

Part One

The Profession of Faith

Section One

“I believe” – “We believe”

1. What is the plan of God for man?

CHAPTER ONE

Man's Capacity for God

2. Why does man have a desire for God?
3. How is it possible to know God with only the light of human reason?
4. Is the light of reason alone sufficient to know the mystery of God?
5. How can we speak about God?

CHAPTER TWO

God Comes to Meet Man

The Revelation of God

6. What does God reveal to man?
7. What are the first stages of God's Revelation?
8. What are the next stages of God's Revelation?
9. What is the full and definitive stage of God's Revelation?
10. What is the value of private revelations?

The Transmission of Divine Revelation

11. Why and in what way is divine revelation transmitted?
12. What is Apostolic Tradition?
13. In what ways does Apostolic Tradition occur?
14. What is the relationship between Tradition and Sacred Scripture?
15. To whom is the deposit of faith entrusted?
16. To whom is given the task of authentically interpreting the deposit of faith?
17. What is the relationship between Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium?

Sacred Scripture

18. Why does Sacred Scripture teach the truth?
19. How is Sacred Scripture to be read?
20. What is the *Canon* of Scripture?
21. What is the importance of the Old Testament for Christians?
22. What importance does the New Testament have for Christians?
23. What is the unity that exists between the Old and the New Testaments?
24. What role does Sacred Scripture play in the life of the Church?

CHAPTER THREE

Man's Response to God

I Believe

25. How does man respond to God who reveals himself?
26. Who are the principal witnesses of the obedience of faith in the Sacred Scriptures?
27. What does it mean in practice for a person to believe in God?
28. What are the characteristics of faith?
29. Why is there no contradiction between faith and science?

We Believe

30. Why is faith a personal act, and at the same time ecclesial?
31. Why are the formulas of faith important?
32. In what way is the faith of the Church one faith alone?

Section Two

The Profession of the Christian Faith

The Creed

CHAPTER ONE

I Believe in God the Father

The Symbols of Faith

33. What are the symbols of faith?
34. What are the most ancient symbols (professions) of faith?
35. What are the most important symbols of the faith?

“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.”

36. Why does the Profession of Faith begin with the words, “I believe in God”?
37. Why does one profess belief that there is only one God?
38. With what name does God reveal Himself?
39. Is God the only One who “is”?
40. Why is the revelation of God's name important?
41. In what way is God the truth?
42. In what way does God reveal that he is love?
43. What does it mean to believe in only one God?
44. What is the central mystery of Christian faith and life?
45. Can the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity be known by the light of human reason alone?
46. What did Jesus Christ reveal to us about the mystery of the Father?
47. Who is the Holy Spirit revealed to us by Jesus Christ?
48. How does the Church express her trinitarian faith?
49. How do the three divine Persons work?
50. What does it mean to say that God is almighty?
51. What is the importance of affirming “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (*Genesis 1:1*)?
52. Who created the world?
53. Why was the world created?
54. How did God create the universe?
55. What is divine providence?
56. How do we collaborate with divine Providence?
57. If God is omnipotent and provident, why then does evil exist?
58. Why does God permit evil?

Heaven and Earth

59. What did God create?
60. Who are the angels?
61. In what way are angels present in the life of the Church?
62. What does Sacred Scripture teach about the creation of the visible world?
63. What is the place of the human person in creation?
64. What kind of bond exists between created things?
65. What is the relationship between the work of creation and the work of redemption?

Man

66. In what sense do we understand man and woman as created “in the image of God”?
67. For what purpose did God create man and woman?
68. Why does the human race form a unity?
69. How do the soul and body form a unity in the human being?
70. Where does the soul come from?

71. What relationship has God established between man and woman?
72. What was the original condition of the human person according to the plan of God?

The Fall

73. How should we understand the reality of sin?
74. What was the fall of the angels?
75. What was the first human sin?
76. What is original sin?
77. What other consequences derive from original sin?
78. After the first sin, what did God do?

CHAPTER TWO

I Believe in Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God

79. What is the Good News for humanity?
80. How is the Good News spread?

“And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord”

81. What is the meaning of the name “Jesus”?
82. Why is Jesus called “Christ”?
83. In what sense is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?
84. What is the meaning of the title “Lord”?

“Jesus Christ was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the Virgin Mary”

85. Why did the Son of God become man?
86. What does the word “Incarnation” mean?
87. In what way is Jesus Christ true God and true man?
88. What does the Council of Chalcedon (in the year 451) teach in this regard?
89. How does the Church set forth the Mystery of the Incarnation?
90. Did the incarnate Son of God have a soul with human knowledge?
91. How did the two wills of the incarnate Word cooperate?
92. Did Christ have a true human body?
93. What does the heart of Jesus exemplify?
94. What is the meaning of the expression “conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit...”?
95. “...Born of the Virgin Mary”: Why is Mary truly the Mother of God?
96. What does the “Immaculate Conception” mean?
97. How does Mary cooperate in the divine plan of salvation?
98. What does the virginal conception of Jesus mean?
99. In what sense is Mary “ever Virgin”?
100. In what way is the spiritual motherhood of Mary universal?
101. In what sense is the life of Christ a Mystery?
102. How did God prepare the world for the mystery of Christ?
103. What does the Gospel teach about the mysteries of the birth and infancy of Jesus?
104. What does the hidden life of Jesus in Nazareth teach us?
105. Why did Jesus receive from John the “baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (*Luke 3:3*)?
106. What do we learn from the temptations of Jesus in the desert?
107. Who is invited to come into the Kingdom of God proclaimed and brought about by Jesus?
108. Why did Jesus manifest the Kingdom by means of signs and miracles?
109. In the Kingdom, what authority did Jesus bestow upon his Apostles?
110. What is the meaning of the Transfiguration?
111. How did the messianic entrance into Jerusalem come about?

“Jesus Christ suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died, and was buried.”

112. What is the importance of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus?
113. What were the accusations by which Jesus was condemned to death?
114. How did Jesus conduct himself in regard to the Law of Israel?
115. What was the attitude of Jesus toward the temple in Jerusalem?
116. Did Jesus contradict Israel's faith in the one God and savior?
117. Who is responsible for the death of Jesus?
118. Why was the death of Jesus part of God's plan?
119. In what way did Christ offer himself to the Father?
120. How is Jesus' offering expressed at the Last Supper?
121. What happened in the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane?
122. What are the results of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross?
123. Why does Jesus call upon his disciples to take up their cross?
124. In what condition was the body of Christ while it lay in the tomb?

“Jesus Christ descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead.”

125. What is the “hell” into which Jesus descended?
126. What place does the Resurrection of Christ occupy in our faith?
127. What are the signs that bear witness to the Resurrection of Jesus?
128. Why is the Resurrection at the same time a transcendent occurrence?
129. What is the condition of the risen body of Jesus?
130. How is the Resurrection the work of the Most Holy Trinity?
131. What is the saving meaning of the Resurrection?

“Jesus Ascended into Heaven and Is Seated at the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty”

132. What does the Ascension mean?

“From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead”

133. How does the Lord Jesus now reign?
134. How will the coming of the Lord in glory happen?
135. How will Christ judge the living and the dead?

CHAPTER THREE

I Believe in the Holy Spirit

136. What does the Church mean when she confesses: “I believe in the Holy Spirit”?
137. Why are the missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit inseparable?
138. What are the names of the Holy Spirit?
139. What symbols are used to represent the Holy Spirit?
140. What does it mean that the Spirit “has spoken through the prophets”?
141. What did the Holy Spirit accomplish in John the Baptist?
142. What is the work of the Spirit in Mary?
143. What is the relationship between the Spirit and Christ Jesus in his earthly mission?
144. What happened at Pentecost?
145. What does the Spirit do in the Church?
146. How do Christ and his Spirit act in the hearts of the faithful?

“I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH”

The Church in the Plan of God

147. What does the word *Church* mean?
148. Are there other names and images with which the Bible speaks about the Church?

149. What is the origin and the fulfillment of the Church?
150. What is the mission of the Church?
151. In what way is the Church a *mystery*?
152. What does it mean to say that the Church is the universal sacrament of salvation?

*The Church: people of God,
body of Christ, temple of the Spirit*

153. Why is the Church the ‘people of God’?
154. What are the characteristics of the people of God?
155. In what way does the people of God share in the three functions of Christ as Priest, Prophet and King?
156. In what way is the Church the body of Christ?
157. Who is the Head of this body?
158. Why is the Church called the “Bride of Christ”?
159. Why is the Church called the temple of the Holy Spirit?
160. What are charisms?

The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic

161. Why is the Church *one*?
162. Where does the one Church of Christ subsist?
163. How are non-Catholic Christians to be considered?
164. How does one commit oneself to work for the unity of Christians?
165. In what way is the Church *holy*?
166. Why is the Church called “*Catholic*”?
167. Is the particular Church catholic?
168. Who belongs to the Catholic Church?
169. What is the relationship of the Catholic Church with the Jewish people?
170. What is the bond that exists between the Catholic Church and non-Christian religions?
171. What is the meaning of the affirmation “Outside the Church there is no salvation”?
172. Why must the Church proclaim the Gospel to the whole world?
173. In what sense is the Church missionary?
174. Why is the Church *apostolic*?
175. In what does the mission of the Apostles consist?
176. What is apostolic succession?

The Faithful: hierarchy, laity, consecrated life

177. Who are the faithful?
178. How are the people of God formed?
179. Why did Christ institute an ecclesiastical hierarchy?
180. How is the collegial dimension of Church ministry carried out?
181. Why does ecclesial ministry also have a personal character?
182. What is the mission of the Pope?
183. What is the competence of the college of bishops?
184. How do the bishops carry out their mission of teaching?
185. When is the infallibility of the Magisterium exercised?
186. How do Bishops exercise their ministry of sanctification?
187. How do the Bishops exercise their function of governing?
188. What is the vocation of the lay faithful?
189. How do the lay faithful participate in the priestly office of Christ?
190. How does the laity participate in the prophetic office?
191. How do they participate in the kingly office?
192. What is the consecrated life?
193. What can the consecrated life give to the mission of the Church?

I believe in the communion of saints

- 194. What is the meaning of the “communion of saints”?
- 195. What else does “the communion of saints” mean?

Mary, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church

- 196. In what sense is the Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of the Church?
- 197. How does the Virgin Mary help the Church?
- 198. What kind of devotion is directed to the holy Virgin?
- 199. In what way is the Blessed Virgin Mary the eschatological icon of the Church?

“I BELIEVE IN THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS”

- 200. How are sins remitted?
- 201. Why does the Church have the power to forgive sins?

“I BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY”

- 202. What is the meaning of the term “body” (or “*flesh*”) and what importance does it have?
- 203. What is meant by the “resurrection of the body”?
- 204. What is the relationship between the Resurrection of Christ and our resurrection?
- 205. What happens to our body and our soul after death?
- 206. What does it mean to die in Christ Jesus?

“I BELIEVE IN LIFE EVERLASTING”

- 207. What is life everlasting?
- 208. What is the particular judgment?
- 209. What is meant by the term “heaven”?
- 210. What is purgatory?
- 211. How can we help the souls being purified in purgatory?
- 212. In what does hell consist?
- 213. How can one reconcile the existence of hell with the infinite goodness of God?
- 214. In what does the final judgment consist?
- 215. When will this judgment occur?
- 216. What is the hope of the new heavens and the new earth?

“Amen”

- 217. What is the meaning of the word “*Amen*” with which we conclude our profession of faith?