

# Week 1

## Paragraphs 1–58



# THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

*f* faith.<sup>82</sup> By “analogy of faith” we mean the

## What We Believe PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

### THE CATECHISM—OUR TREASURE

**T**he *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).



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