

Real+True

PILLAR II

UNIT 24 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 two and the paragraphs of the catechism they cover are:

UNIT 13	Liturgy	1066-1112 1135-1209
UNIT 14	Sacraments	113-1134 1210-1211
UNIT 15	Baptism	1213-1284
UNIT 16	Confirmation	1285-1321
UNIT 17	Eucharist	1322-1344
UNIT 18	Mass	1345-1419
UNIT 19	Confession	1420-1498
UNIT 20	Anointing of the Sick	1499-1532
UNIT 21	Holy Orders	1533-1600
UNIT 22	Marriage	1601-1666
UNIT 23	Sacramentals	1667-1679
UNIT 24	Funerals	1680-1690

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 third video is meant to be a real-life application of the passage from the Catechism. The tone of this video is often playful, and it is meant to connect with the audience on a more practical level that is relevant to their lives.

THESIS: TO LIVE IN CHRIST MEANS TO DIE IN CHRIST AT THE END OF OUR SACRAMENTAL LIFE.

Proclamation Video: Is life a tragedy?

Discussion Questions:

- What did you find particularly striking in the video?
- How would you define the genre of tragedy in your own words?
- Why do you personally think the genre of tragedy has remained captivating for so many centuries?
- How does Aristotle's concept of catharsis—experiencing a release of negative emotions—relate to your personal experience of engaging with tragic stories?
- Can you recall a specific tragic work that deeply impacted you emotionally? What emotions did it evoke and what did you take away from it?
- In what ways does the genre of tragedy force us to confront the harsh realities of life and the consequences of our actions?
- How does tragedy differ from other forms of art and literature that often serve as an escape from reality?
- Discuss the tension between the hope for a happy ending and the reality of tragic circumstances within a story. How does this conflict mirror our own hopes and struggles in life?
- Do you agree that hope for a happy ending is a fundamental aspect of the human experience? How does this hope manifest in your own life?
- Consider the question posed in the video: “Do we believe life is a tragedy?” How do you personally reconcile the reality of life's challenges with the hope for something better or a happy ending or outcome?
- Reflect on the comparison between the life of Jesus Christ and the genre of tragedy. In what ways could Jesus' life be seen as both a tragedy and a story with a happy ending?
- Consider the analogy between a truly Christian funeral and the culmination of a Greek tragedy. How does a Christian funeral relate to the tension between tragedy and hope?
- How does the promise of redemption in Jesus Christ impact your understanding of life's tragedies and challenges?

Explanation Video: Funerals and hope at the end of our sacramental life

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- How does the concept of “abiding” in Jesus relate to the idea of the vine and branches discussed in John 15:1-11?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be the true vine and us branches connected to Him? How might this change how we live out our relationship with Jesus?
- How do the sacraments connect us to God and allow us to abide in Him here on earth?
- In what ways does the celebration of a Christian funeral reflect our hope in Christ's resurrection?
- What do you think we can learn about death through Jesus' own passion, death, and resurrection?
- How does the Eucharist symbolize our hope in the resurrection and our communion with our loved ones who have died?
- How does the perspective that we will no longer need sacraments in heaven impact your understanding of the role of sacraments in your earthly life?
- In what practical ways can we face death, both our own and that of our loved ones, with hope?

- How does Jesus' victory over sin and death through His resurrection impact our understanding of death?
- What role does the resurrection of the dead play in our Catholic faith and our hope for the world to come?
- What aspects of a Catholic funeral resonate with you personally and why? What impact does this have on your relationship with Jesus?
- How do you think the understanding of the Christian funeral as a celebration of hope can provide comfort and healing to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one?

Connection Video 1: How to attend a funeral and support those who are grieving

Discussion Questions:

- What was something that struck you in the video?
- Reflect on a time you attended a funeral. How did you feel, and how did you navigate the complex emotions that arise in such situations?
- When faced with someone's grief, how can we balance wanting to "cheer them up" with the importance of sitting with them in their suffering?
- How can being present and actively listening serve as a more meaningful way to support someone who is grieving, without resorting to clichés or platitudes?
- Consider the delicate balance between the hope of resurrection and the reality of experiencing grief. How can we express hope while still acknowledging the depth of pain?
- If you've ever had a loved one pass away, what things did people do or say that helped you in your grief?
- How do you think Jesus would act if He was at a funeral? What would He do or say for the loved ones who are grieving?

Connection Video 2: Why do Catholics pray for the dead?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- Share your thoughts on the knowledge that we can never know for sure if a deceased family member is in heaven. How does this recognition impact our understanding of praying for the dead?
- How does the concept of hope play a role in the act of praying for the dead, even when we can't be certain of their ultimate destination?
- What do you think it looks like practically to offer up our own sufferings for our loved ones in purgatory?
- Reflect on the distinction between praying for our loved ones and trying to change God's mind about their destination. How can this distinction help us approach the practice of praying for the dead with humility?
- How can praying for the dead foster a sense of continued communion and care for our loved ones within the Body of Christ, even after death?
- How would you explain the practice of praying for the dead to someone who didn't understand it?
- How can the act of praying for the dead also serve as a reminder of our own mortality and the importance of living our lives with Christ while here on earth?
- How can coming together and praying for the dead offer comfort and peace to those who are mourning?
- How might the practice of praying for the dead impact your own lived relationship with Jesus?

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.