

Week 1

Paragraphs 1–58

the authors that they consigned to no more.”⁷¹
Since therefore all these are regarded as affirmations of Scripture firm in God, for the sake of the truth of the Gospels.”⁷²
“The origin of the book,” he writes, “which is ‘not a work of man, but of God, for the sake of salvation.’”⁷³ If the Word of God is “the Word of God,” then it is “the Word of God.”⁷⁴

The phrase “heart of Christ” can refer to Sacred Scripture, which makes known his heart, closed before the Passion, as the Scripture was obscure. But the Scripture has been opened since the Passion; since those who from then on have understood it, consider and discern in what way the prophecies

THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

“The Church has always held that the deposit of faith is contained in the Word of God, in the Sacred Scriptures, in the Tradition of the Church, in the liturgy and in the sacraments and records, for the Church is the depositary of God’s Word, and it is the Holy Spirit who reveals the meaning of the Word of God.”⁸¹ By “analogy of faith” we mean the

What We Believe PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

THE CATECHISM—OUR TREASURE

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a proclamation of good news and an invitation to love. The “whole concern of doctrine and its teaching must be directed to the love that never ends” (CCC 25). Drawing from Scripture, Church documents, the saints, and the liturgy, the *Catechism* presents Catholic teaching in four pillars: the Creed; the sacraments; the Commandments; and the Lord’s Prayer (CCC 13). This week, the *Catechism* proclaims God’s plan for us to know him and share intimately in his life.

Keep in Mind

- God freely created man to share in his own blessed life and calls us to know him, love him, and serve him in this life so as to be happy with him forever in the next (CCC 1). When we seek him, we are responding to his offer of grace.
- We are called to pass on the Faith by “professing the Faith” (sharing it with words), “living it in fraternal sharing,” and “celebrating it in liturgy and prayer” (CCC 3).
- How can we know God? Creation, our reason, and our deep longing for God are natural ways we can know something of God. The beauty and order of creation point to the Creator. Our human reason allows us to know that God exists, as well as something of who he is. We also crave God, which shows that there is such a thing as God.
- To teach us what we could not learn for ourselves, God also reveals himself in divine revelation (Scripture, words, and deeds) and Sacred Tradition (the deposit of Faith handed directly from the Apostles to their successor bishops). Still, we recognize that even with the fullness of divine revelation, “our human words always fall short of the mystery of God” (CCC 42).
- Faith includes intellectual assent, but faith is not mere “believism” or accepting data. Faith is ultimately an intimate relationship with God who loves us into existence.



St. Augustine of Hippo
by Tianna Williams

Dive Deeper

St. Augustine contemplates the truth of God with a heart aflame. What he learns of God from Scripture inspires divine love. Like St. Augustine, we are made to know and love God (see CCC 1).

- A human being is a body-and-soul composite: We are both bodily creatures who live on this earth and spiritual beings called to communion with God. This union of body and soul means reason and faith do not contradict each other. Faith asks about supernatural realities, and reason asks about natural realities.
- Living a fully human life doesn't mean living without suffering but living completely united with God. Even when we turn away from or break our bond with the Lord, he continues to call us back to seek him.
- In seeking God, we need four things: (1) we have to think; (2) we cannot be fickle; (3) we must do what we believe to be right; and (4) we need the example of people leading us to God (see CCC 30).

Use the space below to reflect on this week's content.

Take It to Prayer

God our Father, you made us
for yourself, and our hearts are
restless until they rest in you.
Inflame our desire to know you, to
be found by you, and to find you.
Help us realize that you are love.
We pray through Jesus Christ, our
Lord. Amen.



The best place to listen along is the Ascension app.
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and transcripts for every episode.

The Catechism in a Year is a daily podcast produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us understand what it means to be Catholic by reading the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and allowing those truths to shape our lives. This bulletin was adapted from the books that complement the podcast: *The Catechism in a Year Companion* by Petroc Willey, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Matthew Doege.