

Real+True

PILLAR II

UNIT 16 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.

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UNIT 16: CONFIRMATION | CCC 1285-1321

THESIS: CHRISTIANS ARE SEALED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.

Proclamation Video: Signed, sealed, and confirmed

Discussion Questions:

- What was particularly striking for you in this video?
- How can you tell today if a document you receive is authentic ?
- Are there any seals, symbols, or crests that you feel represent you or your family or you feel closely associated with?

Explanation Video: What happens at Confirmation?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- What does it mean to say that Confirmation is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit?
- God chose fire as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. What qualities do fire and the Holy Spirit have in common?
- Why was oil used to anoint priests?
- What might our faith look like without the Holy Spirit?
- How does Confirmation change our relationship with Jesus?

Connection Video 1: Is Confirmation a graduation from our faith?

Discussion Questions:

- What was memorable to you from the video?
- Have you received the sacrament of Confirmation? If so, what was your experience and how did you view the sacrament?
- In what ways does the Sacrament of Confirmation prepare us to be sent forth in mission?
- Compare and contrast the sacrament of Confirmation with graduation from high school. How are the two similar or different?
- How does Confirmation prepare us to be “sent forth” and what does this mean for us?

Connection Video 2: Why do we take a saint’s name at Confirmation?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- What does it mean to say that Confirmation makes our bond with the Church more perfect?
- In what ways are the saints there to support us in our faith?
- Are there any saints with whom you feel a particular connection?

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.