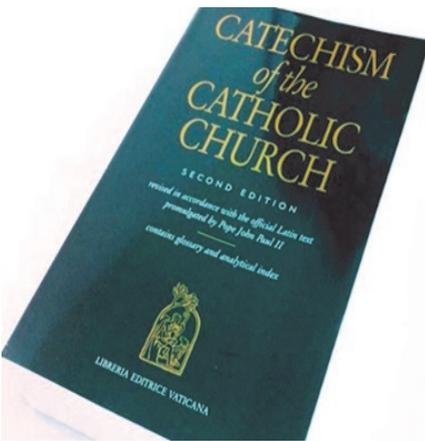


Letter From The Pastor: Msgr. William L. Young, III



Dear Parishioners:

It may not seem possible, but we are celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It was quite an event and helped us to have a sure reference for questions about our faith. We do not need copious toms of fancy theological terms and syllogisms to learn about our faith. It is divided into four parts — The Profession of Faith (the Apostle's Creed) — The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (the Sacred Liturgy, and especially the sacraments) — Life in Christ (including the Ten Commandments — Christian Prayer (including the Lord's Prayer).



These four parts creed, celebration, community and contemplation form the truth that is our faith that makes us recognize the way of discipleship of the Lord Jesus.

Jesus' invitation to enter his kingdom comes in the form of parables, a characteristic feature of his teaching. Through his parables he invites people to the feast of the kingdom, but he also asks for a radical choice: to gain the kingdom, one must give everything. Words are not enough, deeds are required. The parables are like mirrors for man: will he be hard soil or good earth for the word? What use has he made of the talents he has received? Jesus and the presence of the kingdom in this world are secretly at the heart of the parables. One must enter the kingdom, that is, become a disciple of Christ, in order to "know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven". For those who stay "outside", everything remains enigmatic (CCC 546).

This wonderful gift to the Church gives every Catholic a trusted resource of what we teach. You can go to your own copy, the library, the internet and read for yourself what and why we believe. If you think I or another is straying from Church teaching, you can check it out. The truths of the Church are not meant to be locked up but "thrown open" for all to earn.

The second millennium saw the invention of the printing press which made books available to the masses. This explosion of knowledge brought many blessings and advancements. People were encouraged, and learning became accessible to millions of people. We now have the invention of computers that more millions access to knowledge. There are shadow sides in this arena, but overall, knowledge is greater than ignorance.

If it's been awhile since you last picked up the Catechism, take some time on one of these cool evenings and sit out on the veranda with some coffee or tea and reacquaint yourself with this sure guide to our faith. It is important that we know our faith, its definitions, its understanding of the nature of God and salvation.

History is filled with false understandings about God and this guide clarifies what we believe. Without this guide we can get caught in misunderstandings about the very nature of God. Which God? — the Docetist, the Manichean, Adventist, Mormon, Arian, etc. Are we human beings embodied souls or two entities in a symbiotic relationship? Do we believe in re-incarnation or immediate judgment? Who has the authority to determine the list of the books that should be included in the Bible?

The list can be very long and even if we are not bothered by these types of questions. The Catechism helps us to help others to guide them to the truth. Our Church throughout history has taken very seriously her responsibility to teach. We have the Catechism of the Council of Trent, The Baltimore Catechism and now the Catechism of the Catholic Church. By the way, be sure you have the second edition which contains clarifications and expansions as our doctrines develop. We possess an organic faith that grows to new challenges and situations.

Happy anniversary!

Pace – bene,
Msgr. Bill