

Required Reading

LESSON I

- (1) *Being Catholic* Part One – Chapter 1 (pp. 5-9)
- (2) *Catechism of the Catholic Church* nos. 74-95, 144-175, 185-197, 874-896
- (3) *I Believe Series* – Issue 1 “Why Creeds?” (Reading Packet)*
- (4) *Catholic Update* – “Tradition in the Catholic Church – Why It’s Still Important” (Reading Packet)*
- (5) *Catholic Update* – “Infallibility and Church Authority: The Spirit’s Gift to the Whole Church” (Reading Packet)*
- (6) *Dei Verbum* (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), nos. 1-10 (Reading Packet) or online at http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651118_dei-verbum_en.html

LESSON II

- (1) *Being Catholic* Part One – Chapters 2-4, 8-9 (pp. 11-27, 47-57)
- (2) *Catechism of the Catholic Church* nos. 299-311, 337-343, 356-379, 386-390, 619-623, 1996-2005

LESSON III

- (1) *Being Catholic* Part One – Chapters 5-7 (pp. 29-45)
- (2) *Catechism of the Catholic Church* nos. 441-451, 456-469, 514-521, 638-647; 651-655

LESSON IV

- (1) *Being Catholic* Part One – Chapter 12 (pp. 71-75)
- (2) *Catechism of the Catholic Church* nos. 232-260, 683-741
- (3) *Catholic Update* – “The Trinity: Mystery at the Heart of Life” (Reading Packet)*
- (4) *I Believe Series* – Issue 9 “The Holy Spirit” (Reading Packet)*

LESSON V

- (1) *Being Catholic* Part One – Chapters 10-11, 13 (pp. 59-69, 77-81)
- (2) *Catechism of the Catholic Church* nos. 758-801, 811-865, 897-913, 992-1014, 1021-1050
- (3) *Vatican 2 Today* – “Today’s Church: A Look in the Mirror” (Reading Packet)*
- (4) *I Believe Series* – Issue 12 “The Life of the World to Come” (Reading Packet)*

*The short articles from *Catholic Update*, *I Believe*, and *Vatican 2 Today* can be accessed from the Materials section from within the course.

With reference to CCC 185-197 and *I Believe Series* – Issue 1 “Why Creeds?” (Reading Packet)

(a) What is a creed?

(b) From where do creeds come and what are their significance?

(c) What creeds are privileged in the Catholic tradition and why?

With reference to
Catholic Update – “Tradition in the Catholic Church – Why It’s Still Important” (Reading Packet)

- (a) What is intended by the distinction between Tradition and traditions?
- (b) Explain the author’s use of the metaphor of the Church as family and what it intends to illuminate regarding the meaning and development of Tradition.
- (c) Explain what is meant by the statement, “Tradition implies change in continuity with the past.”

With reference to
Catholic Update – “Infallibility and Church Authority: The Spirit’s Gift to the Whole Church”

- (a) What is meant by the term “magisterium”? Who participates in magisterial activity?
- (b) What is the distinction between the extraordinary and ordinary magisterium?
- (c) Under what conditions is a teaching of the magisterium said to be infallible?
- (d) What term is used to describe magisterial teaching that is not infallible? What response to such teaching is expected of the faithful?

Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. What is faith? What challenges your faith? When have questions or confusion about your faith led to personal growth?
2. Can you see the dynamic of “change with continuity” that is the hallmark of Tradition in your own life of faith?

**Lesson 2 – Handout 1
(Home Group Exercise)**

With reference to CCC 299-301, 337-343 and *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 2

(a) Does the assertion that God created all things, visible and invisible, require that we accept a literalistic reading of either (or both) of the stories in the first two chapters of Genesis? Why or why not?

(b) What are the key theological elements of the Doctrine of Creation?

(c) How is the Doctrine of Creation related to the idea of Divine Revelation?

With reference to CCC 302-308, 356-358 and *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 3

- (a) Is God's creative activity over?
- (b) What is meant by the term "Divine Providence"?
- (c) What role, if any, does humanity have in the process of creation?

**Lesson 2 – Handout 3
(Expert Group 2)**

With reference to CCC 356-379 1700-1709 and *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapters 2-3

(a) What does it mean to say that human beings are made “in the image and likeness of God”?

(b) What is meant by the assertion that human beings are a unity of body and soul?

(c) What is the relationship between maleness and femaleness in God’s creation of humanity?

(d) What is God’s intended destiny for humanity? For each human person?

With reference to CCC 309-311, 386-390, 1849-1851 and *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 4

(a) What is sin?

(b) What is meant by the term “Original Sin”? How is Original Sin distinct from but related to personal sins?

(c) The “Problem of Evil” can be summarized as: “If God is all good and God is all powerful, why does God allow evil to exist?” How does an understanding of sin help in beginning to make sense of the mystery of evil?

With reference to CCC 619-623, 1996-2005 and *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapters 8-9

(a) What is meant by the term “grace”?

(b) What is meant by the term “redemption”?

(c) What is meant by the term “salvation”?

Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. Given the Doctrine of Creation and God's gift to humanity of the special role of co-creator, what personal responsibility do you have with regard to environmental issues? What concrete steps have you, will you, or ought you to undertake in your personal life? For what corporate steps should you be advocating and supporting?
2. In what concrete ways do you see God's plan of salvation and redemption at work in your life?

**Lesson 3 – Handout 1
(Home Group Exercise)**

With reference to CCC 456-463 and *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 5

(a) Why did the Word become flesh?

(b) What were the key elements of the teaching of Jesus?

(c) What is the significance of the choices Jesus made with regard to those with whom he associated himself?

With reference to CCC 514-521 and *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 5

(a) How was the death of Jesus connected to his life?

(b) What does it mean to say that Christ's whole life was a revelation of the Father?

(c) What do we mean when we say that Jesus Christ was a perfect man or that Jesus Christ lived a human life perfectly?

With reference to CCC 638-647 and *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 6

(a) What does it mean to say that the resurrection of Jesus is an historical event?

(b) What does it mean to say that the resurrection of Jesus is a transcendent event?

With reference to CCC 651-655 and *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 6

(a) What is the essential meaning of Christ's resurrection?

(b) Why is faith essential to perceiving the full reality of the Resurrection?

(c) What is the significance of the resurrection of Jesus for us today?

With reference to CCC 464-469 and *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 7

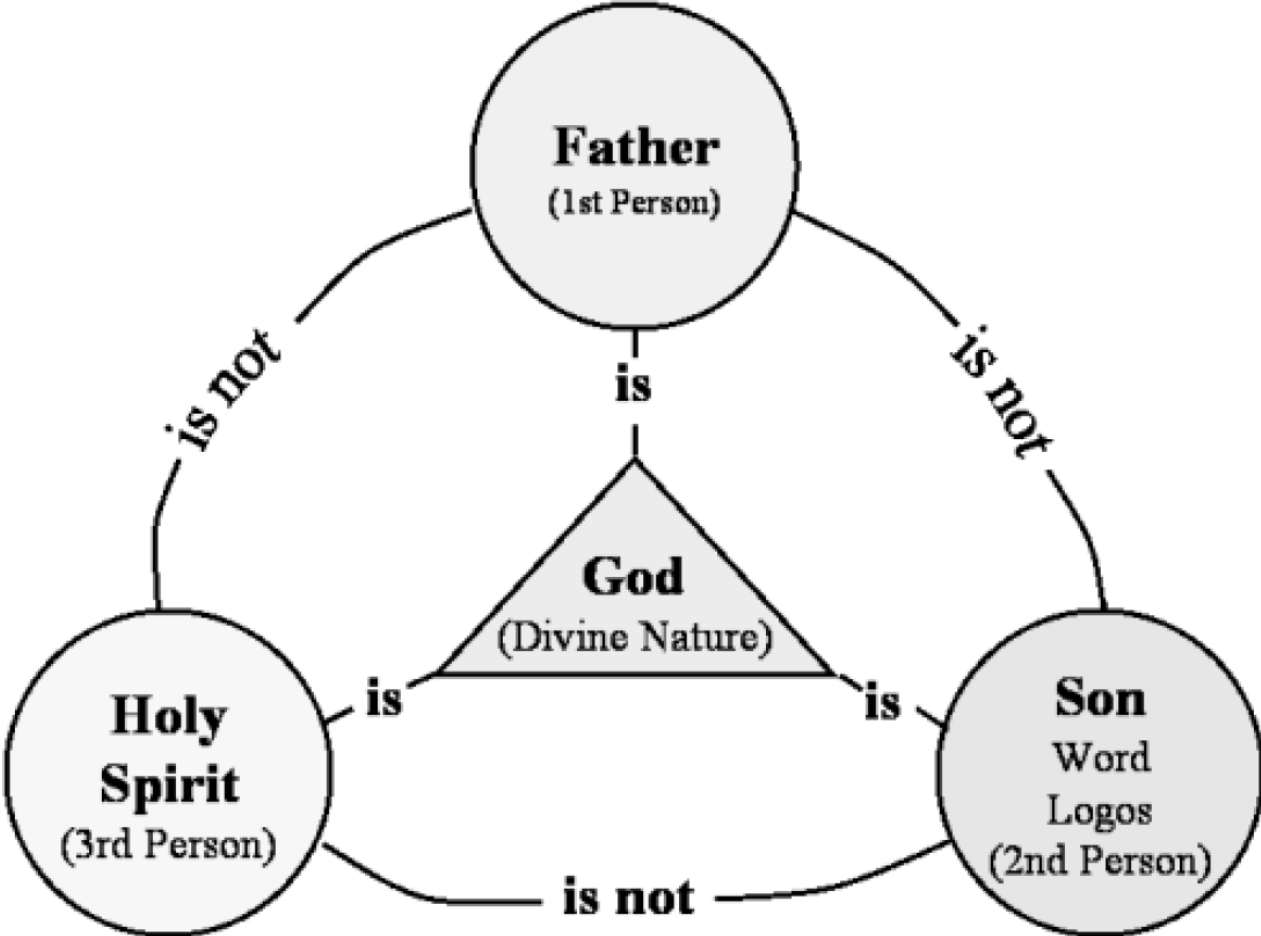
- (a) What is the significance of asserting that Jesus is both human and divine?
- (b) What is lost if either of these attributes is diminished?
- (c) What are the four things that the union of the human and divine in Jesus are solemnly defined as being without?
- (d) What is the significance, if any, that it took the Church four centuries to arrive at this definition?

Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. Archbishop Pilarczyk states, "The only way to be in touch with the Resurrection of Jesus is to be in touch with the realm of God through faith, to have handed ourselves over to God's realities, to have offered ourselves to play our part in God's story..." What difference does the Resurrection of Jesus make in what you believe? In how you live your life?
2. In the last two months, where have you been witness to the Risen Christ? How have you given testimony to this experience of the Resurrection?

The Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity



Names of the Holy Spirit

(CCC, nos. 692-693)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Paraklētos - Paraclete | 5. Spirit of Christ |
| 2. Spirit of truth | 6. Spirit of the Lord |
| 3. Spirit of the promise | 7. Spirit of God |
| 4. Spirit of adoption | 8. Spirit of glory |

Symbols of the Holy Spirit

(CCC, nos. 694-701)

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Water | 5. Seal |
| 2. Anointing | 6. Hand |
| 3. Fire | 7. Finger |
| 4. Cloud and light | 8. Dove |

Presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church today

(CCC, no. 688)

1. in the Scriptures he inspired;
2. in the Tradition, to which the Church Fathers are always timely witnesses;
3. in the Church's Magisterium, which he assists;
4. in the sacramental liturgy, through its words and symbols, in which the Holy Spirit puts us into communion with Christ;
5. in prayer, wherein he intercedes for us;
6. in the charisms and ministries by which the Church is built up;
7. in the signs of apostolic and missionary life;
8. in the witness of saints through whom he manifests his holiness and continues the work of salvation.

Mission of the Holy Spirit

(CCC, no. 737)

1. *Prepares* men and goes out to them with his grace, in order to draw them to Christ.
2. *Manifests* the risen Lord to them, recalls his word to them and opens their minds to the understanding of his Death and Resurrection
3. *Makes present* the mystery of Christ, supremely in the Eucharist, in order to reconcile them, to bring them into communion with God, that they may "bear much fruit."

**Lesson 4 – Handout 3
(Home Group Exercise)**

With reference to CCC 232-260, *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 12, and *Catholic Update* – “The Trinity: Mystery at the Heart of Life” (Reading Packet)

- (a) What is meant by saying that the doctrine of the Trinity is a mystery?
- (b) Why is it important to have a good understanding of the Trinity in order to live effectively as a Christian? What are the implications of the doctrine of the Trinity for how we live our lives?
- (c) What is the invitation of God in the revelation of the mystery of the Trinity?
- (d) What is meant by the statement that, “The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and life.”?

Lesson 4 – Handout 4
(Expert Group 1)

With reference to CCC 232-260, *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 12, and *Catholic Update* – “The Trinity: Mystery at the Heart of Life” (Reading Packet)

- (a) In what ways has God revealed the doctrine of the Trinity?
- (b) Why has God chosen these methods of revelation?
- (c) Is it a valid critique of this doctrine that in its complete form it cannot explicitly be found in the Scriptures? Why or why not?

**Lesson 4 – Handout 5
(Expert Group 2)**

With reference to CCC 232-260, *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 12, and *Catholic Update* – “The Trinity: Mystery at the Heart of Life” (Reading Packet)

- (a) What does it mean to say that God is One?
- (b) What does it mean to say that there is real distinction between the persons of the Trinity?
- (c) What is meant by the statement, “The whole divine economy is the common work of the three divine persons.”?

With reference to CCC 683-741 and
I Believe Series – Issue 9 “The Holy Spirit” (Reading Packet)

- (a) If spirit and holy are divine attributes common to all of the divine persons of the Holy Trinity, why does it make sense to use the name “Holy Spirit” to designate in a particular way the third person of the Trinity?
- (b) Why did the Church come to confess that the Spirit is, like the Son, consubstantial and coeternal with the Father?
- (c) What is meant by the confession that the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son and how, if at all, is this different from the confession that the Son is eternally begotten of the Father?

With reference to CCC 683-741 and
I Believe Series – Issue 9 “The Holy Spirit” (Reading Packet)

- (a) What role does the Spirit play in the divine economy, i.e. what is the mission of the Holy Spirit?
- (b) In what ways has the Spirit been present through the ages? In the times before the Incarnation of Christ? During Christ’s public ministry? In the time after Christ’s return to the Father?
- (c) Give an explanation of each of the eight names of the Holy Spirit mentioned in CCC 692-693.

Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. As a result of the things you have learned in this class, what difference will a deepened understanding of the Doctrine of the Trinity have on your personal spirituality?
2. In what ways do you experience the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

With reference to CCC 811-865

- (a) What does it mean to say that the Church is “one”? How is this understood in light of the fact that many elements of sanctification are found outside the visible confines of the Catholic Church?
- (b) What does it mean to say that the Church is “holy”? How is this reconciled with the fact that all members of the Church, including her leaders, are sinners?
- (c) What does it mean to say that the Church is “catholic”? What are the implications of the catholicity of the Church toward those who are not members in a full and complete sense?
- (d) What does it mean to say that the Church is “apostolic”? What particular role do the bishops serve in this area?

With reference to CCC 781-786 ,897-913, 949-959 and
Vatican 2 Today – “Today’s Church: A Look in the Mirror” (Reading Packet)

- (a) What does it mean to say that, “The Church is the People of God”?
- (b) How is this understanding of Church related to the understanding of the Church as being hierarchically ordered?
- (c) What is meant by the Communion of Saints?
- (d) What are the three offices of Christ, who has a share in them, and how?

With reference to CCC 758-776, 849-856 and *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 11

(a) What founded the Church?

(b) To what purpose was the Church founded? That is, what is the fundamental mission of the Church?

(c) What is the scope of the Church's mission?

(d) Who carries on the mission of the Church in her name?

With reference to CCC 1005-1014, 1021-1041 and *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 13

(a) Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell are commonly referred to as, “The Four Last Things”. Define each of them.

(b) What is Purgatory and why is it not numbered among the “Four Last Things”?

(c) What is Limbo? Can you find this mentioned in any of your authoritative sources? If so, what does it say? If not, what does its absence imply?

**Lesson 5 – Handout 5
(Expert Group 4)**

With reference to CCC 992-1004, 1042-1050, *Being Catholic* – Part One Chapter 13, and *I Believe Series* – Issue 12 “The Life of the World to Come” (Reading Packet)

- (a) What is meant by the confession that we believe, “in the resurrection of the body”?
- (b) Is the meaning of Christ’s resurrection limited to humanity or does it have implications more broadly?
- (c) What do we expect to be new about the “new heavens and a new earth”? How literally do we mean this?

Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. In your own life, how have you seen yourself, as a result of your baptism, actively sharing in the priestly, prophetic, and royal ministries of Jesus? Can you see yourself either being more intentional in your actions or expanding your actions as a result of these reflections?
2. In what ways does the Church's teaching on the last things affect the way you think, believe, and act in the present?

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