

Real+True

PILLAR II

UNIT 22 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 22: MARRIAGE | CCC 1601-1666

THESIS: IN MATRIMONY, MAN AND WOMAN ARE CALLED TO THE LOVE AND UNION OF SPOUSES THAT REFLECTS THE LIFE OF THE TRINITY.

Proclamation Video: Commitments vs promises: What's the difference?

Discussion Questions:

- What did you find particularly striking in the video?
- According to the video, what distinguishes a promise from a simple agreement? Why do you think promises carry more weight?
- In what ways can promises be legally or culturally important? Can you think of examples from your own life or society?
- How do different promises come with different repercussions if they are broken? Why do you think this is the case?
- Reflecting on your own experiences, what do you think is the difference between agreeing to do something and promising to do it?
- According to the video, why is the seriousness of a promise related to the substance of what the promise is about? Can you provide some examples?
- How do promises form the foundation of meaningful relationships? How do you see this reflected in your own relationships?
- In what ways do promises play a crucial role in God's relationship with His people? Can you think of specific biblical examples?
- Reflecting on the video's message, what is your personal understanding of the power and importance of making and keeping promises in your own life?

Explanation Video: What makes Catholic marriage a sacrament?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- How does the understanding that God intentionally created us as male and female affect your understanding of human nature and relationships?
- How do the sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony equip us to serve the Church by serving one another?
- How do you think the sacrament of matrimony can reflect the communion of life and love within the Trinity?
- In what ways is marriage and love challenging? Why is the grace of God necessary for couples to fulfill their calling in Christian marriage?
- Why do you think the video says modeling the love and union of God and the Church within marriage and a family is a great calling and vocation?
- In what ways can spouses reflect Jesus' love for the Church through their self-giving love for one another and their children?
- In what ways do you think the family, as the domestic church, can become a place where children learn about God's love and follow Jesus?
- How do you think the Sacrament of Matrimony serves as a sign of God's total and unconditional love for the Church?

Connection Video 1: What's the difference between divorce and annulment?

Discussion Questions:

- What was something that struck you in the video?
- After watching this video, how would you describe the difference between divorce and annulment to someone who is not Catholic?
- How does the wooden wedding chain from Nicaragua serve as a symbol of the permanence of marriage? What does it communicate about the nature of conjugal love?
- What does it mean for the Church to make a declaration of nullity rather than nullify a marriage? How does this distinction shape your understanding of annulment?
- How does the concept of annulment challenge the commonly held notion of divorce as the dissolution of a marriage that once existed?
- What are some misconceptions about annulment that the video seeks to clarify? How can these misconceptions impact individuals and their perception of the Church?
- Why do you think it is important to differentiate between the declaration of nullity and the legitimacy of children born within a presumed valid marriage?
- How can the Church's teaching on the permanence of marriage offer hope and support to couples facing difficulties in their marital journey?
- How can the understanding of annulment as a declaration of nullity contribute to a greater understanding of God's design for marriage?

Connection Video 2: What are marriage vows and why are they so important?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- What does it mean to you that in the Sacrament of Matrimony, the couple receiving the sacrament are also the ministers of the Sacrament to one another?
- Why do you think it is significant that the matter of the Sacrament of Matrimony is the mutual consent and promise of the couple?
- What role does the public declaration of vows play in the Sacrament of Matrimony? Why is it important for the vows to be spoken publicly?
- In what ways does using the vows provided by the Church connect the couple not only to one another but also to the larger Body of Christ, the Church?
- How can the understanding of the Sacrament of Matrimony and the importance of the marriage vows influence your own views and attitudes toward marriage?
- How can the understanding of the Sacrament of Matrimony and the importance of the marriage vows influence your own views and attitudes toward the Church?
- In what ways do you think the marriage vows reflect the love of Christ for His Church?

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.