

Chapter 1
The Revelation of the Blessed Trinity's Good Creation

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What does “the Redemption” mean?** It means how God saved fallen humanity.
2. **Why is the Redemption a mystery?** It includes truths that exceed the ability of human reason to fully comprehend.
3. **Why do human beings need to be redeemed?** Because of Original Sin, we are separated from God and need to be saved from sin and death.
4. **What is “salvation history”?** It is the story of how God’s plan of salvation has unfolded, as recorded in the Bible.
5. **What does it mean to say that the Bible is inspired?** It means that the Holy Spirit enlightened the authors to write what God wanted.
6. **Why must the Bible be inerrant or without errors?** God is the principal author of Sacred Scripture, and he can neither deceive nor be deceived.
7. **To what extent were the writers of the books of the Bible true authors?** The writers used their intelligence, memory, imagination, and writing skills, so they were true authors.
8. **Why is the Bible sacred?** It is sacred because God is its principal author.
9. **Why is the Bible literature?** Its human authors used literary forms and techniques to convey meaning.
10. **What are some of the literary techniques employed by the authors of Sacred Scripture?** These literary techniques include stories, histories, poems, dialogues, and figurative language.
11. **How ancient is the Bible’s literature?** The newest books of the Bible are almost 2000 years old.
12. **According to CCC 289, what mysteries do the first three chapters of Genesis present in just a few words?** These chapters present the mysteries of Creation, the Fall, and God’s promise of salvation.”
13. **What does it mean to read the Bible in the light of Christ?** It means the events of Christ’s life provide a key to understanding Old Testament events.
14. **What does it mean to read the Bible within the unity of Sacred Scripture?** It means that the many books of the Bible are really only one book with Christ as its main theme.

- 15. What does it mean to read the Bible in the living Tradition of the Church?** This means that in interpreting the various books of the Bible, we do so in light of the entire Deposit of Faith, which Christ entrusted to his Church.
- 16. What is the literal sense of a passage of the Bible?** The literal sense is the plain meaning that the author intended to express.
- 17. What are some of the genres in which the Bible was written that affect the way we interpret it?** Some of the genres are history, law, wisdom, poetry, prophecy, apocalypse, letter, epic, fable, and allegory.
- 18. What is a literalistic interpretation?** It is reading something literally that should not be read that way.
- 19. What is a literalistic reading of the six days of creation in Genesis?** It is that God created the world in six, twenty-four-hour days.
- 20. What is the problem with a literalistic reading of the six days of creation in Genesis?** The author may have intended something else and this reading seems to contradict natural science.
- 21. What is the literal meaning of the Gospel accounts of Christ's Resurrection?** The Church interprets these accounts literally: Christ really did rise from the dead.
- 22. What is the spiritual sense of Scripture?** This sense refers to other meanings that can be discovered in the texts when read under the influence of the Holy Spirit in light of the mystery of Christ.
- 23. What is the allegorical or typical sense of Scripture?** It is the way people and events in salvation history parallel future people or events.
- 24. What is an example of a "typical" sense of Scripture?** Isaac is a type or symbol of Christ.
- 25. What is the moral or tropological sense of Scripture?** It is how a person in the Bible can be a model for moral living.
- 26. What is an example of the tropological sense of Scripture?** Job is a model of patience in suffering and of trust in God.
- 27. What is the anagogical sense of Scripture?** It is how a passage in Scriptures prefigures eternal life.
- 28. What is an example of the anagogical sense of Scripture?** The Old Testament prophets' vision of the New Jerusalem can be seen as an image of Heaven.

- 29. If the Creation account in Genesis is not meant to transmit scientific truth, what kind of truth does it contain?** It contains religious and metaphysical truths.
- 30. What is religious truth?** It is a truth about the relationship between God and human beings.
- 31. What is a metaphysical truth?** It is a philosophical truth that can be known through reason, which concerns the nature and most basic cause of something.
- 32. What is the truth in the first verse of Genesis that is both religious and metaphysical?** God is the First Cause and Creator of the universe.
- 33. What is the meaning of the six-day Creation account?** God made the universe for the inhabitants that would dwell in it, especially for human beings.
- 34. What is unique about human beings in Genesis?** They are the only creatures that God has made in his own image and likeness.
- 35. According to Genesis, what authority does God give human beings over creation?** They are to “subdue” it.
- 36. What relationship does humanity have to God’s creation?** We are stewards or caretakers of creation.
- 37. What is the meaning of work in Genesis?** Work is how we complete or perfect the creation that God has entrusted to us.
- 38. To what extent has the human race obeyed God’s command to subdue the earth?** We have obeyed it to an astonishing degree.
- 39. How does the truth that God created the universe relate to the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity?** Creation was an act of each Person of the Blessed Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 40. How is God the Son “present” in the Creation account in Genesis?** Christ, the Word of God, is present in the creation through God’s verbal command.
- 41. In the prologue to his Gospel, what connection does St. John make between creation through the Word and redemption through the Word?** In the prologue to his Gospel, St. John says that the Word who created everything has now become the incarnate Redeemer.
- 42. How is the Holy Spirit alluded to in the Creation account in Genesis?** He is intimated in the mentions of spirit and breath.
- 43. How is the Blessed Trinity as a whole alluded to in the Creation account in Genesis?** God uses the plural to refer to himself: “Let *us* make man in *our* image.”

44. **Are scientific theories like the “big bang” and evolution incompatible with the creation account in Genesis?** There is no necessary contradiction, properly understood, between scientific theories of Creation and the Creation account in Genesis.
45. **What was remarkable about evangelization in England around the time of St. Bede?** In less than a century, England went from needing to be evangelized to evangelizing Europe.
46. **What do we owe St. Bede in terms of historical chronology?** Bede first used the BC/AD scheme to date historical events.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is “salvation history”?** It is the story of how God’s plan of salvation has unfolded, as recorded in the Bible.
2. **How does the Church understand the Bible?** The Church understands Sacred Scripture to be ancient sacred literature, inspired by the Holy Spirit and written down by true human authors, which should be interpreted in literal and spiritual senses, under the guidance of the Church’s teaching authority.
3. **What does it mean to say that the Bible is inspired and inerrant?** It means that the Holy Spirit enlightened the Sacred Authors to write what God wanted and that it cannot contain errors because God is its primary author.
4. **What does it mean to read the Bible in the light of Christ, within the unity of Sacred Scripture, and in the living Tradition of the Church?** It means the events of Christ’s life provide a key to understanding Old Testament events, that the many books of the Bible are really only one book with Christ as its main theme, and that in interpreting the various books of the Bible, we do so in light of the entire Deposit of Faith, which Christ entrusted to his Church.
5. **What is the literal sense of a passage of the Bible?** The literal sense is the plain meaning that the author intended to express.
6. **What is the spiritual sense of Scripture?** The spiritual sense refers to other meanings that can be discovered in the sacred texts when read under the influence of the Holy Spirit in light of the mystery of Christ. The allegorical or typical sense is the way people and events in salvation history parallel future people or events; the moral or tropological sense is how a person in the Bible can be a model for moral living; and the anagogical sense is how a passage in Scriptures prefigures eternal life.
7. **What is the truth in the first verse of Genesis that is both religious and metaphysical?** God is the First Cause and Creator of the universe.

8. **What is unique about human beings in Genesis?** They are the only creatures that God has made in his own image and likeness.
9. **According to Genesis, what authority does God give human beings over creation?** They are to “subdue” it through work as good stewards.
10. **What is the role of human beings in creation?** People are stewards or caretakers of creation.
11. **How does the truth that God created the universe relate to the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity?** Creation was an act of each Person of the Blessed Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
12. **How is God the Son “present” in the Genesis Creation account?** Christ, the Word of God, is present in the creation through God’s verbal command.
13. **How is the Holy Spirit alluded to in the Creation account in Genesis?** He is intimated in the mentions of spirit and breath.
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Chapter 2
God's Good Rational Creatures

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **Why are human beings unique, occupying the pinnacle of creation?** We are made in the image of God.
2. **What is the basic significance of work?** Work is the way human beings use and develop the world God entrusts to us.
3. **What are the two kinds of rational persons that God created?** Angels and human beings.
4. **Does God have any need to act?** No. He is perfect in himself.
5. **Why do human beings act?** They always act to be happy or happier.
6. **Why did God choose to create?** God freely chose to create to share his goodness, beauty, truth, and love with creatures.
7. **How are human beings different from all other material creatures when it comes to reflecting God's perfection?** All of God's creation reflects God's perfection, but only human beings know this.
8. **What is the most basic meaning of being made in the image of God?** It is the possession of a rational soul.
9. **What does it mean to say that a rational soul is immaterial?** It is made of a spiritual, not a material, substance.
10. **What does it mean to say that a rational soul is simple?** It is just one thing, not composed of parts.
11. **Why is a rational soul immortal?** It has no parts that can be separated or "decomposed."
12. **What does it mean to say that the human soul is rational?** It means it has the spiritual powers of intellect and free will.
13. **What gives the human person a dignity above every other material being?** It is the spiritual soul that enables a person to know, love, and serve God in this life and share in his friendship and love for all of eternity.
14. **Which beings are persons?** God, angels, and human beings.
15. **What is the origin of the human body?** A human body is received from a person's biological mother and father.

- 16. What is the origin of the human soul?** God directly creates it and infuses it into the body.
- 17. Philosophically speaking, what is the relationship between the human body and the human soul?** They form a unity.
- 18. Why are both body and soul sacred?** Both are created by God, whether indirectly or directly.
- 19. What are the two kinds of human beings God has created?** Men and women.
- 20. Is one better than the other?** No. Both share an equal personal dignity.
- 21. In what ways are men and women different?** They are different physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- 22. What does it mean to say that male/female differences are complementary?** The differences work together to produce something better.
- 23. What are the most basic things a child needs that the father and mother can provide?** Answers will vary.
- 24. What was the relationship between Adam and Eve as God created them?** They were created in a state of marriage.
- 25. Why is divorce impossible in the case of an actual marriage?** When a man and woman freely consent to a permanent and exclusive union, God himself creates an indissoluble bond between them, one which no human being has the power to break.
- 26. What is the mutual self-giving at the basis of marriage?** Each spouse puts the other's true good above his or her own preferences.
- 27. What is the communion at the basis of marriage?** It is the union created by the love of the husband and wife.
- 28. How do a husband and wife reflect the image of God?** The self-giving love and union of marriage reflect the love and communion of the inner life of the Blessed Trinity.

- 29. What is charity?** It is any thought, word, or deed aimed at attaining the true good of another.
- 30. What is the best place to learn the meaning of charity?** In the home, from one's parents.
- 31. What is chastity?** It is the moderation of sexual desire according to one's state in life.
- 32. What sexual activity is proper to unmarried persons?** None.
- 33. What sexual activity is proper to married persons?** It is self-giving love offered exclusively to one's spouse as expressed in the marital act.
- 34. What does it take to live human sexuality according to God's plan?** It takes self-mastery.
- 35. What is the act proper to marriage?** Sexual intercourse.
- 36. Is having children part of God's plan for humanity?** Yes. God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth with people.
- 37. What is the role husband and wife play in bringing new immortal human beings into existence?** They are co-creators with God.
- 38. How is human reproduction related to being made in the image of God?** God creates to share his being and happiness with others out of love. Husbands and wives cooperate with God through procreation, sharing their happiness and love with their children.
- 39. Is it enough for parents just to procreate?** No. Parents are to nurture and educate their children in love and virtue.
- 40. How does the community of the family relate to being made in the image of God?** The family is a unity of father, mother, and children. The Blessed Trinity is community of three divine Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 41. Why is the family a benefit to society?** The family can provide persons who live charity, practice virtues, contribute to the common good, and promote social justice, peace, good will, and respect for the dignity of every human person.
- 42. Why is it wise for society and governments to promote marriage and the family?** Marriage is a natural society and the original cell of social life.
- 43. What was the state of original justice Adam and Eve enjoyed?** Adam and Eve were in a right relationship within themselves, with each other, and with all of creation.
- 44. What was the state of original holiness that Adam and Eve enjoyed?** They shared in God's own life as adopted children.

- 45. What was the relationship between Adam and Eve and God before the Fall?** Adam and Eve were aware of God's presence and enjoyed a profound and loving relationship with him.
- 46. What was the relationship between Adam and Eve and suffering before the Fall?** There was none. They did not suffer, become sick, or face death.
- 47. What kind of inner harmony did Adam and Eve possess before the Fall?** Their natural inclinations were subject to the control of their minds and wills, and they enjoyed harmony and self-mastery inside their hearts.
- 48. What was work like for Adam and Eve before the Fall?** It was a joyful and easy collaboration with God in perfecting visible creation.
- 49. What does God's creation include?** It includes everything, whether in the material or spiritual realms.
- 50. How are human beings a kind of bridge between the material and spiritual realms?** Composed of body and soul, man shares both material and spiritual existence.
- 51. What created beings are purely spiritual?** Angels.
- 52. Why are angels persons?** They possess intelligence and free will.
- 53. What role do angels play?** They exist to serve and glorify God and to help carry out God's plan of salvation.
- 54. What are guardian angels?** Each person has a guardian angel who accompanies him or her at every moment and who can protect him or her from physical and moral harm.
- 55. How did Maria Anna show a sense of generous service when she was just a girl?** After her father became ill when she was in eighth grade, she went to work in a factory to help support her family.
- 56. How were the hospitals St. Marianne helped found unique in their time?** They cared for all people regardless of medical condition, nationality, religion, or race, and they were clean at a time when the causes of infectious diseases were unknown.
- 57. What was St. Marianne willing to do that no one else seemed to?** She offered to care for the victims of leprosy in Hawaii.
- 58. What was St. Marianne's relationship with St. Damian of Molokai?** She worked with him, cared for him when he got leprosy, and took over care of the colony when he died.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

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- 16. What kind of inner harmony did Adam and Eve possess before the Fall?** Their natural inclinations were subject to the control of their minds and wills, and they enjoyed harmony and self-mastery inside their hearts.
- 17. What are angels?** They are purely spiritual creatures who possess intelligence and free will and serve God.

Chapter 3 The Fall

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **Who is Satan?** He is an originally good angel who rejected God and who, with the other demons, is an enemy of mankind.
2. **Why can't demons repent from rejecting God?** They understood perfectly what they were doing, as well as the consequences, so have no reason to change their minds.
3. **What did Jesus Christ say about Satan?** He called him a "murderer from the beginning," the "father of lies," the tempter, and the enemy who sows evil.
4. **How does the devil attempt to sabotage Christ's Redemption?** He uses temptations, lies, and deceits that lead people away from God and toward the destruction of themselves and others.
5. **Why does God allow us to be tempted?** God allows us to be tempted to test our faithfulness and to demonstrate the merits of Christ.
6. **Are we ever tempted beyond our power?** No. God always gives us sufficient grace to resist temptation.
7. **What was the one prohibition God gave Adam and Eve in the Garden?** They were forbidden to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
8. **What did that commandment symbolize?** It symbolized man's need to acknowledge his limits as a creature and to submit his behavior to God's laws, not his own, lest the creature forget his createdness and confuse himself with his Creator.
9. **What lies did the demonic serpent tell Eve?** That she would not die and that God did not want her to be like God.
10. **What reasons does the author of Genesis give us for Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit?** "The woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise."
11. **According to St. Paul, what was the nature of the first sin?** It was disobedience.
12. **Why are human beings complex?** A human being is a unity of body and soul with an interwoven outer physical life and an inner spiritual life who lives in relationship with God, with other persons, and with the rest of the created material world.
13. **What does it mean for Adam and Eve to have lost original holiness?** It means they lost sanctifying grace or a life of friendship with God.

- 14. What does it mean for Adam and Eve to have lost original justice within themselves?** It means they lost integrity or the rule of their intellect and will over their passions. Instead, they contracted concupiscence or the inclination to sin.
- 15. What was the consequence of Original Sin for Adam and Eve on their intellects?** Their minds were darkened so it was harder to know the truth of God's law.
- 16. What was the consequence of Original Sin for Adam and Eve on their wills?** Their wills were weakened so it was harder to resist temptation.
- 17. What does it mean for Adam and Eve to have lost original justice in regard to each other?** It meant they were alienated from and could hurt each other.
- 18. What does it mean for Adam and Eve to have lost original justice in regard to the physical world?** It meant they would experience suffering and eventually death.
- 19. Why would suspicion be a natural consequence of Original Sin?** Expelled from Paradise, Adam and Eve could be harmed by other persons and the physical world.
- 20. What did Adam and Eve forfeit for all of us?** Because of them, we are deprived of being born into a state of original holiness and justice.
- 21. What are the consequences for us of this forfeiture?** We are born deprived of sanctifying grace and subject to concupiscence, suffering, and death.
- 22. Does Original Sin destroy the human intellect and will?** No. It wounds them.
- 23. How is Cain an example of the consequences of Original Sin?** Cain murdered his brother Abel.
- 24. How is Lamech an example of the cumulative effect of sin?** The first polygamist we know of, Lamech also boasts of killing anyone who touches him.
- 25. Why do we have to suffer because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve?** God had decided that all of Adam and Eve's descendants would be implicated in either the good or the bad fate of our first parents.
- 26. What is the connection between Original Sin and actual sin?** Original Sin is the wound in human nature that leads people to commit actual sins.
- 27. To what extent is Original Sin provable?** One can look anywhere and see that some disaster has affected every person from the beginning of human history.
- 28. Why is sin a consequence of free will?** God allows evil as a consequence of free will; if he were not to allow us to commit evil, then we would not be totally free.

- 29. What is the ultimate example of how God uses evil in order to bring about a greater good?** The pre-eminent example of this mystery is the Redemption, for it was because of sin that God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to save humanity from sin through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection.
- 30. Why do we all benefit because of the obedience of Jesus Christ?** Because of his obedience, all people may be made righteous.
- 31. What is God's answer for humanity's need for salvation?** He promised and then sent a Redeemer in the Person of his Son, Jesus Christ.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

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- 2. What did Jesus Christ say about Satan?** He called him a “murderer from the beginning,” the “father of lies,” the tempter, and the enemy who sows evil.
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- 5. What did that commandment symbolize?** It symbolized man's need to acknowledge his limits as a creature and to submit his behavior to God's laws, not his own, lest the creature forget his createdness and confuse himself with his Creator.
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Chapter 4
Preparing for the Redeemer

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

- 1. Why does every human being need a redeemer?** Due to Original Sin, we are all prone to evil.
- 2. How is the idea of redemption related to the idea of ransom?** A redeemer is one who pays the price for or buys back someone who has been kidnapped, enslaved, or imprisoned.
- 3. What is salvation history?** It is the on-going story of God reaching out to save mankind from sin.
- 4. What are the primary promises and covenants of salvation history?** They are the covenants with Noah, Abraham, and Moses, and his promises to David.
- 5. What is the fulfillment of the promise of redemption?** It is the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and his Passion, which was payment for our redemption.
- 6. What is the meaning of *Protoevangelium* and where is it found?** It means *first gospel* or *first good news* and it was announced in Genesis 3:15.
- 7. What is the good news in the *Protoevangelium*?** It is the promise that the offspring of the woman will destroy the demonic serpent.
- 8. Why is Christ the New Adam?** Christ obeyed the will of God the Father to repair the disobedience of the first Adam.
- 9. Why is Mary the New Eve?** The Blessed Virgin Mary's humble obedience made the Incarnation possible, so she is the mother of all who live in Christ.
- 10. Why do we know Cain was morally responsible for killing his brother?** God said Cain could have done well and was capable of mastering sin.
- 11. According to Genesis, what did God see in human beings that distressed him?** Every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually.
- 12. The story of the Flood is a type for what event in the Christian life?** They understood it as a type of Baptism.
- 13. What is a covenant?** It is an alliance between God and a person, a people, or a nation in which God promises to bless and protect those he chooses in exchange for their fidelity to him.
- 14. What is the great sin the covenant with Noah identifies?** It is murder.

15. **What is the significance of the rainbow in the covenant with Noah?** It is the sign God will never again destroy the whole earth with water.
16. **Of what new people is Abraham the father?** He is father of the Chosen People, the Jews.
17. **What would every nation on earth receive through Abraham?** A blessing.
18. **What seemingly impossible promise did God make to Abraham?** God promised Abraham he would have a son through whom he would have innumerable offspring, yet Abraham was an old man and he and his wife had never been able to have a child.
19. **What test did God give Abraham?** God asked him to sacrifice his son.
20. **What did God the Father do that he did not ask of Abraham?** God the Father allowed his Son to be sacrificed.
21. **How was Joseph rejected by his brothers, and how did this rejection enable him to save them later?** Joseph's brothers hated him and did him harm, but Joseph saved his family from famine.
22. **In later centuries, how did the Pharaoh mistreat the Jews?** He enslaved them and then intended to exterminate them.
23. **What vocation did God give Moses?** Moses was to liberate the Jews from slavery in Egypt and lead them back to the land God had promised Abraham.
24. **What did God reveal in disclosing his name?** God revealed he is the self-existent being and that he wants a relationship of friendship with mankind.
25. **What was the Passover?** It was the night God slew every firstborn Egyptian but spared the Jews, so as to liberate them from slavery.
26. **Why do Christians consider the Passover a central event in salvation history?** The sacrifice of the Paschal lamb prefigures the Passion of Christ, the Mass, and the Eucharist.
27. **Why is Moses the Lawgiver?** On Mt. Sinai, God revealed the Ten Commandments to Israel through Moses.
28. **Why did the Ten Commandments not have to be revealed?** The Decalogue is an articulation of the natural law that can be discovered by reason and that is binding on all, whether Jew or Gentile.
29. **Why was it good for God to reveal the Decalogue?** God chose to reveal the Commandments so that it would be easier for the Chosen People to know his will.

- 30. What is Christ's New Commandment of Love?** It is to love one another the way Christ has loved us, even to the point of death.
- 31. What did God promise the Chosen People in the Mosaic covenant?** God instructed Moses to tell the people, "Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; . . . you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex 19:5-6).
- 32. How did the Chosen People respond when Moses read the covenant to them?** Their intention was to obey the Law but in practice they often failed.
- 33. What is "the blood of the covenant" for Jews and for Christians?** For Jews, the blood of the covenant was the blood sprinkled on the people, which sealed the Mosaic Covenant. For Christians it is the Blood of Christ, which seals the New Covenant.
- 34. Who were the judges?** They were soldier-prophets who rescued the people of Israel from their enemies and kept them mindful of God's promises and covenant.
- 35. What does King David mean to Jews and to Christians?** David was the greatest king of the nation of Israel and a prototype of Christ.
- 36. What is the significance of Jerusalem for Jews and Christians?** Jerusalem was the site where Abraham almost sacrificed his son Isaac, where David's son, Solomon, built the magnificent Temple, and where Christ's redemptive Death and Resurrection occurred.
- 37. How does the idea of divine sonship change with King David?** Previously, the nation of Israel collectively was called God's son but now God calls David and his heirs his son.
- 38. What is one example of how David is a prototype of Christ?** David saved his people, the Jews, from their enemies. Christ saved his people, and all humanity, from their enemy, which is sin and death.
- 39. Is it possible to become holy without grace?** No. We need God's grace to live as children of God (i.e., to increase in the perfection of charity).
- 40. What did the prophets do for the nation of Israel?** Through the prophets, God warned Israel that the people would suffer for their infidelity, at the same time promising a messiah who would save them by suffering.
- 41. What punishment did the Jews suffer as a result of their infidelity?** They were conquered, killed, or deported into exile, and their nation destroyed.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

- 1. What is the essence of the salvation history recounted in the Old Testament?** It is God's plan of redemption up to the time of Christ. It includes his covenants with Noah, Abraham, and Moses, and his promise with David.
- 2. What is the *Protoevangelium*?** The *first gospel* announced in Genesis 3:15 is the promise that the offspring of the woman will destroy the demonic serpent.
- 3. According to Genesis, what did God see in human beings that distressed him?** Every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was evil.
- 4. What is a covenant?** It is an alliance between God and a person, a people, or a nation in which God promises to bless and protect those he chooses in exchange for their fidelity to him.
- 5. Of what new people is Abraham the father?** He is father of the Chosen People, the Jews.
- 6. What test did God give Abraham?** God asked him to sacrifice his son.
- 7. What vocation did God give Moses?** Moses was to liberate the Jews from Egyptian oppression and to lead them back to the land God had promised Abraham.
- 8. What was the Passover?** It was the night God slew every firstborn Egyptian but spared the Jews, so as to liberate them from slavery.
- 9. Why is Moses the Lawgiver?** On Mt. Sinai, God revealed the Ten Commandments to Israel through Moses.
- 10. Who were the judges?** They were soldier-prophets who rescued the people of Israel from their enemies and kept them mindful of God's promises and covenant.
- 11. What does King David mean to Jews and to Christians?** David was the greatest king of the nation of Israel and a prototype of Christ.
- 12. What did the prophets do for the nation of Israel?** Through the prophets, God warned Israel that the people would suffer for their infidelity, at the same time promising a messiah who would save them by suffering.

Chapter 5
Christ's Redemptive Infancy

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What are the beginning and end moments of salvation history?** The beginning is God's promise of redemption immediately after the Fall and the end is Christ's Second Coming.
2. **Why was the fall of humanity dependent on Eve?** She could have refused to disobey God.
3. **Why was the redemption of humanity dependent on Mary?** Mary could have refused to bear Christ the Redeemer.
4. **What is the essence of the Gospel?** God has visited his people in the Person of his Son.
5. **Why did God want a woman to play a real role in his plan of redemption?** Just as a woman, Eve, freely had a share in the coming of death, God wanted a woman, Mary, freely to contribute to the coming of life.
6. **What does the name Jesus mean?** It means *God saves*.
7. **According to Gabriel, will Mary's child be a king?** Yes. His kingship will last forever.
8. **How did Mary conceive a child without a husband?** She conceived of the Holy Spirit.
9. **How does Gabriel underline that Mary's child will be divine?** He will be called "Son of God" and named Jesus, meaning "God saves."
10. **What was Mary's *fiat*?** It was her consent to be the Mother of the Redeemer. *Fiat* is Latin for *let it be*.
11. **How do Eve and Mary relate in terms of obedience?** Eve was *disobedient* to God when she encountered the demonic angel and Mary was *obedient* to God when she encountered the good angel.
12. **What was the immediate result of Mary's obedience, according to St. John the Evangelist?** "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."
13. **How does God depend on us for him to act in the world?** God can act in the world through us when we say yes to his will and try to carry it out.
14. **What does *kecharitomene* mean, and what is unique about it?** It means "full of grace"; as a greeting in Sacred Scripture, it is used only once, by the angel Gabriel to Mary.
15. **What about Mary does the term *kecharitomene* reflect?** It reflects Mary's Immaculate Conception.

- 16. What is the dogma of the Immaculate Conception?** It is the truth that from the moment of her conception, Mary was preserved from Original Sin and possessed the fullness of sanctifying grace.
- 17. Did Mary ever experience a “natural” inclination to sin?** Unlike us, Mary never experienced concupiscence.
- 18. Did Mary ever commit an actual sin?** No.
- 19. What is the Biblical meaning of the term “just man”?** It means a holy person, someone faithful to God’s will.
- 20. What did it mean in the time of Christ to be betrothed?** Betrothal was a formal and legally binding period of engagement in which the man and woman would live apart and remain celibate until the bride was brought into the home of her husband for the wedding.
- 21. Why did St. Joseph resolve to divorce Mary “quietly”?** Joseph hoped to break off the betrothal in a way that would not draw attention to her circumstances and risk Mary being punished or shunned.
- 22. Why did St. Joseph change his mind about divorcing Mary?** An angel appeared to him in a dream and assured him that Mary’s child was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was to be the savior.
- 23. To what did St. Joseph dedicate the rest of his life?** Joseph wholeheartedly and heroically committed himself to God’s will for him to support and protect Mary and Jesus.
- 24. How did Isaiah foresee the Annunciation?** He prophesized that “A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” or *God with us*.
- 25. Reflecting on the words “God with us,” what philosophical terms are used to describe Jesus Christ?** Jesus Christ is one divine Person with two natures: human and divine.
- 26. Why does every act of Christ have redemptive value for the salvation of man?** The reason is that every act of Christ is the act of a divine Person.
- 27. Describe at least three Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by the Birth and infancy of Jesus.** Answers might include:
- The prophecy in Psalms: “You are my son, today I have begotten you.
 - The genealogies in St. Matthew and St. Luke reveal Christ as a true son of David, an heir to his throne, as the prophets had foretold.
 - Christ was born in Bethlehem, birthplace of David, which also was prophesied as the birthplace of the king of Israel.

- The fact that the wise men, who brought gifts to the Christ child, were not Jews signified the fulfillment of the prophecies that the Gentiles were invited to become part of God's holy people.
- Herod's slaying of the infant males in an attempt to kill the newborn King fulfilled a prophecy of Jeremiah.

- 28. What is a mystery?** A mystery is a reality of inexhaustible depth and meaning that can never be fully comprehended by reason.
- 29. What part of Christ's life was redemptive?** Christ's entire life, from the Incarnation through his Ascension into Heaven, was part of the mystery of the Redemption.
- 30. When did the intervention of Jesus Christ in the world begin?** It began with the creation of all things through the Word of God, Jesus Christ.
- 31. What is the essence of the mystery of the Incarnation?** The eternal and omnipotent Creator of the universe entered into creation as a human being who lived a human-divine life.
- 32. What is the one thing the Son of God does not share with the rest of humanity?** He never sinned.
- 33. What was the purpose of the Incarnation?** It was to redeem fallen humanity by saving us from our sins.
- 34. What is the virtue of poverty?** The Christian virtue of poverty is freedom from undue attachment to created things.
- 35. Why do followers of Christ need to live the virtue of poverty or detachment?** Even though material things are good in themselves, our hearts can become overly attached to them. We can also become attached to things that are downright bad for us.
- 36. What kind of material life should characterize a Christian?** A simple and sober life.
- 37. How does Christian poverty relate to the first Beatitude?** The first Beatitude says that the "poor in spirit" are truly blessed because they are the ones Christ came to save.
- 38. How is the episode with the rich young man a warning about attachment to material things?** Even though he was obviously a good man, obeying all the commandments, he turned down the offer to be "perfect" and to be a follower of Christ because of his many possessions.
- 39. In summary, how does poverty or detachment reflect Christ's redemptive mission?** Christ came to save the poor; he lived poverty himself; and we need voluntary detachment from created things to be united with Christ.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **Why was the Fall of humanity dependent on Eve and the redemption of humanity dependent on Mary?** Eve could have refused to disobey God and Mary could have refused to bear Christ the Redeemer.
2. **What does the name *Jesus* mean?** It means *God saves*.
3. **How did Mary conceive a child without a husband?** She conceived of the Holy Spirit.
4. **What was the immediate result of Mary's obedience, according to St. John the Evangelist?** "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."
5. **What is the dogma of the Immaculate Conception?** It is the truth that from the moment of her conception, Mary was preserved from Original Sin and possessed the fullness of sanctifying grace.
6. **Why did St. Joseph resolve to divorce Mary "quietly" and what changed his mind?** Joseph hoped to break off the betrothal in a way that would not draw attention to her circumstances and risk Mary being punished or shunned. However, an angel appeared to him in a dream and assured him that Mary's child was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was to be the savior.
7. **How did Isaiah foresee the Annunciation?** He prophesized that "a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" or *God with us*.
8. **What is the Church's "philosophical definition" of who Jesus Christ—*God with us*—is?** Jesus Christ is one divine Person with two natures: human and divine.
9. **Why does every act of Christ have redemptive value for the salvation of man?** The reason is that every act of Christ is the act of a divine Person.
10. **What is the essence of the mystery of the Incarnation?** The eternal and omnipotent Creator of the universe entered into own creation as a human being who lived a human-divine life.
11. **What was the purpose of the Incarnation?** It was to redeem fallen humanity by saving us from our sins.
12. **What is the virtue of poverty or detachment?** It is freedom from undue attachment to created things.
13. **How is the episode with the rich young man a warning about attachment to material things?** Even though he was obviously a good man, obeying all the commandments, he turned down the offer to be "perfect" and to be a follower of Christ because of his many possessions.

Chapter 6
Christ's Redemptive Hidden Life

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

- 1. What was the nature of the Word of God *before* the Incarnation?** The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity was a divine Person with a divine intellect and a divine will.
- 2. What was the nature of the Word of God *after* the Incarnation?** He was a divine Person with two natures, human and divine.
- 3. How was the Incarnate God like us?** Jesus Christ fully participated in our human experience.
- 4. How was the Incarnate God unlike us?** He did not sin.
- 5. How long was the twelve-year-old child Jesus missing?** Three days.
- 6. Who did Jesus say his father was?** God the Father.
- 7. What virtue does St. Luke highlight in Christ's life between the episode in the Temple and his baptism in the Jordan?** Christ's obedience.
- 8. How did Christ's obedience relate to his relationship with God the Father?** In his childhood and adolescent years, Christ's conformity to the will of his Father in Heaven took the form of obedience to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph.
- 9. What is obedience?** It is submitting one's actions to the will of another.
- 10. How is Christ's obedience redemptive, according to St. Paul?** Christ's obedience atoned for Adam's disobedience so that many could be made righteous.
- 11. What did Christ do during his hidden life?** Christ did ordinary things, just like everyone around him.
- 12. Why did some people from his hometown later reject him?** They thought they knew everything about him.
- 13. According to CCC 564, what is Christ's good example for us?** Obedience and humble work.
- 14. Why were Adam and Eve both holy and happy before the Fall?** They had original holiness and justice, that is, they were in a state of friendship with God and in a right relationship within themselves, with each other, and with the rest of creation.
- 15. How did Adam and Eve abuse their freedom?** They chose sin over obedience.

16. **What is the motivation that underlies every human action?** The desire to be happy.
17. **What is the only thing that can fully satisfy the human desire for happiness?** Only God can.
18. **What kind of happiness does God promise to give us?** Both natural happiness and the happiness of his own divine life.
19. **What is the only true failure a human being can experience?** It is to abuse freedom and lose eternal life.
20. **In our current state, how do happiness and holiness interrelate?** We seek ultimate happiness through our struggle for present holiness.
21. **What is the universal call to holiness?** It is what the Second Vatican Council named the fundamental vocation of each person to seek holiness.
22. **To what, essentially, does the universal call to holiness call us?** It calls us to be perfect.
23. **Can we answer this call to holiness by human effort alone?** No, it is impossible to answer God's call to holiness and conform one's life to Christ by human effort alone.
24. **How does God help us achieve holiness?** Through the graces of the Redemption merited by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross, God offers the means for everyone to lead lives of holiness.
25. **How does the grace of redemption first come to us?** The grace of redemption comes to us through the Sacrament of Baptism.
26. **What is the ongoing remedy for sin?** The Sacrament of Reconciliation forgives sins committed after Baptism. Whenever we require strength to do good and avoid evil, the Holy Spirit supplies us with *actual grace* to help us act in accordance with the will of God.
27. **What is sanctifying grace? What is actual grace? Sanctifying grace is the** grace of Redemption that makes us holy and draws us into communion with the Blessed Trinity. Actual grace gives us the strength to do good and avoid evil, acting in accordance with the will of God.
28. **Why is Christ's hidden life relevant to Christians?** Most of our time is spent in ordinary activities.
29. **How do we sanctify our daily activities?** We can become holy when we offer our daily activities to God and then do them as well as we can with a right intention, usually as a service to others.

30. **What does it mean to live as an adopted child of God?** It means to see God as our good father who loves and provides for us.
31. **Why is repentance and conversion of heart an on-going effort for everyone?** We all suffer the consequences of Original Sin and so are inclined to selfishness rather than the will of God.
32. **Why is it important to obey the moral law?** Our Lord said this is necessary to enter into life.
33. **What do you think is the most important way a person like you can participate actively in the Church?** Answers will vary.
34. **How do we contribute to building up the Kingdom of God?** Through the use of our time, talent, and treasure in the Church's activities.
35. **How do we help to build up the human community?** By contributing to the common good.
36. **How can we best evangelize others?** We can best evangelize others by living the demands of our faith, loving and serving others, and, when appropriate, explaining to them the reasons for our faith.
37. **When we help someone in need, who else are we always also helping?** Jesus Christ counts it as help given to him.
38. **To whom do the goods of creation belong?** To everyone alive and all who will come after us.
39. **When did Padre Pio discover he had a vocation to religious life?** He knew at age five he wanted to dedicate his life to God and by ten was certain he should be a Capuchin friar.
40. **How was Padre Pio a very down-to-earth spiritual director?** He gave simple advice like weekly confession and daily communion, spiritual reading, meditation, and examination of conscience.
41. **What are three examples of Padre Pio's extraordinary spiritual life?** He received the stigmata, could bilocate, and was able to read people's hearts.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What was the nature of the Word of God *before* and *after* the Incarnation?** Before the Incarnation, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity was a divine person with a divine intellect and a divine will. After, he was a divine person with two natures, human and divine.

2. **How was the Incarnate God like us?** Jesus Christ fully participated in our human experience in every way but sin.
3. **What virtue does Luke highlight in Christ's life between the episode in the Temple and his baptism in the Jordan?** Christ's obedience.
4. **What occupied Jesus Christ during his hidden life?** Christ did normal things, just like everyone around him.
5. **What kind of happiness does God promise to give us?** Both natural happiness and the happiness of his own divine life.
6. **What is the only true failure a human being can experience?** It is to abuse freedom and lose eternal life.
7. **What is the universal call to holiness?** It is what the Second Vatican Council named the fundamental vocation of each person to seek holiness.
8. **What does God offer us to help us achieve holiness?** Through the graces of the Redemption merited by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross, God offers the means for everyone to lead lives of holiness.
9. **How do we sanctify our daily activities?** We can become holy when we offer our daily activities to God and then do them as well as we can with a right intention, usually as a service to others.
10. **What are ways we can orient our lives to God's will?** Eight ways we can orient our lives to God's will are living as a child of God, obeying the moral law, participating in the life of the Church, building up the Church and the human community, doing apostolate, serving our neighbor in need, and exercising stewardship over the good things God has entrusted to us.

Chapter 7
Christ's Redemptive Signs

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

- 1. What claim does Christ make in the synagogue in Nazareth?** Christ asserts that he is now fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy that the Messiah will preach the good news to the poor and perform miracles.
- 2. What did John the Baptist do?** He preached repentance and baptized as a sign of repentance.
- 3. What did St. John the Baptist call Christ?** "The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
- 4. What was the reason Christ said he should be baptized?** To "fulfill all righteousness."
- 5. According to the *Catechism*, what did fulfilling all righteousness mean?** It meant identifying with sinners and anticipating his own Death and Resurrection.
- 6. What was Christ's *kenosis*?** It was his emptying of himself to completely identify himself with sinful humanity to stand in for us as a sacrifice for our sins.
- 7. How did Christ's ritual baptism anticipate his Passion and Resurrection?** Going under the water symbolized death. Coming up out the water was a sign of resurrection.
- 8. How was Christ's Baptism a Trinitarian event?** When Christ rose out of the water, the Father spoke about the Son and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son.
- 9. Why is it significant that Christ spent forty days fasting in the wilderness?** In the time of Noah, the rains that washed away sinful humanity lasted forty days. Later, the nation of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years in exile. And traditionally, Christians spent forty days of Lent preparing for Holy Week.
- 10. In what three areas was Christ tempted?** Bodily appetites, personal glory, and worldly riches.
- 11. What does Christ's overcoming temptation reveal?** His complete obedience to God the Father and his power to overcome sin, thus defeating the devil.
- 12. At the wedding feast at Cana, why did Christ call the Blessed Virgin Mary "woman"?** He was associating her with the woman in the *Protoevangelium* whose offspring will vanquish the serpent.
- 13. When did Christ again refer to Mary as "woman"?** On the Cross when he was overcoming the Devil and sin.

- 14. How was Mary's command to "do whatever he tells you" meaningful beyond its immediate context?** This statement illustrated Mary's role in the life of the Church as mother, intercessor, and cooperator with the Redemption.
- 15. What was manifested when Christ turned water into wine?** He showed he had a power only God possessed.
- 16. What is an anagogical interpretation of the miracle of Cana?** It prefigured the wedding feast of eternal gladness in Heaven.
- 17. What was an example of a miracle of abundance?** At Cana, Christ turned water into a large amount of good wine.
- 18. What was an example of a miracle of healing?** Christ healed a leper by touching him.
- 19. What was an example of a miraculous exorcism?** Christ restored a boy whose demon cast him into a fire or in water.
- 20. What did Christ's ability to exorcise demons signify?** His ability to defeat Satan, indicating the presence of the kingdom of God.
- 21. What was an example of Christ's power over nature?** He walked on water.
- 22. What was an example of Christ raising the dead?** He raised Lazarus who had been dead three days.
- 23. In what sense are Christ's miracles signs?** They show Christ is the promised messiah and that what he says is true.
- 24. Why didn't Christ miraculously abolish all suffering in the world?** Christ's basic purpose was to liberate people from sin, not end all suffering.
- 25. Why did Christ heal the paralytic?** Christ healed physical injury to prove he could heal spiritual injury: If Christ could say "walk" to a paralyzed man and the man walked, then he could say "your sins are forgiven" and they would be.
- 26. Who did St. Peter proclaim Jesus Christ was?** The Christ, the Son of the living God.
- 27. What happened at the Transfiguration?** Christ's Body became gloriously filled with light.
- 28. What is significant about Moses and Elijah appearing?** They represent the Old Covenant: Moses stands for the Law and Elijah signifies the prophets.
- 29. What did Moses and Elijah speak about to Christ?** His "departure" or imminent death.

30. **What did St. Peter mean by “booth”?** A simple structure of branches and fronds the Chosen People lived in while wandering in the desert.
31. **At the end of the Transfiguration, how were Sts. Peter, James, and John like Moses at the tent of meeting?** At the tent of meeting, the pillar of cloud would descend and God would speak to Moses face to face like a friend. On the mountain, a cloud descended and God the Father spoke directly to the three Apostles.
32. **What did the Transfiguration reinforce for Sts. Peter, James, and John?** Christ’s Death would be followed his Resurrection.
33. **How was the Transfiguration a Trinitarian event?** God the Father was present in the voice. The Son was present in his glorified humanity. And the Holy Spirit was present in the cloud.
34. **Why didn’t St. Francis de Sales tell his family he wanted to be a priest?** His father wanted him to become a secular leader.
35. **How was St. Francis an exemplary priest?** He tirelessly preached the Gospel, heard confessions, gave spiritual direction, and evangelized non-Catholics.
36. **How successful was St. Francis de Sales as an apostle?** At first he had no success but eventually 40,000 returned or converted to the Catholic Faith.
37. **For what book is St. Francis de Sales most famous?** His *Introduction to the Devout Life*, directed to helping the laity grow in the life of piety.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What was the reason Christ said he should be baptized?** To “fulfill all righteousness,” meaning to identify with sinners and to anticipate his Death and Resurrection.
2. **How was Christ’s Baptism a Trinitarian event?** When Christ rose out of the water, the Father spoke about the Son and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son.
3. **In what three areas was Christ tempted in the wilderness?** Bodily appetites, personal glory, and worldly riches.
4. **At the wedding feast at Cana, why did Christ call the Blessed Virgin Mary “woman”?** He was associating her with the woman in the *Protoevangelium* whose offspring would vanquish the serpent.
5. **What was an example of a miracle of abundance?** At Cana, Christ turned water into a large amount of good wine.
6. **What was an example of a miracle of healing?** Christ healed a leper by touching him.

7. **What was an example of a miraculous exorcism?** Christ restored a boy whose demon made him suicidal, casting him in a fire or in water.
8. **What was an example of Christ's power over nature?** He walked on water.
9. **What was an example of Christ raising the dead?** He raised Lazarus who had been dead three days.
10. **In what sense are Christ's miracles signs?** They show Christ is the divine messiah and that what he says is true.
11. **Why did Christ heal the paralytic?** Christ healed physical injury to prove he could heal spiritual injury: If Christ could say "walk" to a paralyzed man and the man walked, then he could say "your sins are forgiven" and they would be.
12. **In the Transfiguration, what was transfigured?** Christ's body became gloriously filled with light.
13. **How was the Transfiguration a Trinitarian event?** God the Father was present in the voice. The Son was present in his glorified humanity. And the Holy Spirit was present in the cloud.

Chapter 8 Christ's Redemptive Teachings

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **How do Christ's words have the power to move us toward contrition and conversion?** In confronting us with the truth and inviting us to an examination of conscience, the words of Christ have the power to move us toward sorrow for our sins and conversion of our hearts.
2. **What does it mean to say that Christ taught on his own authority?** He simply asserted the truth of what he wanted to teach.
3. **On what did the scribes base their teachings?** They commented on the Sacred Scriptures.
4. **Why could Christ justly teach on his own authority?** Because he is the Son of God.
5. **What are the two categories of truths Christ taught?** Truths about faith and truths about morality.
6. **What is a parable?** It is a story that illustrates an idea.
7. **What is the idea illustrated by the Parable of the Good Samaritan?** We must love everyone in need and help them as we are able.
8. **Why was it significant to his hearers that Christ would make the Samaritan the hero of a parable?** Samaritans and Jews were enemies, so Christ's audience would not expect the Samaritan to do the right thing.
9. **What is the basic theme of Christ's Gospel proclamation?** "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel."
10. **What idea does the Parable of the Leaven illustrate?** The Church may be tiny now, but eventually it will transform the world.
11. **According to Pope St. John Paul II, what is the Kingdom of God?** It is the visible and full accomplishment of the Redemption.
12. **How does the history of the Church relate to the Kingdom of God?** The history of the Church is the story of the growth of the Kingdom of God on earth.
13. **When will the Kingdom of God appear in its fullness?** At the end of time.
14. **When will we each reach personal fulfillment?** When we enter eternal life.

- 15. According to Pope Benedict XVI, what is the Kingdom of God?** It is the presence of Jesus Christ.
- 16. What is the “church” of which Christ speaks?** It is the Catholic Church.
- 17. Who was and is the visible head of Christ’s Church?** St. Peter and then his various successors.
- 18. What is a good Scriptural passage to study Christ’s doctrine?** The Sermon on the Mount in St. Matthew’s Gospel.
- 19. Why is it significant that Christ taught on a mountain?** Moses received the Law on Mt. Sinai, and Christ taught his New Law on a mountain.
- 20. What animates Christ’s perfected Law?** It is animated by love, i.e., to “love one another, as I have loved you.”
- 21. What does it mean to have purity of intention?** It means to act out of love for God and neighbor.
- 22. Why should Christians not worry overly about material things?** If we “seek first [God’s] kingdom and his righteousness,” Our Lord promises, “all these things shall be yours as well.”
- 23. Does God expect Christians to obey the Ten Commandments?** Yes, Christ did not come to abolish the law but to perfect it.
- 24. What are the three parts of the Sermon on the Mount?** Purity of intention; the perfection of the Mosaic Law; and the Beatitudes.
- 25. What is Christ’s basic mission in regard to the Mosaic Law?** He came to fulfill it.
- 26. What is an example of extending the Law?** Christ extended the Fifth Commandment from not killing to not cursing and not harboring hatred. In other words, he included words and thoughts, not just violent deeds.
- 27. Why should it not be surprising that the moral law includes thoughts?** Our actions emerge from our thoughts.
- 28. What are three ways Christ fulfilled the Law?** He extended its scope to thoughts, words, and deeds; he corrected it; and he lived it perfectly.
- 29. How did Christ correct the Mosaic Law in regard to marriage?** He revoked Moses’ permission to divorce.
- 30. Can we overcome sin and obey the moral law?** With God’s grace and our efforts, we can grow in holiness but will always remain imperfect in this life.

31. **What are the Beatitudes?** They are eight paradoxical statements beginning with the word “blessed.”
32. **What are two good questions we can use to interpret a Beatitude?** We can ask (1) How does this Beatitude describe Christ? and (2) What does it say about how Christians should live?
33. **How does *poor in spirit* describe Christ?** Christ made himself poor to redeem us.
34. **What does *poor in spirit* tell us about how a Christian should live?** A Christian can show his or her need for God by living detachment.
35. **How does *mourning* describe Christ?** Christ was the Suffering Servant.
36. **What does *mourning* tell us about how a Christian should live?** A Christian should offer up his or her suffering and comfort others who mourn.
37. **How does *meekness* describe Christ?** Christ put himself at the mercy of wicked human beings.
38. **What does *meekness* tell us about how a Christian should live?** A Christian should live a virtuous gentleness and patience.
39. **What is paradoxical about the meek inheriting the earth?** Answers will vary.
40. **How does *hunger for justice* describe Christ?** Christ came to reconcile man with God.
41. **What does *hunger for justice* tell us about how a Christian should live?** A Christian should work to see that others benefit from Christ’s reconciliation.
42. **How does *mercy* describe Christ?** Christ showed mercy for us by dying to save us.
43. **What does *mercy* tell us about how a Christian should live?** A Christian should perform acts of mercy.
44. **How does *purity of heart* describe Christ?** Everything Christ did was in obedience to his Father.
45. **What does *purity of heart* tell us about how a Christian should live?** A Christian should put God first and judge everything else in relationship to him.
46. **How does *peacemaking* describe Christ?** Christ reconciled God and mankind.
47. **What does *peacemaking* tell us about how a Christian should live?** A Christian should be reconciled with Christ and bring others to him.

- 48. How does *persecution for doing what is right* describe Christ?** Christ was hated for preaching the Gospel.
- 49. What does *persecution for doing what is right* tell us about how a Christian should live?** A Christian should be willing and even relish suffering for doing the right thing.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

- 1. What authority did Christ cite for his teachings?** He asserted what he wanted to teach on his own authority.
- 2. What is a parable?** It is a story that illustrates an idea.
- 3. Why was it significant to his hearers that Christ would make a Samaritan the hero of a parable?** Samaritans and Jews were enemies, so Christ's audience would not expect the Samaritan to do the right thing.
- 4. What is the basic theme of Christ's Gospel proclamation?** "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel."
- 5. According to Pope St. John Paul II, what is the Kingdom of God?** It is the visible and full accomplishment of the Redemption.
- 6. According to Pope Benedict XVI, what is the Kingdom of God?** It is the presence of Jesus Christ.
- 7. What are the three parts of the Sermon on the Mount?** Purity of intention; the perfection of the Mosaic Law; and the Beatitudes.
- 8. What are three ways Christ fulfilled the Mosaic Law?** He extended its scope to thoughts, words, and deeds; he corrected it; and he lived it perfectly.
- 9. What are the Beatitudes?** They are eight paradoxical statements beginning with the word "blessed."
- 10. What is a key to interpreting the Beatitudes?** Each one describes Christ and points out how we should live.
- 11. What are the eight qualities of Christ the Beatitudes reveal that we should imitate?** Christ was voluntarily poor, he suffered, he was meek, he hungered for justice, he was merciful, he had purity of heart, he was a peacemaker, and he was persecuted for doing what is right.

Chapter 9
Christ's Redemptive Passion

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is the Passion?** It is Christ's suffering and Death.
2. **What does it mean to say that Christ's Passion was an act of obedience?** Christ endured it out of obedience to his Father's plan.
3. **What does it mean to say that Christ's Passion was an act of love?** Christ endured it out of love for humanity.
4. **Why did the Jewish authorities want to arrest Christ secretly?** They were afraid of Christ's popular support.
5. **Why was (and is) the Passover so important to the Jews?** They consider their liberation from slavery in Egypt one of the fundamental events of their history.
6. **What did Christ do before the Last Supper?** He washed the feet of his Apostles.
7. **What is the New Commandment of Love?** It is that Christ's followers should love one another with a sacrificial love.
8. **Why did many of Christ's own disciples abandon him?** He said people had to eat his Flesh and drink his Blood to have eternal life.
9. **At the Last Supper, how did Christ fulfill his words about eating his Flesh and drinking his Blood?** He changed the bread, which retained its appearance, into his Body, and he changed the wine, which retained its appearance, into his Blood.
10. **How was Christ's sacrifice both bloody and unbloody?** It was bloody as it was offered in his Passion. It was unbloody when offered at the Last Supper and *is* unbloody in every Mass.
11. **What are the three meanings of the Passover?** They are the original Passover supper, the Passover event of the Angel of Death, and every commemorative Passover supper each year.
12. **What words did Christ use to institute the Sacrament of Holy Orders?** "Do this in remembrance of me" (Lk 22:19).
13. **What do we receive in Holy Communion?** The Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ.
14. **What was Christ's moral agony in Gethsemane?** He felt the weight of human sinfulness.
15. **How did Christ's agony reveal itself physically?** He sweated Blood.

16. **According to Christ, how did his Passion relate to the Sacred Scriptures?** It was foretold in them.
17. **What are the Suffering Servant Songs?** They are a prophetic vision of Christ's Passion found in the Book of Isaiah, written hundreds of years earlier.
18. **How does Isaiah prophesy that Christ would suffer for us?** "He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" and "with his stripes we are healed."
19. **How does Isaiah prophesy that Christ's act of redemption was God's will?** "It was the will of the Lord to bruise him."
20. **With what crime was Christ accused by the Sanhedrin?** Blasphemy for claiming to be the Son of God.
21. **How does Christ's relative silence during his Passion relate to Isaiah?** "He opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter . . . like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb."
22. **How does the crowd's choice of a criminal over Christ relate to Isaiah?** "He was despised and rejected by men."
23. **How is Christ's scourging related to Isaiah?** "His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance."
24. **Why was Pilate's death sentence unjust?** He believed Christ was innocent of any crime, yet he condemned him to crucifixion.
25. **On the Cross, for whom does Christ beg God for mercy?** For those who were putting him to death.
26. **How did Christ show mercy to the repentant thief?** He told the repentant criminal, "Today you will be with me in Paradise" (Lk 23:43).
27. **Why did Christ say, "It is finished" just before he expired?** His mission of redemption was completed.
28. **What is *kenosis*, and how does it relate to Christ's sacrifice?** The word means "emptied himself," which relates to Christ's death on the Cross.
29. **Do Christians still suffer martyrdom?** Yes, numerous Christians are martyred each year.
30. **How many Vietnamese martyrs are there?** 177 have been canonized, but the actual number might be 300,000.

31. **Why was the teenager St. Thomas Thien Tran murdered?** He would not renounce his Catholic Faith.
32. **What do the Blood and water from Christ's side represent?** They represent Baptism and the Eucharist, and by extension the entire Church.
33. **How does the Blood of the New Covenant relate to the Eucharist?** The New Covenant was sealed with the Blood of Christ. We are strengthened in our union with Christ and his Church through the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is the Passion?** It is Christ's suffering and Death.
2. **Why was (and is) the Passover so important to the Jews?** They consider their liberation from slavery in Egypt one of the fundamental events of their history.
3. **What is the New Commandment of Love?** It is that Christ's followers should love one another with a sacrificial love.
4. **At the Last Supper, how did Christ fulfill his words about eating his Flesh and drinking his Blood?** He changed the bread, which retained its appearance, into his Body, and he changed the wine, which retained its appearance, into his Blood.
5. **How was Christ's sacrifice both bloody and unbloody?** It was bloody as it was offered in his Passion. It was unbloody when offered at the Last Supper and *is* unbloody in every Mass.
6. **What are the three Eucharistic realities that correspond to the Passover?** The Last Supper, the Passion, and every subsequent Mass.
7. **What words did Christ use to institute the Sacrament of Holy Orders?** "Do this in remembrance of me" (Lk 22:19).
8. **What was Christ's moral, mental, and physical agony in Gethsemane?** He felt the weight of human sinfulness. He felt fear at what he would have to endure. And he sweated Blood.
9. **According to Christ, how did his Passion relate to the Sacred Scriptures?** It was foretold in them.
10. **What is one prophecy in Isaiah of Christ's Passion?** "He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" and "with his stripes we are healed."
11. **Why was Pilate's death sentence unjust?** He believed Christ was innocent of any crime, yet he condemned him to crucifixion.

12. **What do the Blood and water from Christ's side represent?** The Eucharist and the Church.

Chapter 10
Christ's Redemptive Resurrection

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

- 1. According to St. Paul, why is the Resurrection of Christ central to the Redemption?** If Christ did not rise from the dead, there is no forgiveness of sins or eternal life for believers.
- 2. What is the core of the mystery of faith?** Christ (1) truly suffered and died and (2) truly rose from the dead.
- 3. What are the two aspects of the Paschal mystery, according to the *Catechism*?** “By his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life.”
- 4. What does it mean to say that the Resurrection of Christ literally happened?** It means it is a true historical fact.
- 5. What does it mean to say that the Paschal mystery happened “in accordance to the Scriptures”?** It means that these events were accurately predicted in the Old Testament Scriptures.
- 6. When did St. Paul encounter the risen Christ?** On the road to Damascus.
- 7. What was the Apostles’ initial reaction to news of Christ’s Resurrection?** They did not believe it.
- 8. What overcame doubt about Christ’s Resurrection for each of the Apostles, including “doubting” St. Thomas?** A personal encounter with the Risen Lord.
- 9. According to St. Paul, to how many persons in all did Christ appear?** Over 500.
- 10. What does the Resurrection of Christ mean?** Christ’s human Body was rejoined to his human Soul, which had remained joined to his divine nature.
- 11. Why do we call Christ’s Resurrection a transcendent event?** We mean his Body was glorified and given supernatural powers.
- 12. How does the Resurrection confirm that Christ is God?** Christ raised himself from the dead, something only God could do.
- 13. How does Resurrection confirm the truth of the things Christ taught?** If Christ is God his words are completely trustworthy because God can neither deceive nor be deceived.
- 14. What is an example of Christ foretelling his Resurrection?** He told his Apostles that on the third day after being killed he would “rise” (Lk 18:31–33).

15. **What is an example of Christ foretelling his Resurrection with a metaphor?** He said to the Jewish religious leaders, “Destroy this temple,” meaning his Body, “and in three days I will raise it up,” referring to his Resurrection.
16. **What about Psalm 16 implies the Resurrection of Christ?** God will not give up his godly servant’s body to Sheol or the Pit but will show him “the path of life” and give him “fullness of joy” and “pleasures” forever.
17. **What is an example of Christ’s Resurrection foretold in an Old Testament “type”?** In the story of Jonah, the prophet spent three days in the belly of a whale before being returned to land, just as Christ predicted he would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
18. **How long did Christ appear to his Apostles after his Resurrection?** Forty days.
19. **How is Christ’s return in glory predicted at the Ascension?** The two “men” in white robes say to the Apostles, “This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”
20. **What is the *Parousia*?** The *Parousia* or “appearance” will be Christ’s Second Coming in glory judge the living and the dead.
21. **What is the Assumption?** Because of the Blessed Virgin Mary’s Immaculate Conception and sinlessness, she did not undergo natural death but her body and soul were assumed into Heaven at the end of her life.
22. **Why did Christ “descend into hell”?** He preached the Good News of salvation to the just who had died before his coming thus opening to them the gates of Heaven.
23. **How did the Resurrection and the Ascension of Christ make possible the sending of the Holy Spirit?** The Resurrection completed the reestablishment of justice between God and men, making the indwelling of the Holy Spirit possible. When Christ ascended into Heaven he sent the Holy Spirit so God could be with man spiritually.
24. **What necessary thing did the Holy Spirit give the Church?** The gifts she needed to make disciples of all nations.
25. **Why is the Resurrection necessary for us?** Without the Resurrection, there is no forgiveness of sins and no eternal life.
26. **What is the Particular Judgment?** Christ’s judgment of our lives at the moment of our death.
27. **What are the two possible outcomes of the Particular Judgment?** Heaven, possibly *via* Purgatory, or Hell.

28. **What will every soul receive at Christ's Second Coming?** A new immortal body.
29. **What will be the final condition of the saved?** A self-chosen eternal joy in body and soul.
30. **What will be the final condition of the damned?** A self-chosen eternal punishment in body and soul.
31. **What will be revealed at the Last Judgment?** Everyone's moral decisions, including the circumstances and motivations surrounding them, will be revealed.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What does it mean to say that the Resurrection of Christ literally happened?** It means it is a true historical fact.
2. **What was the Apostles' initial reaction to news of Christ's Resurrection?** They did not believe it.
3. **According to St. Paul, to how many persons in all did Christ appear?** Over 500.
4. **What does the Resurrection of Christ mean?** Christ's human Body was rejoined to his human Soul, which had remained joined to his divine nature.
5. **Why do we call Christ's Resurrection a transcendent event?** We mean his Body was glorified and given supernatural powers.
6. **What is an example of Christ foretelling his Resurrection?** He told his Apostles that on the third day after being killed he would "rise" (Lk 18:31–33).
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8. **How is Christ's return in glory predicted at the Ascension?** The two "men" in white robes say to the Apostles, "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."
9. **Why is the Resurrection necessary for us?** Without the Resurrection, there is no forgiveness of sins and no eternal life.
10. **What is the Particular Judgment?** Christ's judgment of our lives at the moment of our death.

- 11. What will be revealed at the Last Judgment?** The eternal fate of every person and the full repercussion of all good and evil actions over the course of human history.
- 12. What will be the final condition of the damned and the saved?** A self-chosen eternal punishment in body and soul for the lost and a self-chosen eternal joy in body and soul for the saved.

Chapter 11
Our Response to the Gift of Redemption

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **How does the Redemption relate to the idea of time?** The Redemption occurred at a precise moment in time yet it affects every person in every time—past, present, and future.
2. **Why do we call the Redemption superabundant?** It provides enough grace to forgive all sins and to sanctify everyone.
3. **In what regard is our personal redemption a free gift?** God gives it to us; we could never bestow it on ourselves.
4. **In what regard do we participate in our redemption?** By our free cooperation with the graces of the Redemption, we “work out our salvation” (Phil 2:12–13).
5. **What is the negative consequence of free will?** We are capable of rejecting God’s redemptive offer of forgiveness of sins and eternal life in Heaven.
6. **What is the basic human motivation?** The desire for happiness.
7. **What is the ultimate happiness God offers us?** A share in his own perfect divine happiness.
8. **What is the fundamental Christian vocation?** It is holiness.
9. **In our lives, how do happiness and holiness relate?** To attain the perfect happiness of Heaven, we must become holy.
10. **What is the relation between God’s grace and our holiness?** Our holiness is dependent on God, who makes it possible and who calls us to cooperate in our sanctification.
11. **What is the human being’s unique gift?** An immortal soul with a rational intellect and a free will.
12. **How does one become holy?** By cooperating with God’s grace by choosing and performing acts that conform to the will of God.
13. **When does our life of grace formally begin?** At Baptism.
14. **What are the major effects of Baptism?** Baptism gives us sanctifying grace (a share of God’s own life), forgives Original and all personal sins, restores us to the original holiness and justice Adam and Eve lost, and makes us adopted children of God.
15. **How is sanctifying grace lost?** Through mortal sin.

16. **What is a mortal sin?** A seriously wrong act committed knowingly and freely.
17. **How is a post-baptismal mortal sin forgiven?** Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
18. **Is it possible for a baptized person never to commit a mortal sin?** Yes. The Holy Spirit supplies us with sufficient grace to avoid all mortal sins.
19. **What is a virtue?** It is a habit which makes it easy to do what is good.
20. **What are the two ways we can gain virtues?** By our repeated good acts and by God directly infusing them in us.
21. **What is a natural or human virtue?** It is a good habit attained through the repetition of good actions.
22. **Why do virtues make us more like God?** God possesses every virtue to perfection.
23. **What is a supernatural virtue?** It is a virtue infused into our souls at Baptism so we can perform supernatural actions.
24. **Why are faith, hope, and charity called theological virtues?** They relate directly to God and they make us capable of living as God's children.
25. **What is the theological virtue of faith?** It is the infused power to assent to the truths that God reveals.
26. **How do faith and reason interrelate?** They cannot be in contradiction but faith exceeds the scope of human reason.
27. **What is the theological virtue of hope?** It is the infused power to trust that God will provide all the graces necessary to achieve everlasting life.
28. **What is the theological virtue of charity?** It is the infused power to love God above all things and to love one's neighbor the way Christ loved us.
29. **How do charity and holiness relate?** They are identical.
30. **What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?** They are seven supernatural infused habits that make it easy to obey the will of God.
31. **What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?** They are supernatural acts performed with ease, peace, and joy, which flow from the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
32. **What are sacramental graces?** They are the graces we receive from the reception of the seven Sacraments.

- 33. What are actual graces?** They are specific supernatural helps God gives us at particular moments to do his will.
- 34. From God's perspective, how do happiness and holiness relate?** They are identical.
- 35. What is the difference between repentance and conversion?** Repentance is turning away from sins committed. Conversion is the life-long process of changing one's heart to conform to the will of God.
- 36. What is conscience?** Conscience is one's reason judging one's actions according to one's understanding of the moral law.
- 37. What is a practical way of growing in repentance and conversion?** An examination of conscience at the end of every day.
- 38. How do we live a moral life?** By obeying Christ's commands.
- 39. What will Christians do out of love for Christ?** They will keep his commands.
- 40. What is the role of the Church on earth?** It is to continue the saving mission of Christ by preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments.
- 41. How do we grow in holiness through the Church?** By taking part in the Church's worship, prayer, and Sacraments.
- 42. What is a vocation?** It is the state of life and particular life's work God calls you to.
- 43. What is the vocation of the laity?** The vocation of the laity is to sanctify the world through their family life, work, study, friendships, and activities.
- 44. What is evangelization or apostolate?** It is sharing the Faith with others, by example and word.
- 45. What is the most effective way of spreading the Faith?** Seeing how good it is to be close to Jesus Christ.
- 46. Who are the poor?** Anyone in need that we can help.
- 47. What are the corporal and spiritual works of mercy?** They are ways to help those who suffer in their bodies and in their souls.
- 48. What is good stewardship?** It is taking care of the goods entrusted to one.
- 49. What did God command Adam and Eve in regard to creation?** God's original command was to fill the earth and subdue it (Gn 1:28).

50. **Who has a right to share in the goods of creation?** All those living today and all those who will come in the future.
51. **What was the biggest obstacle to St. Rose Philippine's religious vocation?** During the French Revolution the government outlawed religious life, closing her convent.
52. **What was the occasion of St. Rose Philippine becoming a missionary?** The bishop of New Orleans requested nuns for his missionary diocese.
53. **What was St. Rose's primary apostolate for Native Americans?** She founded schools for them.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **In what regard do we cooperate in our redemption?** By our free cooperation with the graces of the Redemption, we "work out our salvation" (Phil 2:12-13).
2. **In our lives, how do happiness and holiness relate?** To attain the perfect happiness of Heaven, we must become holy.
3. **How does one become holy?** By choosing and performing acts that conform to the will of God.
4. **What is a natural or human virtue?** It is a good habit attained through the repetition of good actions.
5. **What is a supernatural virtue?** It is a virtue infused into our souls at Baptism so we can perform supernatural actions.
6. **What is the theological virtue of faith?** It is the infused power to assent to the truths that God reveals.
7. **What is the theological virtue of hope?** It is the infused power to trust that God will provide all the graces necessary to achieve everlasting life.
8. **What is the theological virtue of charity?** It is the infused power to love God above all things and to love one's neighbor the way Christ loved us.
9. **What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?** They are seven supernatural infused habits that make it easy to obey the will of God.
10. **What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?** They are supernatural acts performed with ease, peace, and joy, which flow from the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- 11. What are sacramental graces?** They are the graces we receive from the reception of the seven Sacraments.
- 12. What are actual graces?** They are specific supernatural helps God gives us at particular moments to do his will.
- 13. From God's perspective, how do happiness and holiness relate?** They are identical.
- 14. What are some of the ways we can respond to God's gift of salvation?** Repenting from sin and achieving conversion of heart; living according to the moral law as taught by Christ; participating actively in the life of the Church in worship, prayer, and the Sacraments; living our vocation; answering our responsibility to evangelize others; loving our neighbor through service to the poor; and exercising sound stewardship over God's creation.

Chapter 12
The Prayer of the Redeemed

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is a major way we can foster friendship with God even now?** Through the dialogue of prayer.
2. **What are two simple definitions of prayer?** They are raising one's mind and heart to God and a conversation with God.
3. **What is the highest form of prayer the Church offers us?** The Mass.
4. **What is the eternal prayer to which we are called?** The Beatific Vision.
5. **In our prayer, how can we always be certain of hearing what God wants to say to us?** By prayerfully reading God's Word in Sacred Scripture.
6. **What is the basis of the Church's formal prayers and liturgies?** The Bible.
7. **What is the origin of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass?** It is the Jewish synagogue Sabbath service in which the Scriptures were read and explained.
8. **What is the *Lectionary*?** It is the collected cycle of Scriptural Mass readings.
9. **How can attending Mass teach us the Sacred Scriptures?** At each Sunday Mass we hear different interconnected Old and New Testament readings.
10. **What is the Liturgy of the Hours or Divine Office?** It is the public prayer of the Church, performed at specific hours throughout the day, made up of hymns, readings, psalms, and prayers primarily derived from the Sacred Scriptures.
11. **Who is called to pray the Liturgy of the Hours?** Everyone is called to pray the Liturgy of the Hours.
12. **What is Compline?** It is the night prayer of the Divine Office.
13. **What is vocal prayer?** It is prayer that uses words, spoken or unspoken, formal or spontaneous.
14. **What is an example of a formal vocal prayer?** The "Our Father."
15. **What is spontaneous vocal prayer?** It is just talking with God person to person.
16. **What is meditation?** It is the form of prayer in which we use our minds to talk with God.

17. **What is the “medium” used in meditation?** It is a verbal or non-verbal “text” that is considered.
18. **What is the best text on which to meditate?** The Bible, especially the Gospels.
19. **What is contemplation?** It is a prayer of simply being in God’s presence to share in his love, often without using any words.
20. **How can meditation lead to contemplation?** Meditation can lead one to a state in which one can rest in God.
21. **What does *lectio divina* mean?** Divine reading.
22. **What are the four traditional steps of *lectio divina*?** They are *lectio* or reading to simply comprehend the text, *meditatio* or meditation to understand the passage in more depth, *oratio* or prayer or dialogue with God about what God is trying to say to you, and *contemplatio* or a simple, child-like resting in God.
23. **What are the two dimensions of prayer?** Prayer has both an individual and a communal dimension.
24. **What is liturgical prayer? Give some examples.** Liturgy prayer is the official prayer of the Church. Examples include the Liturgy of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours.
25. **Give some examples of community prayer.** Examples include the Liturgy of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours, the Holy Rosary, the way of the Cross, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
26. **What is prayer of adoration?** It is worship or veneration of God because of his great goodness.
27. **What is prayer of thanksgiving?** It is expressing gratitude to God.
28. **What is prayer of reparation?** It is expressing contrition for sins.
29. **What is prayer of petition?** It is asking for things from God for yourself or others, or asking another to ask God for something for you.
30. **What are five main difficulties found in prayer?** Lack of time, distraction, spiritual dryness, lack of faith, and *acedia* or sloth.
31. **What is one way to overcome lack of time to pray?** Have a set time and set aside a specific amount of time to pray.
32. **What is one way to deal with distractions in prayer?** Just redirect your thoughts to the matter at hand.

33. **What is one way to overcome dryness in prayer?** Perseverance.
34. **What is a strategy for overcoming the problem of lack of faith in prayer?** It is to look for the good one is actually receiving.
35. **What is the whole point of spiritual life, including prayer?** It is to want what God wants.
36. **What is a way of fighting acedia?** Working on purity of heart and interior conversion.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is a simple definitions of prayer?** A conversation with God.
2. **In our prayer, how can we always be certain of hearing what God wants to say to us?** By prayerfully reading God's Word in Sacred Scripture.
3. **How can attending Mass teach us the Sacred Scriptures?** At each Sunday Mass we hear different interconnected Old and New Testament readings.
4. **What is the Liturgy of the Hours or Divine Office?** It is the public prayer of the Church, performed at specific hours throughout the day, made up of hymns, readings, psalms, and prayers primarily derived from the Sacred Scriptures.
5. **What is vocal prayer?** It is prayer that uses words, spoken or unspoken, formal or spontaneous.
6. **What is meditation?** It is the form of prayer in which we use our minds to talk with God.
7. **What is contemplation?** It is a prayer of simply being in God's presence to share in his love, often without using any words.
8. **What are the four traditional steps of *lectio divina*?** They are *lectio* or reading to simply comprehend the text, *meditatio* or meditation to understand the passage in more depth, *oratio* or prayer or dialogue with God about what God is trying to say to you, and *contemplatio* or a simple, child-like resting in God.
9. **What is liturgical prayer?** It is the official prayer of the Church.
10. **What are four forms of prayer?** Thanksgiving, reparation, adoration, and petition.
11. **What are five main difficulties found in prayer?** Lack of time, distraction, spiritual dryness, lack of faith, and *acedia* or sloth.

Chapter 13
Challenges to Faith in the Redemption

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is Catholic apologetics?** It is the reasoned presentation of truths of the Catholic Faith to those who question or doubt them.
2. **What level of persuasion is possible in defending a natural truth of the Catholic Faith?** It can be proven by reason.
3. **What level of persuasion is possible in defending a supernatural truth of the Catholic Faith?** It can be shown to be reasonable.
4. **How can one prepare to be an apologist for the Faith?** Live your faith well and get a good intellectual formation.
5. **What reason does St. John the Apostle give for the Passion of Jesus Christ?** God's love.
6. **What is the Paschal Mystery?** The atoning suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Christ.
7. **How old is God's plan of redemption?** It is older than the created universe.
8. **Briefly, what does the Old Testament reveal about the history of salvation?** It records the process by which God prepared the world for the Redeemer.
9. **How do Adam and Christ relate to each other?** Adam tragically turned away from God and brought death. Christ is the sinless Adam who atoned for sinful Adam's choice and brings life.
10. **What is the ultimate goal of the Redemption for us?** It is the life of glorious communion with the Blessed Trinity in a state of perfect happiness and holiness.
11. **What does it mean to say that Christ was a willing victim?** It means he freely laid down his life, thereby showing the greatest love possible.
12. **Why do we need salvation?** We are conceived needing salvation, and we increase our need through sinful actions that we cannot forgive ourselves.
13. **How are we "unjustly" hurt by Adam and undeservedly helped by Christ?** We unfairly inherit Original Sin from Adam and undeservedly are redeemed by Christ.
14. **Why are Christians willing to sacrifice and suffer?** Christ has given suffering redemptive value and Christians want to share in that treasure.
15. **What kind of faith are Christians called to live?** We are to put our faith into action.

16. **What does belief-in-action mean in regard to suffering?** It means to be willing to undergo suffering and to make sacrifices because that is what Christ did.
17. **With and for whom do we suffer?** We suffer *with* Christ *for* our neighbor.
18. **Why did St. Paul rejoice in his sufferings?** He was completing “what is lacking in Christ's afflictions” for the benefit of “his body, that is, the church.”
19. **What are three effects our offered-up suffering can have?** Reparation for sins, intercession for other's needs, and a means of growing in virtues.
20. **What does it mean to embrace your cross or offer up your suffering?** It means to join your difficulties with the redemptive sufferings of Christ.
21. **For St. Paul, what is the ultimate promise to those who suffer for Christ?** The resurrection from the dead.
22. **What does Christ promise now to those who mourn or labor?** He promises them comfort and rest.
23. **What was one result of Nietzsche's philosophy that enduring suffering is a sign of weakness?** The deaths of millions of innocent people due to Fascism.
24. **What effort does redemption requires?** It requires the effort to keep Christ's commandments.
25. **What should be a Christian's view of present happiness?** A Christian should expect both the joy of being a child of God and the difficulties involved in overcoming sin and growing in virtue.
26. **Who is qualified to judge the condition of a person's soul?** Only God.
27. **What can we legitimately judge and what should we not judge about people's actions?** We can judge the objective morality of a person's acts but not that person's subjective guilt.
28. **What are three kinds of acts we have the duty to judge?** Our own behavior, the actions of those under our authority, and the morality of laws and policies.
29. **What are the three dimension of evaluating a moral act?** The act in itself, one's intention in performing the act, and the circumstances surrounding the act.
30. **What is the requirement of the objective act for the act to be morally good?** The act must be intrinsically good.

31. **What is the requirement of the subjective intention for a good act to be good?** The motive for which a person commits an act must also be good.
32. **How do circumstances affect moral acts?** The circumstances that occur with the act can make the act better or worse.
33. **What does “hate the sin but love the sinner” mean?** It means we recognize evil when we see it but hope for the best for the person who does it.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is Catholic apologetics?** It is the reasoned presentation of truths of the Catholic Faith to those who question or doubt them.
2. **What two levels of truth do apologetics defend in regard to the Catholic Faith?** Natural truths of the Faith can be proven by reason, while supernatural mysteries can be shown to be reasonable.
3. **What reason does St. John the Apostle give for the Passion of Jesus Christ?** God’s love.
4. **How do Adam and Christ relate to each other?** Adam tragically turned away from God and brought death. Christ is the sinless Adam who atoned for sinful Adam’s choice and brings life.
5. **How are we “unjustly” hurt by Adam and undeservedly helped by Christ?** We unfairly inherit Original Sin from Adam and undeservedly are redeemed by Christ.
6. **Why are Christians willing to sacrifice and suffer?** Christ has given suffering redemptive value and Christians want to share in that treasure.
7. **Why did St. Paul rejoice in his sufferings?** He was completing “what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions” for the benefit of “his body, that is, the church.”
8. **What does it mean to embrace your cross or offer up your suffering?** It means to join your difficulties with the redemptive sufferings of Christ.
9. **Who is qualified to judge the condition of a person’s soul?** Only God.
10. **What can we legitimately judge and what should we not judge about people’s actions?** We can judge the objective morality of a person’s acts but not that person’s subjective guilt.
11. **What are the three dimension of evaluating a moral act?** The act in itself, one’s intention in performing the act, and the circumstances surrounding the act.