



# Catechesis and Catechists

## Fun facts about our mission

DAVID O'BRIEN

This quiz can help you, your team, your students, and students' families review our Catholic faith. Find the answer key on page 3.

**1** The word catechesis literally means "\_\_\_\_\_” in Greek.

- a) to echo
- b) Sunday school
- c) study the Bible
- d) talking about Jesus

**2** A patron saint of catechists is St. \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Philip Neri
- b) James the Greater
- c) Aloysius Gonzaga
- d) Robert Bellarmine

**3** The Roman Catechism was published in response to the Protestant Reformation and the Council of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Chalcedon
- b) Constantinople
- c) Trent
- d) Lyon

**4** Skilled catechists will likely teach using all of the following except \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) movies
- b) power tools
- c) music
- d) the Bible

**5** In the early 1900s, this Catholic woman, Maria \_\_\_\_\_, created a hands-on method for learning about God and other subjects.

- a) Vivaldi
- b) Galileo
- c) Francesco Rinaldi
- d) Montessori

**6** Catholics can learn about the faith by going to Mass.

True | False

**7** An excellent Catholic catechist who was also one of the first TV evangelists was \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) the prophet Jeremiah
- b) St. Clare of Assisi
- c) Billy Graham
- d) Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

**8** \_\_\_\_\_ and Joseph were the ones who taught Jesus about God and his cove-

nant love for his people.

- a) Noah
- b) King David
- c) Mary
- d) St. Gabriel

**9** Besides preaching, St. Paul used his \_\_\_\_\_ to catechize his followers about the deeper doctrines of the faith.

- a) letters
- b) paintings
- c) songs
- d) clothes

**10** “The \_\_\_\_\_ declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the work of his hands” (Psalm 19:1).

- a) songs
- b) heavens
- c) sermons
- d) priests

**11** The Catholic understanding of creation and humankind is that they are evil and God regrets creating the world.

True | False



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**12** The universal catechism is written primarily for the \_\_\_\_\_, who are the lead catechists in their diocese.

- a) bishops b) Catholic school religion teachers c) priests d) parish catechists

**13** In order to be an effective catechist, a person has to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) the *Catechism* cover to cover b) the entire Bible by heart c) all of Church teaching d) Jesus

**14** Catechesis and \_\_\_\_\_ go hand in hand, like dance partners, leading people to a personal encounter with Christ while at the same time instructing

people about his life and teachings.

- a) sleeping b) homework c) tests d) evangelization

**15** The idea of catechesis was invented by the pope at Vatican II.

True | False

**16** Jesus said: "I am the way and the \_\_\_\_\_ and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

- a) truth b) leader c) love d) peace

**17** \_\_\_\_\_ catechesis teaches how someone should behave, choosing good over evil.

- a) Judgmental b) Moral c) Dogmatic d) Old-fashioned

**18** What part of the Mass reflects the core beliefs of the faith?

- a) the Creed b) the Sign of Peace c) Communion d) the Sign of the Cross

**19** Which prayer teaches us to pray as Jesus prayed?

- a) singing praise and worship songs b) Rosary c) Our Father d) Hail Mary

**20** Catechesis is only important if you are preparing for your first Communion or Confirmation.

True | False

## Kids' quiz *Teaching the Faith*

**1** The person who teaches people about the faith is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) volunteer b) catechist c) manager d) Bible expert

**2** A catechist teaches \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Catholic doctrine b) math c) Spanish d) music

**3** The primary catechist in every child's life is his or her \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) youth minister b) religion teacher c) priest d) parents

**4** Catechists only teach children.

True | False

**5** Catechists use both the Bible and \_\_\_\_\_ to authentically teach the Catholic faith.

- a) Instagram b) Twitter c) the Catechism d) Fortnite



**6** Known for being an outstanding catechist, St. \_\_\_\_\_ helped convert St. Augustine to Christianity in the 300s.

- a) Paul of Tarsus b) Francis c) Ambrose d) John Paul the Great

**7** Catechists help prepare people to receive the \_\_\_\_\_ of initiation.

- a) tattoos b) sacraments c) symbols d) tools

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**8** \_\_\_\_\_ is the central theme and topic of all catechesis.

- a) Jesus Christ b) The pope c) The bishop d) The Virgin Mary

**9** The last thing Jesus told his disciples before returning to heaven was to \_\_\_\_\_ all nations (See Matthew 28:19-20).

- a) travel to b) colonize c) conquer d) teach

**10** Teaching people about prayer is a part of catechesis.

True | False



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*Thoughts about Everyday Faith.*

## ANSWERS TO Catholic I.Q.

from pages 1 and 2

1. **a.)** To catechize is to “re-sound” or “echo” the teachings of Christ and the Church through the centuries so that each generation might encounter Christ.
2. **d.)** Bellarmine wrote, taught, and preached against the heresies of his time and was almost elected pope. He gave most of his money to the poor. At one point he used the tapestries in his home to clothe the poor, saying, “The walls won’t catch cold.”
3. **c.)** Recognizing the need for clear teaching to refute the attacks of the Protestant reformers, great saints and theologians at the time of the Council of Trent, such as St. Robert Bellarmine, wrote catechisms (see CCC, 9).
4. **b.)** Faith can never be taught by force. However, whatever is true, beautiful, and good that is found in the wider culture can point to God who is the source of all goodness, truth, and beauty.
5. **d.)** Maria Montessori was a doctor and a scientist, so she recognized that children naturally learn through trial and error that engaged all the senses as well as the imagination.
6. **True.** All the central truths of the faith are proclaimed in the Liturgy, including God’s love for humanity, forgiveness of sins, God becoming human in Jesus, and the death and resurrection of Christ.
7. **d.)** Attracting more than 30 million weekly viewers, Sheen hosted one of the most popular TV shows of his time called *Life Is Worth Living*.
8. **c.)** As faithful Jewish parents, Mary and Joseph would have made sure that Jesus learned all the truths of their faith and celebrated all the religious holy days in their culture.
9. **a.)** St. Paul wrote more books than anyone else in the New Testament. His letters explained how Jesus’ teachings contained the keys to happiness for all humanity — Gentiles and Jews, slaves and free, men and women, rich and poor, etc. (see Galatians 3:28).
10. **b.)** Creation teaches us about God, revealing God’s intelligent ordering of the universe from the vast cosmos to the microscopic atoms (see CCC, 282-284).
11. **False.** Genesis recounts how God created the universe, including humankind, and said “it was very good” (see Genesis 1:1-31). The goodness of God and creation, however, lead us to question why evil and sin exist in this world.
12. **a.)** The bishops are responsible for teaching and forming Catholics in the faith (see CCC, 12).

13. **d.)** “Whoever is called ‘to teach Christ’ must first seek ‘the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus’; he must suffer ‘the loss of all things . . .’ in order to ‘gain Christ and be found in him,’ and ‘to know him and the power of his resurrection’” (CCC, 428).

14. **d.)** A personal intimacy with Christ leads a catechist to evangelize others so as to share the greatness and beauty of the Savior (see CCC, 429).

15. **False.** “Quite early on, the name *catechesis* was given to the totality of the Church’s efforts to make disciples, to help men believe that Jesus is the Son of God so that believing they might have life in his name, and to educate and instruct them in this life” (CCC, 4).

16. **a.)** St. Thomas Aquinas explained that all truth comes from the Word of God, and therefore any truth found in this world finds its source in God.

17. **b.)** Jesus’ moral catechesis taught us to love our enemies, forgive those who offend us, avoid temptation and sin, and choose humility and service over pride, prestige, and power (see Matthew 5–7).

18. **a.)** The Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed provide Catholics with a summary and statement of faith regarding the key teachings about the Trinity, salvation, and the Church.

19. **c.)** “[The Our Father] is called ‘the Lord’s Prayer’ because it comes to us from the Lord Jesus, the master and model of our prayer” (CCC, 2775). It is the prayer Jesus taught his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray (see Luke 11:1-4).

20. **False.** Catholics learn about their faith at every stage of their lives because every year their relationship with Christ grows and changes.

## Kids’ Quiz

1. **b.)** Catechists provide children and adults with the teachings of the Catholic faith as found in Scripture and Tradition.
2. **a.)** “Catechesis is an education in . . . Christian doctrine imparted . . . in an organic and systematic way . . . to [initiate] the hearers into the fullness of Christian life” (CCC, 5).
3. **d.)** Children spend the majority of their early life at home and are formed and educated in the ways of faith through their parent’s words and example. Therefore, parents are rightly recognized as their children’s primary catechists.
4. **False.** A person begins their education and formation in the faith when they (or their parents) express a desire for Christ and his Church. Catechesis, however, is a lifelong process.

5. **c.)** The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a summary of all Catholic teaching. The Apostles’ Creed is thought to be one of the earliest catechisms.

6. **c.)** St. Ambrose was a rich Roman nobleman who became the governor of Milan. After he mediated a local conflict, the crowd asked him to become the new bishop even though he wasn’t baptized yet. He agreed, was baptized, and ordained a priest. He gave away all his wealth and became one of the great catechists and saints in history.

7. **b.)** Preparation for Baptism, Confirmation, and first Communion is a central task of catechesis for both children and adults.

8. **a.)** “To catechize is ‘to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God’s eternal design reaching fulfillment in that Person. It is to seek to understand the meaning of Christ’s actions and words and of the signs worked by him.’ Catechesis aims at putting ‘people . . . in communion . . . with Jesus Christ’” (CCC, 426).

9. **d.)** “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

10. **True.** “The memorization of basic prayers offers an essential support to the life of prayer, but it is important to help learners savor their meaning” (CCC, 2688).

## Two Corrections to our Nov/Dec Answer Key:

1. The answer to question 11 in the print issue was imprecise.

The question was:

The Church teaches that Catholics should go to Mass on Sundays.

True | False.

The correct answer: **True.** The first precept of the Church states: “You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor,” (see CCC, 2042.)

2. The answer to question 15 in the print issue was incorrect.

The question was:

The bread and wine only change into Christ’s body and blood if you believe it does.

True | False.

The correct answer: **False.** If a person doubts Christ’s presence in the Eucharist, his/her lack of belief does not impact what happens during Mass at the altar. Christ is the one changing the bread/wine into his body/blood. It is the universal belief of the Church that what Christ spoke about the Eucharist actually happens at every Mass. (See CCC, 1375.)