

## Chapter 1

### FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What does it mean to say that Jesus Christ is the Son of God made man who reveals to humanity who God truly is and who we truly are?** As the Intercessor, a kind of bridge between God and man, Jesus Christ can reveal some of the mysteries of who God is and who we are.
2. **Ultimately, why did God create man?** God created man so every person could participate in God's life.
3. **Are human beings free to reject God's purpose for them?** Yes. God created us with free will. Adam and Eve misused their free will when they disobeyed God, and every person who sins does the same.
4. **What are some of the ways God helps man?** He gave us the Ten Commandments to help us discern good from evil and sent a Savior and Redeemer in the Person of his own Son, Jesus Christ.
5. **What does it mean to say that the human person is *a rational being, comprising body and soul, who is designed for happiness*?** It means that we have material bodies and rational, immortal souls, and we are made to seek happiness in everything we do.
6. **Do human beings ever find complete happiness on earth?** No. Although there are many legitimate satisfactions on earth, nothing here completely satisfies a human being.
7. **How does man's thirst for God manifest itself?** Our desire for God is manifested in our desire for happiness, even if we do not recognize it as such.
8. **What can keep God's search for us from being successful?** We can "hide" from God by not desiring him and rejecting his will in our lives.
9. **What is natural faith?** It is belief in the truthfulness of something based on the trustworthiness of the authority who tells us.
10. **Could we know very much without natural faith?** No. We would have to learn everything by direct experience.
11. **Can we know that God exists without having to rely on the authority of the Bible or the Church?** Yes. We can know that God exists by the use of reason and by observing the natural world.
12. **Why did St. Thomas Aquinas teach that our belief in God's existence should begin with arguments from reason?** The knowledge of God's existence is accessible to every human person apart from faith simply by considering the order of nature and creation. Such arguments can help nonbelievers come to recognize that God must exist.
13. **What is "great" about St. Albert?** He was a genius in theology, philosophy, and science.
14. **What is something St. Albert wrote that influenced the development of modern science?** He wrote, "The aim of natural science is not simply to accept the statements of others, but to investigate the causes that are at work in nature." This means not just repeating what others have said but discovering what actually causes nature to work.

15. **On what grounds should we believe what a philosopher or scientist says about God?** We can believe it if we think the person giving the testimony is wise and good.
16. **How does God make it possible for us to know him intimately?** God reveals himself to us actively not only through nature and creation but also in his words and deeds throughout salvation history. His definitive and complete self-Revelation is in the Person of Jesus Christ.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS**

1. **Ultimately, why did God create man?** God created man so every person could participate in God's life.
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## Chapter 2

### FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is supernatural faith?** It is a theological virtue given by God so a person can assent to what God reveals and the Church proposes for belief.
2. **What are the three stages or movements of faith, from Pope Benedict's perspective?** Faith is first received from others and for others, then verified by one's own experience, and then comes alive as one lives in communion with the Church.
3. **What role did Christ give the Apostles in terms of the transmission of the Faith?** They were to take the gift of the Faith that they had received from Christ and transmit it to others.
4. **What is a person who receives the Faith supposed to do with it, besides live it?** He or she is to transmit the Faith to others.
5. **What are a "cradle Catholic," a convert, and a "revert"?** A cradle Catholic is one born into and brought up in the Faith. A convert is someone who discovers the Faith and makes a decision to accept it. A revert is one who once had the Faith, abandoned it, and then returned to it.
6. **What does it mean to say that the Faith can be verified by personal experience?** Our lived experience verifies that the Faith is true and that it answers all the expectations of our hearts and minds.
7. **Is the Christian religion just something between Christ and the believer?** No. Our faith is received and sustained through an interdependent communion of persons—the Church—centered on Christ.
8. **Why did Christ found his Church?** To continue his ministry of salvation.
9. **What is the Deposit of Faith?** It is the entirety of Divine Revelation entrusted to the Church by Jesus Christ; its two sources are Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture.
10. **What is Oral Tradition?** It is the spoken Sacred Tradition of the Gospel given by the Apostles before the New Testament was written.
11. **What is the New Testament?** It is the part of Sacred Tradition that was written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
12. **Why is Christianity not a religion of the book?** Christianity is a religion of the living Word of God, the Person of Jesus Christ, transmitted through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition and directed by the Magisterium of the Church.
13. **What is the inspiration of Sacred Scripture?** The Scriptures were inspired by the Holy Spirit, who enlightened the human writers.
14. **What is the inerrancy of Sacred Scripture?** Scripture teaches no error, only truth.
15. **Should Scripture always be interpreted literally?** They should be interpreted according to the intention of the author based on their genre.

16. **What is the Magisterium?** It is the official teaching authority of the Church, exercised by the Pope and the bishops united to him, who are entrusted with the transmission of the Deposit of Faith without error.
17. **Can the Magisterium add to or take away from the Deposit of Faith?** No. The Magisterium is not the master of the Word of God but its servant. What the Church teaches came from Christ and is passed on without addition or subtraction.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS**

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### Chapter 3

#### FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is one doctrine of Christianity that is unique among all religions?** The doctrine of the Blessed Trinity is unique to Christianity.
2. **What is monotheism?** It is the truth that there is only one God, the sole Creator of all things.
3. **What is the origin of monotheism?** God revealed his oneness to the Chosen People, who were living in a polytheistic culture.
4. **What is the *Shema*?** It is the great prayer of Judaism that proclaims the oneness of God and the obligation to love him above all else.
5. **What is God's self-identified name?** I AM WHO I AM (YHWH).
6. **What is "metaphysical" about this name?** God's name describes the essence of his being as existence itself.
7. **Why do Jews not write or speak the name of God?** They do not write or speak God's name out of profound respect for it.
8. **What is an "attribute" of God?** It is an inherent quality or characteristic of God without which God would not be as he is.
9. **Are the attributes of God only to be accepted by an act of faith?** No. They can be known through reason.
10. **What is something we cannot understand about any of God's attributes? What is an example of this?** We can understand *that* God has a certain attribute but we cannot understand *how* God possesses it. For example, we can understand that God must be self-existent but we cannot understand how he is this way.
11. **What does perfect mean?** Perfect means fully made or complete.
12. **What does God's perfection mean?** God possesses each of his attributes to a complete or infinite degree.
13. **What does it mean to say that God is spirit?** Rather than being material and having the potential for nonexistence, change, or division, God is immaterial and, therefore, eternal, unchanging, and indivisible.
14. **Why is God immutable?** God is unchanging because he is perfect, that is, complete.
15. **How is God's existence different than our own?** We are brought into existence by another, but God's existence is not dependent on anything.
16. **Is God subject to time?** No. God stands outside time, which he created.
17. **What is evil?** It is the absence of good.
18. **What does God's goodness imply about the things God makes?** They are also good.
19. **What is God's motive for all his actions?** It is love.

20. **What does it mean that God is all-knowing?** God beholds everything simultaneously. He knows the physical universe through having created and continuing to guide it, which includes knowing everything about us. Nothing is hidden from God.
21. **What single act of God alone indicates that he has power over all things?** Creation shows his power over everything.
22. **How is God everywhere and yet “nowhere”?** God “fills” all of creation. However, since he is not limited by the material confines of creation, he is also in some sense “nowhere.”

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS**

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2. **What is the *Shema*?** It is the great prayer of Judaism that proclaims the oneness of God and the obligation to love him above all else.
3. **What is “metaphysical” about God’s “proper” name?** God’s name describes the essence of his being as existence itself.
4. **What is an “attribute” of God?** It is an inherent quality or characteristic of God without which God would not be as he is.
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## Chapter 4

### FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity?** There is one God in three divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. **How does the Genesis creation account of man foreshadow the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity?** God speaks of himself in the plural.
3. **How is the human family a reflection of the Trinity of God?** God's inner life is a loving, life-giving community: The Father loves the Son and from their love proceeds the Holy Spirit. A human family is also a loving, life-giving community: The mutual love of a husband and wife "procreate" a child.
4. **Where is the Trinitarian nature of God explicitly revealed?** It is revealed in the Incarnation of Christ as related in the New Testament.
5. **Is the word "trinity" found in the New Testament?** No. This term was developed later.
6. **How is God a father in terms of the creation?** God is the origin of the created universe.
7. **How is God the Father a father to Jesus Christ?** Jesus Christ is the eternally and Only-Begotten Son of God the Father.
8. **How is God the Father a father to us?** Through his Son, Jesus Christ, God the Father adopts us as sons and daughters.
9. **According to Christ, how can we know the Father?** Because only the Son knows the Father, we can know the Father if the Son reveals him to us.
10. **Why did Christ the Word come to earth?** One reason was to reveal the Father.
11. **Does Christ claim he has a common nature and identical power with the Father?** Yes. He said, "I and the Father are one" (Jn 10: 30).
12. **What is the "task" of the Holy Spirit in regard to us?** The Holy Spirit sanctifies the Church and all people.
13. **What is a major reason the early Church had to think deeply about God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit?** Many heresies arose in the early Church that contradicted the Faith.
14. **Is Christianity polytheistic?** No. The Christian Faith is monotheistic—that is, the Church believes in the existence of only one God. Yet, Christians profess belief in the Trinity, who is one God in three divine Persons.
15. **Why should Christians believe in the Trinity?** Christ, who is God the Son, revealed it, and he can and should be trusted.
16. **What are the Greek philosophical concepts of substance, person, and relation as applied to the Blessed Trinity?** Substance refers to God's being, essence, or nature. Person designates the real distinction between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Relation refers to the fact that their distinction lies in the relationship of each to the others.

17. **According to the Fourth Lateran Council, what is the distinguishing relation of the three Persons of the Trinity?** “It is the Father who generates, the Son who is begotten, and the Holy Spirit who proceeds.”
18. **Is each of the Persons of the Trinity equally God?** Yes. Each Person is substantially God; moreover, each Person is consubstantially God with the other two Person.
19. **What was the heresy of Docetism?** It taught that Christ is divine but not human.
20. **Why was this heresy dangerous?** It denied the Redemption of Christ.
21. **What was the heresy of Arianism?** It taught that Jesus was neither God nor equal to the Father. Rather, he was an exceptional creature.
22. **What is an Ecumenical Council?** It is a meeting of bishops from the entire Church, presided over by the Pope or his delegate, to make decisions for the whole Church.
23. **What were two major tasks of the first ecumenical councils, and why were they urgent?** They convened to explain who Jesus Christ and the Blessed Trinity are in order to combat heretical teachings.
24. **Besides the fact that the doctrine of the Trinity is simply true, why should it have a personal meaning for us?** As long we remain in the state of grace, the Trinity dwells within our souls, and we are enabled to grow in virtue and to live lives of holiness. By cooperating with God’s grace and living a moral life, we can reflect the glory of God.
25. **Who did the Arians have on their side against the orthodox Christian Faith?** The Roman emperor Constantine and most of the bishops of the Eastern Church were Arians.
26. **How long did St. Athanasius fight against Arianism?** He fought Arianism throughout his adult life.

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## Chapter 5

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1. **Generally speaking, how was God viewed in the Old Testament?** God was viewed as a transcendent God, All-powerful and revered but remote.
2. **What was the relationship Christ revealed about himself and God?** Christ revealed that he is the Son of God.
3. **What was the relationship Christ revealed about us and God?** Christ revealed that we can become adopted children of God through Baptism.
4. **What does the word creation mean in normal usage?** It means to make something new with things that already exist.
5. **What does creation mean in relation to God?** God makes all things that exist out of nothing.
6. **Before God created, what existed?** Absolutely nothing material; only he existed as Pure Spirit.
7. **How does God create?** He wills it to be.
8. **Is the work of creation only the work of God the Father?** No. All three Persons work equally.
9. **What are some reasons human beings make things?** People make things to satisfy needs and wants.
10. **What is God's motivation for creating?** God creates "to manifest his perfection through the benefits that he bestows on creatures."
11. **Is God benefited in any way by creating?** No. Creation does not help him to be happy or happier.
12. **What are the two "orders" God created?** He made the visible, material universe in which we dwell (the earth); and the invisible, spiritual order of the angels (the heavens).
13. **What does it mean to say that God's decision to create was completely free?** There was no need or compulsion involved.
14. **How are human beings called especially to give God glory?** Because human beings are made in God's image and likeness, we of all creatures can happily contemplate the beauty of creation, grasp with joy how God is its source, and articulate it in praise of the Creator.
15. **What does it mean to say God created to reveal his glory?** All creation reflects God's goodness, truth, and beauty in some way. Most of the things in the universe unconsciously reveal God's glory. Every human being can observe a reflection of God's glory in creation and give voice to it.
16. **What is the *how* Genesis is not about and the *why* that it is about?** In the Book of Genesis, God was not trying to reveal how he created so much as why he created.
17. **What is divine preservation?** God keeps everything that exists in existence at every moment.

18. **What is divine providence?** It is the work God does to provide his creatures with what they need to fulfill the purpose he has for them.
19. **What is divine governance?** It is the implementation of God's plan, the divine action by which the whole universe and every creature are led to the attainment of their final purpose; it includes all natural laws.
20. **What are angels?** They are immaterial, intelligent beings possessing reason and free will.
21. **What does the word *angel* mean?** It means "messenger."
22. **What are devils?** They are angels who rejected God.
23. **In summary, what did Christ say about Satan?** He is a murderer and "the father of lies."
24. **Why do we need to be vigilant in regard to demons?** These evil beings want to tempt us to do evil: to reject God, as did they, and so lead us to share in their eternal damnation.
25. **Who is your guardian angel?** It is a good angel entrusted to you by God to protect you and lead you to eternal life.
26. **What was the Albigensian view of creation?** It saw the material world as intrinsically evil.
27. **Why was Albigensianism attractive to people?** Because of its emphasis on poverty, it looked holy. It also permitted sexual immorality and freedom from promises.
28. **How did St. Dominic and his followers convert the Albigensians?** Their life of poverty, deep learning, and Marian piety finally won these heretics back to Christianity.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

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## Chapter 6

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1. **Why does “being made in the image of God” mean God is our father?** In the Book of Genesis, to be made in one’s image means to be the child of a father.
2. **Why is the human body good?** God, who is All-good, created it.
3. **What makes us superior to all the other creatures in the material universe?** We are superior to other material creatures because we have a rational soul consisting of an intellect and a free will.
4. **What is the relationship of our body to our soul?** Our material body is united to our soul. We are rational animals or embodied souls.
5. **What does the word “soul” literally mean and where does it come from?** The Hebrew word means “breath,” or “spirit”; the breath, or spirit, of God is its origin.
6. **How is the soul different from the body in its existence?** The body will die but the soul, once created, cannot.
7. **How do we know that the separation of body and soul at death is not permanent?** It is a truth of Divine Revelation that the bodies of those who enter eternal life will be resurrected, perfected, and glorified in Heaven, while those who reject God and are separated from him for eternity at the Last Judgment will also be reunited with their bodies, although not in a glorified state.
8. **What gives human beings dignity?** They are persons, “someones,” endowed by God with intelligence and freedom.
9. **Of what does having an intellect and free will make humans capable?** We are able to know ourselves; direct our own lives; give freely to others; and have deep, interpersonal relationships.
10. **What is intrinsic good versus instrumental good?** Intrinsic good means the thing is valuable in itself. Instrumental good means the thing is good because of its usefulness.
11. **Which good—intrinsic or instrumental—is the basis for human dignity?** People have dignity because of their intrinsic value from being made in the image of God rather than because of what they have or can do for others.
12. **How does Christ’s redemption reveal the gifts Adam enjoyed in paradise?** If Christ recovered supernatural holiness and justice for us, it follows that Adam possessed these gifts.
13. **What is the stewardship Adam and we possess?** Adam and Eve were entrusted with the use, care, and preservation of God’s good creation, just as we are.
14. **What was the sin of Adam and Eve?** They transgressed God’s will by exerting their own because they wanted to be “like God.”
15. **What did the human race lose from contracting Original Sin?** People lost sanctifying grace and justice.

16. **What is concupiscence?** Due to Original Sin, it is our tendency toward sin, in which our disordered desires threaten to overwhelm our reason and will.
17. **What is the protoevangelium?** It is the “First Gospel” of God’s promise of a redeemer.
18. **How is being married another way by which people realize their creation in the image and likeness of God?** The union and love of husband and wife, along with the loving generation of children, stands as a model of the Blessed Trinity itself, and in the call to “be fruitful and multiply,” husband and wife become co-creators with God.
19. **What does Christ’s redemption mean?** It means Christ has paid the price of our sins so we can be released from them.
20. **What does Christ’s sanctification mean?** It means Christ’s gift of grace, and the ministry of the Church he established, heal the wounds of sin and help restore us to holiness and intimacy with God.

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7. **What was the sin of Adam and Eve?** They transgressed God’s will by exerting their own because they wanted to be “like God.”
8. **What are some of the effects of Original Sin?** They include a darkened intellect, a weakened will, concupiscence, difficulty working, alienation, sickness, suffering, and death.
9. **How is being married another way by which people realize their creation in the image and likeness of God?** The union and love of husband and wife, along with the loving generation of children, stands as a model of the Blessed Trinity itself, and in the call to “be fruitful and multiply,” husband and wife become co-creators with God.
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## Chapter 7

### FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is the specific prayer Christ taught his Apostles?** He taught them the Lord's Prayer, or "Our Father."
2. **In what sense is God "our Father"?** God the Father has adopted us as his children.
3. **With what attitude or disposition does Christ urge us to pray to the Father?** Christ tells us to pray to the Father with the confidence of children speaking to their loving father.
4. **What does the Parable of the Prodigal Son tell us about our Father?** Even after we reject him and lead lives of sin, the Father will forgive us and restore us as his sons and daughters if we return to him and repent.
5. **According to Pope Benedict XVI, what is Christ's relation to the Kingdom of God?** Christ is the Kingdom of God in person, and it is present wherever he is.
6. **Who is invited to enter the Kingdom of God?** Everyone who accepts the Word of God in humility is invited.
7. **Why is entry into the Kingdom of God easier for the poor and lowly?** Those least susceptible to the sin of pride are most susceptible to acknowledging their need for a savior.
8. **What were some of the signs that the Kingdom of God was already present in Christ?** Christ stilled the storm at sea, multiplied the loaves and fishes, cast out demons, performed miracles of healing, and even raised the dead.
9. **What special role did Christ give St. Peter in the Kingdom of God?** Christ gave St. Peter a special role as the "rock" upon which Christ would build his Church.
10. **What does the image of the keys of the Kingdom of God mean?** The keys signify authority to allow or prohibit things on earth.
11. **What is the relationship between St. Peter and our present Pope?** They are joined in an unbroken line of succession as visible head of the Church on earth.
12. **What is the Transfiguration?** It is the revelation of the glorified Christ witnessed by Sts. Peter, James, and John.
13. **How does Christ compare to Moses as law-giver?** While Moses gave the Jews the Old Law, Christ gave not only them but also all people the New Law of Love, which perfects the Old through his New Commandment of Love.
14. **What are the three parts of the Sermon on the Mount?** They are the Beatitudes, the perfection of the Mosaic Law, and motivation by love.
15. **What does Christ offer us in the Beatitudes?** They are nine dispositions or conditions that can lead a person to that ultimate happiness that every person naturally seeks, which is only found in God.
16. **What is Christ's aim in regard to the Mosaic Law?** He wants to fulfill and perfect it.

17. **Besides our own efforts, what is necessary to achieve moral perfection?** God's grace, which Christ won for us through the Redemption and gives to us in the Sacraments, is necessary.
18. **What is purity of intention?** It is the motivation to live moral and virtuous lives out of self-giving love for God and neighbor, without any ulterior motive.
19. **Why does Christ tell us that our hearts cannot be divided?** As followers of Christ, we must be single-minded in our desire to serve God.
20. **What was Christ trying to teach when he washed the feet of the Apostles at the Last Supper?** He taught by example his New Commandment of Love, which calls us to love one another as he loves us, that is, with a humble, sacrificial love.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **In what sense is God "our Father"?** God the Father has adopted us as his children.
2. **With what attitude or disposition does Christ urge us to pray to the Father?** Christ tells us to pray to the Father with the confidence of children speaking to their loving father.
3. **What does the Parable of the Prodigal Son tell us about our Father?** Even after we reject him and lead lives of sin, the Father will forgive us and restore us as his sons and daughters if we return to him and repent.
4. **According to Pope Benedict XVI, what is Christ's relation to the Kingdom of God?** Christ is the Kingdom of God in person, and it is present wherever he is.
5. **What special role did Christ give St. Peter in the Kingdom of God?** Christ gave St. Peter a special role as the "rock" upon which Christ would build his Church.
6. **How does Christ compare to Moses as law-giver?** While Moses gave the Jews the Old Law, Christ gave not only them but also all people the New Law of Love, which perfects the Old through his New Commandment of Love.
7. **What are the three parts of the Sermon on the Mount?** They are the Beatitudes, the perfection of the Mosaic Law, and motivation by love.
8. **Besides our own efforts, what is necessary for moral perfection?** God's grace, which Christ won for us through the Redemption and gives to us in the Sacraments, is necessary.
9. **What was Christ trying to teach when he washed the feet of the Apostles at the Last Supper?** He taught by example his New Commandment of Love, which calls us to love one another as he loves us, that is, with a humble, sacrificial love.

## Chapter 8

### FOCUS QUESTIONS AND SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is the supposed distinction between “the Jesus of history” and “the Christ of faith”?** The actual, historical Jesus Christ, who lived 2000 years ago, did not accomplish many of the things claimed about him in Scripture and Tradition.
2. **According to Jesus Seminar-types, what aspects of Christ’s life are supposedly made up?** Many of the supernatural elements of his life, especially his Resurrection, are made up.
3. **What does Benedict XVI teach about the relation of the “Christ of faith” to “the Jesus of history”?** The “Jesus of history” and the “Christ of faith” are one and the same. It is the risen Christ and the fact of the Resurrection that validates all that the Jesus of history said, did, and claimed.
4. **Forensic evidence being impossible to provide, what evidence do we have for the Resurrection?** Evidence includes accounts in Scripture and independent historical records as well as the strength of peoples’ conviction in the risen Lord that can be drawn from the rapid spread of Christianity and the fervent preaching and belief in Christ’s Resurrection, even in the face of persecution and death.
5. **How important is the Resurrection to Christian faith?** It is central to Christian faith and provides the greatest evidence for the divinity of Christ.
6. **If the Resurrection is true, then what does that mean for us?** It means that we must take seriously what Christ said about himself: that he is the Son of God.
7. **What assumption did the Christological heresies in the early Church generally hold in common?** These heresies held in common the assumption that being fully human was incompatible with the greatness and oneness of God.
8. **What did the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed teach about Christ’s divinity?** Jesus Christ is the Only-Begotten Son of God the Father, existing in eternity before time was created and consubstantial with God the Father.
9. **What is the hypostatic union?** It is the union of Christ’s divine nature and his human nature in one divine Person.
10. **How many intellects and wills does Jesus Christ have?** He has two of each: a divine intellect and will and a human intellect and will.
11. **Why were Christ’s claims to divinity scandalous to the Jewish authorities?** They deemed them a blasphemous offense against God, worthy of punishment by death.
12. **What is the consubstantiality of the Son with the Father?** It is the truth that Christ and the Father are of the same being or substance.
13. **How does the prologue to the Gospel of St. John refer to Christ?** It calls him the Word.
14. **What is the first thing Scripture records that Christ said about himself?** When he was twelve, he said that the Temple of Jerusalem was his Father’s house.

15. **How was Christ's approach to the Law different from the scribes'?** Christ taught directly as a lawgiver, correcting and expanding upon the Law of Moses by his own authority, while the scribes only commented upon it.
16. **Why is Christ's claim to forgive sins a claim to divinity?** Only God can forgive sins.
17. **Who alone can judge the world?** Only God can judge the world.
18. **Why should it be striking that people prostrated themselves before Christ and that he allowed this?** This was an act of adoration that should be shown to God only.
19. **What is an example of Christ identifying himself as God?** Christ said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." "I AM WHO I AM" is the divine name that God revealed to Moses (Ex 3: 14).

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What does Benedict XVI teach about the relation of the "Christ of faith" to "the Jesus of history"?** The "Jesus of history" and the "Christ of faith" are one and the same. It is the risen Christ and the fact of the Resurrection that validates all that the Jesus of history said, did, and claimed.
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7. **What is the relationship between the Person of God the Father and the Person of God the Son?** They differ only in relation to each other; the Father begets the Son and the Son is begotten by the Father.
8. **What is the hypostatic union?** It is the union of Christ's divine nature and his human nature in one divine Person.
9. **How many intellects and wills does Jesus Christ have?** He has two of each: a divine intellect and will and a human intellect and will.
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## Chapter 9

### FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is an aspect of Christ's human nature and his divine nature?** He is Eternal, which is a divine attribute, and he was born of a woman, which is a human attribute.
2. **How many persons is Christ?** He is one: one divine Person.
3. **How many natures does Christ possess?** He has two: one human and one divine nature.
4. **What is the hypostatic union?** It is the joining of two natures into the one divine Person in the Incarnation.
5. **How many intellects and wills does Christ possess?** Since these faculties are functions of nature, he has two of each: one human and one divine.
6. **Why is it important for Christ to have had a free human will?** Christ's free human will made his redemptive acts meaningful and valuable.
7. **What is the way Christ's human nature relates to his divine Person?** Christ's human nature was assumed, which means "taken up," or "elevated," rather than absorbed, destroyed, or mixed with his divine nature in any way.
8. **What is a theandric act?** It is a divine-human act, that is, any act performed by Jesus Christ during his earthly life—the Son of God (in Greek, *Theos*) acting through the body of a man (in Greek, *andros*).
9. **What is an example of something Christ had to learn like any human being?** He had to learn to eat, walk, talk, read, as well as many other practices.
10. **What knowledge was infused in Christ's human intellect?** "The fullness of understanding of the eternal plans he had come to reveal" (CCC 474).
11. **When Christ said he did not know something, what did he mean?** He knew it but was not sent to reveal it.
12. **What is an example of Christ's two wills having different "desires"?** In Gethsemane Christ's human will did not want to suffer, but his divine will embraced the redemptive suffering he was about to undergo. Even so, his human will, despite its apprehension, submitted perfectly to his divine will.
13. **How did God take the form of a servant, according to St. Paul in Philippians?** Christ took "human form" and "humbled himself and became obedient unto death."
14. **What is an example of a danger Christ faced during his life?** Herod tried to kill him when he was a baby.
15. **What is something completely ordinary that Christ did as a child?** He obeyed his parents.
16. **What had Scripture foretold about the Messiah's human origins?** Scripture had foretold that the Messiah would proceed from the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and that he would be a son of David according to the flesh.

17. **What is the connection between Christ and Adam?** By his redemption Christ has restored to human nature the likeness to God that Adam's sin disfigured.
18. **How were Christ's passions—his experiences of emotion, pain, and suffering—different from our own?** Because he was not subject to the defect of Original Sin, his passions were not disordered but were always subject to reason; thus, he followed perfectly the will of his Father.
19. **Why did Christ subject himself to human defects?** He accepted freely normal difficulties in order to atone for our sins, to show his true human nature, and to set an example for us to follow.
20. **Why did some early Christian heresies deny Christ's full human nature?** They believed in the existence of Christ but saw his humanity as unbefitting of divinity. Human nature is evil, they mistakenly thought, and is therefore unable to have anything to do with the divine nature. Some went so far as to deny that God would even submit to the lowliness of matter. Therefore, some concluded, Christ's body was actually an apparition.
21. **Why is Christ's Body necessary for our salvation?** Christ physically sacrificed his Body to redeem us—If he had not assumed human nature, he would have had no Body, which would have rendered no Sacrifice and no salvation.
22. **What did St. John mean by the “coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh”?** Christ would assume human nature, including a Body.
23. **What was the very purpose of Christ's Incarnation?** His Passion, Death, and Resurrection fulfilled his redemptive mission.
24. **According to CCC 616, how did both Christ's divinity and humanity contribute to our salvation?** His theandric acts “at once surpasses and embraces all human persons and constitutes himself as the Head of all mankind, makes possible his redemptive sacrifice *for all.*”
25. **What makes it possible for us to live the new life Christ wants to give us?** God's grace makes it possible.
26. **What is the normal means Christ has established to give grace to the world?** The Sacraments dispensed through his Church give grace.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS**

1. **How many persons is Christ?** He is one: one divine Person.
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## Chapter 10

### FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is the relation of the Holy Spirit to the Father and the Son?** The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.
2. **Does the Holy Spirit come after the Father and Son?** No. His procession is eternal rather than temporal. He was explicitly revealed later in time, but he always existed.
3. **Where do we find hints of the Holy Spirit active at the time of creation in Genesis?** The “spirit of God” was moving over the waters at the beginning of creation, and God breathed life into the man he created. (The Hebrew word for “breath” is the same as “spirit.”)
4. **What are some of the symbols found in the Old Testament that foreshadow the Holy Spirit?** They include water, anointing, fire, and cloud and light.
5. **What did the Holy Spirit do at the Annunciation?** The Holy Spirit made the Son of God incarnate in the Blessed Virgin Mary’s womb.
6. **What did the Holy Spirit do for Elizabeth at the Visitation?** The Holy Spirit made St. Elizabeth aware that her unborn child recognized the divinity of the unborn child in the Blessed Virgin Mary’s womb.
7. **What did the Holy Spirit do for Mary at the Visitation?** He inspired her to proclaim the *Magnificat*.
8. **What did the Holy Spirit do for Simeon at the Presentation?** He inspired him to recognize that the Blessed Virgin Mary’s child is the Messiah.
9. **How does the Holy Spirit appear at Christ’s baptism?** He appeared in the form of a dove.
10. **What does *Paraclete* mean?** This name, which Christ gave to God the Holy Spirit, refers to the work of the Holy Spirit as Counselor, Teacher, Advocate, Intercessor, Helper, and Comforter.
11. **What does Christ call the Holy Spirit at the Last Supper and what will the Spirit do for the Apostles?** The Father will give them a *Counselor* who will teach them and bring to their minds everything Christ wanted them to know and remember.
12. **What does Christ tell the Apostles the result of receiving the Holy Spirit will be?** The Apostles will have the power to be Christ’s witnesses throughout the world.
13. **When did the Apostles first receive the Holy Spirit?** On the evening of the Resurrection, Christ gave them the Holy Spirit so they could forgive sins.
14. **What was Pentecost for the Jews?** It was a Jewish festival commemorating the giving of the Law to Moses held fifty days after Passover.
15. **At Pentecost, what is the Holy Spirit like?** The Holy Spirit is described like the rush of a mighty wind and as tongues of fire.
16. **How did St. John the Baptist prophesy Pentecost?** He said that Christ would “baptize” people “with the Holy Spirit and with fire,” which is what happened at Pentecost.

17. **What extraordinary gift did the Apostles receive on the day of Pentecost?** They received the gift of tongues; when they spoke, people from different countries heard them in their own language.
18. **What was the result of St. Peter's Pentecost sermon?** Thousands were converted that day.
19. **What day is considered the birthday of the Church?** Pentecost is her birthday.
20. **After Pentecost, how do people receive the Holy Spirit in the New Testament?** The Apostles laid hands on them.
21. **What is the Sacrament of the Holy Spirit?** It is Confirmation.
22. **What role did the Holy Spirit play in the composition of the Scriptures?** The Holy Spirit enlightened the Sacred Authors so they could conceive all that God wanted them to write in the Sacred Scriptures without error.
23. **How is the Bible like Christ?** Christ has two separate natures—divine and human—united in one divine Person. Sacred Scripture unites the divine and the human, expressing the divine Word through human language.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is the relation of the Holy Spirit to the Father and the Son?** The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.
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## Chapter 11

### FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **According to the New Testament, what is the main work the Holy Spirit continues to perform in regard to the Church?** He guides the Church and her members and will continue to do so until the end of time.
2. **How does grace first come to us?** Grace first comes in the Sacrament of Baptism.
3. **What is grace?** Grace is the free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become his adopted children.
4. **What are the distinctions among sanctifying, actual, and sacramental grace?** Sanctifying grace, which comes to us first in Baptism, is a permanent disposition God gives us in which the Blessed Trinity dwells in our souls. Actual grace is a particular help the Holy Spirit provides. Sacramental grace is the particular grace one receives from each Sacrament.
5. **How are human virtues acquired?** They are acquired through practice.
6. **How are theological virtues acquired?** They are acquired not through our own efforts but as gifts from God.
7. **What is the theological virtue of faith?** Faith allows us to believe what God has supernaturally revealed, to believe in him, and to trust in him.
8. **What is the theological virtue of hope?** Hope allows us to remain confident in God even in the face of life's difficulties.
9. **What is the theological virtue of charity?** Charity allows us to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves.
10. **What do the gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to do?** They enable us to receive and to obey readily the promptings of the Holy Spirit. They make us more attentive to the voice of God and easier for us to follow his plan for our lives.
11. **What is the gift of wisdom?** It is knowledge of the divine life of the Blessed Trinity, which allows us to enjoy the presence of God.
12. **What is the gift of understanding?** It is the power that perfects our perception of the mysteries of the Faith, enabling us to penetrate more deeply into the divine truths revealed by God.
13. **What is the gift of counsel?** It is the gift that helps us make wise decisions promptly, correctly, and according to the will of God.
14. **What is the gift of fortitude?** It is the gift that makes us steadfast in the Faith, constant in struggle, and faithful in perseverance.
15. **What is the gift of knowledge?** It is the gift that enables us to make sense of the created order, thereby leading us to God through his creation.
16. **What is the gift of piety?** It is the gift that teaches us the meaning of divine filiation, that joyful supernatural awareness of being children of God, which leads us to a true love for God as our merciful Father and for all human beings as his children.

17. **What is the gift of fear of the Lord?** It is the gift that encourages us to respect the All-powerful and All-loving God that makes us desire never to offend him.
18. **What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?** They are twelve supernatural acts or works that flow joyfully from the Christian life.
19. **How does one fruit of the Holy Spirit, modesty, help us practice another, chastity?** By modestly presenting ourselves in our dress and deportment, we avoid whatever is offensive to others or draws undue attention to ourselves.
20. **What did Jesus Christ command St. Faustina to do?** He commanded her to paint a portrait of his appearance to her with the inscription, “Jesus, I trust in you.”
21. **How did St. Faustina’s spiritual director respond to her confession of having visions?** He sent her to a psychiatrist to make sure that the visions were authentic rather than a result of a mental problem.
22. **According to what title is St. Faustina venerated today?** She is called the Apostle of Divine Mercy.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **According to the New Testament, what is the main work the Holy Spirit performs in service to the Church?** He guides the Church and her members and will continue to do so until the end of time.
2. **What is grace?** Grace is the free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become his adopted children.
3. **What are the distinctions among sanctifying, actual, and sacramental grace?** Sanctifying grace, which comes to us first in Baptism, is a permanent disposition God gives us in which the Blessed Trinity dwells in our souls. Actual grace is a particular help the Holy Spirit provides. Sacramental grace is the particular grace one receives from each Sacrament.
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6. **What is the theological virtue of charity?** Charity allows us to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves.
7. **What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?** They are seven habits that complete and perfect the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity. They are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.
8. **What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?** They are twelve supernatural acts or works that flow joyfully from the Christian life.

## Chapter 12

### FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is the Virgin Birth?** It is the doctrine that the Incarnation of Jesus Christ took place by the power of the Holy Spirit rather than by human generation, i.e., with a human father.
2. **What did Isaiah prophesy about the Birth of the Savior?** Isaiah said, “A virgin shall conceive and bear a son,” who will be named “Emmanuel.”
3. **Why is Mary the “Spouse” of the Holy Spirit?** The Blessed Virgin Mary is Christ’s Mother, and he was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit rather than by a human father.
4. **What does it mean to say that Mary was a necessary condition for the Incarnation?** If the Blessed Virgin Mary had not said yes to the angel Gabriel, God would not have become man.
5. **Why is it correct to say that Mary is the Mother of God?** The Blessed Virgin Mary is the mother of a Person, Jesus Christ, who is God.
6. **What is the dogma of the Immaculate Conception?** The Blessed Virgin Mary was conceived without any stain of Original Sin and was filled with grace.
7. **Why was Mary able to remain sinless?** Because she was preserved from any stain of Original Sin and was “full of grace,” the Blessed Virgin Mary was able to be and actually was sinless all her life.
8. **What is Mary’s perpetual virginity?** The Blessed Virgin Mary remained a virgin before, during, and after the Birth of Christ, i.e., her entire life.
9. **Who are the “brothers and sisters” of Christ?** They are cousins or close relatives.
10. **What is the difference between the Ascension and the Assumption?** Christ ascended into Heaven by his own power. God assumed the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven body and soul on account of her special merits.
11. **Where is the image of Mary as Queen of Heaven found in Sacred Scripture?** In the Book of Revelation, the Blessed Virgin Mary is portrayed as “clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.”
12. **Why is Mary the Mother of the Church?** Because the Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of Christ, including his human Body, and the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, she is also the Mother of the Church.
13. **When did Christ make Mary the mother of all Christians?** While hanging on the Cross, Christ gave the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John, representative of all Christians, to each other as Mother and son.
14. **What is a mediatrix?** It is a female mediator, advocate, or go-between.
15. **What does it mean to call Mary the Mediatrix?** She acts as a privileged Intercessor between God and all people.

16. **How is Mary a co-Redemptrix with Christ?** The Blessed Virgin Mary cooperated in the Redemption of Christ through her role in the Incarnation and throughout Christ's life, especially in his Passion.
17. **How do ordinary Christians act as mediators and co-redeemers?** When we pray for someone, we mediate for him or her. When we offer up our own sufferings, we are co-redeeming.
18. **What is the origin of the virtue of piety?** It comes from the respect a child should show to his or her father and mother.
19. **What is *latria*?** It is the adoration, or worship, offered to God alone.
20. **What is *dulia*?** It is the honor, or veneration, shown to the saints.
21. **What is *hyperdulia*?** It is the highest form of honor given to a human being, namely the most perfect human being, the Blessed Virgin Mary.
22. **Why was the Immaculate Conception a strange name for Mary to give to Bernadette?** This doctrine had only very recently been solemnly defined by Pope Bl. Pius IX, and St. Bernadette, a young and uneducated girl, probably had never heard of it.
23. **What miraculous proof verifies the authenticity of Bernadette's visions?** Many people have verified miraculous cures at the site of the appearances.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS**

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11. **What is *hyperdulia*?** It is the highest form of honor given to a human being, namely the most perfect human being, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## Chapter 13

### FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **When does the Christian's life with the Blessed Trinity begin?** It begins with Baptism, when the recipient becomes incorporated into Christ's Mystical Body.
2. **Why is the Christian in the state of grace a "temple"?** A temple is where God dwells, and the Blessed Trinity "dwells" in a baptized person in the state of grace.
3. **What is the goal of our lives, which can only be perfectly fulfilled in Heaven?** It is intimate communion with the Blessed Trinity.
4. **Who did Peter say Christ was?** Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God."
5. **What caused the Apostles to accept Christ's divinity?** They received the gift of faith confirmed by their personal experience of Christ.
6. **How can we have the same encounter with Christ that the Apostles had?** Grace can give us faith and an experience of Christ.
7. **What is grace?** It is the free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become his adopted children.
8. **What is faith?** It is the supernatural assent of the intellect through which we accept, trust, and believe in the truth God reveals.
9. **What is the relationship between faith and grace?** Faith is our response to grace. Faith comes to us through grace and in turn enhances the effects of grace in our lives. It aids us in our relationship with God and in our desire to conform our lives to his will.
10. **How is Christ present in his Church?** The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, a communion of all Christians with Christ as the Head.
11. **What is the central way in which the members of the Church unite with each other?** They are united in the Eucharist.
12. **How is Christ present in his Sacraments, and what is one example?** Christ works through his Sacraments as their true minister, for example, by forgiving our sins in Penance.
13. **Why are Sacraments efficacious?** They are able to effect what they promise.
14. **What effect does our disposition have on our encounter with Christ in a Sacrament?** The extent to which we encounter Christ in a Sacrament depends upon our good or bad dispositions.
15. **How can we effectively meet Christ in the Scriptures?** We can read them attentively and with faith.
16. **What is prayer?** It is the lifting of one's heart and mind to God and is often described as a conversation with God.
17. **Why is it good to pray with other people?** Christ promised to be present when two or three are gathered in his name.

18. **Why is prayer important in encountering Christ?** It is a primary means to build a personal relationship with him.
19. **What are some liturgical prayers of the Church?** The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours are liturgical prayers.
20. **What are spontaneous prayers?** They are prayers of one's own words composed extemporaneously rather than formulated beforehand or by another person.
21. **What is mental prayer?** It is unspoken conversation with God.
22. **Under what condition can a person see Christ in another?** When that person models his life on Christ, aided by grace, people can see Christ in him or her.
23. **How do Christians hide or distort the face of Christ to others?** They claim to be a Christians but do not have Christlike words and actions.
24. **What was Saul's first ambition in regard to Christianity?** He wanted to destroy it.
25. **Even though Saul was persecuting Christians, who did Christ say Paul was really persecuting?** Saul was persecuting Christ himself.
26. **What was Saul's ambition after his conversion?** He wanted to convert the world to Christ.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS**

1. **What is the goal of our lives, which can only be perfectly fulfilled in Heaven?** It is intimate communion with the Blessed Trinity.
2. **What caused the Apostles to accept Christ's divinity?** They received the gift of faith confirmed by their personal experience of Christ.
3. **What is grace?** It is the free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become his adopted children.
4. **What is faith?** It is the supernatural assent of the intellect through which we accept, trust, and believe in the truth God reveals.
5. **What is the relationship between faith and grace?** Faith is our response to grace. Faith comes to us through grace and in turn enhances the effects of grace in our lives. It aids us in our relationship with God and in our desire to conform our lives to his will.
6. **What is the central way in which the members of the Church unite with each other?** They are united in the Eucharist.
7. **How is Christ present in his Sacraments, and what is one example?** Christ works through his Sacraments as their true minister, for example, by forgiving our sins in Penance.
8. **What effect does our disposition have on our encounter with Christ in a Sacrament?** The extent to which we encounter Christ in a Sacrament depends upon our good or bad dispositions.
9. **How can we effectively meet Christ in the Scriptures?** We can read them attentively and with faith.

10. **What is prayer?** It is the lifting of one's heart and mind to God and is often described as a conversation with God.
11. **Why is prayer important in encountering Christ?** It is a primary means to build a personal relationship with him.
12. **Under what condition can a person see Christ in another?** When that person models his life on Christ, aided by grace, people can see Christ in him or her.

## Chapter 14

### FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **Is the existence of the material universe sufficient to explain itself?** No. Nothing material can cause itself.
2. **Why does the non-existence of God make morality meaningless?** If the natural moral law did not exist, there would be no right or wrong.
3. **How are human desires different from animal desires?** Animals are designed to acquire what they want and need. People want many things that are impossible to obtain in the material universe.
4. **What can a person discover by living the Christian Faith?** He or she can experience God.
5. **Is God caused by himself or another?** Neither. God is uncaused.
6. **Why does the Church teach mysteries?** She is certain they are true because God revealed them.
7. **What evidence is there that God loves us?** God created us; God saves us; and God gives us the means to enjoy his love here on earth and eternally in Heaven.
8. **What do some people claim disproves God?** They point to the existence of evil and suffering.
9. **What are the two kinds of evil that exist?** Moral evils are caused by sin, and physical evils cause suffering but are not caused by sin.
10. **How is moral evil related to freedom?** God gives persons freedom to do good and evil.
11. **Does God directly will evil?** No. He merely permits it.
12. **What is God's own experience with suffering?** He became man and suffered for us.
13. **Why does God sometimes ask us to do things that are unpleasant?** Those things are good for us.
14. **Who are the happiest people on earth?** The saints are the happiest.
15. **Where does the Church get her teachings?** Christ gave them to the Apostles, who gave them to their successors, who gave them to us.
16. **Do Catholics worship Mary?** No. Catholics worship God and honor the saints, especially the Blessed Virgin Mary.
17. **What did Mother Teresa do for the first half of her life as a religious sister?** She taught and administered in a high school.
18. **What did Mother Teresa give the poor she encountered?** She gave them food, medical care, a home, and expressions of Christ's love.
19. **What did Mother Teresa teach we will be judged on?** We will be judged on how we respond to people in need.

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