

Real+True

PILLAR IV

UNIT 43 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 four and the paragraphs of the *Catechism* they cover are:

- UNIT 37** Prayer is a personal relationship. (2558-2567)
- UNIT 38** Prayer as covenant relationship and 5 ways of prayer (2568-2649)
- UNIT 39** The wellsprings of prayer (2650-2696)
- UNIT 40** Prayer is a daily walk with Jesus. (2697- 2758)
- UNIT 41** Jesus teaches us to pray: “Our Father” (2759-2806)
- UNIT 42** Prayer in the name of Jesus. (2807-2815)
- UNIT 43** Prayer invites God’s kingdom. (2816-2821)
- UNIT 44** God’s will in our lives. (2822- 2827)
- UNIT 45** Praying to God for our needs. (2828-2837)
- UNIT 46** Prayer, mercy, forgiveness. (2838-2845)
- UNIT 47** Battling temptation, sin, and evil through prayer. (2846-2854)
- UNIT 48** The Our Father, a summary of the Good News. Amen. (2855-2865)

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 43: PRAYER INVITES GOD'S KINGDOM | CCC 2816-2821

THESIS: WE PRAY AS A WAY OF INVITING GOD'S KINGDOM TO COME HERE ON EARTH (THY KINGDOM COME)

Proclamation Video: Whose Kingdom Do We Really Belong To?

Discussion Questions:

- What did you find particularly striking in the video?
- The script explores how some people in history welcomed new rulers as liberators. What does this reveal about human longing for justice and peace? How does this relate to our longing for God's Kingdom?
- What do you think it means to truly desire God's Kingdom to come? How does that shape your daily life?
- Jesus' Kingdom is not one of conquest by force, but of love, justice, and mercy. How is this different from worldly kingdoms?
- The script mentions how people under oppressive rule longed for a just and good king. Have you ever experienced a time when you longed for justice?
- Political elections today often stir up strong feelings of hope or disappointment. How can we keep our ultimate hope in God's Kingdom rather than in human leaders or governments?
- The Jews in exile longed to return home and rebuild their temple, and King Cyrus allowed them to do so. What are some ways we, as Christians, experience exile in this world? How do we remain hopeful as we wait for the fulfillment of God's promises?
- The script says that no kingdom or leader is ever perfect. How does this help us appreciate Jesus as King? What does it mean for you personally that Jesus is King?

Explanation Video: What Does "Thy Kingdom Come" Really Mean?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- The Transfiguration gave Peter, James, and John a glimpse of Jesus' divine glory. Have you ever had a moment in your spiritual life that helped you see or understand God more clearly? How did it affect you?
- Jesus preached that the Kingdom of God was at hand. What does it mean for God's Kingdom to be present in our lives today? How can we participate in bringing His Kingdom to earth?
- The catechism teaches that "Thy Kingdom come" refers both to Jesus' final return and to the ongoing work of God's reign in the world. How does praying for the Kingdom affect our daily decisions and attitudes?
- Jesus says that the Kingdom of God is for sinners, the poor, and the lowly. Why do you think humility and repentance are so essential for entering the Kingdom? How can we cultivate these in our own lives?
- The script says that praying "Thy Kingdom come" is also a prayer against Satan's kingdom of sin and death. How do you see this spiritual battle playing out in the world today? How can we resist it?
- The Church is called the 'seed and beginning' of God's Kingdom on earth. In what ways do you see the Church living out the Kingdom today? How can we, as individuals, better reflect the Kingdom in our communities?

- Jesus healed the sick and cast out demons as signs of the Kingdom's presence. How do acts of healing, mercy, and justice today reveal God's Kingdom? How can we be part of this mission?

Connection Video: The True Meaning of "Thy Kingdom Come" in the Lord's Prayer

Discussion Questions:

- What was something that struck you from the video?
- The script compares the hope of Advent and Christmas to the hope we express when we pray "Thy Kingdom come." How can we carry this sense of anticipation and trust in God throughout the whole year?
- Jesus calls us to be people of light in times of darkness. What are some practical ways we can bring hope into difficult situations in our own lives and the lives of others?
- The theological virtue of hope is described as trusting in Christ's promises and relying on the Holy Spirit. When has hope played a significant role in your faith journey? How do you cultivate hope in times of struggle?
- The script connects "Thy Kingdom come" to the Eucharist, describing Mass as a foretaste of the Kingdom of God. How does participating in the Eucharist help you grow in hope and anticipation for God's Kingdom?
- The phrase "Marana tha" means "Come, Lord Jesus." How does this prayer challenge you to live differently in your daily life? What would it look like to pray this with deeper conviction?
- The script suggests cultivating childlike trust in God through acts of surrender. What are some areas in your life where you struggle to let go of control and trust in God's plan?
- The martyrs prayed with urgency and hope for God's justice. How can their example inspire the way you pray for the transformation of the world today?
- If someone observed your life, would they see someone living in joyful hope for God's Kingdom? What is one way you can more intentionally live out the petition "Thy Kingdom come" this week?

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 for more videos and resources.