

Real+True

PILLAR IV

UNIT 44 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:



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 44: GOD'S WILL IN OUR LIVES. | CCC 2822-2827

THESIS: GOD INVITES US TO KNOW AND LOVE HIS WILL FOR OUR LIVES AND OTHERS.
(THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN)

Proclamation Video: Does Following God's Will Make Us Less Free?

Discussion Questions:

- What did you find particularly striking in the video?
- The video raises the question: "Does submitting our free will and following a higher power make us less free?" How do you understand the relationship between obedience and freedom?
- The Matrix presents a dilemma: If someone knows the choices you'll make, are you truly free? How does this question relate to our understanding of God's omniscience (He knows everything) and human free will?
- St. Augustine taught that free will is real but limited by sin. Have you ever felt like sin or bad habits limited your ability to make good choices?
- St. Thomas Aquinas argues that true freedom is found in making choices aligned with reason and virtue. Have you ever made a choice that initially felt freeing but later trapped you? What about a choice that initially seemed wise and later you felt was misguided?
- The video uses the analogy of a bow and arrow—our choices are free, but they need direction to hit the right target. What are some ways we can learn to "aim" our choices toward what is truly good and meaningful?
- Society often defines freedom as "doing whatever you want." How does the Christian understanding of freedom challenge that idea? Have you ever had an experience where discipline or obedience led you to greater freedom?
- The video explores how thinkers from Socrates to Kant saw knowledge as key to making good choices. How does learning about God's will and plan for us help us to grow in freedom? How can we better seek wisdom for our choices?
- Choosing what is right can be difficult, especially when it goes against popular opinion or personal desires. How can we cultivate the strength to choose what is right even when it's hard?

Explanation Video: Trusting God's Plan: The Power of "Thy Will Be Done"

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- Jesus prayed, "Not my will but your will be done," in the Garden of Gethsemane. Have you ever struggled with surrendering your own will to God's? What was that experience like, and what did you learn from it?
- The video compares following God's will to a child trusting their parents. Do you see similarities or differences?
- In what ways has trusting God's will been difficult or rewarding in your own life?
- We often think of obedience as restrictive, but the video suggests that obedience to God's will leads to our ultimate happiness. How does this challenge or change your view of obedience in your faith life?
- The Catechism says Jesus' obedience to the Father's will "substitutes for our disobedience." How does reflecting on Jesus' perfect obedience impact the way you think about sin and repentance?

- When we pray “Thy will be done,” we are asking for God’s will to be realized in our own lives and in the world. What are some practical ways we can align our daily decisions with God’s will?
- The video highlights how suffering can teach us obedience and humility when we bring it to God in prayer. Have you ever experienced suffering that deepened or challenged your trust in God? How did you respond?
- God’s will is described as being for our highest good, even when it doesn’t seem that way at first. Have you ever looked back on a situation and realized that God’s plan was better than your own?
- Jesus invites us into the Father’s will, not just individually, but as part of the Church. How does being part of the Church help us follow God’s will more faithfully?

Connection Video: How to Surrender Your Will to God in Difficult Moments

Discussion Questions:

- What was something that struck you from the video?
- The script explores the tension between our desires and God’s will. Have you ever faced a decision where you strongly wanted one outcome but felt God leading you in a different direction? How did you respond and what was the outcome?
- The video suggests that discerning God’s will takes both “practice and grace.” How do you currently practice discerning God’s will in your life? How can you grow in this and seek more grace from God?
- Sometimes we struggle to recognize God’s voice during our discernment. What are some ways you have (or could) create space to hear God more clearly in times of discernment?
- The video mentions how Jesus invited His disciples to pray with Him in the garden. How has having others pray with or for you helped you discern God’s will? How can you be that person for others?
- We often make decisions based on long-term goals, like choosing a college or a career. How do you think including “Thy will be done” in your decision-making process changes your long-term priorities?
- Being honest with God about our desires is an important part of prayer. How do you balance bringing your honest feelings to God while also praying for His will to be done?
- The video explains that “even when the path is difficult, we can trust that God’s will leads us to true freedom and happiness.” How do you think surrendering to God’s will—even in challenging times—can ultimately bring peace and joy?

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.