

BASIC CATHOLIC CATECHISM

The purpose of knowing the Catholic Catechism!

Why do we study catechism? why all the emphasis? Catechism basically is the teachings based on the doctrine of the Catholic Church. Doctrine here refers to the principals of the Catholic faith. These teachings are usually first in question and answer form, targeting the young children as will be illustrated below. Then later on the same doctrines are taught using indepth explanations. Catechism enables a catholic and anyone else interested in knowing at a glance, the basic truths of the Catholic faith. One therefore is able to know, understand and appreciate the Catholic faith and therefore be in a position to defend the same faith when the need arises. The following questions and answers aim at providing a solid religious foundation especially for the children. We do all this in the name of our Lord God who instructed us as thus; ⁶*“Let the words I enjoin on you today stay in your heart. ⁷You shall tell them to your children, and keep on telling them, when you are sitting at home, when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are standing up, ⁸you must fasten them on your hand as a sign and on your forehead as a headband: ⁹you must write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deutronomy 6: 6-9.*

SECTION I

CATHOLIC CATECHISM

1) **Who made you?**
God made me. (*Genesis 1:27, ‘God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.’*)

2) **Why did God make you?**

God made me:-

- (i) To know him
- (ii) To love Him
- (iii) To serve Him
- (iv) To be happy with Him in the world next.

Unless we begin to **love God** in this life, there is no way in which we can be united in happiness with **God** in **eternity** (just like getting married to someone we do not love at all, even one bit). On the other hand, we cannot **love** someone we do not **know**. Yet again it is hard to **serve** one we do not know and love, out of our own *free will*. Therefore as a first step, we must learn all that we can about God, so that we may love Him; and not just love Him but keep our love alive and grow in love for Him through doing those things that please Him . How then will we learn about Him, in other words **know** Him? God reveals Himself to us in many ways namely;

- Through study of religion
- Catechism lessons
- Listening to sermons in Church on Sundays and weekdays too
- Reading the word of God – the Bible and listening to the preaching of the same word
- Attending religious discussion groups, like the young Christian students.

Having known God, God expects us to love Him. Our love for God should not reside in emotions; that when we think of Him, our stomach does somersaults. Instead our love for God should reside in our will. It is not how we feel towards God but in what we are willing to do for God that our love proves itself, *Matthew 12: 46-50*.⁵⁰ ***Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.*** In other words, hearing the word of God and putting that same word in practice really shows our love for God.

LOVE is the key word; however, there is no love (true love) unless it manifests itself in ACTION; in doing of what the loved one wants. So if we say we love God, then we must serve Him the way that He wants us to serve Him. *John 6:28-29*;²⁸ ***then they said to Him, ‘what must we do if we are to carry out God’s work?’*** ²⁹***Jesus gave them this answer, ‘This is carrying out God’s work: you must believe in the one he has sent’.*** Here the ‘one who He has sent refers to God’s only son Jesus.

After doing all this i.e. knowing, loving and serving God, and our life on earth is over, then will we find fulfillment in being with God forever in heaven. Heaven is a big reward, supernatural reward, to be got by living a holy life (*Ephesians 1:4*). To know, love and serve God with the help of God’s grace* is supernatural life. It is the whole plan God had for each and every one of us when He created us.

3) **To whose image and likeness did God make you?**

God made me to his own image and likeness. (*Genesis 1:26, ‘Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves...’*); (*1 Corinthians 11:7, ‘but for a man it is not right to have his head covered, since he is the image of God and reflects God’s glory...’*)

4) **What is man?**

The word man as used in this context first of all refers to all members of the human race, male and female. Every man or woman living on this earth consists of body (the physical part; that which we can touch see and feel) and soul (the immortal spiritual part, that which we can neither touch nor see) – *1 Corinthians 15:44*.

* The word grace means supernatural help. We use the term ‘supernatural’ to mean that this help is beyond human nature. Something that is supernatural is completely above the nature of a creature; be it man or animal. For example, if a horse were given the power to think and understand, this would be supernatural. In 2 Corinthians 1:3-4: ‘...and God who gives every possible encouragement,⁴ He supports us in every hardship....’)

- 5) **Is this likeness to God in your body or in your soul?**
This likeness to God is chiefly to my soul. Our soul is spirit since we can neither touch nor see it. God too is spirit and that is why my likeness to God is chiefly in my soul.
- 6) **Why?**
My soul is spirit and is immortal. God is spirit and can never die (*Sirach 17:3*, ***‘He clothed them in strength, like himself, and made them in his own image’***).
- 7) **What so you mean when you say that your soul is immortal?**
When I say my soul is immortal, I mean that my soul can never die. *Wisdom 2:23*, ***‘For God created human beings to be immortal, He made them as an image of his own nature’***
- 8) **Of which must you take most care, of your body or of your soul?**
I must take most care of my soul; for Christ has said, ***‘What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul? Matthew 16,26.***
- 9) **What must you do to save your soul?**
To save my soul, I must worship God by Faith, Hope and Charity; that is, I must believe in Him, I must hope in Him, and I must love Him with my whole heart. (*Acts 16:31*, ***‘become a believer in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household too.’***) also in *John 6:29*, ***‘This is carrying out God’s work, you must believe in the one he has sent.***
- 10) **What is faith?**
Hebrew 11:1, ***‘Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of realities that are unseen’***. Faith is a supernatural gift of God, which enables us to believe without doubting whatever God has revealed.
- 11) **Why must you believe whatever God has revealed?**
I must believe whatever God has revealed because God is the very truth, and can neither deceive nor be deceived. *John 14:6*, ***‘I am the way, the truth and the life....’***
- 12) **How are you to know what God has revealed?**
I am to know what God has revealed by the testimony, teaching and authority of the Catholic Church.
God sent us His divine son in the person of Jesus Christ (*John 3:16*), not only for the single purpose of dying upon the cross to atone for our sins, but also to teach and to show. He came to teach us the truths about God, which will lead to love for God – and to show us how to live so as to prove that love. Jesus in his physical visible presence returned to heaven on Ascension Thursday, leaving the apostles behind to continue teaching us (*Matt 28:19-20*). Before He left, he promised the

apostles that He would send them a helper, who would aid them continue teaching us, till the end of time. This helper was the Holy Spirit, who is the voice of Christ Himself. Jesus formed a new body. The head of this body was Jesus himself ***Ephesians 5:23, 'since, as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body...)*** and we Christians are parts of that body (***Ephesians 5:30***). The apostles later ordained other people to carry on Christ's teachings-the present day bishops, who in turn also ordained other men for this work(we will discuss this further in the sacrament of Holy orders). That is why today none of the apostles are alive but we still are listening to Christ's teachings

13) **Who gave the Catholic Church divine authority to teach?**

Jesus Christ gave the Catholic Church divine authority to teach when HE said, ***Matthew 28:19, 'Go, therefore make disciples of all nations...²⁰ and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you.'***

THE APOSTLES CREED

14) **What are the chief things which God has revealed?**

The chief things which God has revealed are contained in the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
And was born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy spirit.
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And life everlasting, Amen.

ARTICLE I

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

15) **What is the first article of the Creed?**

The first article of the Creed is, 'I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth'.

- 16) **What is God?**
 God is the supreme Spirit who alone exists of himself, and is infinite in all perfections.
Supreme Being: the word 'supreme' means above all others. So, our God is supreme, meaning that if there were two equally powerful gods side by side, neither of them would be supreme. *Isaiah 40:25, 'Yahweh (name by which God is referred to as) says, "To whom can you compare me or who is my equal".* Also in *Psalms 135:5, 'for I know that Yahweh is great, our Lord is above all gods.'*
Spirit: a spirit is a simple substance that has no parts and cannot be separated or divided. God is spirit, *Isaiah 40:13, 'Who directed the spirit of Yahweh'.* Also in *Psalms 139:7, 'Where shall I go to escape your spirit?'*
Infinite: infinite means unlimited. When something is limited, there is an outermost boundary or capacity beyond which there is no passing. Every created thing even we human beings are limited in one way or another. But with God there is no limit of any kind.
Perfections: This means that there is nothing good, desirable or worthwhile that is not found in God. In other words, there is nothing good, desirable or worthwhile in our world that is not a reflection of that same quality as it exists immeasurably in God.
- 17) **Why is God called Almighty?**
 God is called 'Almighty' because HE can do all things. *Luke 1:37: 'for nothing is impossible to God'. Matthew 19:26: 'for God everything is possible'.* Also in *Isaiah 40:26 'so mighty is His power, so great is His strength....*
- 18) **Why is God called Creator of heaven and earth?**
 God is called 'Creator of heaven and earth' because He made heaven and earth, and all things, out of nothing, by his word. *Genesis 1:1 'In the beginning God created heaven and earth'. Isaiah 41:28, 'Did you not know? Have you not heard? Yahweh is the everlasting God, He created the remotest parts of the earth...'*
- 19) **Had God any beginning?**
 God had no beginning; HE always was, HE is and HE always will be. That is why He is referred to as everlasting.
- 20) **Where is God?**
 God is everywhere, *Psalms 139:7-9*
- 21) **Does God know and see all things?**
 God knows and sees all things, even our most secret thoughts, *Psalms 139:1-7, 'Yahweh, you examine me and know me.....' 'Where shall I flee from your presence?'*

- 22) **Has God any body?**
 God has no body; he is a spirit, *Psalms 139:7, 'Where shall I go to escape your spirit?'*
- 23) **Is there only one God?**
 There is only one God.
- 24) **Are there three Persons in God?**
 There are three Persons in God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19, ...baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'.*
- 25) **Are these three persons three Gods?**
 These three Persons are not three Gods: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all one and the same GOD.
- 26) **What is the mystery of the three Persons in one God called?**
 The mystery of the three Persons in one God is called the mystery of the Blessed Trinity.
- 27) **What do you mean by a mystery?**
 By a mystery I mean a truth which is above reason i.e. not understandable but revealed by God through *prayer* and *meditation*. *Wisdom 9:17, 'and who could ever have known your will, had you not given wisdom and sent your Holy Spirit from on high?'* and the only way we can receive the Holy spirit is by praying for it as told to us by Jesus himself in *Luke 10:13, '...how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!'*
- 28) **Is there any likeness to the Blessed Trinity in your soul?**
 There is this likeness to the Blessed Trinity in my soul; that as in one God there are three Persons, so in my one soul there are three powers.
- 29) **Which are the three powers of your soul?**
 The three powers of my soul are my **memory**, my **understanding** and my **will**. *Book of Sirach or Ecclesiasticus 17:7: He filled them with knowledge and intelligence and showed them what was good and what evil' - will*
⁸*He put his own light in their hearts to show them the magnificence of his works,* ¹⁰*so that they would praise his holy name as they told of his magnificent works - memory.*
¹¹*He set knowledge before them, he endowed them with the law of life.* ¹²*He established an eternal covenant with them, and revealed his judgements to them – understanding.*

ARTICLE II

‘And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord’.

30) What is the second article of the Creed?

The second article of the Creed is, ‘and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord’.

31) Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is:

- (i) The second person of the Blessed Trinity – *Matthew 28:19*, ‘...baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son.....’)
- (ii) Jesus Christ is also the Son of God
 - *John 5:18*, ‘...but He spoke of God as His own Father....’)
 - *John 3:16*, ‘for this is how God loved the world: He gave his only Son..’)
 - *John 10:36*, ‘Yet to someone whom the Father has consecrated and sent into the world you say, “You are blaspheming” because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’.
- (iii) Jesus Christ is also the Saviour of the world – *John 4:42*, ‘Now we believe no longer because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he is indeed the Saviour of the world’.
John 3:17, ‘For God sent his Son into the world...but so that through him the world might be saved’.

32) Is Jesus Christ truly God?

Yes, Jesus Christ is truly God.

33) Why is Jesus Christ truly God?

¹In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God
and the Word was God”.

²he was with God in the beginning

³Through Him all things came into being, not one thing came into being
EXCEPT through him.

⁶A man came, sent by God. His name was John.

⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness to the light. ⁸He was not the light, he was to bear witness to the light.⁹The Word was the real light.

¹⁴The Word became flesh; he lived among us.....as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹²But to those who did accept Him he gave the power to become children of God, to those who believed in His name. - *Gospel of St John Chapter One*.

From this passage, we come to know that the Word referred to here is none other than Jesus Christ himself. **How?** Verse 9 says that the Word was the real light.

John 12:46, ‘ Jesus said, “I have come into the world as light.... To prevent anyone who believes in me from staying in the dark anymore”. That is why those who believed in Jesus, he called children of the light as seen in **John 12:36, ‘while you are still have the light*, believe in the light so that you may become children of light’. John 9:5, ‘As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world’.**

Therefore to answer the question as to whether Jesus Christ was truly God, (i) **John 1:1** says the Word was God, meaning Jesus Christ was and is God. Similarly we see that in verse 3 ‘Through Him all things came into being, not one thing came into being **EXCEPT** through him. We attribute the works of creation to God the Father, but here we see Jesus as also being involved in the creation process. Then, being God, whatever God did, Jesus did too. **John 5:19, ‘In truth I tell you, by Himself the Son can do nothing; he can do only what he sees the Father doing: and whatever the Father does the Son does too.**

(ii) **Philippians 2:6, ‘Who, being in the form of God, did not count equality with God.....’.**

(iii) **John 5:18, ‘but He spoke of God as his own Father and so made himself God’s equal’.**

(iv) **John 10:30, ‘The Father and I are one; John 10:38, ‘the Father is in me and I am in the Father’.**

These verses, just to mention a few, all show that Jesus Christ has one and the same nature with God the Father, proving that He is truly God.

34) Was Jesus Christ always God?

Yes, Jesus Christ was always God, **John 17:5, ‘Now Father, glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world existed’.**

Also, **John 1:1, In the beginning was the Word....and the Word was God’.** The Word whom we have seen was Jesus Christ himself.

John 1:2, ‘He (the Word) was with God in the beginning.

35) Is Jesus Christ truly man?

Jesus Christ is truly man because He has the nature of man, having a body and soul like ours. (i) **Hebrews 2:14, ‘Since all the children share the same human nature, he too shared equally in it.**

(ii) **Also in Philippians 2:7, ‘becoming as human beings are; and being in every way like a human being....,**

(iii) **2 John 7, ‘there are many deceivers at large in the world, refusing to acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in human nature.**

36) Was Jesus Christ always man?

Jesus Christ was not always man. He has been man only from the time of his Incarnation.

* This chapter i.e. 12 of the gospel of Saint John Jesus foretells his death. So when he says ‘while you still have light, what He actually is saying is while I am still here with you, while you still have me around.

- 37) **What do you mean by Incarnation?**
I mean by Incarnation that God the Son took to himself the nature of man: *‘the Word was made Flesh – John 1:14*
- 38) **How many natures are there in Jesus Christ?**
There are two natures in Jesus Christ; the human nature and the divine nature. His actions are the actions of a human being but at the same time they have divine power. For example in the gospel of Saint **John 11:35**, Jesus wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, whom HE loved so much, an action typical of any human being in such a situation. But again He raised the same Lazarus from the dead to life, something that only God would be able to do, since He alone is the giver and taker of life and of everything, as Job put it in **Job 1:20**.
The same is also seen in the gospel of **Matthew 8:27**.
- 39) **Is there only one Person in Jesus Christ?**
There is only one Person in Jesus Christ, which is the Person of God the Son.
- 40) **Why was God the Son made man?**
God the Son was made man to redeem us from sin and hell (**John 3:16 – 17**) *by dying on the cross (Philippians 2:8) and to teach us the way to heaven (John 6:45)*
- 41) **What does the holy name Jesus mean?**
The holy name JESUS means Saviour (**Matthew 1:21**, *‘...because He is the one who is to save his people from their sins*).
- 42) **What does the name Christ mean?**
The name CHRIST means Anointed (**Luke 4:18**, *‘The spirit of the Lord is upon me for he has anointed me...’*).
- 43) **Where is Jesus Christ?**
As God, Jesus Christ is everywhere. As God made man, HE is in heaven and in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

ARTICLE III

“He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary”

- 44) **What is the third article of the Creed?**
The third article of the Creed is, ‘He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary’
- 45) **What does the third article mean?**
The third article means that God the Son took a body and soul like ours in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit – **Luke 1:35**.
- 46) **Had Jesus Christ any father on earth?**

In God's plan, St. Joseph had to be the husband of Mary and to look after Jesus like a real father.

47) **When and where was Jesus born?**

Jesus was born on Christmas day in a stable at Bethlehem – *Luke 2:15*

ARTICLE IV

“He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried”

48) **What is the fourth article of the Creed?**

The fourth article of the Creed is, ‘He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried’.

49) **What were the chief sufferings of Christ?**

The chief sufferings of Christ were first

(a) His agony and his sweat of blood in the Garden – *Luke 12:44*, ‘*In his anguish he prayed even more earnestly, and his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood*’.

(b) His scourging at the pillar(*John 19:1*, ‘*Pilate then has Jesus taken away and scourged*) and the crowing with thorns,²‘*and after this, the soldiers twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on his head.....*’)

(c) His carrying his cross(*John 19:17*, ‘*and carrying His own cross, He went out to the Place of the Skull...*’), His crucifixion and His death between two thieves(*Luke 23:33*, ‘*When they reached the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the two criminals, one on his right, the other on his left*’).

50) **What were the sufferings of Jesus called?**

The sufferings of Jesus are called the Passion of Jesus Christ – *Mark 8:31*.

51) **Why did Jesus suffer?**

Jesus suffered for our sins and to gain back eternal life for us – {*Romans 3: 23-25*}, {*Hebrews 9:15;28*}.} and *John 3:16*

52) **Why is Jesus Christ called our Redeemer?**

To redeem means to buy back something that has been lost or sold or given away. By sin, man had lost his eternal union with God; eternal happiness in Heaven. The Son of God in the person of Jesus, undertook to buy back for us this lost union (*Hebrews 9:28*). That is why He called the Redeemer; His was the precious blood by which we were ransomed (*1 Peter 1:18*). That is why the work of Jesus Christ is called the work of Redemption.

53) **On what day did Jesus die?**

Jesus died on Good Friday (*John 19:31*)

- 54) **Where did Jesus die?**
Jesus died at the Place of the Skull or Golgotha as it was known in Hebrew (*John 19:17*)
- 55) **Why do we make the sign of the cross?**
We make the sign of the cross – first to remind us to the Blessed Trinity; and secondly to remind us that God the Son died for us on the cross.
- 56) **In making the sign of the cross how are we reminded of the Blessed Trinity?**
In making the sign of the cross we are reminded of the Blessed Trinity by the words, '*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*' (*Matthew 28:19*)
- 57) **In making the sign of the cross how are we reminded that Christ died for us on the cross?**
In making the sign of the cross we reminded that Christ died for us on the cross by the very form of the cross which we make upon ourselves.

ARTICLE V

“He descended to the dead; on the third day He rose again”

- 58) **What is the fifth article of the Creed?**
The fifth article of the Creed is, 'He descended to the dead; on the third day He rose again'
- 59) **What so you mean by the words, 'he descended to the dead?'**
By the words, 'he descended to the dead' I mean that Jesus really died, ahtat his body was separated from His soul, and while the body rested in the grave, his soul joined all who had died before Him (*1 Peter 3:19, 'In the body HE was put to death, and in the spirit to life.¹⁹ and, in the spirit, HE went to preach to the spirits in prison*) *1 Peter 4:6, 'And this was why the gospel was brought to the dead as well....)*
- 60) **What did Jesus do among the souls of the dead?**
Before Jesus' death heaven was closed. Also the people who had died before him had to hear the good news and get the opportunity to accept Jesus as their redeemer, or reject him - *1 Peter 3:19, 'HE went to preach to the spirits in prison'*
- 61) **What happened to those who accepted or rejected Jesus?**
Those who accepted Jesus
(a) joined in his resurrection {*Matthew 27:52, 'the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy people* (without us being holy, it is impossible to see the Lord (*Hebrews 12:14*) and therefore go to heaven where He is (*1 Peter 3:22*)} rose

- from the dead, ⁵³ *and, these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy city....*). The holy city refers to heaven.
- (b) For others, hell became permanent – *Revelations 20:15*.
- 62) **What do you mean by the words, “The third day He rose again from the dead?”**
By the words, “The third day He rose again from the dead”, I mean that, after Jesus had been dead and buried, God raised His Blessed Body to life again on the third day (*Acts 5:30*)
- 63) **On what day did Jesus rise for the dead?**
Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday - *Matthew 28:1-5*

ARTICLE VI

“He ascended into heaven; and is seated at the right hand of the Father”

- 64) **What is the sixth article of the Creed?**
The sixth article of the Creed is, ‘He ascended into heaven; and is seated at the right hand of the Father’.
- 65) **What do you mean by the words, ‘he ascended into heaven?’**
By the words, ‘he ascended into heaven’ I mean that Jesus went up Body and Soul into heaven on Ascension day, forty days after His resurrection - *Acts 1:9; Luke 24:51* among others.
- 66) **What do you mean by the words, ‘is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty?’**
by the words, ‘is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty’ I mean that Jesus, as God, is equal to the Father; and as man, is the highest place in heaven: *Hebrews 10:12, ‘He on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his seat for ever at the right hand of God; Philippians 2:9-11; Ephesians 1:20-21.*

ARTICLE VII

“He will come again to judge the living and the dead”

- 67) **What is the seventh article of the Creed?**
The sixth article of the Creed is, “He will come again to judge the living and the dead”
- 68) **When will Jesus come again?**
Jesus will come again from heaven on the last day, to judge all people
- 69) **What are the things Jesus will judge?**
Jesus will judge our thoughts and words (*Matthew 12:36-37*) and deeds or works (*Revelations 20:12*).

- 70) **What will Jesus say to the wicked?**
 Jesus say to the wicked, *‘Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels’ - Matthew 25:41.*
- 71) **What will Jesus say to the just?**
 Jesus will say to the just, *‘Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world - Matthew 25:34.*
- 72) **Will everyone be judged at death as well as at the last day?**
 Everyone will be judged at death as well as on the last day – *Hebrews 9:27, ‘since human beings die only once, after which comes judgement’.*

ARTICLE VIII
“I believe in the Holy Spirit”

- 73) **What is the eighth article of the Creed?**
 The eighth article of the Creed is, “I believe in the Holy Spirit”
- 74) **Who is the Holy Spirit?**
 God loved the world so much that HE sent his Son in the person of Jesus to save humanity and restore what we had lost through the sin committed by our first parents, Adam and Eve. Jesus then came and perfectly carried out the Father’s plan of salvation. Having accomplished, He had to return to his Father in heaven. But also Jesus loved us so much and could not bear to leave his apostles and therefore us, alone. So He promised his apostles that He would ask His father in heaven to send them someone who would help the apostles continue the mission Jesus began here on earth; guide, strengthen and help the apostles carry out the work that Jesus left for them i.e. to teach all peoples everything that Jesus himself had taught them. It would be like Jesus himself was still with them since all that this person would teach the apostles would be from Jesus himself (*John 16:14*). In this way the apostles would not feel that abandoned by Jesus. This person would be with the apostles from then right till the end of time. Even today he still speaks and teaches us with the same authority that Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus taught then. This person is the **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit is therefore;
- * The third person of the blessed trinity – *Matthew 28:19.*
 - * The Holy Spirit is also called the Paraclete (Paraclete is the Greek word for comforter) hence Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as our comforter - *John 16:7.*
 - * Is our advocate (He pleads on our behalf to God) – *Romans 8:26.*
 - * The Holy Spirit is also the Spirit of truth (reveals to us all the truths of God) - *John 16:13, John 14:17.*

* The Holy Spirit is also the Spirit of God *John 3:34; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16.*

* Spirit of love -

All these are descriptions and names by which we could give to the Holy Spirit

- 75) **From whom does the Holy Spirit proceed?**
The Holy Spirit comes from the Father and Son (*John 14:16; John 15:26*).
- 76) **Is the Holy Spirit equal to the Father and to the Son?**
The Holy Spirit is equal to the Father and to the Son, for He is the same Lord and God as they are - *1 Corinthians 2:11.*
- 77) **When did the Holy Spirit come down on the Apostles?**
The Holy Spirit came down on the Apostles on Pentecost in the form of “parted tongues of fire” – *Acts 2:3.*
- 78) **Why did the Holy Spirit come down on the Apostles?**
The Holy Spirit came down on the Apostles to confirm their faith, to sanctify them and to enable them found the Church - *John 14:26.*
- 79) **Which are the seven (7) Gifts of the Holy Spirit?**
(a) Wisdom; (b) Understanding; (c) Counsel; (d) Power; (e) Knowledge; (f) Piety; (g) The fear of the Lord
- Isaiah 11:2-3
- 80) **Which are the nine (9) Fruits of the Holy Spirit?**
(a) Love; (b) Joy; (c) Peace; (d) Patience; (e) Kindness; (f) Goodness; (g) Faithfulness; (h) Gentleness; (i) Self control. *-Galatians 5:22*
- 81) **What are the acts committed against the fruits of the Holy Spirit?**
The acts committed against the fruits of the Holy Spirit are sexual vice, impurity, sensuality, worship of false gods and sorcery, antagonisms and rivalry, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels, disagreements, factions, malice, drunkenness, orgies and all such things - *Galatians 5:16 – 21.*
- 82) **Which are the Charisms (varieties of gifts) of the Holy Spirit?**
1 Corinthians 12:4-11. They are nine and are divided into three broad categories;
1) **Charisms of the mind:**
- Wisdom
 - Knowledge
 - Discernment of the Spirit
- 2) **Charisms of Speech:**
- Prophecy
 - Speaking in tongues and
 - Interpretation of the tongues
- 3) **Charisms of Mighty Deeds:**

- Powerful faith,
- Healing and
- Miracles

It is through the sacrament of confirmation that we receive the Fruits and Charisms of the Holy Spirit.

83) What are the SIX sins against the Holy Spirit?

The six sins against the Holy Spirit are:-

- Presumption
- Despair
- Resisting the known truth
- Envy of another's spiritual good
- Obstinacy in sin and
- Final impenitence

-Ecclesiasticus 5:4-7