening of the punishment we deserve to receive for our sins.

How do we gain an indulgence? We must be in the state of grace; and we must do some good work.

What is the state of grace? Freedom from mortal sin.

What is mortal sin? Serious sin.

Tell me two important duties that occur each week? To go to Mass on Sunday, and not to eat meat on Friday.

What prayer is always used in Confession? The Act of Contrition.

Say the Act of Contrition. O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I hate my sins because they displease Thee, and I resolve with Thy help never to offend Thee again. Amen.

What do you say when you make the Sign of the Cross? In the name of

the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

DAILY PRAYERS.

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.

HAIL MARY, full of grace; the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among 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.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it

was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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.

