

b017

THE CATECHISM

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH

Part I.

1. Question. What is your name?

Answer. N. or M.

2. Q. Who gave you this name?

A. My godfathers and godmothers, or sponsors in my baptism.¹

3. Q. Why are your godfathers and godmothers called sponsors?

A. Because they made answer for me in my baptism: and did then, in the first place, renounce in my name the devil and all his works, the pomps and vanities of this wicked world, and all sinful desires of the flesh: secondly, they confessed in my name all the articles of the Christian Faith: and, thirdly, they engaged for me that I should submit myself to the will of Christ, and obediently keep God's commandments, and walk in the same all the days of my life.

¹ Here reference may be made to Part II. question 6.

4. Q. Dost thou not think that thou art bound to believe, and to do, as they have engaged in thy name?

A. Yes, verily; and by God's help so I will. And I heartily thank our heavenly Father, that He hath called me to this state of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. And I pray unto God to give me His grace, that I may ever continue in the same.

5. Q. Rehearse the articles of thy believe.

A. I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker 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, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick 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.

6. Q. What dost thou chiefly learn in these articles of the belief?

A. First, I learn to believe in God the Father, who hath made me and all the world. Secondly, in God the Son, who hath redeemed me and all mankind. Thirdly, in God the Holy Ghost, who sanctifieth me, and all the elect people of God.

7. Q. How did God the Son redeem mankind?

A. By becoming Man and dying on the cross for the sins of the whole world, the Just for the unjust.

8. Q. What benefits do we obtain from the redemption which Christ hath accomplished?

A. Forgiveness of sins, through faith in His blood; and eternal life, through abiding in Him.

9. Q. How doth God the Holy Ghost sanctify us?

A. By dwelling in us as members of Christ, and conforming us to His image; so that we may bring forth the fruit of the spirit.

10. [Q. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

A. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.]

11. Q. You said that your godfathers and godmothers did promise for you, that you should keep God's commandments. Tell me, which be those called the Ten Commandments.

A. The same which God spake to Israel in Mount Sinai, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the Land of Egypt, out of the house of bandage.

I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

III. Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

IV. Remember the sabbathday, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor

thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbathday, and hallowed it.

- V. Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
- VI. You shalt not kill.
- VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- VIII. Thou shalt not steal.
- IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
- X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

12. Q. What dost thou chiefly learn by these commandments?

A. I learn two things; my duty towards God, and my duty towards my neighbour.

13. Q. What is thy duty towards God?

A. My duty towards God is to believe in Him, to fear Him, and to love Him, with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength; to worship Him; to give Him thanks; to put my whole trust in Him; to call upon Him; to honour His holy Name, His word, and His ordinances; and to serve Him truly all the days of my life.

14. Q. What is the duty towards thy neighbour ?

A. My duty to towards my neighbour is to love him as myself, and to do to all men as I would they should do unto me; to love, honour, and succour my father and mother; to honour and obey the King, and all that are put in authority under him; to submit myself to all my governors, teachers, spiritual pastors and masters; to order myself lowly and reverently to all my betters; to hurt nobody by word or deed; to be true and just in all my dealings; to bear no malice nor hatred in my heart; to keep my hands from picking and stealing, and my tongue from evil speaking, lying, and slandering; to keep my body in temperance, soberness, and chastity; not to covet nor desire other men's goods; but to learn and

labour truly to get my own living, and to do my duty in that state of life into which it shall please God to call me.

15. *Catechist.* My good child, know this, that thou art not able to do these things of thyself, nor to walk in the commandments of God, and to serve Him, without His special grace, which thou must learn at all times to call for by diligent prayer. Let me hear, therefore, if thou canst say the Lord's Prayer.

A. Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.

16. Q. What desirest thou of God in this prayer?

A. I desire my Lord God our heavenly Father, who is the Giver of all goodness, to bestow His grace upon me, and upon all people, that we may worship Him, serve Him, and obey Him, as we ought to do; and that He will send forth His Son from heaven, when all nations shall honour and

obey Him, and the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. And I pray unto God, that He will give unto us all things that be needful both for our souls and bodies; and especially feed us with the Bread which cometh down from heaven; and that He will be merciful unto us, and forgive us our sins; and that it will please Him to save and defend us in all dangers, ghostly and bodily; and that He will keep us from all sin and wickedness, and from our adversary the devil, and from everlasting death. And this I trust He will do of His mercy and goodness, through our Lord Jesus Christ: and therefore I say, Amen, so be it.

Part II.

1. Q. What is a Sacrament?

A Sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward an spiritual grace given unto us; ordained by Christ as a means whereby we receive the grace, and a pledge to assure us thereof.

2. Q. How many parts are there in a Sacrament?

A. Two; the outward visible sign, and the inward spiritual grace.

3. [Q. Which be the two Sacraments that Christ hath specially ordained, the one for making us members of His mystical Body the Church, and the other for nourishing us unto eternal life?

A. The Sacrament of Baptism, and the Sacrament of the Eucharist, or Lord's supper.]

4. Q. What is the outward visible sign or form in baptism?

A. Water; wherewith the person is baptized, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

5. Q. What is the inward and spiritual grace?

A. A death unto sin, and a new birth unto righteousness.

6. Q. What are the benefits conveyed to us in baptism?

A. Being by nature born in sin, and the children of wrath, we receive herein the remission of sins; and are made, through the operation of the Holy Ghost, members of Christ, the children of God, and inheritors of the kingdom of heaven.

7. Q. What is required of persons to be baptized?

A. Repentance, whereby they forsake sin; and faith, whereby they steadfastly believe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

8. Q. Why then are infants baptized, when by reason of their tender age they cannot make profession either of repentance or of faith?

A. Forasmuch as they profess the same by their sureties or sponsors, by which profession they themselves are bound.

9. Q. Why was the Sacrament of the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper, ordained?

A. For the continual remembrance of the Sacrifice of the death of Christ, and of the benefits received thereby; and for making us partakers of His Body and Blood.

10. [Q. How is the remembrance of Christ's Sacrifice, and the benefits thereof, made in this sacrament?

A. We commemorate them by our offering made therein, and by thankfully partaking of the same.]

11. [Q. Is, then, the Eucharist a sacrifice?

A. Yes; it is the great memorial sacrifice offered continually, in commemoration of the one Oblation offered upon the cross, once for all, by Jesus Christ; for herein we "do show forth the Lord's death till He come." And we present therein before God, the Body and Blood of Christ broken and shed for us; even as Christ Himself, our High Priest in the heavens, appears before God as the Lamb as it had been slain.]

12. Q. What is the outward part or sign in the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper?

A. Bread and wine, which the Lord hath commanded to be consecrated, offered, and received.

13. Q. What is the inward part or thing signified?

A. The Body and Blood of Christ, which are verily and indeed present in this sacrament, and are spiritually received by the faithful in the Lord's Supper.

14. Q. What are the principal benefits conveyed to us in this sacrament?

A. First, our strengthening and refreshing by the Body and Blood of Christ; and, secondly, our communion with Him, and with all saints, in partaking of the same.

15. Q. What is required of them who come to the Lord's Supper?

A. To examine themselves, whether they repent them truly of their former sins, steadfastly purposing to lead a new life; have a lively faith in

God's mercy through Christ, with a thankful remembrance of His death; and be in charity with all men.

Part III.

1. Q. You have said that you believe the "Holy Catholic Church": What is the Church?

A. The Church is the congregation of all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and are baptized according to His commandment. It is the Household of God, the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Ghost.

2. Q. How doth God make known His will in the Church?

A. Holy men of old were moved by the Holy Ghost to declare the will of God; and the words of God delivered by them, and contained in the Scriptures of the Old Testament, were committed to the Jews. These, together with the writings of the evangelists and apostles of the New Testament, have been preserved in the Christian Church, and handed down to us: and Christ hath set in His Church ministries for the guidance of His people, in accordance with His written word. And to all men God bears witness by the Church, proclaiming His salvation, and blessing the works of His hands.

3. Q. What ministries hath our Lord Jesus Christ given to His Church?

A. When He ascended up on high, He received gifts for men: and He gave some men, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.

4. Q. For what ends were these ministries given?

A. They were given for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ; till we all come unto the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

5. Q. What is the meaning of the word *Apostle*?

A. *Apostle* is "one sent forth."

6. Q. How are apostles distinguished from all other ministers?

A. Apostles are neither of men, nor by man; but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, sent forth immediately and directly.

7. Q. How are all other ministers set in the Church?

A. They are set in the Church by our Lord Jesus Christ, not immediately, but through ordination by apostles, or by those whom they have delegated for that purpose.

8. Q. What do you mean by *Ordination*?

A. *Ordination* is the means appointed by God for admitting those who are to serve in the ministry to some *order* or degree therein.

9. Q. How is Ordination conferred?

A. Ordination is conferred by the laying on of hands with prayer: and therein God bestows the gift of His Holy Spirit, for enabling him that is ordained to fulfil, in spirit and in truth, the work of the ministry, in the order to which he is admitted.

10. Q. Which are the principal orders in the ministry?

A. These three; namely the order of the Angel, or Bishop; the order of Presbyter² or Priest, and the order of Deacon.

11. Q. You have now told me in what way men are ordained to, and set in, the priesthood and all the higher ministries of the Church; doth not God previously call them to these holy ministries?

² Or Elder

A. Yes; God calleth those whom He purposes to employ by the word of the Holy Ghost, through the prophet.

12. Q. How are deacons chosen?

A. Deacons are chosen by the congregation, or with their concurrence. The seven deacons of each church are elected by the congregation among whom they are to minister; and they become their representatives, when confirmed in their places by the apostles. Other deacons are chosen to the work of the ministry by the apostles, or by some angel having their authority, after due notice and inquiry.

13. Q. How are we to regard the angel of the church?

A. We should honour the angel as the chief minister and pastor, to whom God has committed the charge of the whole flock, including the priests and the deacons; and who is appointed to offer in the congregation the intercession of the Church.

14. Q. How are we to regard the priests?

A. We should honour the priests as those appointed, under the angel, to minister the word of God and the sacraments; to watch over our souls as good shepherds of the sheep; and to offer in the congregation the prayers of the Church.

15. Q. How are we to regard the deacons?

A. We should honour the deacons as the ministers of God appointed to guide us, both by word and example, in the paths of righteousness; to assist the priests in the ministry of the Church; to help those who seek to them, in the management of their secular affairs; and to relieve the poor and afflicted.

16. Q. What is the rite of the Laying on of apostle's hands on the members of the Church?

A. It is a sacrament or rite in which is bestowed the Gift of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, upon those who have been baptized and are come to full age.

17. Q. What benefits are conferred upon them in this rite?

A. They are established and confirmed, sealed and anointed: and therein the Holy Ghost divides His gifts to each one severally, as He will.

18. Q. What is meant by speaking of the Gift of the Holy Ghost as sevenfold?

A. The prophet Isaiah foretold that the Spirit which was to rest upon Christ should be the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, and should make him to be of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord.

19. Q. What is the manifestation of the Spirit, which is given to each, for the profit of all?

A. The Holy Ghost, in coming down upon them that are sealed, gives to one the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge, to another faith, to another the gifts of healing, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another divers kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.

20. Q. Has our Lord Jesus Christ left power in His Church to forgive sins?

A. Yes: He said to His apostles, “Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them: and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.”

21. Q. What should they do whose consciences are burdened by sin?

A. They should seek the special absolution of the Lord from the priest who has charge of their souls.

22. Q. What are the benefits of absolution when duly received?

A. The benefits of absolution are, first, pardon through the blood of Christ of the sins confessed; secondly deliverance through the Holy Ghost from the power of evil, under the dominion of which the penitent had fallen; thirdly, a restoration to the state of grace in Christ, of those who through wilful and deliberate sin had fallen therefrom.

23. Q. What is required of those who seek absolution, in order to receive the same with benefit?

A. That they be heartily sorry for and repent of their sins past: that they make restitution and recompense, so far as they are able, to those whom they have wronged; and that they steadfastly purpose for the time to come to obey God’s holy will and commandments.

24. Q. What is the rite of anointing the sick with oil?

A. St. James teaches us concerning this rite, that if any be sick, he should send for the elders of the church, who should pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord.

25. Q. What are the benefits to be derived from this rite?

A. St. James teaches us again, that the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

26. Q. How ought we to offer of our substance to God?

A. By payment of tithes which He has commanded and reserved to Himself: and by making offerings, as he shall give us the means.

27. Q. What portion of our time are we to dedicate to God by special observances?

A. We are dedicate the Lord's Day to the service of God, and to attend upon the other appointed services of worship as often as our other duties permit.

28. Q. What are the hours appointed for daily worship?

A. The first and last hours of every day (reckoning the day from six in the morning to six in the evening): and on the Lord's Day there are in addition prayers in the forenoon and in the afternoon; and, after the prayers in the forenoon, the Eucharist is solemnly celebrated.

29. Q. Which are the three great festivals appointed to be observed yearly?

A. Christmas Day, or the day of the nativity of our Lord; Easter Day, or the day of His resur-

rection; and Pentecost, or the day of the descent of the Holy Ghost.

30. Q. What is the object of all our holy services as regards God?

A. That we may fear, honour, and worship His holy Name, praise Him for all His goodness, and renew our vows to serve and obey Him in all our ways.

31. Q. What is the object of these services as regards ourselves?

A. That we may humble ourselves before God, confessing our sin, seek and obtain His forgiveness and the renewal of His heavenly grace, put Him in remembrance of His promises, and beseech Him to bestow upon us and upon all men the things of which we stand in need; and that, receiving His blessing, we may be conformed by the Holy Ghost to the image of Christ, to the glory of God the Father.

32. Q. You have told me what is the immediate object of assembling together in the services of the Church: tell me now, what is the ultimate end of all services, sacraments, and ministries of the Church?

A. That we and all Christian people may be made perfect in holiness, and be prepared in one Body for the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ; when He shall be revealed from heaven in like manner as He went up, and the dead in Christ shall be raised, and we which are alive and remain to His coming shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. And in this hope I say, "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."