

# Real+True

PILLAR II

UNIT 27 GUIDE

OVERVIEW

The Catechism is not a textbook, a collection of ideas, or a set of rules. Rather, the Catechism is the faithful echo of a God who wishes to reveal himself to us and desires us to respond. Our mission is to hand down and pass along the gift of our faith by creating beautiful, captivating, and relevant content inspired by the Catechism of the Catholic Church. And we are making this content in multiple languages and accessible for free to people all over the world.

The content, structure, and methodology of Real + True takes inspiration and direction from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and sound, evangelizing catechesis. Catechesis is inextricably intertwined with evangelization, and its primary aim is to put people into intimacy and communion with Jesus Christ. (Catechesi Tradendae, 5)

The word “catechesis” comes from the Greek word that means “to echo”. This simple guide is designed to help you understand the structure of our content and better use it to echo the teachings of Jesus yourself. The structure takes inspiration from the catechetical methodology, the pedagogy of the Catechism, and the pedagogy of God.

## THERE ARE FOUR PARTS TO THE CATECHISM. THE FOUR PARTS, OR PILLARS, ARE:

- The Profession of Faith (Pillar I)
- The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (Pillar II)
- Life in Christ (Pillar III)
- Christian Prayer (Pillar IV)

Each pillar is divided into 12 units. In total, this project will include 48 units that will cover the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). Every month, a new unit will be published.

The twelve units for pillar three and the paragraphs of the catechism they cover are:

- UNIT 25** The Vocation to Beatitude and Dignity of the Human Person (1699-1729)
- UNIT 26** Freedom, morality, and conscience (1730-1802)
- UNIT 27** Sin, Virtues, and The Human Community (1803-1948)
- UNIT 28** Salvation: Sin, Law, and Grace (1949-2051)
- UNIT 29** The Commandments (2052-2082)
- UNIT 30** The Beatitudes (1716-1729)
- UNIT 31** Commandments 1-3 (2083-2195)
- UNIT 32** Commandment 4 (2196-2257)
- UNIT 33** Commandment 5 (2258-2330)
- UNIT 34** Commandment 6 and 9 (2331-2400, 2514-2533)
- UNIT 35** Commandment 7 and 10 (2401-2463, 2534-2557)
- UNIT 36** Commandment 8 (2464-2513)

## EACH UNIT THEN CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING VIDEOS:

**Proclamation**

**Explanation**

**Connection**

There are a few characteristics of the Catechism's approach and structure that are worth mentioning. The Catechism is trinitarian, meaning we view all of the faith through the lens of the Trinity. The Catechism is also christocentric, meaning its focus or center is Jesus. The Catechism is kerygmatic, meaning it is animated by the saving message of Jesus Christ, the Good News. The Catechism has a missionary dimension, meaning it does not presume faith in those that would read it but seeks to evangelize through its presentation of the faith. And the Catechism is systematic, progressive, and organic, meaning the structure itself is a catechesis. The structure for each unit was developed using these characteristics and the Ecclesial Method, proposed by Msgr. Francis Kelley (author of *The Mystery We Proclaim*).

While each video is designed to be able to stand on its own, there is some benefit in watching them in order, and they do build on each other.

### Proclamation Video

The first video is meant to rouse the spiritual curiosity that allows us to be prepared to hear the Gospel message. These videos explore the world and our human experience, and the hope is that these videos will be especially attractive to those who might be less interested in a video that directly addresses the doctrines of the faith.

### Explanation Video

The second video breaks open the content of the passage of the Catechism being addressed in the unit. This video is much more straightforward and is guided by a discussion back and forth between two voices who are exploring the truths of the faith.

### Connection Video

The connection video is meant to be a real-life application of the passage from the Catechism, and answer common questions related to this unit's content. The tone of these videos are often playful, and it is meant to connect with the audience on a more practical level that is relevant to their lives.

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## UNIT 27: SIN, VIRTUES, AND THE HUMAN COMMUNITY | CCC 1803-1948

THESIS: GOD PLANNED FOR US TO LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND ONE ANOTHER, AND GROW IN LOVE BY PRACTICING THE VIRTUES.

### Proclamation Video: How Helping Others Changes Us

#### Discussion Questions:

- What did you find particularly striking in the video?
- Can you share a personal experience where you witnessed someone's selfless efforts to support another person, and how it changed or inspired you?
- The script emphasizes the impact of community efforts in learning new skills, such as sign language classes in Newton, Massachusetts, and how it changed the community. How does coming to another person's aid change us?
- The examples in the script range from learning sign language to embracing new lifestyles for children with disabilities. In your opinion, what qualities or virtues are necessary for individuals to make such significant personal transformations for the well-being of others?
- How have you experienced personal growth through acts of kindness or sacrifice for others?
- Rossaria Butterfield's story illustrates the transformative power of radical hospitality. How might learning to live out radical hospitality as a family or individual change a person or family?
- The script discusses the challenges involved in making significant changes for the benefit of others. Can you share an area in your life where you feel called to make a change or learn a new skill to better serve those around you?

### Explanation Video: What are the virtues and how do they help us?

#### Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- How does the concept of the Trinity, as discussed in the script, impact your understanding of God's nature and the importance of relationships in your life?
- The script emphasizes that love is both a feeling and an act of the will. How do you navigate the balance between feelings and intentional actions in your relationships with God and others?
- Can you think of a specific habit in your life that has influenced your moral choices? How did it impact your relationship with God?
- According to the script, virtues are habitual dispositions that lead us to choose the good. How can we grow in virtues like prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance in your daily life?
- How do virtues play a role in shaping your character and guiding your actions as a Catholic?
- Reflecting on the script, how has your understanding of right and wrong evolved? In what ways do stories, experiences, or teachings of the Church influence your moral choices and actions?
- The discussion of virtues implies a journey of growth and development. Can you share a personal experience where you felt a noticeable change in your ability to choose the good, and how did it impact your relationship with God?
- The script mentions the importance of community in growing in virtue. How has your engagement with the Catholic community, whether in marriage, family, or society, contributed to your spiritual growth and moral development?

## Connection Video: Why Willpower Alone Won't Lead to Holiness

### Discussion Questions:

- What was something that struck you in the video?
- Can you share a personal experience where challenges in your life led you to reflect on your efforts in the Christian life? What was your response?
- The video uses the analogy of farming to explain the relationship between human effort and divine grace in growing in virtue. How does this analogy resonate with your understanding of the role of personal effort and God's grace in your spiritual journey?
- The script mentions the common reactions of trying harder or giving up when faced with moral challenges. How can the Catholic community provide support and encouragement for individuals facing these struggles, fostering an environment that encourages growth rather than discouragement?
- The video discusses the heresy of Pelagianism, which suggests that we can perfect ourselves without God's help. How do you navigate the balance between personal responsibility and relying on God's grace in your pursuit of holiness?
- The script mentions the fruits of the Holy Spirit as indicators of living a virtuous life. Which of these fruits do you find most challenging to cultivate in your life, and how do you seek to grow in that particular virtue?
- The script concludes by emphasizing the importance of relying on God and cooperating with His grace in the pursuit of holiness. In what ways can you depend more on God, especially to help you grow in the virtues and deepen your relationship with Him?

# General Recommendations

## **FRIENDS AND FAMILIES:**

These videos are great discussion starters with coworkers, family members, and friends. You can easily share one over social media or by text. Say a prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to inspire you and guide you on who to send a video to. Follow up later by asking what they thought of the video and if there were any thoughts or questions it stirred up. Practice spiritual accompaniment by using active listening and refraining from correcting or teaching.

## **PARISH SETTINGS, SCHOOLS, YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT, AND COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY:**

These videos work great as a series for social media posts or email newsletters. Be sure to include a link for people to dive deeper into the rest of the content. In more formal catechetical settings, these videos are best used as supplemental discussion starters, or to recap a lesson. Try using these to open a lesson and dive right into reactions and discussion. For younger students, or those who are not active disciples, try the proclamation videos as a way into the content. For those who might be new or active disciples, try using the proclamation, explanation, and connection videos.

## **CATECHISTS:**

The Catechism's structure is itself a teaching. And the method and content of these videos is a great way to discuss with catechists how to effectively accomplish an "evangelizing catechesis". By watching the unit videos together while reading the Catechism paragraphs, you can then discuss with your catechists what they noticed about how the content is presented. What was highlighted, and what was left out? What does this video have to do with Jesus and our relationship with him? How is this video trying to lead people into a deeper curiosity and openness to the Catechism's content? The podcast episode of each unit often dives into this "behind the scenes" approach and can be useful for catechists and catechist training.

We hope and pray that these videos will find people who are curious about what the Church teaches and about Jesus. We pray that the proclamation videos rouse a spiritual curiosity about the world and what it means to be human. We pray the explanation and connection videos would present the contents of our faith in a way that is relevant to their lives, perhaps in a way they've never heard before. We hope that many may find these videos to be useful conversation starters to journey with others who are spiritually curious or seeking truth.

We also hope and pray that Real + True helps others rediscover the "pulsating heart of the catechism," as Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa stated in his sermon on the catechism to the papal household, a heart that has a face and a name – Jesus Christ.

Visit [realtrue.org](https://realtrue.org) for more videos and resources.