

Diocese of Boise

Office of Religious Education and Catechetical Leadership

The Office of Religious Education and Catechetical Leadership supports the mission of the Diocese of Boise by assisting the Bishop in carrying out his role as the chief catechist of the diocese.



Basic Catechist Certification

Catholic Beliefs and Traditions

Kathy Barkdull, Presenter

Opening Prayer

Act of Faith

Oh my God, I firmly believe that You are one God, in three Divine Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; I believe that Your Divine Son became man and died for our sins and that He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because You have revealed them and you can neither deceive or be deceived.

Amen.

FAITH



“Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Because he was “strong in his faith,” Abraham became the “father of all who believe.”

CCC 146



By faith Mary welcomes the tidings and promise brought by the angel Gabriel, believing that “with God nothing will be impossible” and so giving her assent: “Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word.” CCC 148

Characteristics of Faith (CCC 153-165)

- Faith is a Grace.
- Faith is an authentic human act.
- Faith is certain.
- Faith seeks understanding.
- Faith is above reason.
- Faith is a free act.
- Faith is necessary.
- Faith needs perseverance.
- Faith is the beginning of eternal life.



Three Persons in One God

Jesus Christ is both Human and Divine

The Holy Spirit is always present

Grace is a gift from God



Hierarchy of Truths

“The mutual connections between dogmas, and their coherence, can be found in the whole of Revelation of the mystery of Christ. ‘In Catholic doctrine there exists an order of ‘hierarchy’ of truths, since they vary in their relation to the foundation of the Christian faith.” CCC 90

“In Catholic doctrine there exists an order or ‘hierarchy’ of truths, since they vary in their relation to the foundation of the Christian faith. The existence of a hierarchy of truths does not provide the grounds for ignoring or eliminating some truths of the faith. Neither should such a hierarchy be confused with the assignment of degrees of certainty to the individual truths of the faith: ‘This hierarchy does not mean that some truths pertain to faith itself less than others, but rather that some truths are based on others as of a higher priority, and are illuminated by them’.” NDC 25.G



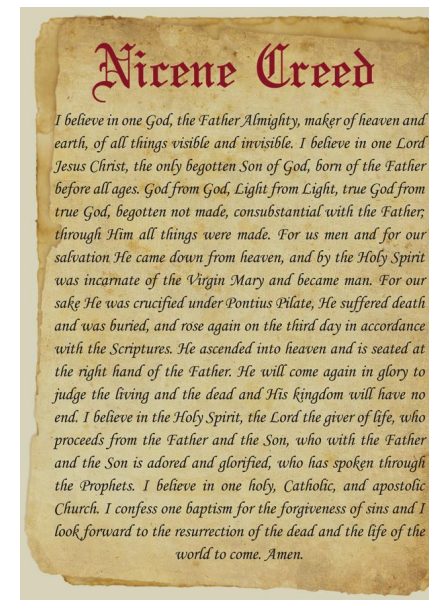
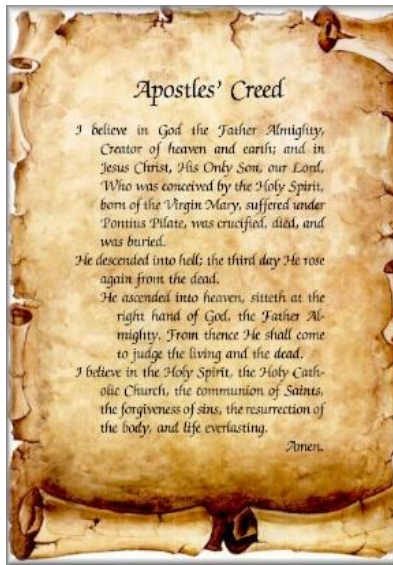
- The Church's Magisterium
- Tradition
- Tradition (small t)
- Theology
- Doctrine vs Dogma

Professions of Faith - Creeds

From the Latin word *Credo* meaning “I Believe”. A Summary of the faith that Christians profess.

“Whoever says ‘I believe’ says ‘I pledge myself to what we believe.’”

CCC 185





Trinity

- The Faith of all Christians rests on the Trinity.
- Fundamental and essential.

“The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the others mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the ‘hierarchy of the truths of faith’.” CCC 234

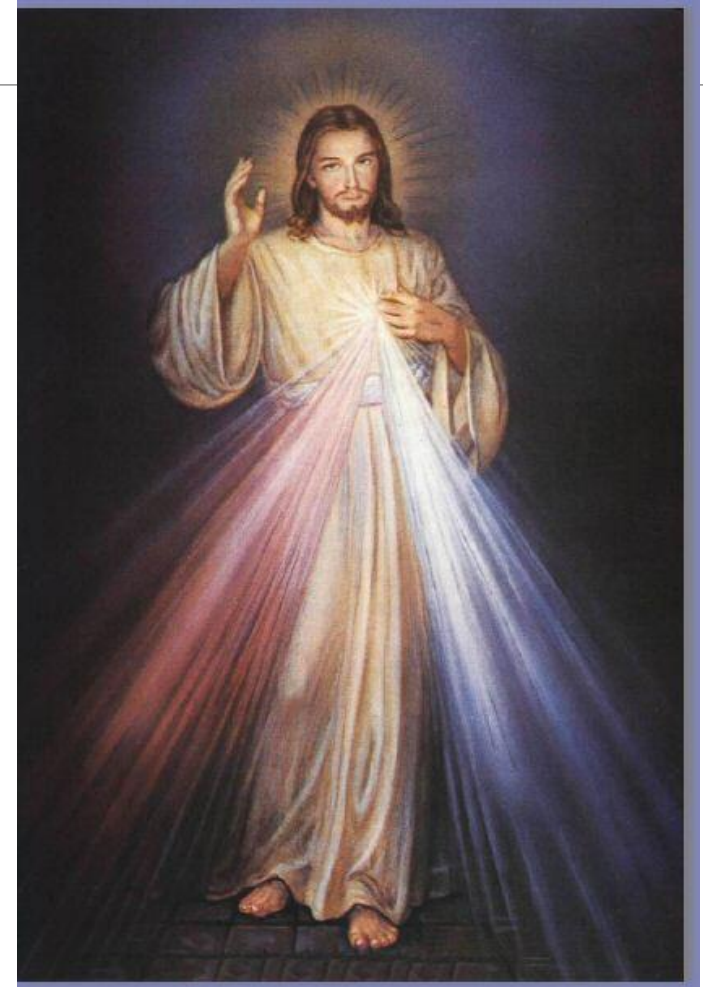
Trinity as *Mystery*

- Mystery is not a problem to be solved.
- Jesus' deep relationship with God as Father.
- The promise of the Holy Spirit.
- Holy Trinity, a Holy “Threeness,” three Persons yet one God.
 - ❖ God is Father.
 - ❖ God is Son.
 - ❖ God is Spirit.

The Innermost Life of God



The Pattern of Revelation



A photograph of a golden field, possibly a field of wildflowers or tall grasses, with a soft, hazy background. The text "Love of God" is written in a cursive, golden-brown font across the center of the image. The word "Love" has a heart shape for the letter 'o'. The word "of" is smaller and written in a darker, blackish-brown color. The word "God" is in the same golden-brown color as "Love".

Love of God

Incarnation



One Person

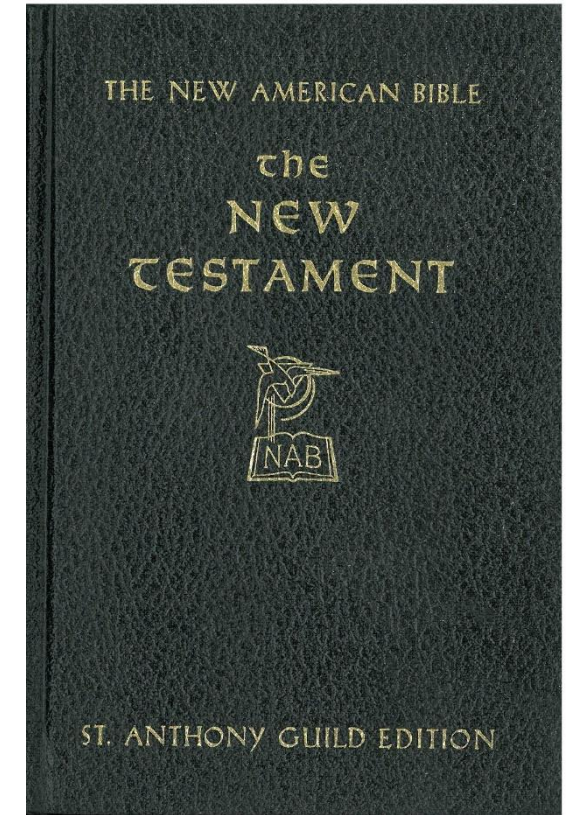
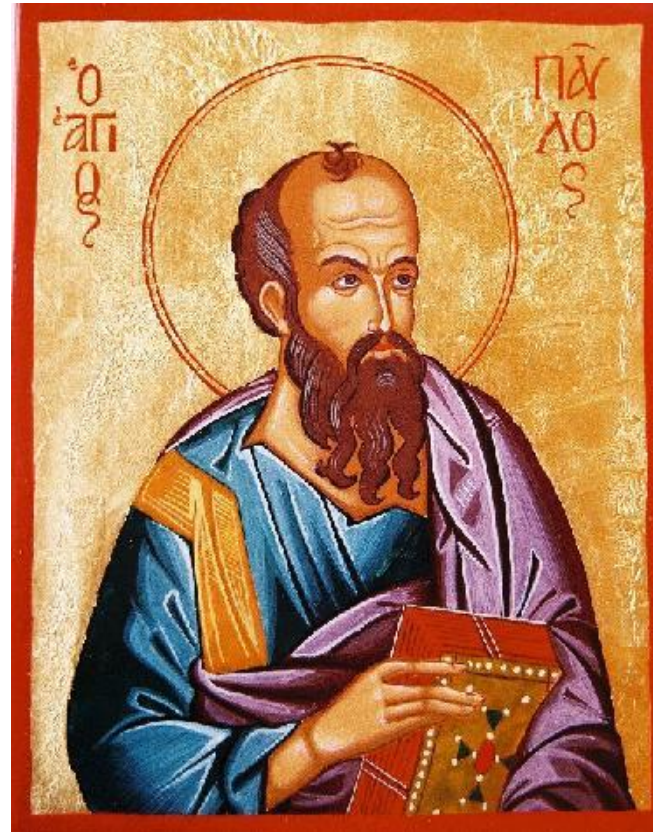
- There is one Person in Jesus and that is the divine Person of the Son of God.
- Jesus has two natures, a human one and a divine one.

“The Word of God, which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, is set forth and displays its power in a most wonderful way in the writings of the New Testament which hand on the ultimate truth of God’s Revelation. Their central object is Jesus Christ, God’s incarnate Son: his acts, teachings, Passion and glorification, and his Church’s beginnings under the Spirit’s guidance.” CCC 124

The God-Man



Jesus Washing the Feet of the Apostles, by Del Parson, © 1983 ISI



Evolution of Incarnation Theology

- Human? Divine? Human and Divine?
- Series of Heresies.
 - Arianism
 - Nestorianism
 - Monophysitism
- Council of Chalcedon.

Jesus – Fully Divine, Fully Human

“If the Christ we reverence is not fully divine, if the Christ we worship is not fully human, if his humanity and his divinity are not united in a single subject, then the Christ we are dealing with is not the Christ of the apostles nor the Christ of the Christian faith, but a figment of our own imagination.”

Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk



HOLY SPIRIT





“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”

(Acts 2:1-4)

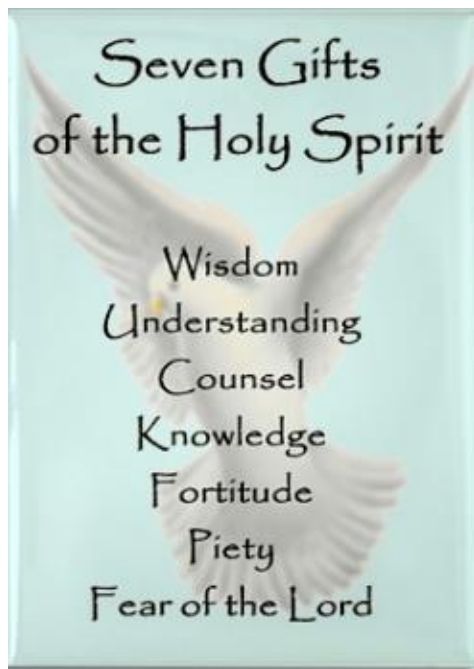


The Holy Spirit is essentially Love

Experience of God's Presence – CCC 688

- In the Scriptures.
- In the Tradition.
- In the Church's Magisterium.
- In the Sacramental liturgy.
- In Prayer.
- In the Charisms and Ministries.
- In the signs of Apostolic and Missionary life.
- In the witness of Saints.





HOLY SPIRIT GIFTS and FRUITS of the Holy Spirit

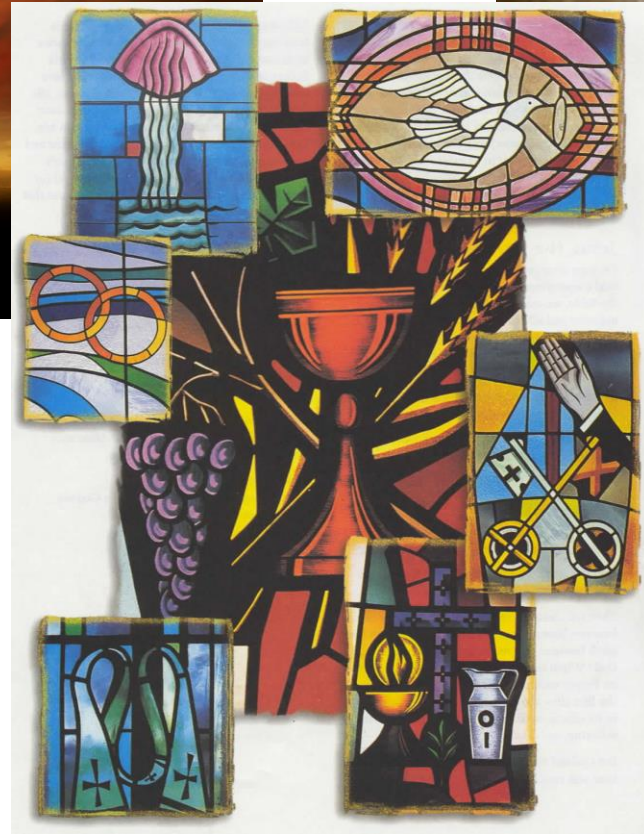
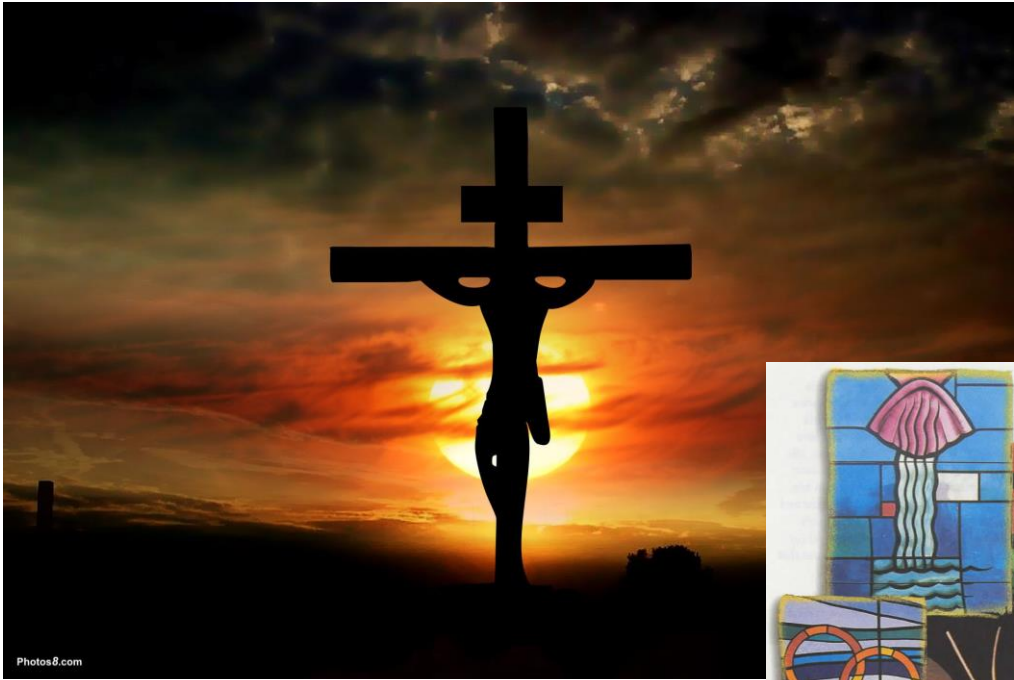
- GIFTS are what we are GIVEN by God to participate and grow in the Trinity
 - They make us more attentive to the voice of God and make it easier to follow his plan in our lives
- FRUITS are the effects of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are what we EXPRESS as a result of our faith and love.
 - Through the fruits of the Holy Spirit, our soul begins to experience the peace and freedom that God has planned for us.





Paschal Mystery

“The Paschal mystery of Christ’s cross and Resurrection stands at the center of the Good News that the apostles, and the Church following them, are to proclaim to the world. God’s saving plan was accomplished ‘once for all’ by the redemptive death of the Son Jesus Christ.” CCC 571





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; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross:

*Christ is risen from the dead!
Dying, he conquered death;
To the dead, he has given life.*

CCC 638

Resurrection – The Fulfillment

What if Jesus' life had ended on the cross?



In the Resurrection God is saying:

“The life of this man is what human existence is all about – love and friendship and compassion and faithfulness and self-sacrifice, total dedication to the divine plan for creation, total giving of the human self to the work of the Creator even if the short-term result is rejection and death. This is what I want human existence to be and I want it to be so gloriously and forever.”

Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk

A Radical Transformation



Resurrection: By Faith Alone

- Beyond anything that had been known in human history.
- No eyewitnesses when Jesus stepped out of the tomb.
- Our faith in God.
- Our Testimony of faith.

Communion of Saints



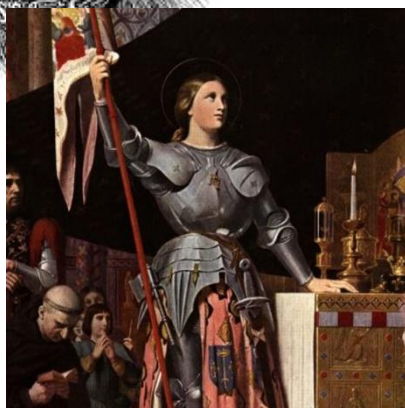
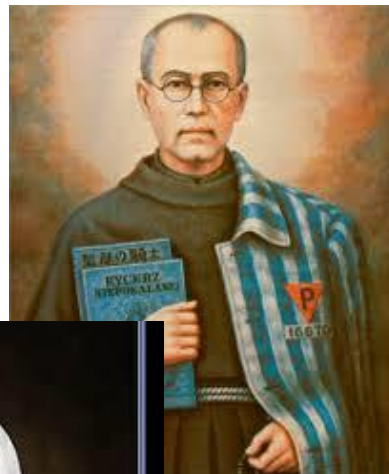
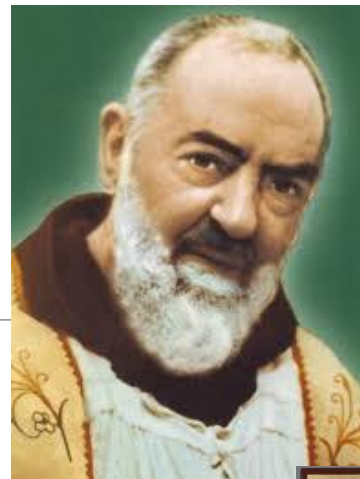
“We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church; and we believe that in this communion, the merciful love of God and his saints is always attentive to our prayers. CCC 962



Mary and the Saints

- A distinguishing element of Catholic Culture.
- Our Family.
- Not just figures from history.
- Mary, the Mother of God.

Saint John XXIII & Saint John Paul II





- Keeping in touch with our “Saintly” relatives.
- The Intercession of the Saints.
- We and Jesus.

“Since Abraham, intercession – asking on behalf of another – has been characteristic of a heart attuned to God’s mercy. In the age of the Church, Christian intercession participates in Christ’s, as an expression of the communion of saints. In intercession, he who prays looks ‘not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others,’ even to the point of praying for those who do him harm.” CCC 2635





GRACE

“Our justification comes from the grace of God. Grace is *favor, the free and undeserved help* that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine and of eternal life.”

“Grace is a *participation in the life of God*. It introduces us into the intimacy of Trinitarian life: by Baptism the Christian participates in the grace of Christ, the Head of his Body. As an “adopted son” he can henceforth call God “Father,” in union with the only Son. He receives the life of the Spirit who breathes charity into him and who forms the Church.”

CCC 1996-1997



Grace

A gift from God



GRACE

SIN



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Grace is a Spiritual Gift.
- Grace is Transformational.
- Grace is not a ticket to heaven.
- Salvation and Redemption.



Eternal Glory

“How great will your glory and happiness be, to be allowed to see God, to be honored with sharing the joy of salvation and eternal light with Christ your Lord and God,...to delight in the joy of immortality in the Kingdom of heaven with the righteous and God’s friends.” CCC 1028

Heaven



Glory



Eternal Happiness

Eternal Glory: God's Ultimate Plan

- Surpasses all understanding.
- Our experience now and then.
- Fulfillment.
- Blessings received.
- Fullness of Life.

Christian Death

- Death is not an end.
- A transformation of our earthly body.
- A final judgment.
- Hell – the absence of God.
- Human life – preparing for Glory.

Heaven's Glory



Conclusion

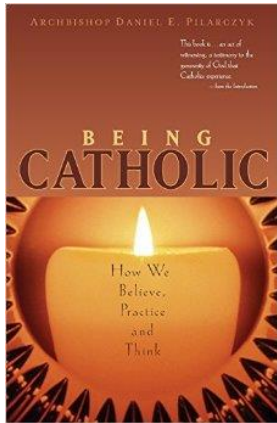
Catholic Faith and Belief:

- Incarnational.
- Sacramental.
- Styles of Catholic practice.
- Faith is a gift.
- Faith in community.
- Spread the Good News.

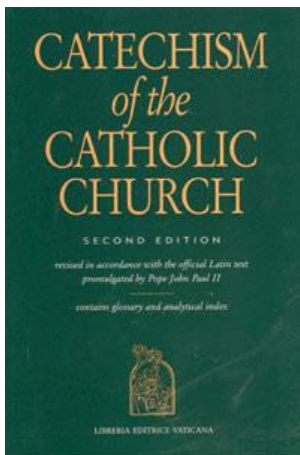
Reflection Questions

1. What elements in the world around you make it difficult for you to be a believer?
2. In your own prayer life, which person of the Trinity do you most often turn to? Why?
3. What difference would it make to you if Jesus were not God?
4. How is the resurrection of Jesus a source of hope for you?
5. How do we serve as witnesses of the Risen Christ today?
6. What is your favorite title for Mary? Does this title change according to what is going on in your life?
7. Who are your favorite saints? Why? Are these the saints you were named for at your baptism, one you chose as your confirmation name or someone else?
8. How does your awareness of Grace influence your attitudes and values?
9. What in your life gives you hints of what heaven may be like?

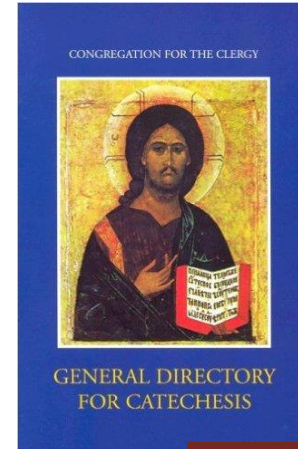
Resources



Being Catholic: How We Believe, Practice and Think, Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, Franciscan Media, 2006

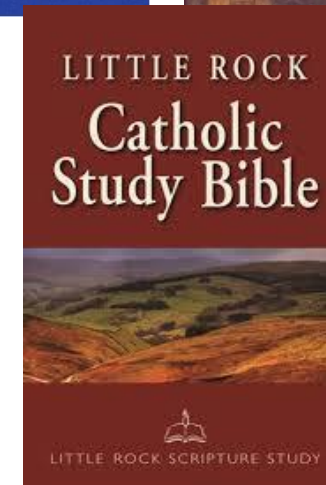


Catechism of the Catholic Church



General Directory for Catechesis

National Directory for Catechesis



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Office of Religious Education and Catechetical Leadership



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Closing Prayer

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen

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