

# **Catechism of the Polish National Catholic Church**

## **In preparation for confirmation**

### **Introductory Material in the Catechism**

#### **DAILY PRAYERS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

#### **THE HAIL MARY**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

#### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell, the third day He arose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

#### **PACIERZ POLSKI**

W imię Ojca i Syna i Ducha Świętego. Amen.

#### **MODLITWA PAŃSKA**

Ojcie nasz, któryś jest w niebie. Święć się Imię Twoje, przyjdź królestwo Twoje, bądź wola Twoja, jako w niebie, tak i na ziemi. Chleba naszego powszedniego daj nam dzisiaj, i odpuść nam nasze winy, jako i my odpuszczamy naszym winowajcom, i nie wódz nas na pokuszenie, ale nas zbaw ode złego. Amen.

#### **POZDROWIENIE ANIELSKIE**

Zdrowaś Maria, łaskiś pełna, Pan z Tobą, błogosławionaś Ty między niewiastami i błogosławion owoc żywota Twojego – Jezus. Święta Mario, Matko Boża, módl się za nami grzesznymi, teraz i w godzinę śmierci naszej. Amen.

## **SKŁAD APOSTOLSKI**

Wierzę w Boga Ojca Wszechmogącego, Stworzyciela nieba i ziemi, i w Jezusa Chrystusa, Syna Jego jedyne, Pana naszego, który się począł z Ducha Świętego narodził się z Marii Panny, umęczon pod Pontskim Piłatem, ukrzyżowan, umarł i pogrzebion, zstąpił do piekieł, trzeciego dnia zmartwychwstał, wstąpił na niebiosy, siedzi na prawicy Boga Ojca Wszechmogącego, stamtąd przyjdzie sądzić żywych i umarłych. Wierzę w Ducha Świętego, Święty Kościół Powszechny, Świętych obcowanie, grzechów odpuszczenie, ciała zmartwychwstanie, żywot wieczny. Amen.

Chwała Ojcu i Synowi i Duchowi Świętemu, jak była na początku, teraz i zawsze i na wieki wieków. Amen.

## **THE NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, AND WAS MADE MAN. He was crucified also for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven. He sitteth at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory, to judge the living and the dead; and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father; who together with the Father and the Son, is adored and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and life of the world to come. Amen.

## **AN ABRIDGEMENT OF THE CONFESSION OF FAITH OF THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH**

I BELIEVE – in one God, the Father, the cause of all existence, Eternal Truth, Love and Justice.

I BELIEVE – in Jesus Christ, the Savior and Spiritual Regenerator of the world, who was the Emissary of God, of one substance with Him; and as to humanity born of the humble woman Mary.

I BELIEVE – that this Nazarene Master through His Divine Life, Work, Teaching and Sacrificial Death, became the glowing ember of a new life of mankind, taking its beginning and deriving its strength and fullness in knowing God, loving Him and fulfilling His Holy Will.

I BELIEVE – that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God rules the universe, that from the Holy Spirit flows grace which bring it to pass that, when a man cooperates with it in life, he shall attain joy eternal in God.

I BELIEVE – in the Holy Church of Christ, Apostolic and Universal. I believe, that this Church is the true teacher, both of individual man and of all mankind, that it is a steward of Divine graces and a light in man's temporal pilgrimage to God and salvation.

I BELIEVE – in the necessity of hearing the Word of God and receiving the Holy Sacraments.

I BELIEVE – that all people, as children of God are equal in themselves. I believe that all people have equal rights to existence, but also sacred obligations toward God, themselves, their nation and all of human society.

I BELIEVE – in the ultimate justice of God, life beyond the grave, immortality and eternal bliss in union with God of all people, generations and times. Amen.

## **GRACE BEFORE MEALS**

Bless us O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **GRACE AFTER MEALS**

We give Thee thanks, O Almighty God, for all Thy mercies, who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

## **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD**

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord Thy God in vain.
3. Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor thy father and thy mother.
5. Thou shalt not kill.
6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
7. Thou shalt not steal.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

## **THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS**

1. Baptism and Confirmation
2. The Word of God
3. Penance
4. Holy Eucharist
5. Holy Unction
6. Holy Orders
7. Matrimony

## **THE SIX TRUTHS OF FAITH**

1. That there is but one God, who created, preserves and governs all things.
2. That God is a righteous judge who rewards the good and punishes the wicked.
3. That there is but one God in three Divine Person: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Ghost, or the Holy Trinity.
4. That the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, our Lord Jesus Christ, became man and died on the cross for our salvation.
5. That God's grace is absolutely necessary to salvation.
6. That the soul is immortal and will never die.

## **THE TWO COMMANDMENTS OF LOVE**

1. Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
2. And thy neighbor as thyself.

## **THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF THE CHURCH**

1. To hear Mass and the Word of God on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
2. To fast and abstain on the days appointed.
3. To confess and receive the Holy Eucharist as least once a year.
4. Not to solemnize marriage at forbidden times.
5. To contribute to the support of the Church.

## **THE CONFITEOR**

I confess to Almighty God, one in the Holy Trinity, before the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Saints, and you Father, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed; by my fault, by my fault, by my own great fault. Therefore, I beseech the Blessed Mother Mary, all the Saints, and you Father, to pray to the Lord, our God, for me.

## **RELIGION**

### **1) What is catechism?**

Catechism is the study of religion in the form of questions and answers

### **2) What is religion?**

Religion is the acknowledgement of a higher Being called God and conforming oneself to that Being through acts of reverence, love and obedience. Religion is God's life in man.

### **3) What does religion give you?**

Religion:

- 1) Gives me an outlook on life with God as the center of my thoughts and experiences.
- 2) Unites me with all people in the one great family of God.
- 3) Endows me with faith and strength for a better and more useful life.
- 4) Provides me with the spiritual and moral forces needed to attain my goal of life.

### **4) Should I strive to be religious?**

Yes. I should strive to be religious because it is the only way to attain and to live the fullest life possible.

### **5) Are all religions perfect?**

No. All religions are not perfect. The perfect religion is the one which best expresses our relationship to God and our understanding of Him.

### **6) What then is the perfect religion?**

The perfect religion is the Christian religion as revealed and given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **7) What helps you better understand your religion?**

The gift of faith helps me to better understand my religion.

## **FAITH**

### **8) What is faith?**

Faith is a Divine virtue infused into our hearts by God, by which we firmly believe in the truths which God has revealed.

### **9) What do we mean by Revelation?**

By Revelation we mean God instructing us in the truths of salvation.

### **10) What does salvation mean?**

Salvation means to preserve the soul for the purpose for which God created it.

### **11) Is faith necessary for salvation?**

Yes. Faith is absolutely necessary for salvation.

**12) Where do we find truths of faith?**

We find truths of faith in the Holy Scripture.

**13) What is another name for Holy Scripture?**

Another name for Holy Scripture is the Holy Bible.

**14) What is the Holy Scripture?**

The Holy Scripture is a collection of books written by just and holy men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

**15) How is the Holy Scripture divided?**

The Holy Scripture is divided into two parts: the Old and New Testaments.

**16) When was the Old Testament written?**

The Old Testament was written before the time of Christ.

**17) When was the New Testament written?**

The New Testament was written in the second half of the first century after Christ.

**18) What is the original language of the New Testament?**

The original language of the New Testament is Greek.

**19) Which are the books of the New Testament?**

The books of the New Testament are: the four Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, The Acts of the Apostles, Epistles of Paul, James, Peter, John, Jude and Revelation.

**20) What do we mean by Tradition?**

By Tradition we mean the teachings and practices of the Apostolic Church, which complement the New Testament writings.

**21) Where do we find the earliest formal declaration of belief?**

We find the earliest declaration of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

**THE CREED**

**22) What is a creed?**

A creed is a formal summary of beliefs?

**23) What is the Apostles' Creed?**

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of the principal truths of the early Christian Church.

**24) Are there other creeds formulated by the Church?**

Yes. There are other creeds explanatory to the Apostles' Creed. They are an expression of the Church's spiritual progress in understanding and meeting the aspirations and needs of the time. Such for instance are the Nicene Creed, the Creed of the Polish National Catholic Church and others.

**25) Can you say the Apostles Creed?**

Yes. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell, the third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence He shall

come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

**26) What are the three manifestations of God expressed in the creed?**

The three manifestations of God expressed in the creed are:

1. God the Father and the work of Creation.
2. God the Son, and the work of Regeneration.
3. God the Holy Ghost, and the work of Sanctification.

**GOD AND HIS ATTRIBUTES**

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

**27) Who is God?**

God is the most perfect Being Creator of all things.

**28) What is the nature of God's Being?**

God is a self-existing and infinitely perfect Spirit.

**29) What is a spirit?**

A spirit is a being having understanding and a free will.

**30) What do we mean when we say that God is self-existing?**

When we say that God is self-existing, we mean that He does not owe His existence to any other being.

**31) Where is God?**

God is everywhere, but above all in the soul of a good person.

**32) Has God been always?**

Yes. God has been always, for He had no beginning and will have no end.

**33) Does God know all things?**

Yes. God knows all things, even our most secret thoughts.

**34) Is God perfectly Holy, mighty, just and merciful?**

Yes. God is perfectly Holy, mighty, just and merciful.

**35) What did Jesus teach us concerning God?**

Jesus taught us that God is our Heavenly Father.

**36) Does God give us everything we need for our salvation?**

Yes. God gives us everything we need for our salvation because He lovingly cares for us.

**37) What do we call God's loving care for us?**

God's loving care for us is called Divine Providence.

**38) How great is God's love for us?**

God's love for us is so great that He gave His only Begotten Son for our salvation.

**39) How does God make Himself known to us?**

God makes Himself known to us:

1. Through His works.
2. Through human reason and experience.

3. By revelation.
4. By the gift of faith.

**40) How does God make His will known to us?**

God makes His will known to us:

1. In His commandments.
2. In the teachings of the prophets.
3. In the teachings of Jesus Christ.
4. In the precepts of the Church.
5. In personal experience.

**41) What are some of the gifts of God to me?**

Some of the God's gifts to me are:

1. My body, which is His temple.
2. My soul, made to His image and likeness.
3. His grace, which makes me His child.

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

God made me as an expression of His love so that I may know Him, love Him and serve Him.

**THE UNITY AND TRINITY OF GOD**

**43) Is there only one God?**

Yes. There is only one God. Because God is infinitely perfect He can have no equal.

**44) What do we mean by the Holy Trinity?**

By the Holy Trinity we mean one and the same God in three Divine Persons. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost or the Holy Trinity.

**45) How do we know that there are three persons in the Holy Trinity?**

We know that there are three persons in the Holy Trinity by the revealed Word of God.

**46) Where do we find confirmation for this belief?**

We find confirmation for this belief in the words of Jesus Christ: "Go therefore, teaching all nations. Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Mt 28:19). "I and the Father are one." (Jn 10:30 "I will ask the Father and He shall give you another Paraclete that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth." (Jn 14: 17-18)

**47) Are the three Divine Persons equal?**

Yes. All three Divine Persons are equal to one another, but each One is a separate and distinct Person.

**48) How can there be three persons in one God?**

Because the three Persons have one and the same nature. This is a mystery we cannot completely understand.

**49) With what prayer do we praise the Holy Trinity?**

We praise the Holy Trinity when we pray: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**50) Can you make the sign of the cross?**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

**51) What does the sign of the cross teach us?**

The sign of the cross teaches us that:

1. God is one in three Divine Persons.
2. The cross we make teaches us that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for us on the cross.

## **GOD AND CREATION**

### **52) What do we mean when we say that God is the Creator of heaven and earth?**

When we say that God is the Creator of heaven and earth we mean that He is the source of all existence, physical and spiritual.

### **53) What are angels?**

Angels are created spirits having understanding and free will. Some angels are God's messengers. "Behold I will send my angel who shall go before you." (Exodus 23:20) Also read Luke 1:26-38, 2:9-13.

### **54) What is man?**

Man is a creature composed of two elements: mortal body and immortal soul.

### **55) Why did God create man?**

God created man as an expression of His love?

### **56) How is the soul like God?**

The soul is like God because it is a spirit having understanding and free will and is immortal.

### **57) What does the Scripture say about the soul?**

The Scripture tells us that the soul is a direct creation of God.

### **58) What does the Scripture say about the human body?**

The Scripture tells us that the human body comes from the dust of the earth.

### **59) What happens to man at death?**

At death the body of man returns to the earth and his soul returns to God.

### **60) Who were Adam and Eve?**

In Scripture, Adam and Eve represent the first human life conscious of God.

### **61) What is the fall of man?**

In Scripture the fall of man is disobedience arising from his selfishness.

### **62) Why does God not prevent sin?**

God does not prevent sin because He has given us a free will. We, therefore, merit our own happiness or suffering according to our cooperation with God's grace.

## **REDEMPTION – REGENERATION**

*"I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell, the third day He arose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead."*

### **63) Who is Jesus Christ?**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became man and died on the cross for our salvation.

### **64) What does Jesus mean?**



Jesus means Savior.

**65) What does Christ mean?**

Christ means the “Anointed,” one dedicated to God.

**66) Is Jesus Christ both God and man?**

Yes. Jesus Christ is both God and man.

**67) How did Jesus Christ the Son of God become man?**

Jesus Christ the Son of God became man by taking our human nature.

**68) How did Jesus Christ take our human nature?**

Jesus Christ took our human nature by being born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**69) What do we call this act of taking on our human nature by the Son of God?**

This act of taking on our human nature by the Son of God is called the Incarnation.

**70) Why did the Son of God become man?**

The Son of God became man:

1. To redeem us from our sins.
2. To show us by His teachings and example the way to a fuller and more abundant life.
3. To regenerate us to a life of spiritual grace.

**71) Where was Jesus Christ born?**

Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem.

**72) When do we observe the birthday of Jesus?**

We observe the birthday of Jesus on Christmas Day.

**73) Where did Jesus Christ live His early years?**

Jesus Christ lived His early years in Nazareth.

**74) Who was the earthly guardian of our Lord Jesus Christ?**

St. Joseph was the earthly guardian of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was the husband of Holy Mary.

**75) How long did Jesus Christ live on earth?**

Jesus Christ lived on earth thirty-three (33) years.

**76) What happened when Jesus was thirty years old?**

When Jesus was thirty years old He was baptized by St. John the Baptist and began His Divine Mission.

**77) In fulfilling His Divine Mission how did Jesus Christ spend the last three years of His life on earth?**

In fulfilling His Divine Mission Jesus Christ spent the last three years of His life on earth:

1. Preaching the Gospel.
2. Working miracles and doing good to all.
3. Training His Apostles.
4. Laying the foundation of His Church.

**78) What happened at the close of Jesus Christ's life on earth?**

At the close of Jesus Christ's life on earth He was falsely accused of blasphemy before the Jewish high court, sentenced by Pilate, the Roman Governor, to die by crucifixion as being guilty of treason.

**79) On what day did Jesus Christ die?**

Jesus Christ died on Good Friday?

**80) Where did Jesus Christ die?**

Jesus Christ died on Mount Calvary.

**81) For whom did Jesus Christ suffer and die?**

Jesus Christ suffered and died for all mankind.

**82) Where was Jesus Christ's body placed after it was taken down from the cross?**

Jesus Christ's body after it was taken down from the cross was placed in a tomb.

**83) What is meant by "He descended into hell?"**

By "He descended into hell" is meant that after His death, the soul of Christ descended into that state of rest, called Limbo, where the souls of the departed were waiting for Him.

**84) What happened on the third day?**

On the third day Jesus Christ arose from the dead. This is called the resurrection.

**85) When do we commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ?**

We commemorate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

**86) How long did Jesus remain on earth after His resurrection?**

Jesus Christ remained on earth forty days after His resurrection.

**87) What happened after the resurrection of Jesus?**

After His Resurrection Jesus Christ abided with His disciples for forty days and then ascended to heaven. This is called the Ascension.

**88) What do we mean by "From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead?"**

By "From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead" we mean that He will come again in power and glory, and then He will render to every man according to his works. (Mt 16:27)

**SANCTIFICATION**

*"I believe in the Holy Ghost"*

**89) Who is the Holy Ghost?**

The Holy Ghost is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity.

**90) By what other name do we know the Holy Ghost?**

We know the Holy Ghost also by the name of the Holy Spirit.

**91) When did the Holy Ghost descend upon the Disciples?**

The Holy Ghost descended on the disciples on Pentecost, ten days after the Ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven.

**92) Why did the Holy Ghost descend upon the disciples?**

The Holy Ghost descended upon the disciples to strengthen them for the work of Christ among men.

**93) What does the Holy Ghost do for the Church?**

The Holy Ghost abides in the Church to teach, govern and sanctify its members.

**94) When do we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Ghost?**

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Ghost on Pentecost, 50 days after Easter.

**THE CHURCH**

*“The Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints”*

**95) What is the Church?**

The Church is the Body of Christ of which Christ is the head and all baptized people are her members. The Church is a gathering of people professing the truths of Christ and using those means to salvation which He instituted.

**96) Who are the ministers of the Church?**

The ministers of the Church are bishops, priests and deacons.

**97) Who are successors of the Apostles?**

The Bishops, consecrated in the Apostolic Tradition, are the successors of the Apostles.

**98) Who is the head of the Holy Catholic Church?**

Jesus Christ is the Head of the Holy Catholic Church.

**99) Who are members of the Holy Catholic Church?**

All baptized people who are united with Christ through faith are members of the Holy Catholic Church.

**100) Why should I live and die in the communion of the Holy Catholic Church?**

I should live and die in the communion of the Holy Catholic Church in order to attain my eternal salvation.

**101) To what organized Church, within the Holy Catholic Church, do you belong?**

I belong to the Polish National Catholic Church.

**102) When did the Polish National Catholic Church emerge as an organization?**

The Polish National Catholic Church emerged as an organization in March 1897.

**103) Who organized this Church?**

The Most Rev. Francis Hodur with a group of Polish people organized this Church.

*The Most Rev. Francis Hodur was consecrated on September 29, 1907 in St. Gertrude's Cathedral, Utrecht, Holland. The consecrators were the Most Reverend Gerard Gul, Archbishop of Utrecht and head of the Old Catholic Churches of Europe; the Rt. Rev. John Van Thiel, Bishop of Haarlem; and the Rt. Rev. Michael Bartholomew Spit, Bishop of Deventer.*

*The Utrecht rite symbolized the establishment of Old Catholic Intercommunion with the Polish National Catholic Church.*

*This oneness of Church within the Christian Catholic Family was demonstrated again in 1946, when the Polish National Catholic Church entered into Intercommunion with the Episcopal Church.*

**104) Why was this church organization formed?**

This church organization was formed to meet the needs and aspirations of the Polish people who had been denied the spiritual heritage of the Holy Catholic Church.

**105) What is the heritage of the Holy Catholic Church?**

The heritage of the Holy Catholic Church is the Divine Truth which Jesus Christ gave to the world.

**106) Is this a new Church?**

No. This Church is an integral part of the Holy Catholic Church founded by Christ.

**107) Is there a need for national Churches?**

Yes. Christ called all men from all nations and races to serve God, each to contribute its particular spiritual and cultural gifts toward the building of God's Kingdom on earth.

**108) Is the Polish National Catholic Church a true Church?**

The Polish National Catholic Church is a true Church because it has the marks of the Holy Catholic Church: 1. One, 2. Holy, 3. Catholic, 4. Apostolic

**109) How is the Polish National Catholic Church One?**

The Polish National Catholic Church is One because all its members believe in one God and in Jesus Christ the Head of the Church.

**110) How is the Polish National Catholic Church Holy?**

The Polish National Catholic Church is Holy because its Founder, Jesus Christ, is Holy, its sacraments leading us to salvation are holy and its object is holy.

**111) How is the Polish National Catholic Church Catholic or Universal?**

The Polish National Catholic Church is Catholic or Universal because it teaches all the gospel of Jesus Christ which is universal, everlasting and unchanging.

**112) How is the Polish National Catholic Church Apostolic?**

The Polish National Catholic Church is Apostolic because its spirit of teaching and its institutions are apostolic.

**113) What language is used in a National Catholic Church?**

The language of the people is the liturgical language of a National Catholic Church.

**114) What is your duty as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ?**

As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ it is my duty:

1. To accept and obey Christ's teachings through the Church.
2. To give glory to God by my good life.
3. To support the work of the Church.
4. To help bring others into the Church.

**THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS**

**115) What do we mean by "The Communion of Saints?"**

By "The Communion of Saints" we mean the spiritual Church of Christ in which the living and the dead are united in Jesus Christ.

**116) Whom do we call saints?**

We call saints all those who emulate the life of Jesus Christ.

**117) When do we celebrate the Feast of All Saints?**

We celebrate the Feast of All Saints on All Saints Day, November 1.

**118) When do we make a special commemoration for the souls of the departed?**

We make a special commemoration for the souls of the departed on All Souls Day, November 2.

**THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

**119) What do we mean by the forgiveness of sins?**

By the forgiveness of sins we mean that God grants forgiveness of sins to those who truly repent.

**120) To whom did Jesus give the power to forgive sins?**

Jesus Christ gave to His Church the power to forgive sins.

**121) How do we obtain the forgiveness of sins?**

We obtain the forgiveness of sins:

1. Through the sacraments of Baptism and Penance.
2. Through an act of perfect contrition or sorrow.

**THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY AND LIFE EVERLASTING****122) What do we mean by the resurrection of the body?**

By this article of faith we believe that personal individuality is preserved beyond the grave.

**123) What do we mean by life everlasting?**

By life everlasting we mean that life continues beyond the grave and is eternal.

**PRAYER****124) What is prayer?**

Prayer is the lifting up of our minds and hearts to God. It is our talking with God and listening to God.

**125) Why do we pray?**

We pray:

1. To adore God, expressing our love and loyalty to Him.
2. To thank Him for His gifts to us.
3. To beg His pardon for our sins and shortcomings.
4. To ask His blessings and graces for ourselves and others.

**126) For what should we pray?**

We should pray for God's help and guidance that we may live and work according to His holy will and attain salvation.

**127) Is prayer necessary to salvation?**

Prayer is absolutely necessary to salvation because we need God's help to achieve the purpose of life.

**128) How should we pray?**

We should pray with sincerity, faith, humility and perseverance.

**129) How do we know that God hears our prayers?**

We know that God hears our prayers because Jesus Christ promised: "If you ask the Father anything in My name, He will give it to you."

**130) Does God answer our prayers?**

Yes. God answers our prayers. He generously grants us what is needed for our happiness and salvation and lovingly refuses what He knows is not for our greater good.

**131) How can we pray?**

We can pray through thought, word and deed.

**132) What is mental prayer?**

Mental prayer is that prayer in which we unite with God through our thoughts and feelings.

**133) What is vocal prayer?**

A vocal prayer is one that stems from the heart and mind to find expression in word or song.

**134) Do we pray when we sing hymns?**

Yes. Many beautiful prayers have been put to music and we often sing them in church and in our homes.

**135) Is there a living prayer?**

Yes. When we strive to be worthy of God's love and live according to His will that is a living prayer.

**136) Can we pray for others?**

Yes. We can and should do so:

1. We ask God's blessings on those we love.
2. We pray that He strengthens those in need.
3. We pray for our enemies that God grant them love and understanding.
4. We pray for the departed souls that He grant them salvation.

**137) When should we pray?**

We should pray:

1. When our hearts are full of gratitude.
2. When we begin a new day and start our work.
3. When in danger, temptation or distress.
4. When in need of spiritual guidance.
5. Whenever our neighbor needs spiritual strength or help.

**138) Are church services prayers?**

Yes. Christ tells us that whenever even two or three people gather in His name, He is with them. Through church services we unite with God.

**139) What is a perfect prayer?**

We call "Our Father" a perfect prayer because it was given to us by our Lord Himself and in it we offer ourselves entirely to God.

**140) Why do we say "Our Father" in this prayer?**

We say "Our Father" in this prayer to remind us that God created us, provides for us, loves and teaches us as a father.

**141) Why do we address our prayer to heaven?**

We address our prayer to heaven to remind us that earth is not our true home, but our true home is with God in heaven.

**142) Why do we pray "hallowed be Thy name?"**

We pray "hallowed be Thy name" to show that God is holy and perfect.

**143) Why do we pray "Thy Kingdom come?"**

We pray "Thy Kingdom come" hoping and working for the day when all humanity will accept God as its father, teacher and Lord, and live according to His direction.

**144) What is meant by "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven?"**

By this is meant that as the saints in heaven do God's will, so should we here on earth.

**145) Why do we pray for “Daily Bread?”**

This petition asks God to provide us with all that we need for the good of our body and soul. This petition reminds us that:

1. We look to God for daily sustenance.
2. We trust God who, “feedeth the birds of the air to feed us also.
3. We should remember the needy and hungry everywhere.

**146) What is meant by “Trespass?”**

“Trespass” means injuries to others. When God is offended Trespasses mean sins.

**147) Why should we forgive those who trespass against us?**

When we ask God to forgive the sins we commit we must be ready to show the same love and forgiveness toward those who have hurt us.

**148) What is temptation?**

Temptation is anything that urges us to do wrong.

**149) Does God lead us into temptation?**

God permits us to be tempted. In this petition we ask God to help us overcome temptation, knowing that good comes only through obedience to Him.

**150) For what do we pray when we ask God to “deliver us from evil?”**

We pray that God protect us from all harm and danger of body and soul and lead us to salvation.

**151) What is a prayer of intercession?**

A prayer of intercession is praying to God through someone else.

**152) What is such a well known prayer of intercession?**

The “Hail Mary” which the Catholic Church uses is the well known prayer of intercession.

**153) May we pray to God in our own words?**

Yes. We should do so often.

**154) What does “Amen” mean?**

It is a Hebrew word and means “So be it,” expressing a desire that the prayer be granted.

**SIN****155) What is sin?**

A sin is a conscious and voluntary breaking of a law which binds us in our conscience.

**156) What law binds us in our conscience?**

Moral law binds us in our conscience?

**157) Who is the author of moral law?**

God is the author of moral law.

**158) How is sin committed?**

Sin is committed by thought, word, deed and the omission of good.

**159) What is conscience?**

Conscience is the voice of God in our souls which tells us what is good and what is bad.

**160) How many kinds of sin are there?**

There are two kinds of sin: mortal and venial sin.

**161) What is a mortal sin?**

A mortal sin is a grievous offense which separates us from God.

**162) What is a venial sin?**

A venial sin is a lesser offense against the laws of God.

**163) What should deter us from sin?**

The knowledge that we offend God should deter us from sin.

**164) What is the result of repeated sin?**

Repeated sin results in a vice which is a habit of sin.

**165) What are the consequences of sin?**

The consequences of sin are:

- 1) Separation from God.
- 2) Temporal punishment.
- 3) Punishment after death.

**166) What are some of the temporal consequences of sin?**

Some of the temporal consequences of sin are:

- 1) The realization that we have become unworthy of God's love.
- 2) The loss of peace of mind and a troubled conscience.
- 3) The realization that the selfish goal for which we sinned is an empty one.

**167) How does punishment for sin extend beyond the grave?**

Punishment for sin extends beyond the grave when we:

- 1) Choose to disobey God and separate ourselves from Him.
- 2) Refuse to learn of His goodness and return to Him.

**168) Why does the Holy Scripture speak of hell fire?**

The Holy Scripture speaks of hell fire to portray the great torment of a soul that is separated from God.

**169) What of eternal punishment?**

The Church teaches the possibility of eternal punishment for a person, as taught in Scripture and Tradition, because man is endowed with a free will and may either accept or reject God's offer of salvation.

- 1) Happiness with God is the goal of life.
- 2) God wills that all men should be saved.
- 3) The PNCC acknowledges that God's infinite mercy extends to all people in all ages and therefore hopes and prays for the salvation of all through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**170) What are the sins against the Holy Ghost?**

The sins against the Holy Ghost are:

- 1) Despair of salvation.
- 2) Obstinacy in sin.
- 3) Resisting the truths of God.
- 4) Final impenitence.



5) Envy of another's spiritual goods.

**171) What are the Capital sins?**

The capital sins are: pride, avarice, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, sloth.

**172) Why are they called Capital sins?**

They are called Capital sins because they are the cause of all other sins.

**173) Which are the sins crying to heaven for vengeance?**

Sins crying for vengeance are:

- 1) Willful murder.
- 2) The sin of Sodom.
- 3) Oppression of the poor.
- 4) Defrauding laborers of their just wage.

**174) How can we avoid sin?**

We can avoid sin by praying for guidance and understanding, by worthy receiving of the sacraments and by virtuous living.

**VIRTUE**

**175) What is virtue?**

Virtue is the habit of doing good.

**176) What is vice?**

Vice is the opposite of virtue or the habit of doing evil.

**177) Is virtue worthy of reward?**

All virtue is a reward in itself, it produces good.

**178) What kind of virtues are there?**

There are two kinds of virtues: Divine and Moral or infused and acquired.

**179) Which are Divine virtues?**

The Divine virtues are: faith, hope and love.

**180) What are Divine virtues?**

The Divine virtues are those which God infused into our hearts.

**181) What are moral virtues?**

Moral virtues are those which a person acquires as he fulfills God's will.

**182) Can you name some of the moral virtues?**

Moral virtues are: humility, chastity, patience, piety, obedience, courage and the like.

**183) How can we learn to lead a moral life?**

We can learn to lead a moral life by following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**GRACE**

**184) What is grace?**

Grace is God's help. It is a Divine gift given us through the merits of Jesus Christ for our salvation.

**185) How many kinds of grace are there?**

There are two kinds of grace: sanctifying grace and actual grace.

**186) What is sanctifying grace?**

Sanctifying grace is that grace which makes the soul holy and pleasing to God and enables us to share in the life of God Himself.

**187) When did you first receive sanctifying grace?**

I first received sanctifying grace through the sacrament of Baptism.

**188) What is actual grace?**

Actual grace is the help of God by which we are enlightened and strengthened to do good.

**189) How may we receive grace?**

We may receive grace by prayer, worthy receiving of the sacraments and a virtuous life.

**190) Can we resist this help of God?**

Yes. Our will is free and can choose to ignore God's help.

**191) What does God require of us in return for this gift?**

God requires that we use this gift, live by its help and strive for perfection.

**COMMANDMENTS**

**THE TWO COMMANDMENTS OF LOVE**

**192) What is a divine commandment?**

A divine commandment is the will of God revealed to us as His law.

**193) Why does God give us commandments?**

God gives us commandments as rules and guides of our conduct to help us achieve our goal of life.

**194) What commandments contain the whole law?**

The two commandments of love contain the whole law.

**195) What are the two commandments of love?**

The two commandments of love are:

- 1) Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind.
- 2) And thy neighbor as thyself.

**196) Why must we love God?**

We must love God because He is infinitely good and is the source of our being and the goal of our life.

**197) How must we love our neighbor?**

We must love our neighbor as ourselves, that is to say, we must care for his spiritual and bodily welfare as we care for our own.

**198) Who is our neighbor?**

Every person, whoever he may be, is our neighbor.

**199) How must we treat our enemies?**

We must love our enemies because our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us to do this. "Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that persecute you and spitefully use you." (Mt 5:44)

**THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD****200) What are the Ten Commandments?**

The Ten Commandments are:

- 1) Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- 2) Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- 3) Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.
- 4) Honor thy father and thy mother.
- 5) Thou shalt not kill.
- 6) Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 7) Thou shalt not steal.
- 8) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- 9) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.
- 10) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

**201) Why do we call these the commandments of God?**

We call these the commandments of God because God Himself gave them to Moses on Mount Sinai.

**202) Who was Moses?**

Moses was an Israelite chosen by God to lead the Hebrew people out of Egyptian bondage.

**203) How are the Ten Commandments divided?**

The Ten Commandments are divided into two parts: the first three refer to God and our relationship to Him, the other seven refer to our neighbor and our relationship to him.

**204) Did the Lord Jesus confirm these commandments?**

By His teaching and example He gave them His confirmation.

**205) Why must we keep the commandments?**

We must keep the commandments because our Lord teaches us, "If you wish to enter life, keep the commandments." (Mt 19:17)

**THE FIRST COMMANDMENT**

*"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."*

**206) What does the first commandment mean?**

The first commandment means that we should worship God only and place our trust in Him.

**207) How do we worship God?**

We worship God through faith, hope and love.

**208) What does faith require of us?**

Faith requires that we strive to know God, that we believe the Word of God and live accordingly to that belief. "Faith without works is dead." (James 2:20)

**209) When do we fail in faith?**

We fail in faith when we neglect to learn Christian doctrine or are afraid to profess our faith when in danger or ridicule or persecution.

**210) What means do we have of learning Christian doctrine?**

Some of the means are:

- 1) Catechetical instruction.
- 2) Church services and sermons.
- 3) Holy Scripture – the Bible.
- 4) The ministers of the Church.
- 5) Religious publications.
- 6) Church societies.

**211) What is hope?**

Hope is our trust in God by which we accept His promises and strive to be worthy of them.

**212) When do we sin against hope?**

We sin against hope when we despair that we cannot resist temptation, amend our lives or strengthen our souls by prayer and God's grace.

**213) How do we worship God through love?**

We worship God through love when we devote ourselves wholly to His service, striving to be such as He desires us to be.

**214) When do we deny our love for God?**

We deny our love for God through sin, which is disobedience to His holy will and by thoughtless and careless conduct.

**215) What is false worship of God?**

False worship of God is a rejection of His truths and trying to serve Him in a way that seems easier and more pleasing to ourselves.

**216) If the First Commandment teaches us to worship God alone, why do we have religious statues and pictures?**

We have religious statues and pictures not as objects of worship, but as symbols of truths, virtues and examples of good lives.

**THE SECOND COMMANDMENT**

*"Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain."*

**217) What are we commanded by this law?**

We are commanded to honor the name of God and always to speak it with due reverence and respect.

**218) When do we use the name of God reverently?**

We use the name of God reverently:

- 1) In Christian greetings
- 2) In prayers
- 3) In making a vow or taking an oath

**219) When is God's name taken in vain?**

God's name is taken in vain when said in a careless manner, needlessly, in blasphemy, cursing or false and unnecessary oaths.

**220) What is blasphemy?**

Blasphemy is to speak of God or of matters of faith in an abusing or insulting manner.

**221) What is a vow?**

A vow is a solemn promise made to God to do something that is noble and good.

**222) What is a curse?**

A curse is calling upon God to do harm to a person, place or thing.

**223) What is an oath?**

An oath is the calling upon God to witness that what we say is true.

**224) How does this commandment order us to use our tongue in all speech?**

This commandment orders us to use our tongue in all speech devoutly and reverently.

“Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man, but that which comes out of the mouth, this defileth a man.” (Mt 15:11)

“I tell you, on the day of the judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” (Mt 12:36)

**THE THIRD COMMANDMENT**

*“Remember To Keep Holy The Sabbath Day”*

**225) What does this commandment require of us?**

The Third Commandment requires of us to keep holy the Lord’s Day.

**226) What is the Sabbath?**

The Sabbath is the Old Testament day of rest and worship, the seventh day of the week.

**227) Why do we observe Sunday as the Lord’s Day?**

We observe Sunday as the Lord’s Day because our Lord Jesus Christ arose from the dead on that day and on a Sunday the Holy Ghost descended upon the disciples.

**228) What are holy days of obligation?**

Holy days of obligation are feasts instituted by the church to commemorate great moments in the life of our Lord and His Church.

**229) How should we celebrate Sundays and Holy Days?**

We should celebrate Sundays and Holy Days by:

- 1) Dedicating them to God
- 2) Attending Mass
- 3) Listening to the Word of God
- 4) Prayer and the receiving of Holy Communion
- 5) Special acts of charity

**230) What is forbidden by the Third Commandment?**

The Third Commandment forbids all unnecessary servile work and whatever else that prevents us from observing the Lord’s Day properly.

**231) When do we sin against the Third Commandment?**

We sin by not observing the Lord’s Day.

**THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT**

*“Honor thy Father and thy Mother”*

**232) What does the Fourth Commandment require?**

The Fourth Commandment requires that we love, obey and respect our parents.

**233) How do we show our love for parents?**

We show our love for parents by:

- 1) Helping them in their work
- 2) Aiding them when they are in need
- 3) Praying for them
- 4) Avoiding all things that sadden or anger them

**234) When are we obedient to our parents?**

We are obedient to our parents when we follow their good example, instructions and teaching, knowing that parents have our good in mind.

**235) When do we fail to show respect for our parents?**

We fail to show respect for our parents when we ignore them, are ashamed of them, think or speak ill of them.

**236) What obligation does this commandment place upon parents?**

This commandment places upon parents the obligation to provide for the welfare of their children, give a Christian example of living and be worthy of the trust God has given them.

**237) What else does this commandment teach us?**

This commandment teaches us to respect and obey all lawful authority.

**238) What do we mean by lawful authority?**

By lawful authority we mean those persons and institutions to which we are subject as parents, Christians, citizens, workers and the like.

**239) When are we not bound to obey lawful authority?**

We are not bound to obey lawful authority when it commands us to do anything contrary to the laws of God.

**THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT**

*"Thou Shalt Not Kill"*

**240) What does the Fifth Commandment teach us?**

The Fifth Commandment teaches us to respect spiritual and physical life as God's greatest gift.

**241) What does this law command us to do?**

This law commands us to take proper care of our own spiritual and physical life, as well as all other life.

**242) How do we injure our spiritual life?**

We injure our spiritual life by sin and accepting false principles of conduct.

**243) How do we injure our physical life?**

We injure our physical life by excesses in food, drink and drugs which shorten life and by unnecessarily exposing ourselves to danger.

**244) Does this commandment forbid dangerous occupations?**

No. Dangerous occupations which serve the welfare and safety of others are necessary occupations.

**245) What is forbidden by this Commandment?**

This commandment forbids willful murder, suicide, as well as anger, hatred and vengeance.

**246) Why are anger, hatred and vengeance forbidden?**

They are forbidden because they are sinful in themselves and may lead to murder.

**247) How do we injure the spiritual life of our neighbor?**

We injure the spiritual life of our neighbor by doing anything which may prompt him to commit sin.

**248) What do we mean by destruction of a neighbor's life?**

By destruction of a neighbor's life we understand not only willful murder, but also any abuse or anguish that can shorten his life.

**THE SIXTH AND NINTH COMMANDMENTS**

*"Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery"*

*"Thou Shalt Not Covet Thy Neighbor's Wife"*

**249) What do these commandments teach us?**

These commandments teach us to be modest and pure in thought, word and deed. They warn us against loose talk and all things that may lead us to sin against purity.

**250) What else do these commandments teach us?**

These commandments teach us further to honor and respect the love of a husband and wife which God has blessed through the sacrament of marriage.

**251) What does adultery mean?**

Adultery means unfaithfulness to this family love.

**252) Should we strive to be pure in body and soul?**

Yes. We should always strive to be pure in body and soul, that we may be living temples of God. (John 14:23)

**253) What is the best way to keep God's law of purity?**

The best way to keep God's law of purity is by:

- 1) Frequent receiving of the sacraments
- 2) Prayer in times of temptation
- 3) Worthy occupations that dispel idleness
- 4) Avoiding evil companions, books, shows, theaters and the like

**THE SEVENTH AND TENTH COMMANDMENTS**

*"Thou Shalt Not Steal"*

*"Thou Shalt Not Covet Thy Neighbor's Goods"*

**254) What does the Seventh Commandment demand of us?**

The Seventh Commandment demands of us to respect the property of others.

**255) What does the Seventh Commandment forbid?**

This commandment forbids:

- 1) Stealing and cheating
- 2) Dishonesty and deception

**256) What sins are the same as stealing?**

Sins that are the same as stealing are:

- 1) Borrowing and buying without the intention of paying back
- 2) Willful damage to the property of others

**257) Why is damage equivalent to stealing?**

Damage is equivalent to stealing because it deprives the owner of the use and benefit of his property.

**258) When do we sin by dishonesty?**

We sin by dishonesty when:

- 1) We knowingly receive or share stolen goods
- 2) We give or take bribes
- 3) We take goods under false pretense
- 4) We use gifts for purposes other than those for which they were intended

**259) What must be done with stolen goods?**

Stolen goods must be returned to the lawful owner. We must also return found goods without expecting reward.

**260) Is stealing a sin if the object is insignificant?**

Yes. Stealing is always a sin.

**261) Does the Seventh Commandment refer only to material things?**

No. It refers to such matters as:

- 1) Unworthily receiving a sacrament
- 2) Depriving anyone of a friendship
- 3) Stealing of another's happiness

**262) How may employees be guilty of dishonesty?**

Employees are guilty of dishonesty if they waste time for which they are paid or if they do not do their work to the best of their ability.

**263) How may employers be guilty of dishonesty?**

Employers are guilty of dishonesty if they do not pay fair wages or require more work than can be reasonably expected.

**264) What do we mean by deception?**

Deception means to misrepresent something for the purpose of unjust gain.

**265) What is a bribe?**

A bribe is a gift or promise made for the purpose of receiving some special, unjustified favor.

**266) May we keep something which we have found?**

We may keep something which we have found only after every attempt has been made to find the owner.

**267) What must we do if we have stolen or willfully damaged property?**

If we have stolen or willfully damaged property we must repent our sin and restore or repair the property.

**268) What does the Tenth Commandment forbid?**

The Tenth Commandment forbids all envious desire to possess our neighbor's property.

**269) What else does the Tenth Commandment teach?**

The Tenth Commandment teaches us further that we must give to everyone his due and be satisfied with the fruits of our own work.

**THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT**

*"Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness Against Thy Neighbor."*



**270) What does the Eighth Commandment require of us?**

The Eighth Commandment requires us to renounce all falsehood and to speak the truth.

**271) Does this commandment control our speech alone?**

Not speech alone, for lies can be expressed also by silence and actions.

**272) What does the Eighth Commandment forbid?**

The Eighth Commandment forbids all lies, slander, detractions, false judgment and other acts which injure a person's honor and good name.

**273) What is a lie?**

A lie is a falsehood, an untruth. False praise and pretense are also lies.

**274) What is slander?**

Slander is the telling of lies or spreading rumors about a person with the intention of injuring him.

**275) What is detraction?**

Detraction is the unnecessary revealing of another's sins or faults because of envy or revenge.

**276) Are we obligated to keep a secret?**

We are obligated to keep a secret if we have promised to do so?

**277) What does it mean to bear false witness?**

To bear false witness means to affirm lies, slanders and the like. It also means to hold a false opinion about our neighbor.

**278) What must we do if we sin against this commandment?**

If we sin against this commandment we must admit the lie and repair the harm we have done.

**279) What must we do if we are the victim of slander and lies?**

If we are the victims of slander and lies we must:

- 1) Forgive the offender
- 2) Have confidence in the victory of truth
- 3) Not give way to vengeance

**SACRAMENTS**

**280) What is a sacrament?**

A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of God's inward and spiritual grace, instituted by Christ for our sanctification and salvation.

**281) What are the necessary elements of a sacrament?**

The necessary elements of a sacrament are:

- 1) Its matter – that is the material substance used in a sacrament, as water in baptism
- 2) Its form – the words spoken in its administration, as: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."
- 3) Its minister – the persons authorized by the church to administer the sacraments are: Bishops, Priests and Deacons

**282) How many sacraments are there?**

There are seven sacraments:

- 1) Baptism and Confirmation
- 2) The Word of God
- 3) Penance
- 4) Holy Eucharist
- 5) Holy Unction
- 6) Holy Orders
- 7) Matrimony

**283) What graces do sacraments give?**

Sacraments give sanctifying grace and each sacrament gives a special sacramental grace.

**284) How do the sacraments give grace?**

The sacraments give grace through the merits of Jesus Christ Who instituted them.

**285) Do sacraments always give grace?**

Yes. The sacraments always give grace.

**286) How are the sacraments classified?**

The sacraments are classified:

- 1) The sacraments of the living
- 2) The sacraments of the dead
- 3) The sacrament which can be received only once.

**287) Which sacraments are called the sacraments of the living?**

Confirmation, the Word of God, Holy Eucharist, Holy Unction, Holy Orders and Matrimony are called sacraments of the living.

**288) Which sacraments are called the sacraments of the dead?**

Baptism and Penance are called sacraments of the dead, because Jesus Christ instituted them for those who do not have the life of grace.

**289) Which sacraments can be received only once?**

Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders can be received only once.

**290) Why can these sacraments be received only once?**

These sacraments can be received only once because they imprint upon the soul an indelible mark of sacramental character:

- 1) Baptism marks the soul as a child of God
- 2) Confirmation as a soldier of Christ
- 3) Holy Orders as a participant in the everlasting priesthood of our Lord.

**291) Is it a sin to receive these sacraments more than once?**

Yes. It is a sin of sacrilege to receive these sacraments more than once.

**292) Which sacrament must we receive first?**

Baptism is the sacrament which we must receive first.

**BAPTISM**

**293) What is the Sacrament of Baptism?**

Baptism is the Sacrament which:

- 1) Takes away our sins

- 2) Regenerates to a new life of grace
- 3) Unites us with God
- 4) Makes us members of Christ's Church

**294) What is the duty of a baptized person?**

The duty of a baptized person is to keep the commandments of God and of the church and to live as a child of God.

**295) Who is the minister of Baptism?**

The priest is the minister of Baptism.

**296) Who may baptize in case of necessity?**

Anyone knowing the proper form and having a sincere intention may baptize in case of necessity.

**297) How may baptism be given in case of necessity?**

By pouring water on the head of the person to be baptized and saying while pouring the water: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

**298) When should children be baptized?**

Children should be baptized as soon as possible after birth.

**299) Why is baptism necessary for salvation?**

Baptism is necessary for salvation because Christ said: "Except a man be born again of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God." (John 3:5)

**300) What sacramental character does baptism imprint on your soul?**

Baptism imprints on my soul the sacramental character which:

- 1) Makes me a member of Christ's Church
- 2) Entitles me to receive the other sacraments

**301) Can anything take the place of regular baptism?**

Yes. The Baptism of Blood or the Baptism of Desire can take the place of the regular sacrament of baptism.

**302) How does the unbaptized person receive the Baptism of Blood?**

The unbaptized person receives the Baptism of Blood when he suffers martyrdom for the faith of Christ.

**303) How does the unbaptized person receive the Baptism of Desire?**

An unbaptized person receives the Baptism of Desire when through the love of God he desires baptism but cannot receive it, but does all that is necessary for salvation.

**304) Why should we have the name of a saint given to us in baptism?**

We should have the name of a saint given to us in baptism that we may:

- 1) Have him for our patron
- 2) Imitate his virtues

**305) Why are godparents appointed for baptism?**

Godparents are appointed for baptism that they may:

- 1) Make baptismal promises on behalf of the child
- 2) Take care of the child's spiritual and material welfare if the parents die or fail to provide it

**306) What do we promise through our godparents in baptism?**

We promise through our godparents to renounce all evil and to live according to the teachings of Christ and His Church.

**307) Who should be chosen as godparents?**

Only practicing Christians should be chosen as godparents.

**CONFIRMATION**

**308) What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

Confirmation is the Sacrament through which we receive gifts of the Holy Ghost to make us soldiers of Christ, ready to profess our faith in word and deed.

**309) Who is the minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

The bishop is the usual minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**310) How does the bishop confirm?**

The bishop confirms by laying his hands on the head of the person to be confirmed and anointing the forehead in the form of a cross with Holy Chrism.

**311) What does the bishop say as he confirms?**

When the bishop confirms he says: "I sign you with the sign of the cross and I confirm you with the Chrism of salvation in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

**312) Why does the bishop anoint the forehead in the form of the cross with Holy Chrism?**

The bishop anoints the forehead in the form of a cross with Holy Chrism to remind us that we must:

- 1) Openly profess and practice our faith
- 2) Never be ashamed of it
- 3) Rather die than deny it

**313) What is Holy Chrism?**

Holy Chrism is a mixture of the oil of olives and balsam blessed by the bishop of Holy Thursday.

**314) Why does the bishop give the confirmed a slight blow on the cheek?**

To remind the confirmand that he must be ready to suffer, even to die, for the faith of Christ.

**315) What is necessary to receive Confirmation?**

To receive confirmation properly it is necessary to be in a state of grace and to know the main truths and duties of our religion.

**316) What sacramental character does confirmation imprint on our souls?**

Confirmation imprints on our souls that sacramental character, which entitles us to the strength needed to show our faith in word and deed.

**317) Why are sponsors required in confirmation?**

Sponsors are required in confirmation to witness our public and spiritual declaration of faith and to help us live by that declaration.

**318) What does the sacramental grace of confirmation help us do?**

The sacramental grace of confirmation helps us to live our faith loyally and to profess it courageously.

### **319) Why is confirmation the completion of baptism?**

Confirmation is the completion of baptism because:

- 1) By baptism we are made members of Christ's Church.
- 2) By Confirmation we are strengthened to live a Christian life within the Church and defend its truths.

### **320) What does confirm mean?**

Confirm means to strengthen.

### **321) What are the gifts of the Holy Ghost?**

The gifts of the Holy Ghost are: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, strength, Godliness and fear of the Lord.

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

### **322) What is the Sacrament of the Word of God?**

The Word of God is the sacrament through which we:

- 1) Learn to know the Divine Will of God
- 2) Become strengthened in faith
- 3) Are united with Christ our Lord
- 4) Become better qualified to labor for the kingdom of God

### **323) Why should we receive the Sacrament of the Word of God?**

We should receive the Sacrament of the Word of God because Christ commanded us to receive and proclaim it.

Holy Scripture says this:

- 1) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." (Mt 28:19)
- 2) "The seed is the Word of God." (Lk 8:11)
- 3) "Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it." (Lk 11:28)
- 4) "You have been born again ... through the living and abiding Word of God." (1 Pt 1:23)
- 5) "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Mt 4:4)

## **PENANCE**

### **324) What is the Sacrament of Penance?**

Penance is the Sacrament by which all our sins are forgiven through sorrow, confession and a firm resolution to sin no more.

### **325) When did Jesus Christ institute the Sacrament of Penance?**

Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of Penance on the evening of His Resurrection, when He breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Ghost, whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them, and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." (Mt 28:19)

### **326) Who is the minister of the Sacrament of Penance?**

The priest is the minister of the Sacrament of Penance.

### **327) What must we do to receive the Sacrament of Penance worthily?**

To receive the Sacrament of Penance worthily I must:

- 1) Examine my conscience
- 2) Be sorry for my sins
- 3) Make a firm resolution to sin no more
- 4) Confess my sins before a priest
- 5) Perform the penance which the priest gives me.

## **EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE**

### **328) Why must you examine your conscience?**

I must examine my conscience in order to call to mind the sins I have committed since my last confession and to awaken sorrow for having offended God.

### **329) How should you examine your conscience?**

I should examine my conscience by recalling the sins I have committed in thought, word, deed and omission:

- 1) Against the commandments of God
- 2) Against the commandments of the Church
- 3) Against the duties and obligations on my moral life

### **330) What should you do before you examine your conscience?**

I should pray to God to help me:

- 1) To know my sins
- 2) To be truly sorry for them
- 3) To confess them with true humility

## **CONTRITION – SORROW**

### **331) What is contrition?**

Contrition is:

- 1) A sincere sorrow for having offended God and fellowman.
- 2) A hatred for sins committed
- 3) A firm purpose of sinning no more

### **332) Why must you be sorry for your sins?**

I must be sorry for my sins because by them I have offended God, the highest good.

### **333) Will God forgive us any sins if we are not sincerely sorry?**

God will not forgive any sin unless we have true sorrow.

### **334) When is your sorrow true and sincere?**

My sorrow is true and sincere:

- 1) When with the help of God's grace it springs from motives arising from faith
- 2) When it comes from the heart and not merely from the lips

### **335) When is your sorrow for sin perfect?**

My sorrow for sin is perfect when I am sorry I have offended God.

### **336) When is your sorrow for sin imperfect?**

My sorrow for sin is imperfect when it is prompted only by the fear of punishment.

### **337) What should you do if you commit a mortal sin?**

If I commit a mortal sin I should at once ask God's pardon, make an act of perfect contrition and resolve to go to confession as soon as possible.

### **338) What is a firm resolution to sin no more?**

A firm resolution to sin no more, is a true and sincere act of the will to avoid sin and the near occasion of sin.

**339) What means must you use to sin no more?**

The means I must use to sin no more are:

- 1) Prompt resistance to temptation.
- 2) Fervent prayer.
- 3) Frequent receiving of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion.

**340) What are the near occasions of sin?**

The near occasions of sin are the persons, places and things which may lead me to sin.

**CONFESSION**

**341) What is confession?**

Confession is the telling of my sins to God, in the presence of a priest, privately or publicly in order to receive forgiveness, remission and absolution.

**342) Why must you confess before a priest?**

I must confess before a priest in order to receive absolution.

**343) Must you tell all your sins in confession?**

Yes. I must tell all the sins I remember. To conceal a sin is a sacrilege and the confession must be repeated.

**344) How must you confess your sins?**

I must confess my sins humbly and honestly.

**345) What forms of confession are practiced in the P. N. C. Church?**

Private or ear confession and public or general confession.

**346) When should I use the private form of confession?**

I should use the private form of confession as prescribed by the Church and whenever I feel the need of personal spiritual advice.

**347) What should you do after confessing your sins?**

After confessing your sins you should truthfully answer any questions the priest asks, seek his advice if you feel the need, listen carefully to the spiritual instructions and accept the penance which he gives you.

**348) What kinds of punishment are due to sin?**

Two kinds of punishment are due to sin: temporal punishment and punishment after death.

**349) Does the Sacrament of Penance worthily received take away all punishment?**

The Sacrament of Penance worthily received takes away all punishment for sin, but the effects of sin may continue.

**350) Why does the priest give me penance?**

The priest gives you penance to help me endeavor to pay the debt I still owe to God for my sins, and to pray for strength to do better.

**351) Does the penance given to you by the priest always make full satisfaction for your sins?**

The penance given to me by a priest does not always make full satisfaction for my sins. I should, therefore, do other penance and good works as: prayer, attending Mass, fasting, almsgiving and works of mercy.

**352) When should you perform your penance?**

I should perform my penance just as soon as I can.

### **353) What is the method of private confession?**

The method of private confession is as follows:

Kneeling down make the sign of cross saying: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then say the Confiteor:

I confess to Almighty God, one in the Holy Trinity, before the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Saints, and you, father, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed: by my fault, by my fault, by my own great fault. Therefore, I beseech the Blessed Mother Mary, all the saints, and you, father, to pray to the Lord, our God, for me.

The first time at confession say:

This is my first confession and I have committed the following sins.

(After that say:) It is (mention time) since my last confession, I received absolution, performed my penance and I committed the following sins: (Here you enumerate your sins.) Then you conclude by saying:

For these and all my sins which I cannot remember, I am heartily sorry, I will try to do better, and I most humbly ask pardon of God, and of you father, penance, advice and absolution.

Now you listen to the priest's advice, answer his questions and accept the penance which he gives you. While the priest absolves you, bow your head, strike your chest three times and say: "God have mercy on me a sinner." (Lk 18:13)

## **ABSOLUTION**

### **354) What is absolution?**

Absolution is God's pardon given us through the words of a priest.

### **355) May the confessor refuse to give us absolution?**

Yes. The confessor may refuse to give us absolution if he thinks that we have not made a good confession, or if he feels that the performance of a certain penance must come first.

### **356) Is the confessor bound to keep secret the sins we have confessed?**

Yes. The confessor is bound by vows of Holy Orders to keep secret the sins we have confessed.

### **357) Are we bound to keep secret the sins of others which we may have overheard at confession?**

Yes.

## **THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

### **358) What is the Holy Eucharist?**

The Holy Eucharist is Jesus Christ Himself mystically present under the forms of bread and wine.

### **359) When did Christ institute the Holy Eucharist?**

Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, the night before He died.

### **360) How did Christ institute the Holy Eucharist?**

Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist by taking bread which He blessed and broke and gave to His apostles saying: "Take ye all, and eat; THIS IS MY BODY," and them taking the chalice, He gave thanks and gave it to them saying: "Take ye all, and drink for THIS IS MY BLOOD" He then added: "Do this in remembrance of Me."

### **361) When does the sacramental change of bread and wine, into the mystical Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ take place?**

This takes place during the consecration of the bread and wine at the Holy Mass.



### **362) Why does Christ give us His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist?**

Christ gives us His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist:

- 1) To unite us with Himself in Holy Communion.
- 2) To remain ever on our altars, as a proof of His abiding love for us.
- 3) To unite us with our heavenly Father.

### **363) When do we commemorate the institution of the Holy Eucharist?**

We commemorate the institution of the Holy Eucharist on Holy Thursday.

## **HOLY MASS**

### **364) What is Mass?**

Mass is the Sacrifice of the New Testament, in which bread and wine is consecrated into the Mystical Body and Blood to God through the ministry of a priest, for a perpetual commemoration of Christ's Sacrifice upon the Cross, offered once and for all time.

### **365) When was the Sacrifice of Mass instituted?**

The Sacrifice of Mass was instituted at the Last Supper, when Jesus commanded His Apostles to do what He had done, that is, to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood.

And having taken bread, He gave thanks and broke, and gave it to them, saying: "This is My Body, which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In like manner He took also the cup after supper, saying: "This cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which shall be shed for you." (Lk 22:19-20)

### **366) What is the place of Mass in the Polish National Catholic Church?**

In the Polish National Catholic Church Mass is the central point of worship and life, in perfect continuity with the teaching of the Apostles and practice of the primitive church. The Sacrifice of Christ upon the Cross is the supreme act of love.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Jn 15:13)

When we take part in the Mass, we are called upon to offer ourselves with Christ to God, through our own acts of faith, love and sacrifice.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (Jn 15:13)

### **367) What is a sacrifice?**

A sacrifice is a gift which we offer to Almighty God, as an act of praise, honor, thanksgiving and entreaty.

### **368) Were there sacrifices before the coming of Christ?**

Yes. In the Jewish religion there were many sacrifices ordained by God, as, the Paschal Lamb, the sacrifice for sins, the sacrifice of bread and wine by Melchisedech, and many others.

### **369) What is required for a sacrifice?**

For a sacrifice it is required to have:

- 1) a visible gift.
- 2) A priest who offers it to God.
- 3) An altar on which it is offered.

### **369a) Why did Jesus give us the Sacrifice of the Mass?**

Jesus gave us the Sacrifice of the Mass:

- 1) To unite us with Himself.
- 2) To have us share in the graces and merits of His Sacrifice upon the Cross.
- 3) To give us a gift worthy to be offered to God.

**370) Is the Sacrifice of the Mass different from the Sacrifice upon the Cross?**

No. It is different only in its presentation. On the Cross Christ was offered in a bloody manner and in the Sacrifice of the Mass, He is offered in a Mystical, unbloody manner. The Mass derives all its value and merits from the Sacrifice of the Cross offered once and for all time.

**371) How is the Mass divided?**

The Mass is divided into two parts: Mass of the catechumens and Mass of the faithful.

**372) What are the principal parts of the Mass?**

The principal parts of the Mass are:

- 1) Offertory.
- 2) Consecration.
- 3) Communion.

**373) When are we obligated to attend Mass?**

We are obligated to attend Mass of Sundays and Holydays of Obligation.

**374) How should we take part in the Mass?**

We should take part in the Mass:

- 1) With outward respect and attention.
- 2) With inner piety and devotion – remembering that we are in the presence of Christ.
- 3) By joining with the priest in offering ourselves with Christ to God.

**375) To whom do we offer the Sacrifice of the Mass?**

We offer the Sacrifice of the Mass to God, because He alone can claim supreme worship.

**376) Why do we offer the Sacrifice of the Mass?**

We offer the Sacrifice of the Mass:

- 1) To adore God.
- 2) To thank Him for all the benefits He bestows upon us.
- 3) To ask His blessing.
- 4) To obtain His mercy for the living and the dead.
- 5) To apply the merits gained on Calvary to the Church in general, and to individual souls, in particular.

**377) How many kinds of Masses are there?**

There are four kinds of Masses:

- 1) Low Mass, which is read by a priest.
- 2) High Mass, in which certain parts are sung by the priest.
- 3) Solemn Mass, in which there are assistants to the celebrant of the Mass.
- 4) Pontifical Mass, which is celebrated by a Bishop.

**378) Are these Masses different?**

No. They are essentially the same. They differ only in the manner of performing the ceremonies.

**379) What is a Mass of special intention?**

A Mass of special intention is one that is offered at the request of an individual or a group for a special purpose, as:

- 1) Mass of supplication or entreaty.
- 2) Mass of Thanksgiving.
- 3) Requiem Mass.
- 4) Nuptial Mass.

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men.” (1 Tm 2:1)

“In everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.” (Phil 4:6)

“It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to prayer for the dead, that they may be released from their sins.” (2 Macc 12:46)

“What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.” (Matt 19:6)

“In the Nuptial Mass we pray for God’s blessing on the newly married couple.

### **380) What is the office of the priest in the Mass?**

The office of the priest in the Mass is to take the place of Jesus Christ and speak His words at the Consecration. Christ Himself is both Priest and Victim, therefore, the priest does not say, “This is the body of Christ – but acting in the person of Christ, the priest does say, “This is My Body” according to the Divine command: “Do this in remembrance of Me.”

### **381) Why is Mass necessary, if Christ died but once for our sins?**

The Mass is necessary, for it applies the graces and merits of that one Saving Death of our Lord to our individual souls.

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup we do show the Lord’s death till He comes.”

### **382) For whom may the priest offer the Sacrifice of the Mass?**

The priest may offer the Sacrifice of Mass to the spiritual and temporal welfare of the living and for the eternal repose of the dead.

### **383) In what language should Mass be celebrated?**

Mass should be celebrated in the language of the people.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **384) What is Holy Communion?**

Holy Communion is the true receiving of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

### **385) Is the presence of Jesus Christ whole and entire under the forms of either bread or wine?**

Yes. The presence of Jesus Christ is whole and entire under the forms of either consecrated bread or wine.

### **386) What must we do to receive Holy Communion worthily?**

To receive Holy Communion worthily I must go to confession, receive absolution and be fasting at least two hours.

### **387) When may Holy Communion be received without fasting?**

Holy Communion may be received without fasting when there is danger of death, or when it is necessary to prevent some irreverence to the Blessed Sacrament.

### **388) Why should we try to receive Holy Communion often?**

We should try to receive Holy Communion often, because this close union with Christ is the greatest aid to a good life.

### **389) How can you show your gratitude for Holy Communion?**

I can best show my gratitude for Holy Communion by being more like Jesus Christ in my thoughts, desires, words and deeds.

### **390) Why does Jesus Christ come to you in Holy Communion?**

Jesus Christ comes to me in Holy Communion so that He may:

- 1) Unite me with Himself.
- 2) Strengthen me in the practice of good works.
- 3) Strengthen the divine life which I first received in baptism.

## **HOLY UNCTION**

### **391) What is the Sacrament of Holy Unction?**

Holy Unction is the Sacrament in which, through the anointing with holy oil by the priest and through his prayer, a sick person receives health and strength of soul and sometimes of the body.

### **392) Who should receive Holy Unction?**

Every Christian seeking God's aid in his illness should receive Holy Unction.

### **393) How does the priest give the Sacrament of Holy Unction?**

The priest gives the Sacrament of Holy Unction, by anointing with holy oil the eyes, ears, lips, nostrils, hands and feet of the sick person, while saying the prayer which asks God's pardon, for the sins committed with each of the five senses.

### **394) What should the sick person do before receiving the Sacrament of Holy Unction?**

Before receiving the Sacrament of Holy Unction the sick person should:

- 1) Confess his sins if able to do so.
- 2) Make at least an act of contrition.

### **395) In case of sudden death should a priest be called?**

Yes. A priest should always be called, because absolution and Holy Unction can be given conditionally for some time after apparent death.

### **396) What does Holy Unction do for the dying?**

Holy Unction:

- 1) Increases sanctifying grace.
- 2) Remits sins.
- 3) Comforts and strengthens the dying.

### **397) What does St. James say about Holy Unction?**

St. James says: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call in the priests of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

## **HOLY ORDERS**

### **398) What is the Sacrament of Holy Orders?**

Holy Orders is the Sacrament by which men become priests and receive the power and grace to perform their sacred duties.

### **399) When did Jesus Christ institute the Sacrament of Holy Orders?**

Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of Holy Orders, when He gave His apostles and their successors the power to offer the Sacrifice of Mass and to remit and retain sins in His name.

### **400) What is necessary to receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders worthily?**

To receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders worthily, the man to be ordained must:

- 1) Be in a state of grace.
- 2) Have the intention of devoting his life to the sacred ministry.
- 3) Have the required age and learning.
- 4) Be called to Holy Orders by a bishop.

**401) Who is the minister of Holy Orders?**

The Bishop is the minister of Holy Orders.

**402) What are the fruits of ordination to the priesthood?**

The fruits of ordination to the priesthood are:

- 1) An increase in sanctifying grace.
- 2) Sacramental grace through which the priest has God's constant help in his sacred ministry.
- 3) A character imprint lasting forever, which is a special sharing in the priesthood of Christ.

**403) How should we honor our priests?**

We should honor our priests:

- 1) By giving them due respect and cooperation.
- 2) By praying for them.
- 3) By asking God to give His Church holy and worthy priests.

**404) What Holy Orders have there always been in the church?**

There have always been in the church the three Holy Orders of bishops, priests and deacons.

**MATRIMONY**

**405) What is the Sacrament of Matrimony?**

Matrimony is the sacrament which makes a Christian man and woman husband and wife, gives them grace to be faithful to each other and to bring up their children in love and devotion to God.

**406) Is the true marriage of Christians always a sacrament?**

Yes. The true marriage of Christians is always a sacrament, for Jesus Christ has said: "What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder." (Mt 19:6)

**407) What is required to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony worthily?**

To receive the Sacrament of Matrimony worthily the couple must:

- 1) Be free to marry.
- 2) Freely consent to the vows of marriage.
- 3) Be married by the priest and in the presence of two witnesses.
- 4) Be in a state of grace.

**408) What is the result, if the couple fails to fulfill the requirements of a valid marriage?**

If the couple fails to fulfill the requirements of a valid marriage, there is no sacramental marriage.

**409) What is meant by unity in the Sacrament of Matrimony?**

By unity in the Sacrament of Matrimony is meant, that the husband cannot during the life of his wife have another wife, nor the wife during the life of her husband have another husband.

**410) Who is the minister of the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Polish National Catholic Church?**

The priest is the minister of the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Polish National Catholic Church.

**411) By what laws is Christian marriage governed?**

Christians marriage is governed by the laws of God and His church.

**412) What should you do to prepare for a happy marriage?**

To prepare for a happy marriage I should:

- 1) Pray, that God will direct my choice of a life partner of my own faith.
- 2) Seek the advice of my spiritual counselor.
- 3) Practice virtues, especially purity.
- 4) Go to confession and Holy Communion frequently.

**413) What are the banns of marriage?**

The banns of marriage are public church announcements of an intended marriage, stating the names of those who intend to marry.

**414) What is the purpose of the banns of marriage?**

The purpose of the banns of marriage is to disclose any impediments to the marriage, should such exist.

**415) What is the best way to marry?**

The best way to marry is at a nuptial mass and receive Holy Communion.

**416) Why do some marriages prove unhappy?**

Some marriages prove unhappy when husband and wife:

- 1) Marry hastily or with unworthy motives.
- 2) Do not ask God's help in their marriage difficulties.
- 3) Neglect the duties of married life.

**SACRAMENTALS**

**417) What are Sacramentals?**

Sacramentals are certain prayers, actions and objects which have been put aside or blessed by the church to increase devotion, promote good thoughts and to obtain for us God's spiritual favor.

**418) What are some of the Sacramentals?**

Some of the sacramentals are: the sign of the cross, the Angelus, religious ceremonies, holy oils, holy water, candles, ashes, palms, bells, incense, crucifixes, images of our Lord and the saints.

**419) Who instituted the sacramentals?**

The sacramentals were instituted by the Church.

**420) What sacramentals should always be in our homes?**

Sacramentals which should always be in our homes are: crucifix, holy water and blessed candles.

**WORD LIST**

<b>Abstain</b>	- to keep away from, avoid.
<b>Acknowledge</b>	- to recognize, to believe.
<b>Action</b>	- a bodily act.
<b>Actual</b>	- done by one's own free action.
<b>Adore</b>	- giving to God the highest honor and love due Him.
<b>Amend</b>	- to make as before, correct, restore to a good state.
<b>Anger</b>	- loss of temper.
<b>Anguish</b>	- great mental or bodily pain, agony, torture.
<b>Anoint</b>	- rub with oil.

<b>Apostles</b>	- the twelve men chosen by Christ to be His first priests.
<b>Apostolic</b>	- coming from the Apostles.
<b>Appearance</b>	- what we can see or detect by the senses.
<b>Atone</b>	- to make up for, amend a wrong or injury.
<b>Atonement</b>	- the sacrificial work of Christ to pay for the sins of men.
<b>Auricular</b>	- by or to the ear.
<b>Authority</b>	- the right to command – act officially.
<b>Avarice</b>	- a love for riches.
<b>Being</b>	- that which is really living, has existence, reality.
<b>Believe</b>	- to trust, to accept as true.
<b>Bestow</b>	- to give.
<b>Bishop</b>	- a priest who has received all the powers of the priesthood, a successor of the Apostles.
<b>Bribe</b>	- a gift or promise used to corrupt just action.
<b>Call</b>	- to invite or summon.
<b>Capable</b>	- able to do something.
<b>Capital</b>	- chief, main, foremost.
<b>Ceremony</b>	- a special form of religious actions.
<b>Chalice</b>	- the special cup for wine used during Mass.
<b>Character</b>	- a quality or special mark on the soul.
<b>Communion</b>	- to join with.
<b>Compensation</b>	- to make return, amend, pay back.
<b>Conceived</b>	- given life, begun.
<b>Conception</b>	- the moment life begins with the union of body and soul.
<b>Confirm</b>	- to strengthen, to make certain.
<b>Consent</b>	- to agree, to want to do.
<b>Constant</b>	- continuous, always present.
<b>Cooperate</b>	- to work together or to work with.
<b>Continuance</b>	- self control, restraint.
<b>Counsel</b>	- advice.
<b>Courtesy</b>	- genuine and habitual politeness.
<b>Covet</b>	- to crave, to desire something which rightly belongs to another.
<b>Creature</b>	- anything made by God.
<b>Creed</b>	- a lists of truths to be believed.
<b>Custom</b>	- that which is usually done or practiced.
<b>Deacon</b>	- one who has received Holy Orders leading to priesthood.
<b>Death</b>	- the moment when the soul leaves the body.
<b>Denomination</b>	- a body of Christians having a distinguished name.
<b>Deprive</b>	- to take away.
<b>Despair</b>	- to give up hope.
<b>Destined</b>	- intended, meant to reach a certain state.
<b>Disposition</b>	- a natural tendency, characteristic trait.
<b>Divine</b>	- of God, having the nature of God.
<b>Doctrine</b>	- that which is taught, truth.
<b>Earnestly</b>	- seriously, with effort.
<b>Enables</b>	- make possible.
<b>Enemy</b>	- one who is not a friend.
<b>Enlightens</b>	- makes clear and more understandable.
<b>Envy</b>	- jealousy.
<b>Equal</b>	- having exactly the same qualities or worth.
<b>Eternal</b>	- without ending in time, everlasting.
<b>Examine</b>	- to test, ask questions of.
<b>Express</b>	- to show or make known.

<b>Extreme</b>	- the very last, the end.
<b>Faithful</b>	- doing what one ought to do.
<b>Fast</b>	- to eat less food or abstain from food.
<b>Feast</b>	- a festival or celebration.
<b>Fervent</b>	- very earnest.
<b>Firm</b>	- very strong, stable.
<b>Fortitude</b>	- courage, bravery.
<b>Free Will</b>	- liberty to choose either the right or the wrong.
<b>General</b>	- everybody at once.
<b>Gift</b>	- what we receive without having earned it.
<b>Gluttony</b>	- drinking or eating too much.
<b>Good</b>	- that which is right before God.
<b>Grievous</b>	- very serious.
<b>Heir</b>	- child having the right to receive what belongs to his father.
<b>Humility</b>	- honesty about ourselves, without pride.
<b>Ignorance</b>	- imperfect or lack of knowledge.
<b>Image</b>	- picture, statue, or a copy of something else.
<b>Immortal</b>	- not touched by death.
<b>Incarnation</b>	- God becoming man.
<b>Inclination</b>	- a habit, a leaning toward something we like.
<b>Indelible</b>	- cannot be removed.
<b>Induce</b>	- to influence, to lead to.
<b>Infinite</b>	- limitless, beyond measure.
<b>Inspire</b>	- to prompt, to lead or direct, to do good.
<b>Instance</b>	- a particular example or occasion.
<b>Intend</b>	- to mean or to wish.
<b>Intercede</b>	- to speak or pray for another.
<b>Intercession</b>	- entreaty in behalf of others.
<b>Justify</b>	- to declare blameless.
<b>Like – Likeness</b>	- similar, very much the same.
<b>Loyal</b>	- faithful to duty.
<b>Lust</b>	- desire for sinful bodily pleasure.
<b>Man – Men</b>	- in general, humankind.
<b>Manifestation</b>	- a revelation, the act of making plain or clear to sight or understanding.
<b>Mark</b>	- a sign or stamp of identification, a distinction.
<b>Martyr</b>	- one who dies for his faith.
<b>Mercy</b>	- kindness and pity shown to those who have wronged us.
<b>Merit</b>	- to earn or deserve.
<b>Messenger</b>	- one who brings news from one person to another.
<b>Minister</b>	- a bishop, priest or deacon to whom the Church has given the power to administer or give the sacraments.
<b>Mistreat</b>	- to abuse, not to use in the proper manner.
<b>Modest</b>	- humble, pure, decent.
<b>Moral</b>	- of good behavior.
<b>Mortal</b>	- deadly, in sin- that which takes away God's grace from the soul.
<b>Mystery</b>	- a truth we do not know fully.
<b>Mystical</b>	- mysterious, a truth now fully understood.
<b>Naïve</b>	- simple, easily misled.
<b>Neglect</b>	- to fail or to forget a duty.
<b>Nuptial</b>	- pertaining to marriage.
<b>Obligate</b>	- to bind in conscience.
<b>Obligation</b>	- duty, responsibility.



<b>Observe</b>	- to keep, to obey.
<b>Omission</b>	- neglect of duty.
<b>Oral</b>	- with the mouth, aloud.
<b>Original</b>	- the beginning, the first.
<b>Ostentation</b>	- parading, vain display, showing off.
<b>Pardon</b>	- to forgive.
<b>Passion</b>	- the intense agony of our Lord.
<b>Perfect</b>	- having all good qualities in the highest degree.
<b>Perseverance</b>	- to continue to strive until the goal is achieved.
<b>Person</b>	- individual, a quality which makes one different from another.
<b>Precept</b>	- a rule of conduct or action.
<b>Preserve</b>	- to protect, keep safe.
<b>Presumption</b>	- taking too much for granted.
<b>Pride</b>	- unreasonable good opinion of oneself.
<b>Priest</b>	- a person especially consecrated to serve God in His Church. One who has received all Holy Orders, a presbyter.
<b>Profess</b>	- to make open declaration.
<b>Provide</b>	- to make, to furnish, to give, to care for properly.
<b>Providence</b>	- God's loving care.
<b>Purposeful</b>	- with reason, intent, meaning.
<b>Qualified</b>	- competent, fitted for a particular office.
<b>Quality</b>	- degree of goodness, a moral trait.
<b>Reason</b>	- power of our minds to think correctly.
<b>Redeem</b>	- to recover, to deliver from sin, to pay what is due.
<b>Redeemer</b>	- Jesus Christ, who by His life and death, recovered mankind from sin to a life of grace.
<b>Redemption</b>	- brought back, as from the ways of sin.
<b>Regenerator</b>	- Jesus Christ, who spiritually renews our life.
<b>Renounce</b>	- to give up something, to abandon, refuse to acknowledge.
<b>Restitution</b>	- the act of restoring or making good a loss.
<b>Restore</b>	- to make as before.
<b>Resurrection</b>	- coming back to life again.
<b>Revelation</b>	- made known by divine agency.
<b>Revere</b>	- to show great respect.
<b>Sacramental</b>	- of or like a sacrament, of spiritual benefit.
<b>Sacramental Character</b>	- having the quality of a sacrament, holiness, spirituality, sacredness.
<b>Sacrilege</b>	- mistreating sacred person, places or things.
<b>Salvation</b>	- deliverance from evil.
<b>Same</b>	- alike, without difference.
<b>Sanctify</b>	- to make holy.
<b>Savior</b>	- one who saves. Jesus Christ who died to save all men for God.
<b>Selfish</b>	- caring too much for one's own welfare.
<b>Servile Work</b>	- that which requires physical labor.
<b>Sign</b>	- that which stands for something else, like the matter of a sacrament, a symbol.
<b>Sincere</b>	- honest, truthful, heartfelt.
<b>Sloth</b>	- laziness, neglect.
<b>Spiritual</b>	- having to do with the soul.
<b>State of Grace</b>	- Sharing in the goodness of God, sharing God's life
<b>Steward</b>	- a person put in charge of affairs or property not his own.
<b>Strange</b>	- different, false.
<b>Substance</b>	- the essential part, the real part or meaning of anything.
<b>Summary</b>	- giving the substance, concise, giving the most important part.
<b>Superior</b>	- one who has the right to command others.

<b>Superstition</b>	- to believe that certain persons, places or things have in themselves a special power that belongs only to God alone.
<b>Supplication</b>	- a humble and earnest entreaty to God.
<b>Supreme</b>	- the highest, the greatest, above all.
<b>Temperance</b>	- self control in thought, word and action.
<b>Temporal</b>	- for a while, during earthly life, not eternal.
<b>Temptation</b>	- attraction to evil.
<b>Trinity</b>	- three qualities in one.
<b>True</b>	- exact, real.
<b>Unction</b>	- anointing.
<b>Understanding</b>	- ability to know what is right and what is wrong.
<b>Unity</b>	- togetherness, one and the same.
<b>Universal</b>	- unlimited, entire, relating to the whole world, common to all.
<b>Wisdom</b>	- a high degree of knowledge, the power to true and sound judgment.
<b>Witness</b>	- to see, to prove, to testify.
<b>Word</b>	- anything said or written.
<b>Worship</b>	- giving honor to God, to adore, to revere in the highest degree.
<b>Worthy</b>	- entitled to, deserving.
<b>Value</b>	- worth to the owner.
<b>Venerate</b>	- to show special respect.
<b>Viaticum</b>	- Holy Communion given to someone at the point of death.