

# A CATECHISM

FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, 1549,  
ENLARGED, 1637, REVISED IN THE BISHOP  
WHITE BOOK, 1785, NOW AGAIN  
REVISED AND ENLARGED



¶ Parents are exhorted to teach this Catechism to their Children, and Ministers to instruct and examine Candidates for Confirmation in the same.

**QUESTION.** What is your Christian name?  
**Answer.** N., or, M.

*Question.* When did you receive this name?

*Answer.* At my Baptism, when I was dedicated to God, and received into the visible Church of Christ.

*Question.* What was promised for you in Baptism?

*Answer.* That I should be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the LORD, diligently instructed in the Holy Scriptures, and taught the Apostles' Creed, the LORD'S Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health.

*Question.* In these promises, what was undertaken by those who brought you to be baptized?

*Answer.* They undertook to teach me three things: *First*, that I should renounce the devil and all his works, the pomps and vanity of this wicked world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh; *Secondly*, that I should believe in the

LORD Jesus Christ, and all the Articles of the Christian Faith; and *Thirdly*, that I should keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of my life.

*Question.* Do you think that you are bound to believe and do these things?

*Answer.* Yes, verily; and by God's help so I will. And I pray unto God to give me his grace, that I may serve him unto my life's end.

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#### THE CREED

*Catechist.* Rehearse the Articles of the Christian Faith, as contained in the Apostles' Creed.

*Answer:*

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty,  
I 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; 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.

*Question.* What do you chiefly learn in these Articles of your belief?

*Answer.* 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.

*Question.* What is meant by the Article: "The holy Catholic Church—the Communion of Saints"?

*Answer.* The blessed company of all faithful people in Christ.

*Question.* Upon what authority do you receive these Articles of your belief?

*Answer.* Upon the authority of the Bible, which is the Word of God.

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THE DECALOGUE

*Question.* How many Commandments are there, and where are they found?

*Answer.* There are ten, the same which God spake in the twentieth chapter of the book of Exodus.

*Catechist.* Rehearse these Ten Commandments.

*Answer:*

I AM the LORD thy God; 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 Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: In it thou shalt not do any work; thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, 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 Sabbath day, 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. Thou shalt do no murder.

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 man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

*Catechist.* Rehearse also the Summary of the Law, given by our LORD Jesus Christ.

*Answer:*

THOU shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *St. Matt.* xxii. 37-40.

*Question.* What do you chiefly learn by these Commandments?

*Answer.* I learn two things: my duty towards God, and my duty towards my neighbor.

*Question.* What is your duty towards God?

*Answer:*

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 honor his holy Name and his Word, and to serve him truly all the days of my life.

*Question.* What is your duty towards your neighbor?

*Answer:*

MY duty towards my neighbor, is to love him as myself, and to do to all men as I would they should do unto me: To love, honor, and succor my Father and Mother: To honor and obey my Civil Rulers: To submit myself to all my governors, teachers, and spiritual pastors: To order myself in lowliness

and reverence: 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 labor truly to get mine own living, and to do my duty in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call me.

*Question.* How can we do what God commands?

*Answer.* By his special grace, the gift of his Holy Spirit.

*Question.* To whom does God give his Holy Spirit?

*Answer.* To those who ask him.

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#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Question.* In what words did our blessed LORD teach us to pray?

*Answer:*

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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Question.* What do you desire of God in this Prayer?

*Answer.* I desire my LORD God, our heavenly Father, who is the giver of all goodness, to send his grace unto me, and to all people; that we may worship him, serve him, and obey him, as we ought to do. And I pray unto God that he will send us all things which are needful both for our souls and bodies; 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, spiritual and bodily; and that he will keep us from all sin and wickedness, and deliver us from the evil one, 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.



#### THE SACRAMENTS

*Question.* How many Sacraments hath Christ ordained in his Church?

*Answer.* Two only, that is to say, Baptism and the Supper of the LORD.

*Question.* What do you mean by this word Sacrament?

*Answer.* I mean an outward and visible sign ordained by Christ himself, of an inward and spiritual grace given unto us.

*Question.* What is the outward visible sign in Baptism?

*Answer.* Water: wherewith the person is baptized In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

*Question.* What is the inward and spiritual grace signified?

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

*Question.* Why was the Sacrament of the LORD'S Supper ordained?

*Answer.* For the showing forth of the LORD'S death, in continual remembrance of his sacrifice and of the benefits which we receive thereby.

*Question.* What is the outward visible sign in the LORD'S Supper?

*Answer.* Bread and wine, which the LORD hath commanded to be received.

*Question.* What is the inward thing signified?

*Answer.* The Body and Blood of Christ, which are spiritually taken and received by the faithful in the LORD'S Supper.

*Question.* After what manner are the Body and Blood of Christ taken and received in the LORD'S Supper?

*Answer.* Only after a heavenly and spiritual manner; and the means whereby they are received is Faith.

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## CONFIRMATION

*Question.* What is Confirmation?

*Answer.* Confirmation is not a Sacrament, but an ancient rite of the Church, derived from the custom of the Apostles of the laying of hands on those who had been baptized.

*Question.* Why is this rite called Confirmation?

*Answer.* Because therein the Candidates ratify and confirm the vows made on their behalf by those who brought them in infancy to be baptized; and, *Secondly*, because it affords opportunity to those who have been baptized in riper years to renew and confirm the vows they themselves made at their Baptism.

*Question.* What is the further significance of Confirmation?

*Answer.* That therein the persons, in open confession before men, avow Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as their LORD and Saviour.

*Question.* Concerning such public confession, what did our Saviour say?

*Answer:*

**W**HOSOEVER therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.  
*St. Matt. x. 32, 33.*

*Question.* And what did Saint Paul say?

*Answer:*

**I**IF thou shalt confess with thy mouth the LORD Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. *Rom. x. 9, 10.*

*Question.* Whose bounden duty is it to make this confession of our LORD Christ?

*Answer.* All such as have reached the age of discretion or responsibility: who know that they are sinners, and that without repentance towards God, and faith in our LORD Jesus Christ, they are lost.

*Question.* What do you mean by repentance?

*Answer.* I mean a change of mind, through grace, the gift of God, whereby we turn with godly sorrow from sin, to love and serve him.

*Question.* What do you mean by faith in our LORD Jesus Christ?

*Answer.* I mean believing on and trusting in our LORD Jesus Christ, through whose blood we receive forgiveness of sins, and through whose righteousness we are accounted righteous before God, and enabled to walk in his holy ways.

*Question.* Is Confirmation required before any person may rightly come to the LORD'S Supper?

*Answer.* Confirmation is only one of the forms or occasions for the confession of the Saviour before men. Other Churches have other forms. Therefore, "Our fellow Christians of other branches of Christ's Church, and all who love our Divine LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ in sincerity, are affectionately invited to the LORD'S Table."

*Question.* What, therefore, is required of those who come to the LORD'S Table?

*Answer.* That they examine themselves, whether they repent them truly of their former sins; steadfastly purpose to lead a new life,

following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; have a lively faith in God's mercy through Christ Jesus our Saviour, with a thankful remembrance of his death; and be in charity with all men.



NOTE.—The Minister should earnestly move the Persons confirmed not to neglect the Sacrament of the LORD's Supper, but faithfully to seek the blessings thereof.

NOTE.—Members of other Churches, uniting with this Church need not be Confirmed, except at their own request.

