

The Church: Sacrament of Salvation

Answers to Focus Questions and Study Questions

Chapter 1

Introduction to the Church

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

A PEOPLE CALLED TOGETHER

1. **In what Old Testament context is the idea of “church” rooted?** It is rooted in the idea of “assembly,” or *qahal*; specifically the people of Israel who assembled at the foot of Mount Sinai to receive God’s Law.
2. **Describe several meanings for the word “church.”** “Church” variously refers to the entire People of God, the local (or diocesan) Church gathered around her bishop, and the local liturgical community (or parish).
3. **Why is the Church a “mystery”?** Because it cannot be fully understood or explained.
4. **What are some of the ways in which the Church is described?** The Church is variously described as the Body of Christ, the People of God, the Kingdom of God, and the Bride of Christ.

THE CHURCH AND CREATION

5. **“God created the universe for his Church.” Explain.** God created the universe to share his beauty, goodness, and truth with us so that we may live in perfect communion with him and share his divine life as the one People of God.
6. **Did God have any need to create the universe or anything in it?** No. God is perfectly happy in himself.
7. **What does it mean to “fill the earth and subdue it”?** It means that human beings are to have children and develop creation through their work.
8. **What is the main reason God created human beings?** God created us so that we could share in his divine life and be in communion with him and with one another.

THE CREATION OF HUMANITY

9. **How can the ideas of good creation and the Fall summarize the first three chapters of Genesis?** God created the “good” universe and the “very good” Adam and Eve, who soon fell from grace.

10. **What is communion?** It is the state of being united together in friendship.
11. **What does it mean to be created in the image and likeness of God?** It means we are created with an immortal soul, a rational intellect, and free will. It also means belonging to a community of persons and being made a son or daughter of God.
12. **What is the significance of work?** Human work is part of God's plan, a way in which we can live in the image of God. We "subdue" the earth in imitation of God who made the earth.
13. **Why did God create the Sabbath?** The Sabbath is a day of rest from work, so that we can express our communion with God through prayer, worship, and other activities.

SALVATION HISTORY

14. **What is salvation history?** It is the gradual process by which God redeemed fallen humanity.
15. **How did Adam and Eve fall from grace?** By disobeying God's will and committing the first sin.
16. **What two lies did the serpent tell Eve?** The serpent implied (1) that God was somehow afraid of Adam and Eve being like him and (2) that they were not already like God.
17. **What did Adam and Eve reject when they disobeyed God?** They rejected both God and being children of God.
18. **What do we inherit from Adam and Eve?** We inherit Original Sin and a loss of original grace.

SIDEBAR: BL. WILLIAM JOSEPH CHAMINADE AND THE FRENCH UNDERGROUND

19. **How was Bl. Williams's apostolic work different from most missionaries?** He re-evangelized fallen-away Catholics after the French Revolution.
20. **What do political rulers often want to do to the Church?** They often try to make her subordinate to the state.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

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2. **Describe several meanings for the word “church.”** “Church” variously refers to the entire People of God, the local (or diocesan) Church gathered around her bishop, and the local liturgical community (or parish).
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Chapter 2 God Prepares for His Church

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

THE PROMISE AFTER THE FALL

1. **What is the *Protoevangelium*?** God's first promise of a Redeemer, made immediately after the sin of Adam and Eve (cf. Gn 3:15).
2. **From the Christian perspective, who is the "seed" mentioned in the *Protoevangelium*?** Jesus Christ.

THE COVENANT WITH NOAH

3. **What is a covenant?** It is a solemn agreement between God and man—an agreement that involves mutual commitments and promises.
4. **What covenant did God make with Noah?** That he would never again destroy the world by flood.

THE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

5. **Why is it striking that God promised Abraham countless offspring?** He and his wife Sarah never had been able to conceive a child, and she was past child-bearing age.
6. **What was the sign of the covenant with Abraham?** Circumcision.
7. **How did the Israelites become captives in Egypt?** Jacob's family moved to Egypt during the great famine and prospered there because Joseph had found favor with Pharaoh. A later pharaoh enslaved the Israelites.

THE COVENANT WITH MOSES

8. **Why did Moses flee Egypt?** He was afraid of being punished for murder.
9. **What belief would set the people of Israel apart from all other peoples?** The belief in only one God.
10. **How did the tenth plague turn the tables on Pharaoh?** Pharaoh had ordered the killing of every male Jewish child. The Passover killed every non-protected first-born in Egypt.
11. **How did God feed the Israelites in the desert?** With manna from Heaven.

12. **What would the nation of Israel be if they kept the Mosaic covenant?** Collectively they would be God's own son and individually a kingdom of priests.
13. **What was the basic law God gave the Israelites on Mount Sinai?** He gave them the Ten Commandments.
14. **What did the people of Israel promise God?** "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient" (Ex 24:7).
15. **How did God respond to the Israelites for worshipping the golden calf?** They lost their universal priesthood.

THE PROMISE TO DAVID

16. **Why did Israel want a king?** The Israelites longed for the power, wealth, and stability that other nations enjoyed, and so they asked for a king whom they hoped would provide these things.
17. **What is the Hebrew name meaning "anointed"?** It is "messiah" in Hebrew or "Christ" in Greek.
18. **How was David both a king and a priest?** He unified Israel, defeated their enemies, and led the worship of God.
19. **How long did God promise David his "throne" would last?** Forever.
20. **What did God say the relationship would be between God and David's son?** David's son would be God's own son.
21. **What is the importance of Jerusalem in the Davidic covenant?** Jerusalem, and particularly Mount Zion, would be Israel's—and the world's—spiritual center, the place of pilgrimage for both the Israelites and all the nations.
22. **What did the Assyrians and Babylonians do to Israel?** They destroyed it.
23. **What was one thing the Israelites desired after their exile?** The reestablishment of the Davidic kingdom under the Messiah.
24. **What did the prophet Jeremiah say about a "new covenant"?** God told Jeremiah he would establish a new covenant with his people in which he would write his law upon their hearts, reveal himself to every person, and forgive their sins.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

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2. **What is a covenant?** It is a solemn agreement between God and people—an agreement that involves mutual commitments and promises.
3. **What covenant did God make with Noah?** That he would never again destroy the earth by flood.
4. **What covenant did God make with Abraham?** God made a covenant with Abraham that he would make him the father of a nation and told him that through him all peoples would be blessed.
5. **What covenant did God make with Moses?** Through Moses, God created a covenant with Israel to be his son and the Israelites to be a priestly people with a law he gave them.
6. **What is the name meaning “anointed”?** It is “messiah” in Hebrew or “Christ” in Greek.
7. **How was David both a king and a priest?** He unified Israel, defeated her enemies, and led the worship of God.
8. **What promises did God make to David?** God promised David that his kingly heirs would be sons of God, with the Temple on Mount Zion as the nation's spiritual center, and wisdom the nation's new law.
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Chapter 3

The Church in Light of the Covenants

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is God’s aim in regard to fallen humanity?** It is to restore the communion—the intimate friendship—between man and himself that was broken by Original Sin.
2. **Why has God limited himself in the means he can employ in our salvation?** God respects and works with our free will rather than forcing himself upon us.

THE SAVIOR AND KING IS BORN

3. **What does the name “Jesus” mean?** Savior or “he saves.”
4. **What does “Son of the Most High” mean?** It means the Son of God.
5. **What is the “house of Jacob”?** It is the descendants of Isaac’s son Jacob, the nation of Israel.
6. **What is the aim of our redemption?** Our eternal salvation.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

7. **What did many *hope* the Kingdom of God meant?** They hoped it signaled a glorious temporal Jewish kingdom or empire.
8. **What is the Kingdom of God?** It is the state of communion between God and humanity; it is the something to which Christ calls every person to respond and enter through faith and repentance; it is the Church herself.
9. **What kind of stories did Christ use to teach about the Kingdom?** Parables.
10. **In what way is the Church like the mustard seed or the leaven in the parables of Christ?** Like the mustard seed, the Church begins very small but grows to mighty proportions. Like the leaven that makes the bread loaf rise, the faithful of the Church bear witness to the world and help it grow more holy.
11. **What is the invisible and visible presence of the Church on earth?** The Church is present *invisibly* within the spiritual reality of the Mystical Body of Christ and in the hearts of all the faithful who welcome God’s reign in their lives. It is present *visibly* within the communion of human members of the Church on earth that was established by Christ.

CHRIST CALLS THE TWELVE APOSTLES

12. **Who were Christ's disciples?** Men and women varying in age and background who believed in and followed Christ.
13. **Who were Christ's Apostles?** They were twelve men, representing the Twelve Tribes of Israel, that Christ chose to lead his Church.
14. **Why did the Apostles appoint successors?** The Apostles appointed successors, called bishops, to fulfill their responsibilities as shepherds after they died.
15. **Why did Christ establish a hierarchy?** So that his flock could be shepherded in holiness and led in the communion with God that he had desired from the beginning.

THE NEW PASSOVER

16. **How did Christ compare himself with the manna in the desert?** Christ said he is "the bread of life," "the living bread which came down from heaven," and that those who eat of this bread will never die.
17. **How is Christ related to the lamb of Passover?** Christ is the sacrificial Lamb of the New Passover, who shed his Blood to redeem humanity from sin and death. While the blood of the sacrificial lamb of the first Passover was shed to free the Israelites from literal slavery, Christ is the sacrificial Lamb of the New Passover, who shed his Blood to free humanity from slavery to sin.
18. **How did Christ inaugurate the New Covenant?** By celebrating the New Passover and instituting the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
19. **What did Christ mean by "do this in remembrance of me"?** He made the Apostles the first priests of the New Covenant and empowered them to consecrate the Eucharistic bread and wine, transforming them into his true Body and Blood in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
20. **According to tradition, how is the Church like the New Eve?** In Genesis, God took one of Adam's ribs and formed Eve. When Christ slept in death on the Cross, his side was pierced, and Blood and water flowed out of him. This represents the Eucharist and Baptism, the Sacraments of the Church.

THE CHURCH FULFILLS THE COVENANTS AND PROMISES

21. **What is one way Christ fulfills the promise God made after the Fall of Adam and Eve?** Christ fulfills the promise of a savior given to Adam and Eve by living the obedience Adam and Eve did not. His perfect obedience to the Father even unto death redeems us from our sins.

22. **What is one way Christ fulfills the covenant with Abraham?** The entire human family is blessed by the salvation brought by Christ.
23. **What is one way Christ fulfills the covenant with Moses?** Christ leads humanity out of the bondage of sin and perfects the Law of Moses with his Law of Love.
24. **What is one way Christ fulfills the promises to David?** Christ establishes an everlasting kingdom.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is the purpose of the Incarnation?** In the Incarnation, the Son of God became man so that men might receive salvation.
2. **What is the Kingdom of God?** It is the state of communion between God and humanity; it is the something to which Christ calls every person to respond and enter through faith and repentance; it is the Church herself.
3. **What kind of stories did Christ use to teach about the Kingdom?** Parables.
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Chapter 4 The Early Church Through Pentecost

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

THE RESURRECTION

1. **Were the Apostles expecting Christ to rise from the dead?** No. They had not understood him when he said that he would.
2. **What is one reason Christ offered his Apostles peace?** He was announcing that God and mankind were now reconciled.
3. **What power did Christ give his Apostles in the Upper Room?** He gave them the power to forgive sins.
4. **What is the Great Commission?** Based on his unlimited authority, Christ commanded the Apostles to go out to the entire world to make disciples through Baptism and their instruction.

FORTY DAYS OF INSTRUCTION

5. **Why did the Apostles need further instruction after the Resurrection?** They had not understood many things Christ had been teaching them.
6. **How did Christ restore Peter's leadership?** Christ did this by asking Peter three times if he loved him and by commissioning him each time to take care of the Church.
7. **What was the goal of the forty-day preparation Christ gave the Apostles?** The aim was to make them ready to receive the Holy Spirit.
8. **Is the moral law part of the teachings of the Apostles?** Yes. They were to teach all people to "observe" all that Christ taught them.
9. **Did the Apostles use the New Testament in their teaching?** No. It had not yet been written. Their teaching was oral.
10. **What is the Ascension?** It is when Christ left earth and ascended into Heaven.

CREATING AN APOSTLE

11. **Why did Christ create twelve Apostles?** The number was to symbolize the Twelve Tribes of Israel.
12. **Who was responsible for the replacement of Judas?** St. Peter.

13. **What was Peter's criterion for selecting a new Apostle?** He had to have been one of the disciples who followed Christ from the baptism of John until the Ascension.
14. **How was the selection of St. Matthias the beginning of Apostolic Succession?** The Apostles would later appoint bishops to act in their places so that their commission from Christ would continue to be carried out after their deaths.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

15. **Why were there so many foreign-language-speaking Jews in Jerusalem fifty days after Passover?** They were there for the Jewish festival of Pentecost.
16. **What did Pentecost traditionally commemorate?** The giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai.
17. **What two similes did Luke use to describe the descent of the Holy Spirit?** The sound was *like* a mighty wind and tongues *as of* fire rested over each person.
18. **What immediate power did the Holy Spirit give the disciples of Christ?** The ability to fearlessly and effectively preach the Gospel.
19. **What was the immediate effect of Pentecost on the Church?** Three thousand people were baptized and became Christians.

THE MEANING OF THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

20. **Name and describe six ways in which the Holy Spirit is active in the Church today.**
Through the Pope and bishops, in Scripture, in the Sacraments, in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, in the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, and through special graces or charisms.

ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

21. **What enraged the Jewish authorities about Stephen's preaching?** He argued that the Scriptures showed Christ to be the promised Messiah and that his accusers opposed God.
22. **What is a martyr?** Someone put to death because of his witness to faith in Jesus Christ.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

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Chapter 5 The Apostolic Church

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is the Apostolic Church?** It is the Church during the lifetime of the Apostles.
2. **What is evangelization?** It is *telling the good news* or spreading the Gospel, the commission Christ gave the Apostles.
3. **Why is the Apostolic period so important in the development of the Church?** What the Apostles taught on any question is the rule of faith, because the Apostles faithfully passed on what Christ and the Holy Spirit taught them.

ST. PAUL, A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES

4. **What kind of education did Saul have?** He had both a classical, pagan education, and an intense religious education as a Pharisee.
5. **Why was Saul so much against Christianity?** He considered it his religious duty to destroy what he considered a new, blasphemous, and heretical Jewish sect.
6. **What mission did Christ give St. Paul?** “To be a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth” (Acts 13:47).
7. **What were some of St. Paul’s accomplishments?** He completed three major missionary journeys, made countless converts, founded new churches, guided existing churches, and wrote most of the epistles in the New Testament.

PREACHING TO ALL NATIONS

8. **What question had to be decided in the early Church about the Gentiles?** Would Gentiles who converted to Christianity have to become Jews?

St. Philip baptizes the Ethiopian

9. **Why do we know the Ethiopian eunuch was not a Jew?** Eunuchs could not become Jewish because of their genital mutilation.
10. **What part did Philip play in converting the Ethiopian?** He explained to him how Christ fulfilled the Scripture he was reading.

The vision of St. Peter

11. **How did St. Peter decide that Jewish dietary laws no longer applied to Christians?** He had a vision in which God declared all foods “clean.”
12. **How did St. Peter decide Gentiles did not need to be circumcised before Baptism?** When he preached the Gospel to the Roman centurion Cornelius and his household, the Holy Spirit descended on them *before* they were baptized. This told him they were acceptable to God just as they were.

The Council of Jerusalem

13. **What was the first Church council?** The Council of Jerusalem in AD 51.
14. **What question did the Council of Jerusalem decide?** Whether Gentile converts to Christianity had to observe the Mosaic Law.
15. **Who defined the Church’s teaching at this council?** St. Peter.
16. **What did the council decide?** Since all Christians are saved by the grace of Jesus Christ, not by observance of the Mosaic Law, Gentile converts did not have to follow the Law of Moses.

PORTRAITS OF THE APOSTLES

St. Peter

17. **What was the significance of the new name Christ gave Simon?** The name Peter means “rock” and it signified that he would be the foundation upon which Christ would build his Church.
18. **What was the power of the keys Christ gave Peter?** Peter was the “prime minister” in the New Davidic Kingdom with the power of the keys to make binding decisions for the Church.
19. **Why is the bishop of Rome the Pope?** Each bishop of Rome is the successor of St. Peter, and so holds his office.

St. John

20. **How is John referred to in his Gospel?** The “disciple whom Jesus loved.”
21. **What was one way John showed his love for Christ?** He was the only Apostle who stayed with Christ at his Crucifixion.
22. **What did John write?** The Fourth Gospel and Revelation.

St. Matthew

23. **What is unique about St. Matthew's Gospel?** He wrote it in Aramaic, not Greek, and it was focused on a Jewish audience.

St. James the Lesser

24. **What is the meaning of James the Lesser being called a "brother" of Our Lord?** He was probably a cousin.

25. **What office did James hold in the Church later?** He was the bishop of the Church of Jerusalem.

CALLED TO BE APOSTLES

26. **Who is called to be an apostle?** Every Christian has a vocation to be an apostle for Christ.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

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Chapter 6 Authority in the Church

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

1. **What challenge facing the Church today is characterized by Pontius Pilate's question, "What is truth?"** That so many people in the world doubt or deny that there is such a thing as objective truth.
2. **How does the Church help the Kingdom of God to grow on earth?** By teaching the way of life and truth that Christ himself taught.

THE HIERARCHICAL CHURCH

3. **What is the Church's hierarchy?** It is the Christ-established authority of the Pope and those bishops, priests, and deacons in communion with him, which rules, teaches, and sanctifies the members of the Church.
4. **What does hierarchy mean?** It means "sacred order."
5. **Describe the difference between the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial priesthood.** Everyone who is baptized is called to holiness and the priestly work of Christ and is therefore a member of the common priesthood of the faithful. Bishops, priests, and deacons are in the ministerial priesthood because they serve the faithful of the Church.
6. **What is the origin of the hierarchy of the Church?** Christ established it.
7. **What is "servant leadership"?** It is defined by service performed out of love, a reflection of the way God acts toward us.

The Papacy

8. **Who heads the hierarchy of the Church?** The Pope.
9. **What is the infallibility of the Pope?** It is the gift of freedom from error the Pope possesses when he defines doctrines of faith or morals.

The Roman Curia

10. **What is the Roman Curia, and why does it exist?** The Popes have created the Roman Curia, the administrative or governing body of the Church, to assist them in administering the Church.

Bishops

11. **What do bishops exercise?** The fullness of the priesthood of Christ.
12. **What is a “particular Church”?** It is a diocese in which a bishop acts as Christ’s chosen representative, as the legitimate pastor of the faithful within that diocese, and as its visible source of unity.
13. **How are bishops in a collegial relationship?** Together with the Pope as their head, they form a single “college” as successors of the Apostles, united in teaching the one true faith. This shared authority and fellowship is called *collegiality*.
14. **What is an Ecumenical Council?** It is a meeting of all the bishops of the world under the authority of the Pope to discuss and decide central issues of the Church.

The Priesthood

15. **What is the name of the community normally entrusted to a priest?** A parish.
16. **What is a priest’s most basic task?** To celebrate Mass.

The Diaconate

17. **What is the role of a deacon?** Deacons are ordained to provide a ministry of service.
18. **Describe the difference between a transitional deacon and a permanent deacon.** A man is ordained a transitional deacon as a step on the way to becoming a priest. A permanent deacon is ordained to the diaconate for life and can be married or single.

THE CHURCH AS TEACHER

19. **Even though the Church has a great deal to teach us, why does she have nothing to teach that is her own?** The Church teaches what Christ has taught her, without adding or taking anything away.
20. **What is the Magisterium?** It is the official teaching office or authority of the Pope and the bishops in communion with him.
21. **What are the two areas in which the Church teaches?** Matters of faith and morals.
22. **Will there be any new revelations in the future?** No, because Jesus Christ is the full and final Revelation of God.

SIDEBAR: UNITED IN FAITH: EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES

23. **What are the Eastern Catholic Churches?** These are the twenty-one churches that have developed somewhat independently of the Roman Catholic Church but are united with the Pope.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

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4. **What is "servant leadership"?** It is leadership defined by service performed out of love, a reflection of the way God acts toward us.
5. **What is the infallibility of the Pope?** It is the gift of freedom from error the Pope possesses when he defines doctrines of faith or morals for the universal Church.
6. **What are the roles of bishops, priests, and deacons?** Bishops possess the fullness of the priesthood of Christ and act as shepherds of a diocese; priests assist their bishop, usually in a parish, and celebrate the Mass; deacons provide a ministry of service.
7. **What is the Magisterium?** It is the official teaching office or authority of the Pope and the bishops in communion with him that infallibly teaches what Christ taught on matters of faith and morals.
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Chapter 7 Church of the Word and the Sacraments

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

THE GREAT COMMISSION

1. **Summarize the meaning of the Great Commission.** To become a disciple of Christ, a person must receive the Gospel; and he or she must respond to the Gospel by conversion and Baptism. The Apostles, and, therefore the Church, are entrusted with making disciples of all nations by teaching as Christ taught and conferring his Sacraments.

ENTRUSTED WITH THE WORD

2. **What is the Deposit of Faith?** Scripture and Tradition.
3. **Who is entrusted with the authentic interpretation of Scripture and Tradition?** The Magisterium.

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

4. **What is a Sacrament?** It is “an efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit.”
5. **Why is Baptism called the “gateway” to the Sacraments?** Because it is the first to be received; one must be baptized before receiving the other Sacraments.
6. **What is a useful way to group the Sacraments according to type?** Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), Sacraments of Healing (Penance and Anointing of the Sick), and Sacraments of Service (Holy Orders and Matrimony).

Baptism

7. **When did Christ institute the Sacrament of Baptism?** When he told his Apostles to preach the Gospel to the whole world, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
8. **What are three effects of Baptism?** It removes sin, Original as well as actual; unites one to Christ’s Death and Resurrection; and makes one a member of the Church.
9. **Why can Baptism not be repeated?** It leaves an indelible seal or mark on the soul, disposing one to receive grace.

Confirmation

10. **When did Christ confer the Sacrament of Confirmation upon the first members of the Church?** At Pentecost.
11. **What is the “laying on of hands” that followed Baptism in the early Church?** It is the Sacrament of Confirmation.
12. **What are the effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation?** Confirmation completes Baptism, making one able to be a true witness of Christ so as to spread and defend the Faith.

Eucharist

13. **What is the connection between manna and the Eucharist?** Manna was the miraculous bread God gave to the Chosen People when they wandered in the desert. The Eucharist is the divine bread of his own Body and Blood that Christ gives Christians.
14. **What kind of life does Christ promise the Eucharist will give us?** Eternal life.
15. **When did Christ institute the Sacrament of the Eucharist?** At the Last Supper.
16. **When one receives the Eucharist, what is one receiving?** The Body and Blood of Christ.
17. **What is the connection between the Eucharist and the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross?** They are the same sacrifice, one in a bloody and the other in an unbloody manner.
18. **What does *eucharist* mean?** Thanksgiving.
19. **What is *transubstantiation*?** It is the term that describes what happens during consecration: a change in substance but not in appearance.
20. **What does the term “the breaking of the bread” mean in the New Testament?** It means the celebration of the Eucharist.
21. **What are the two conditions for worthy reception of the Eucharist?** Full communion with the Church and freedom from mortal sin.

Penance

22. **When did Christ institute the Sacrament of Penance?** When he said to the Apostles after the Resurrection, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”
23. **What are mortal and venial sins?** Mortal sins break our communion with God and his Church and must be confessed. Venial sins are offenses that harm but do not break our relationship with God.

Anointing of the Sick

24. **Did Christ use physical signs when he healed people?** Often he did, like the laying on of hands, mud, washing, and even his own spittle.
25. **What is the physical sign used in the Anointing of the Sick?** Anointing with oil.
26. **What are the usual effects of the Anointing of the Sick?** Strengthening the person to face his or her affliction well and preparing his or her soul for death.

Holy Orders

27. **When did Christ institute the Sacrament of Holy Orders?** When he called the Twelve Apostles and made St. Peter their head.
28. **What are the three degrees in the Sacrament of Holy Orders?** Bishop, priest, and deacon.
29. **What are some of the main responsibilities of priests and bishops?** The celebration of the Sacraments.
30. **What are the three “marks” of Holy Orders?** They are service to God and the faithful; fellowship with one’s brother priests, deacons, and bishops; and the personal responsibility to be faithful to one’s vocation.

Matrimony

31. **When did God create marriage?** He created marriage when he created the first man and woman and gave them the mission to “be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.”
32. **What effect has Original Sin had on relations between the sexes?** Instead of equality and complementarity, temptation to lust, domination, disrespect, and discord was introduced.
33. **Why is divorce impossible from Christ’s point of view?** What “God has joined together, let not man put asunder.” Therefore, divorce and remarriage (outside of a Declaration of Nullity) is not possible.
34. **On what did God model human marriage?** The relationship he foresaw between Christ and the Church.
35. **What is the effect of Matrimonial grace?** It perfects the couple’s love and strengthens their unity.
36. **Who is the minister of the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Western Church?** The couple confers this Sacrament on each other.

ST. JOHN VIANNEY

37. **How easy was it for St. John Vianney to become a priest?** It was difficult because he had a hard time in his studies.
38. **Where did St. John Vianney spend most of his time?** In the confessional.
39. **How is St. John Vianney honored today?** He is the patron of parish priests.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is a Sacrament?** It is “an efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit.”
2. **When did Christ institute the Sacrament of Baptism?** When he told his Apostles to preach the Gospel to the whole world, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
3. **What are three effects of Baptism?** It removes sin, Original as well as actual; unites one to Christ’s Death and Resurrection; and makes one a member of the Church.
4. **What is the “laying on of hands” that followed Baptism in the early Church?** It is the Sacrament of Confirmation.
5. **What are the effects of receiving Confirmation?** Confirmation completes Baptism, making one able to be a true witness of Christ so as to spread and defend the Faith.
6. **When one receives the Eucharist, what is one receiving?** The Body and Blood of Christ.
7. **What is the connection between the Eucharist and the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross?** They are the same sacrifice, one in a bloody and the other in an unbloody manner.
8. **What is *transubstantiation*?** It is the term that describes what happens during the Eucharistic consecration: a change in substance but not in appearance or form.
9. **What are the two conditions for worthy reception of the Eucharist?** Full communion with the Church and freedom from mortal sin.
10. **When did Christ institute the Sacrament of Penance?** When he said to the Apostles after the Resurrection, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

11. **What are mortal and venial sins?** Mortal sins break our communion with God and his Church and must be confessed. Venial sins are offenses that harm but do not break our relationship with God.
12. **What are the usual effects of the Anointing of the Sick?** Strengthening the person to face his or her affliction well and preparing his or her soul for death.
13. **When did Christ institute the Sacrament of Holy Orders?** When he called the Twelve Apostles and made St. Peter their head.
14. **What are the three orders in the Sacrament of Holy Orders?** Bishop, priest, and deacon.
15. **When did God create marriage?** He created marriage when he created the first man and woman and gave them the mission to “be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.”
16. **What is the effect of Matrimonial grace?** It perfects the couple’s love and strengthens their unity.

Chapter 8 Names and Images of the Church

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

THE CHURCH AS SACRAMENT

1. **In what way is the Church itself a “sacrament”?** Because she is both the sign and the means of God’s salvation for humanity.
2. **Why do we call the Church the Sacrament of Salvation?** She is the *sign* of God’s union with humanity and humanity’s unity with each other and she *brings about* these unions.
3. **Why is the Church a Sacrament of Communion?** Because she is God’s instrument for bringing men into communion with God and with each other through the grace of the Sacraments.
4. **What does the Eucharist “do” for communion?** The Eucharist unites the members of the Church because it is literally Jesus Christ himself.

OTHER IMAGES OF THE CHURCH

5. **What images of the Church relate to the role of Christ as the Good Shepherd?** The image of the Church as a flock of sheep and as the sheepfold, since both rely on the Shepherd for guidance and protection.

THE CHURCH AS THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

6. **How does Christ identify himself with the Church in St. Paul’s experience?** When Saul is persecuting Christians, Christ says Saul is persecuting *him*.
7. **How does Christ identify himself with his Church in the Eucharist?** Christ says that, “He who eats my body and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.”
8. **What is a *mystical body*?** In some real way, Christians are united to Christ as the parts of a body are related to its head’s direction.
9. **What is an example of an “organ” of the Body of Christ?** One Christian might have the gift of teaching, like the stomach has the role of digesting food.
10. **What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ?** It is like the soul of the body, giving it life, unifying it, and moving it.

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

11. **Why don't we refer to the Church as "he" or "it"?** Because the Church is a bride and a mother, she is referred to by feminine pronouns.
12. **What does Christ do for his Bride, the Church?** He gives up his life for her to save her and make her holy.
13. **How do husbands properly imitate Christ?** They do this by loving their wives as if they were loving themselves.

THE CHURCH AS THE FAMILY OF GOD

14. **How does Christ identify as members of his family those who do God's will?** Christ said, "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Mt 12:49).
15. **What name did Christ give us for God the Father?** He called the Father "Abba," which means "daddy."
16. **How is our idea of a family different from ancient cultures'?** We tend to think of family as the nuclear family, perhaps including grandparents and grandchildren. The ancient world saw family more like a tribe, a view that persists among some cultures today.
17. **How is Christ's idea of family revolutionary?** For those who are children of God, all peoples are family members under God the Father. Every person is radically equal.

THE CHURCH AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD

18. **When it comes to our salvation, why is God more communal-minded than individualistic?** In general, because we are social creatures, God has willed "to make men holy and save them, not as individuals without any bond or link between them, but rather to make them into a people who might acknowledge him and serve him in holiness."
19. **Why are Christians a pilgrim people?** Like the Chosen People, who wandered in the desert for forty years before they could enter the Promised Land, Christians are searching for, or on a journey to, the New Jerusalem, or Heaven.
20. **How does the word "church" relate to the assembly of Israel on Mount Sinai?** When God offered Israel the chance to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, the assembly or "qahal" said "yes." This "qahal" is the origin of the word church.

SIDEBAR: SHEEP AND SHEPHERD

21. **Describe some of the images of the shepherd and the sheep as they apply to Christ and his Church.** Christ is the Good Shepherd, who knows his sheep and his sheep know him; he lays down his life for the sheep. As shepherd, Christ seeks out the lost sinners and brings

them back into the fold. He takes compassion on those who are lost and without direction, because they are like sheep without a shepherd. He will come in glory at the end of time to separate the sheep from the goats, inviting the righteous sheep into eternal life.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **Why do we call the Church the Sacrament of Salvation?** She is the *sign* of God's union with humanity and humanity's unity with each other, and she *brings about* these unions.
2. **Why is the Church a Sacrament of Communion?** Because she is God's instrument for bringing men into communion with God and with each other through the grace of the Sacraments.
3. **What does the Eucharist "do" for communion?** The Eucharist really unites the members of the Church because it is literally Jesus Christ himself.
4. **What is the meaning of the image of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ?** The image of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ uses the relationship between the parts of a human body to its head to reveal the communion of Christ and the Church. It highlights the mutual importance of the members of the Church to one another and their subordination under their head, Jesus Christ.
5. **What is the meaning of the image of the Church as the Bride of Christ?** The image of the Church as the Bride of Christ uses the relationship between a bridegroom and bride to reveal the communion of Christ and his Church. It highlights Christ's initiative in saving and sanctifying humanity to make us worthy of his love.
6. **What is the meaning of the image of the Church as the Family of God?** The image of the Church as the Family of God uses the relationships in a human family to highlight the fraternal communion between Christ and Christians. It highlights that God is our common Father, the Church our mother, and we are children of God with Jesus Christ our brother.
7. **What is the meaning of the image of the Church as the People of God?** The image of the Church as the People of God uses the assembly of the Chosen People on Mount Sinai who collectively said "yes" to the Mosaic Covenant to reveal the communion between God and his Church. It highlights the ordinarily communal nature of God's plan of salvation.
8. **Describe some of the images of the shepherd and the sheep as they apply to Christ and his Church.** Christ is the Good Shepherd, who knows his sheep and his sheep know him; he lays down his life for the sheep. As shepherd, Christ seeks out the lost sinners and brings them back into the fold. He takes compassion on those who are lost and without direction, because they are like sheep without a shepherd. He will come in glory at the end of time to separate the sheep from the goats, inviting the righteous sheep into eternal life.

Chapter 9

The Four Marks of the Church: The Church Is One

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What was the purpose of “marking” or “sealing” something in the ancient world? It was like signing your name.**
2. **What are the four “marks” of the Catholic Church?** The four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

THE CHURCH IS ONE

3. **What do we mean when we say the Church is “one”?** There is only one Church of Christ and she is unified in Christ.
4. **What gives the Church her unity or solidarity?** The Church’s unity comes from her divine source, God, who in his Trinity is perfect unity, one God in three Persons.

Unity in the Mystical Body

5. **What are the three ways the Church shows unity?** The Church has *one faith* that has been passed down without change from the time of the Apostles; *one common worship* in the Sacraments, especially in the Eucharist; and *one leadership* of the Pope and the bishops, who are the direct successors of St. Peter and the Apostles.

WOUNDS TO UNITY

6. **How was the division within the Church over whether Gentile converts had to live by the Mosaic Law resolved?** The Church resolved the matter at the Council of Jerusalem.
7. **According to Christ, if someone rejects the Church, whom else is he rejecting?** Christ and the Father.
8. **What are the three kinds of wounds the Church can suffer in regard to the Faith?** *Apostasy*, which is the total rejection of the Christian Faith by someone already baptized; *heresy*, the deliberate and persistent post-baptismal denial of a truth of the Faith taught by the Church; and *schism*, the post-baptismal refusal of unity with the Pope or the refusal of communion with the members of the Church.

Apostasy

9. **Why were there apostates in the early Church?** Some people renounced the Faith because they were afraid of being punished or executed for being a Christian.

10. **Can apostasy be forgiven?** Despite the views of some at the time, the Church taught that, yes, apostates could be forgiven and restored to the Church.

Schisms

11. **What are the two main schisms in Church history?** The first was with the Eastern Orthodox Churches in the eleventh century and the second was with the various denominations that were founded during the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century.

12. **What is the distinction between schismatics and separated brethren?** *Schismatics* were Catholics who deliberately separated themselves from the Church. *Separated brethren* are those who are born into these schismatic communities and who are not guilty of schism so long as they remain unaware of the truth of the Catholic Faith.

13. **Are separated brethren Christians?** Yes. They are fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

14. **Are there good elements in Protestantism and Eastern Orthodoxy from the Catholic perspective?** Yes. Elements such as the Sacred Scriptures, some or all of the Seven Sacraments, the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love (charity), and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit can be found in both.

Heresies in the Early Church

15. **What is heresy?** It is the denial or alteration of some part or parts of the Deposit of Faith.

Gnosticism

16. **What is the heresy of *Gnosticism*?** It is a set of beliefs that salvation may be achieved only by specially chosen people through secret knowledge.

17. **How did Gnosticism regard material reality?** As evil.

18. **Why are the ideas of secret knowledge and salvation for the few completely contrary to the true Faith?** Christ died to save everyone and commanded his Apostles to preach the Gospel to all nations.

Arianism

19. **What was the heresy of Arianism?** It was that Jesus Christ was neither God nor equal to the Father.

20. **Why was Arianism especially dangerous given the times?** The Germanic pagan tribes adopted Arianism and threatened to stamp out orthodox Christianity as they ravaged the Western Roman Empire.

The Protestant Reformation

21. **What is the Protestant Reformation?** It is an interrelated series of heresies that led to schisms from 1517 to 1648.
22. **How was Protestantism related to contemporary politics?** Princes wanted to take power and property away from the Church, and getting behind the Protestant Revolution offered them the opportunity to do so.
23. **How many sects has Protestantism evolved into?** Today there are more than thirty thousand different Protestant denominations throughout the world.
24. **What was the Catholic response to the Reformation?** The Catholic “Counter-Reformation,” which produced new religious fervor, clarification of Church doctrine at the Council of Trent, new religious orders of men and women, and many new saints.

TOWARD GREATER CHRISTIAN UNITY

25. **What is ecumenism?** The task of working toward Christian unity or reunification.
26. **What are the four ways we are called upon to support ecumenism?** (1) Conversion of heart to cultivate virtue and holiness, which unite people; (2) deeper doctrinal and personal understanding between Catholics and separated brethren; (3) presentation of the Catholic Faith accurately and in its entirety; and (4) prayer for the unity that Christ wills for the Church on earth.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What do we mean when we say the Church is “one”?** We mean two things: There is only one Church of Christ and it is unified in Christ.
2. **What are the three kinds of wounds the Church can suffer in regard to the Faith?** *Apostasy*, which is the total rejection of the Christian Faith by someone already baptized; *heresy*, the deliberate and persistent post-baptismal denial of a truth of the Faith taught by the Church; and *schism*, the post-baptismal refusal of unity with the Pope or the refusal of communion with the members of the Church.
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8. **What is ecumenism?** The task of working toward Christian unity or reunification.

Chapter 10

The Four Marks of the church: The Church Is Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

THE SECOND MARK: THE CHURCH IS HOLY

Sanctity in the Church

1. **What are the two basic meanings of holy or sacred?** The first is *related to* or *set aside for* God. The second is God's attribute of perfect moral goodness, a quality human beings can share in.
2. **Why is the Church holy?** Her head and soul, being divine, are holy. Also holy are her Sacraments.

Sinners in the Church

3. **What is supposed to happen to sinners in the Church?** They are supposed to be transformed by the Church's holiness into saints.
4. **Why do members of the Church do penance?** To make up for the offenses of her members.
5. **What is impeccability?** It is the *inability* to sin, which no human person, apart from the Blessed Virgin Mary, possesses.
6. **What is the problem with sin when it comes to the missionary efforts of the Church?** The sinfulness of individual members of the Church makes it hard for people to see the Church as God's instrument of salvation.
7. **Why should we ask forgiveness and forgive?** These two actions help us become holy.

THE THIRD MARK: THE CHURCH IS CATHOLIC

8. **What does the word "catholic" mean?** Its most basic meaning is "universal."
9. **What are the two ways the Church is said to be catholic?** The Church is catholic because she is whole and complete in Christ. The Church has also received universal authority from Christ to fulfill her universal mission.
10. **For what group of people does the Church exist?** The Church is for all human beings throughout time.

11. **What are particular churches?** They are local churches or dioceses in which the fullness of the Church's teaching, worship, and leadership are present.
12. **How is diversity within catholicity present in the various rites of the Church?** In the Church there are a "rich variety of ecclesiastical disciplines, liturgical rites, and theological and spiritual heritages."
13. **What are the two "places" in which the Church is found, besides on earth?** In Purgatory and in Heaven.

THE FOURTH MARK: THE CHURCH IS APOSTOLIC

14. **Why is the Church apostolic?** She is founded on and in continuity with the Twelve Apostles.
15. **What is the three-fold sense of the Church's apostolicity?** The Church was founded upon the Apostles. She holds to the same Faith the Apostles taught. Her leaders are direct successors of the Apostles through the laying on of hands.

EARLY ACCOUNT OF THE MASS

16. **How did St. Justin Martyr regard philosophy?** He thought it was a useful tool for discovering the truth and defending and explaining the Faith, although it was not enough by itself.
17. **What is an example of how we worship just like the early Church?** Our Mass, just like theirs, begins with a Liturgy of the Word featuring New and Old Testament readings, a homily, prayers of petition for people's needs, the sign of peace, the Eucharistic Prayer and Consecration, the Great Amen, and the distribution of Communion.
18. **How could St. Justin Martyr have saved his life?** By renouncing the Faith as an apostate.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What are the two basic meanings of holy or sacred?** The first is *related to* or *set aside for* God. The second is God's attribute of perfect moral goodness, a quality human beings can share in.
2. **Why is the Church "holy"?** Her head and soul, being God, are holy. Also holy are her means, mother, and saints.
3. **What is the problem with sin when it comes to the missionary efforts of the Church?** The sinfulness of individual members of the Church makes it hard for people to see the Church as God's instrument of salvation.
4. **What does the word "catholic" mean?** Its most basic meaning is "universal."

5. **What are the two ways the Church is said to be catholic?** The Church is catholic because she is whole and complete in Christ. The Church has also received universal authority from Christ to fulfill her universal mission.
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7. **Why is the Church “apostolic”?** She is founded on and in continuity with the Twelve Apostles.
8. **What is the three-fold sense of the Church’s apostolicity?** The Church was founded upon the Apostles. She holds to the same Faith the Apostles taught. Her leaders are direct successors of the Apostles through the laying on of hands.

Chapter 11

The Church in the Life of the Faithful: The Universal Call to Holiness

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

COOPERATING WITH GRACE

1. **What is divine filiation?** It is being and living as a child of God.
2. **Who has the responsibility to help build the Church?** Everyone, according to his or her condition and function.
3. **What are charisms?** They are special graces and gifts from the Holy Spirit that enable individual Christians to build up the Body of Christ in harmony with the circumstances of their lives.

LIVING OUR COMMON PRIESTHOOD

4. **What does it mean when we call the members of the Church “a royal priesthood”?** Just as in the Mosaic covenant there were two kinds of priests, in the Church there are two forms of the priesthood of Christ: a common priesthood shared by all the faithful and a ministerial priesthood of ordained leaders who serve the faithful.
5. **What is the common priesthood of the faithful?** It is a share that all of the faithful have in the priestly role of Christ by virtue of Baptism.
6. **How does one participate in the common priesthood of the faithful?** One exercises the common priesthood by offering sacrifices for oneself and others.
7. **What can we offer according to our share in the common priesthood of the faithful?** Everything in our lives.

THE VOCATION OF THE LAITY

8. **Who are the laity?** All the faithful who are not in Holy Orders or in the religious life.
9. **What is the vocation of the laity?** They are called to “seek the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God.”
10. **How is the vocation of the laity related to God’s command with Adam?** The vocation of the laity is really the same vocation God gave to Adam and Eve in the beginning, to “fill the earth and subdue it” (Gn 1:28).
11. **How should lay people regard and act toward the world they live in?** They can love the world and with God’s help make it even more good and useful.

UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS

12. **What is the universal call to holiness?** God gives every person, whatever his or her state in life, a vocation to be holy. As Christ instructed us, “Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48).
13. **How does the universal call to holiness affect lay people?** The Second Vatican Council invited the laity into a greater sense of their own vocation and their own role in continuing the mission of Christ in the world.
14. **Where does a layperson seek holiness?** The laity seek holiness by offering up as a sacrifice all the circumstances and events of their lives.

THE CHURCH AS SANCTIFIER

15. **How is the Church an instrument of sanctification?** She makes her members holy through her Sacraments.
16. **What is the meaning of the statement, “Outside the Church there is no salvation”?** All the means available to be saved come to humanity through the Church.
17. **How can people who are not officially members be saved by the Church?** People, who through no fault of their own do not know Christ or his Church, can be saved by God’s grace if they strive to do his will as they understand it.

SIDEBAR: ST. GIANNA BERETTA MOLLA

18. **How did St. Gianna behave like Christ?** Gianna gave up her life to save her child just as Christ gave up his life to save his children, all humanity.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is divine filiation?** It is being and living as a child of God.
2. **What does it mean when we call the members of the Church “a royal priesthood”?** In the Church there are two forms of the priesthood of Christ: a common priesthood shared by all the faithful and a ministerial priesthood of ordained leaders who serve the faithful.
3. **How does one live out participation in the common priesthood of Christ?** One exercises the common priesthood by offering sacrifices for oneself and others.
4. **Who are the laity?** All the faithful who are not in Holy Orders or in the religious life.
5. **What is the vocation of the laity?** They have the *secular* call to “seek the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God.”

6. **What is the universal call to holiness?** God gives every person, whatever his or her state in life, a vocation to be holy.
7. **Where does a layperson seek holiness?** By offering as a sacrifice all the circumstances and events of his or her life.
8. **How is the Church an instrument of sanctification?** She makes her members holy through her Sacraments and through her discipline.
9. **What is the meaning of the statement “Outside the Church there is no salvation”?** All the means available to be saved come to humanity through the Church.
10. **How can people who are not officially members be saved by the Church?** People, who through no fault of their own do not know Christ or his Church, can be saved by God’s grace if they do what is right as they understand it.

Chapter 12

The Church in the Life of the Faithful: Holiness in Daily Life

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What state in life or vocation will this chapter focus on?** The laity.
2. **What is holiness?** It is always doing the right thing with God's help.

PRAYER

3. **What is prayer?** It is "the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God."
4. **How often should we pray?** We should always be praying.
5. **What does the acronym PACT refer to?** The four basic forms of prayer: petition, adoration, contrition, and thanksgiving.

PRACTICING SELF-DENIAL

6. **What is mortification?** It is seeking holiness through self-discipline and self-denial.
7. **Why is mortification or voluntary sacrifice necessary for building self-control?** To control yourself you have to be able to sacrifice pleasure and even embrace pain.
8. **What are some reasons to do difficult things?** To avoid sin, to be mature, to improve, to be a good Catholic, and to love.
9. **How did the early Christians show love through self-denial?** They fasted, offered that fast for the poor, and gave the food they would have eaten to the hungry.

VIRTUES

10. **What are virtues?** They are good habits that make good actions easier to perform.
11. **What are the theological virtues?** Faith, hope, and love or charity.
12. **What are the four cardinal virtues?** Justice, prudence, fortitude, and temperance.

WITNESSES FOR CHRIST

13. **What are the four ways a Catholic can be an apostle?** Praying for someone, making sacrifices for that person, being a good example to that person, and then talking to him or her about the Faith.

FOLLOWING CHRIST IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

14. **To what three basic vocations does God call people?** He calls men to the priesthood, men and women to religious life, and men and women to the laity.
15. **What vows do religious persons make?** Poverty, chastity, and obedience.
16. **What is the vocation of the laity?** To live as Christ's witnesses in family life, in their work, and in the public square.
17. **What are the two requirements for living one's basic Christian vocation?** To live according to the Church's teachings and to do one's tasks to the best of one's abilities.

In our family life

18. **How do sacramentally married couples get the grace they need to be good spouses and parents?** They receive grace from the Sacrament of Matrimony. They also receive grace from the reception of the Sacraments, such as the Eucharist and Penance, and from prayer.
19. **What is the basic duty of children toward parents?** To honor them.

At work and in school

20. **How does work relate to holiness?** We can offer our work as a spiritual sacrifice.
21. **What is the professional work of a young person?** It is to be a student.
22. **Why do we have the duty of doing apostolate with others?** The only way some people might ever hear of God or his Church might be through us.

In society

23. **Whose job is the positive transformation of culture and politics?** It is the responsibility of laypersons.
24. **What is the common good?** It is "the sum total of social conditions that allow people, either as groups or individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily."
25. **How do the laity normally promote the common good?** By being conscientious in their personal responsibilities, including the education of their families and their daily work.
26. **To what extent should the laity be involved in public life?** To the extent of each one's capacity.

ST. THOMAS MORE

27. **What was St. Thomas More's state in life?** He was a layman, married with children, and deeply involved in culture and politics.
28. **How did St. Thomas integrate the Faith into his life?** He prayed, mortified himself, and attended daily Mass.
29. **How far was St. Thomas More willing to go to stay true to the Faith?** He was willing to lose his job and wealth, go to prison, and even die.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is prayer?** It is “the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.”
2. **What does the acronym PACT refer to?** The four basic forms of prayer: petition, adoration, contrition, and thanksgiving.
3. **What is mortification?** It is seeking holiness through self-discipline and self-denial.
4. **What are virtues?** They are good habits that make good actions easier to perform.
5. **To what three basic vocations does God call people?** Men to the priesthood, men and women to religious life, and men and women to the laity.
6. **How do sacramentally married couples get the grace they need to be good spouses and parents?** They receive grace from the Sacrament of Matrimony. They also receive grace from the reception of the Sacraments, such as the Eucharist and Penance, and from prayer.
7. **How does work relate to holiness?** We can offer our work as a spiritual sacrifice.
8. **Why do we have the duty of doing apostolate with others?** The only way some people might ever hear of God or his Church might be through us.
9. **How do the laity normally promote the common good?** By being conscientious in their personal responsibilities, including the education of their families and their daily work.
10. **To what extent should the laity be involved in public life?** To the extent of each one’s capacity.

Chapter 13

The Church as the Communion of Saints

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

THE CHURCH AS A COMMUNION OF SAINTS

1. **What are the three states or conditions in which the Church currently exists?** The Church militant on earth, the Church suffering in Purgatory, and the Church triumphant in Heaven.
2. **What is the Communion of Saints?** It is the unity that exists among all the members of the Church by virtue of her head, Jesus Christ.

Who are the saints?

3. **What are the final two possible fates that face us after death?** Heaven or Hell.
4. **What are the four meanings of the word “saint”?** All Christians on earth, the souls in Purgatory, the souls in Heaven, and those souls in Heaven who have been canonized by the Church.
5. **Why do we pray for the grace of final perseverance?** So that we will remain faithful to God until the moment of our death.
6. **Why are the canonized saints “useful” for the Church militant?** They are models and intercessors for us.

Models of living

7. **Why are the saints models of Christian living?** Just like us, they were sinners who had to struggle on earth, but they made it to Heaven.

Intercessors

8. **What is intercessory prayer?** It is when one person asks God for something for another person.
9. **Why is intercessory prayer natural?** It is natural to pray for people we care about and to ask people to pray for what we care about.
10. **Why does it make sense to ask the saints to intercede for us?** It makes sense because they are friends of God.

THE LAST THINGS

11. **What are the Last Things?** Death, the Particular Judgment, Hell, Purgatory or Heaven, and the General Judgment, which includes the resurrection of the body.

Death

12. **Why don't people like to think about death?** Death seems to be one's "utter ruin and total disappearance," and no one likes to think about that.
13. **What is death?** It is the separation of the immortal soul from the mortal body.
14. **What does the moment of death mean in terms of salvation?** The time open to accepting or rejecting divine grace, and therefore performing good or evil actions, is over.

The Particular Judgment

15. **What is the Particular Judgment?** It is each person's individual encounter with Christ at the moment of death that reveals the person's eternal relationship with God.
16. **What are the three possible results of the Particular Judgment?** The person will go to Heaven—either immediately or after a period of purification in Purgatory—or Hell eternally.
17. **Why is prayer of contrition important?** It expresses sorrow for our own and others' sins and lack of love.

Purgatory

18. **Why is Purgatory appropriate for some souls?** They must be purified before entering Heaven.
19. **Why is Purgatory a condition, not a place?** Disembodied souls are non-material and so don't need a place, yet they can be in a state of happiness or suffering.
20. **Why are the souls in Purgatory joyful?** They know they will someday be in Heaven.
21. **Why are the souls in Purgatory in a state of suffering?** They are separated from God, the thing they most want, and it is their own fault.
22. **What is our duty toward the souls in Purgatory?** To pray for them so that they may enter Heaven as soon as possible.

Hell

23. **What is Hell?** It is eternal self-exclusion from communion with God and with the blessed in Heaven.

24. **What places a person in the condition of Hell?** Unrepented mortal sins or the final refusal of God's love and mercy.
25. **Why would someone be in Hell?** Because he or she has chosen to be separated from God.
26. **What is the chief punishment of Hell?** It is eternal separation from God.

Heaven

27. **What is Heaven?** It is the communion of life and love with the Blessed Trinity, the Virgin Mary, the angels, and all the blessed, and the state of supreme, definitive happiness.
28. **Can we fully grasp how good Heaven will be?** No. It will exceed our imagination.

The General Judgment

29. **What is the *Parousia*?** It is the Second Coming of Christ in glory when he will judge the living and the dead.
30. **What is the General Judgment?** It is the revelation of everyone's good and bad actions, the effects of their actions, and their moral status in God's eyes.
31. **What is the resurrection of the body?** When God will reunite each soul with his or her glorified body at the end of time.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What are the three states or conditions in which the Church currently exists?** The Church militant on earth, the Church suffering in Purgatory, and the Church triumphant in Heaven.
2. **What is the Communion of Saints?** It is the real unity that exists among all the members of the Church by virtue of her head, Jesus Christ.
3. **What are the four meanings of the word saint?** All Christians on earth, the souls in Purgatory, the souls in Heaven, and those souls in Heaven who have been canonized by the Church militant.
4. **Why are the saints models of Christian living?** Just like us, they were sinners who had to struggle on earth, but they made it to Heaven.
5. **What is intercessory prayer?** It is when one person asks God for something for another person.
6. **What are the Last Things?** Death, the Particular Judgment, Hell, Purgatory or Heaven, and the General Judgment, which includes the resurrection of the body.

7. **What does the moment of death mean in terms of salvation?** The time open to accepting or rejecting divine grace, and therefore performing good or evil actions, is over.
8. **What is the Particular Judgment?** It is each person's individual encounter with Christ at the moment of death, which reveals the person's relationship with God.
9. **Why are the souls in Purgatory both joyful and suffering?** They know they will someday be in Heaven but they are separated from God, the thing they most want, due to their own fault.
10. **What is Hell?** It is eternal self-exclusion from communion with God and with the blessed in Heaven.
11. **What is Heaven?** It is the communion of life and love with the Trinity, the Virgin Mary, the angels, and all the blessed, and the state of supreme, definitive happiness.
12. **What is the *Parousia*?** It is the Second Coming of Christ in glory when he will judge the living and the dead.
13. **What is the General Judgment?** It is the revelation of everyone's good and bad actions, why they did what they did, the effects of their actions, and their moral status in God's eyes.
14. **What is the resurrection of the body?** When God will reunite each soul with his or her glorified body at the end of time.

Chapter 14 Mary, Mother of the Church and Our Mother

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

THE WOMAN

1. **What is the Church?** The Church is the communion of saved persons united to one another and to God through Jesus Christ.
2. **Who is the woman in the *Protoevangelium*?** She is the New Eve, the Blessed Virgin Mary.
3. **When are the three times that St. John's writings refer to the Virgin Mary as "woman"?** At the wedding feast at Cana, at Calvary, and when the heavenly queen appears in Revelation.

MOTHER OF GOD

4. **What on Mary's part made the Incarnation happen?** Mary's *fiat* or consent.
5. **Why is Mary the Mother of God?** Mary is the mother of the divine Person Jesus Christ, Son of the Father.
6. **What truth does the title Mother of God protect?** That Jesus Christ is really God.
7. **Who is the *Theotokos* and what does this title mean?** *Theotokos* means "bearer of God" because Mary bore the Lord in her womb, giving him his human nature.
8. **How is Christ's response to the woman who praises Mary's womb a compliment?** Mary is *the* person who heard the word of God and kept it.
9. **How can everyone be a *theotokos*?** By saying yes to God, the Christian becomes a dwelling place for God and, therefore, a Christ-bearer.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

10. **What doctrine does "full of grace" reveal?** Mary's Immaculate Conception.
11. **What is the Immaculate Conception?** From the moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved immune from all stain of Original Sin.
12. **Why did God give Mary this singular grace?** Christ desired that Mary be fully united to him from the first instant of her existence so she could give her consent to the Incarnation.

13. **How does the Immaculate Conception relate to the experience of the Church?** Christ created his mother Mary as perfect. Christ is purifying and perfecting his Bride, the Church, so she will be splendid, without “spot or wrinkle.”

THE ASSUMPTION

14. **What happened at the end of Mary’s earthly life?** She was taken body and soul into Heaven.
15. **How will the saved be like Mary?** They will have a glorious, resurrected body in Heaven.

MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

16. **Why is Mary, by being the Mother of Christ, also the Mother of the Church?** Mary is the Mother of Christ, including his Body, and Christ’s Mystical Body is the Church.
17. **Why is Mary our mother in the order of grace?** Mary cooperated in a unique way in her Son’s work of giving supernatural life back to souls.
18. **When did Christ name Mary as Mother of the Church and the members of the Church as her children?** This happened on the Cross when he said to Mary, “Woman, behold, your son!” and to John, “Behold, your mother!”
19. **How does Christ tie Mary to Eve?** He refers to her as “woman,” just as the Lord God referred to the “woman” whose son would “bruise” the head of the serpent.

MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS

20. **How is Mary a perfect mother?** Mary loves all her children in Christ with a truly unconditional and everlasting love.
21. **How do we talk to Mary our Mother?** Through prayer.

QUEEN OF HEAVEN

22. **What is Mary’s “glory”?** It is her perfect communion with God in Heaven.
23. **How is Mary the archetype, or perfect model, on which the Church is patterned?** Someday each member of the Church will be reunited with his or her physical body and enjoy the perfect happiness of Heaven that Mary enjoys now.
24. **Who is the enemy of the Church?** The Devil.
25. **What is the condition that the Church on earth endures?** Labor, persecution, and suffering to bring souls to God.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is the meaning of “the woman” in salvation history?** She is the New Eve, promised in the *Protoevangelium*, whom Christ and St. John identified as Mary.
2. **Why is Mary the Mother of God?** Mary is the mother of the divine Person Jesus Christ, Son of the Father.
3. **Who is the *Theotokos* and what does this title mean?** *Theotokos* means “bearer of God” because Mary bore the Lord in her womb, giving him his human nature.
4. **What is the Immaculate Conception?** From the moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved immune from all stain of Original Sin.
5. **What happened at the end of Mary’s earthly life?** She was taken body and soul into Heaven.
6. **Why is Mary, by being the Mother of Christ, also the Mother of the Church?** Mary is the Mother of Christ, including his Body, and Christ’s Body is the Church.
7. **When did Christ name Mary as Mother of the Church and the members of the Church as her children?** This happened on the Cross when he said to Mary, “Woman, behold, your son!” and to John, “Behold, your mother!”
8. **How is Mary a perfect mother?** Mary loves all her children in Christ with a truly unconditional and everlasting love.
9. **How is Mary the archetype, or perfect model, on which the Church is patterned?** Someday each member of the Church will be reunited with his or her physical body and enjoy the perfect happiness of Heaven that Mary enjoys now.

Chapter 15

Challenges to the Church

FOCUS QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is apologetics?** It is the practice of showing people that the Faith is reasonable and to be taken seriously.
 2. **What is the final goal of apologetics?** To help people to understand what the Catholic Church teaches and its reasonableness.
 3. **What is the role of grace in an act of faith?** Grace helps one desire to make the act of faith, actually make it, and persevere in it.
- A. Why do I have to be a Catholic? Aren't all religions equal?**
4. **What is the best reason to be Catholic?** The best reason for being a Catholic is that you believe what the Church teaches is true.
 5. **Does the Church teach there is no truth to be found anywhere else?** No. She teaches that there are elements of truth and goodness in practically every human undertaking.
 6. **Where is the fullness of religious and moral truth found?** In the Catholic Church.
 7. **What does it mean that the Catholic Church is the Sacrament of Salvation?** We are made to be in communion with one another and God, and the Catholic Church is the means God gave us to achieve this communion.
 8. **What does the Church say about the salvation of people outside her visible body?** In a way known to God, those who through no fault of their own do not know Christ or the Catholic Church are offered the possibility of salvation through the Church.
 9. **Why should Catholics try to spread the Faith?** Because Christ instructed them to teach all nations and to make other people happier through the knowledge of the Faith.
- B. Isn't the Church hypocritical telling other people to be holy and avoid sin when many Catholics, including clergy, are guilty of terrible wrongs?**
10. **What is hypocrisy?** Hypocrisy is pretending to be virtuous when one really is not.
 11. **What is scandal?** It is causing someone to "stumble" when it comes to accepting the truth of the Catholic Faith because of the evil behavior of her individual members.
 12. **Why are some people happy to discover sinful Catholics?** It justifies them in rejecting the Catholic Faith.

13. **Where does the Catholic Church get her moral teachings?** From Jesus Christ.
14. **Why is holiness necessary?** Our salvation requires that we be holy.
15. **How common is sin among members of the Catholic Church and human beings in general?** Every Catholic and every human being is a sinner.
16. **What is the difference between *infallible* and *impeccable*?** Infallible means unable to *be wrong*. Impeccable means unable to *do wrong*.
17. **What is holy about the Church?** Her head, Jesus Christ, is perfectly holy. Mary, the Mother of the Church, is perfectly holy. The saints—canonized or not—are holy. The means of salvation, the Sacraments, are holy.

C. Who needs organized religion? Isn't it better to worship God in my own way, when and how I want?

18. **Why does God know better than I do how to best worship him?** God is good and all-knowing.
19. **What form of communal worship has Christ given the Church?** The Mass.
20. **What is one way to experience God personally?** Through individual prayer.
21. **Does God provide human beings with instructions on how to worship him?** Yes, God did this in the Old and New Testaments.

D. How can the Catholic Church sustain the unity of her members in an ever-changing and diverse world?

22. **How does the apostolic nature of the Church foster unity?** Because of the gifts of Apostolic Succession and the Magisterium, the Church is able to hold to the teachings of the Apostles.
23. **How do the Mass and the Sacraments foster Church unity?** The Church essentially celebrates the same liturgy and Sacraments everywhere.
24. **How is the Catholic Church “catholic”?** It is the same everywhere in the world, not fractured into many churches or limited to one nation.

ST. JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA, FOUNDER OF OPUS DEI

25. **What was the essence of what God gave St. Josemaria to teach?** Lay people are called to holiness.

STUDY QUESTIONS WITH SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. **What is apologetics?** It is the practice of showing people that the Faith is reasonable and to be taken seriously.
2. **What is the best reason to be Catholic?** The best reason for being a Catholic is that you believe what the Church teaches is true.
3. **What does the Church say about the salvation of people outside her visible body?** In a way known to God, those who through no fault of their own do not know Christ or the Catholic Church are offered the possibility of salvation through the Church.
4. **Why should Catholics try to spread the Faith?** Because Christ instructed them to teach all nations and to make other people happier through the knowledge of the Faith.
5. **Why are some people happy to discover sinful Catholics?** It justifies them in rejecting the Catholic Faith.
6. **Why is holiness necessary?** Our salvation requires that we be holy.
7. **What form of communal worship has Christ given the Church?** The Mass.
8. **Does God provide human beings with instructions on how to worship him?** Yes, God did this in the Old and New Testaments.
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