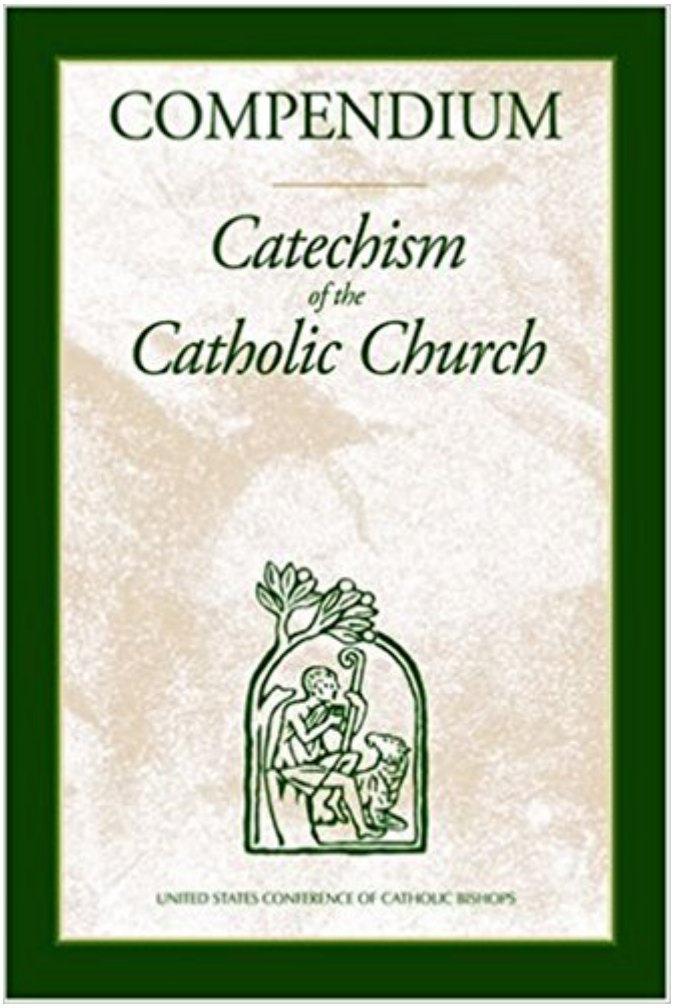
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Compendium : Catechism Of The Catholic Church



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Synopsis

Catholics' hunger for the faith continues to grow. Pope Benedict XVI gives the Church the "food" that is seeks in the 598 questions and answers in the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This 200-page volume offers a quick synopsis of the essential contents of the faith as promulgated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Like the 1992 Catechism, the Compendium has a four-part structure, and includes a section on common prayers and Catholic doctrinal formulas. Because of the question-and-answer format, catechetical leaders-parents, pastors, teachers, principals, and catechists-have a unique opportunity to dialogue with the faithful, and reinvigorate the Church's ongoing mission of evangelization and catechesis. Individuals can come "to know the unfathomable riches of the salvific mystery of Jesus Christ" by reading, using, and memorizing parts of the Compendium of the Catechism. An essential tool for youth and young adults, the Compendium is the perfect companion to a youth or young adult's Bible, spiritual reading, or textbook. Catechetical leaders in high schools, colleges, and parishes will appreciate its versatility-as a reference book, discussion starter, or core resource for RCIA programs. Fourteen images taken from masterpieces of Christian art set a tone for each part or section. "The sacred images, with their beauty, are also a proclamation of the Gospel and express the splendor of the Catholic truth," explained Pope Benedict XVI. The Compendium of the Catechism was prepared by a commission presided by the then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. Following the request for greater appreciation of the Catechism, and in order to meet a widespread need that emerged during the 2002 International Catechetical Congress, in 2003 the Holy Father established a special commission, presided by the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, that he charged with preparing a Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, containing a more concise and dialogic version of the same contents of Catholic faith and morals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Here’s a perspective from a teenager: The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a HUGE book and is therefore harder for me to approach and read. Yes, when I have a question about the faith I try and consult it, but sometimes topics are hard to find. The language used is very beautiful, but also very hard to understand. Now take this Compendium: The set up involving the question - answer format is very user friendly. It covers all the basics and important information. The language used is closer to the vernacular and therefore much easier for the every day person to read and understand. There are pictures, quotes, and prayer references. I was a bit wary when I bought it, but for the first time I have voluntarily approached the catechism just for the sake of reading it. I have been able to clearly understand things presented. Now, I understand that it doesn’t replace the actual Catechism, but here’s another plus: There are side notes that link the text to paragraphs in the Catechism. So when you feel ready to move on to further study you can do so. Overall it is an amazing resource for Catholics and for people interested in the faith but who are a bit wary of picking up a ten pound book.Crux of the News : "It will be an essential tool for youths and young adults, and the perfect companion to a youth or young adult’s Bible, spiritual reading, or textbook. Catechetical leaders in high schools, colleges, and parishes will appreciate its versatility as a reference book, discussion starter, or core resource for RCIA programs." --Anna Sproull

Now Pope Benedict XVI. At the time worked on the writing commission of the Compendium he was Prefect of the Congregation of the Faith. Pope Benedict XVI, formerly Joseph Ratzinger, was born on April 16, 1927 in Marktl am Inn, Germany. He was ordained a priest on June 29, 1951. He was elected pope in 2005.

This book is perfect for a person who is Catholic and wants to know more about the Church. It is great for people interested in converting. It gives questions along with the answers to make it a lot easier and less stressful. However it is best to go through this book on a slow and even level to allow yourself to reflect upon the answers. It defines terms (i.e. canon law, the nicene/apostolic creeds, the resurrection,original sin etc.) in a very short yet concise fashion.It is a very good way to get a firm grasp on the Catechism. I realize that I really didn’t know enough about the faith to

answer questions from people who were interested in Catholicism. If a person was condemning the Church I didn't know enough to defend it on a calm, objective and informative manner. This book is allowing me all of that.This book is the laymans option to a degree in theology. I will be reading this a second time and this time I will try to come up with my own added answers to some of these questions. This is a must have for evangelizing in this Year of Faith. I am doing this alone but I think working in a group would be a much better alternative.

Bishop Donald Wuerl, past chairman and current member of the American bishops' Committee on Catechesis, had this to say about the Compendium, "[It] offers a concise yet complete presentation of the faith. It presents an overview of the whole Cathechism [of the Catholic Church] without going into all of the details that enrich the Catechism. Its primary focus is to provide ready access in a concise manner to the content of the faith."To the delight of seekers everywhere, the Compendium reintroduces new generations of Catholics to the reliable Q&A format. Twenty five years ago, Silvio Cardinal Oddi, the Prefect for the Sacred Congregation of the Clergy, defended this time-tested format from the attacks of members of supposedly "progressive" catechetical schools. He wisely observed that "specialists in internal medicine, engineering, and chemistry arm themselves with question and answer manuals to check themselves on recent developments in their respective fields." The good cardinal then addressed the progressive complaint directly:"Captious critics have objected that the Faith is not a series of answers to contrived questions but a way of life. The answer to this objection might well be another question: How can we live a Christian life until we first 'know the truth' (John 8:32)?"To that end, the Q&A format enables readers to commit the truths of the faith to memory. Indeed, "memorization" is one of the reasons Pope Benedict cites for issuing the Compendium. And thanks to its beautiful, crisp language, doing so can be a labor of love. Read the following excerpt from the section explaining the "Our Father":"596. What does 'Lead us not into temptation' mean?We ask God our Father not to leave us alone and in the power of temptation. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us know how to discern, on the one hand, between a trial that makes us grow in goodness and a temptation that leads to sin and death and, on the other hand, between being tempted and consenting to temptation. This petition unites us to Jesus who overcame temptation by his prayer. It requests the grace of vigilance and of final perseverance."For about the price of a movie ticket, and in a mere 200 pages, you can learn the path to salvation Christ entrusted to His Church. Bargains don't get any better.

This is a quality reference for the basics; especially when you don't have the time or effort to read

the full catechism. Each entry has references to the full catechism for further reading.It's like the Catholic version of the IRS's Pub 17. Everything generally need to know, with a map of where to go if you need more info.

If you are sincere about vetting what you hear about what the Catholic Church teaches, this is the book for you.

I believe there is a more recent edition for more $$$, but for the price I was happy with this purchase.

Just as described, Perfect! Thank you!!

I purchased the complete version of the Catholic Catechism from and wanted to supplement it with this concise version which is written in a Question-Answer format. (It might even remind one of the former Baltimore Catechism.) Bishop Fulton Sheen said that those who criticise the Catholic Church do not understand the truths of her teachings. I have found that to be accurate. Many people make false statements about our beliefs and theology. If they read the Catechism, they will know what we believe. It is true. It is good. Most of all, the teachings of the Catholic Church are from God with no distortions. Our church has not changed our doctrines for 2000 years. Our dogmas will stay in place because they are based on God's Word. This is an easy to follow book of the doctrines of the Church.

nice summary of the catechism

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