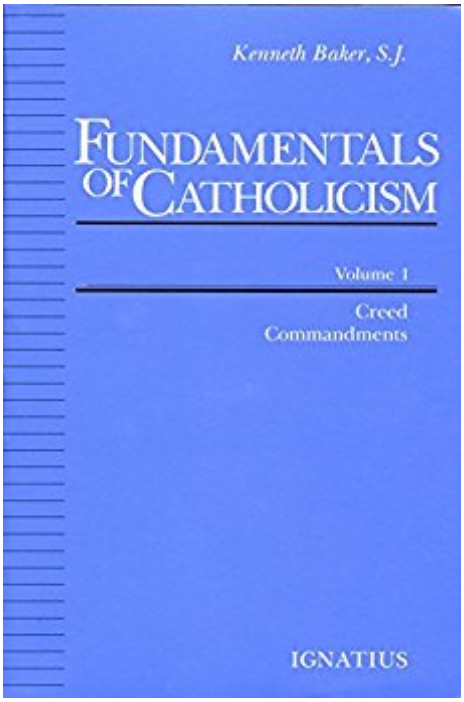
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Fundamentals Of Catholicism, Vol. 1: Creed, Commandments



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Synopsis

A complete course in Catholicism by the editor of Homiletic and Pastoral Review that presents Catholic teaching on all important points of doctrine and morals.Volume I thoroughly analyzes the Creed and the Ten commandments.Ã Â Volume II takes up God, the Trinity, Creation, Christ and Mary. Volume III reviews Grace, The Church, The Sacraments, and Eschatology

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Customer Reviews

Excellent, clear, concise and easy logical format which is user friendly. Tr. Kenneth Baker SJ at his committed best.

Fr. Baker does an incredible job. Sad this book is not being reprinted. If you can find a copy; get it.

Rev. Kenneth Baker, S.J. served for thirty years as editor of the Homiletic & Pastoral Review. In

1975 he became president of Catholic Views Broadcasts, Inc., which produces a weekly 15-minute radio program that airs on 50 stations across the United States; he has also built and run three community television stations. The other volumes in this series areÃ Â Fundamentals of Catholicism, Vol. 2: God, Trinity, Creation, Christ, MaryÃ Â andÃ Â Fundamentals of Catholicism, Vol. 3: Grace, the Church, the Sacraments, Eschatology.He wrote in the Preface to this1982 book, "While teaching a college course a few years ago on the fundamentals of the Catholic faith ... I came to the realization that over ninety percent of [my students] did not understand the most basic tenets of their Catholic faith... I came to the realization that there should be more teaching and preaching about the basics of Catholicism... What I have tried to do in these short articles is to present faithfully the traditional Catholic teaching on all the important points of doctrine and morals... They were written primarily for ordinary Catholic lay men and women who are looking for some direction in the present sea of confusion, and who would like to know more about the Catholic faith that they profess." (Pg. 9-10)He admits, "It is true that there is a certain obscurity about faith, since what is believed is accepted on the authority of another---in this instance on the authority of God who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Hence, when a person assents to something as true on the basis of his faith, he does so not because he sees the intrinsic reason for the proposition in question... but because God himself has testified to this truth." (Pg. 24) He points out, "Many Christian religions do not claim to be the one true Church of Jesus Christ. However, the Roman Catholic Church has claimed at least since the time of St. Paul... [that] She claims to be, and we Catholics believe, that she is the one true Church." (Pg. 102-103)He states, "Since conscience involves a judgment, it is said to be CORRECT when the judgment corresponds with the objective norms of morality; it is said to be ERRONEOUS when it is not. Subjectively, a conscience is said to be CERTAIN if an individual has no doubts about the morality of what he is doing; it is said to be DOUBTFUL if a person is undecided about what to do. The ideal conscience, the one that is to be striven for, is a conscience that is both correct and certain." (Pg. 133) He acknowledges, "The Catholic Church is going through a period of turmoil and this is being reflected in Catholic families." (Pg. 189)He asserts, "Since homosexuality runs contrary to a basic human good, it is a serious transgression of the divine will and so gravely sinful... the Vatican Declaration on Certain Questions Concerning Sexual Ethics... goes on to urge compassion in dealing with homosexuals but not to condone their conduct... That is the official teaching of the Catholic Church---and it is not going to change... What some Catholic intellectuals of ’moralists’ say on television is not necessarily what the Catholic Church teaches. In the present age of permissiveness and confusion it is not difficult to find some ’Catholic professor’ who will deny any and all traditional Catholic teachings. In order to

keep your bearings in the present fog, it is necessary to hold on to Peter and his successor, our Holy Father." (Pg. 235-236)BakerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s book is an excellent ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“mainstreamÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (relatively conservative) and clear presentation of Catholic teachings.

I have read all three books and Volume 1: Creed, Commandments - is the one I most often recommend. In a clear and easy read, the author reveals the depth of theology embodied in the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, which was established by Christ Himself. Every word of the Christan Creed is examined, along with the Church history behind it. The book covers the exponential spread of Christianity, the heretical and organizational problems encountered by the early Church and how Councils settled matters of morality and defined matters of faith in Her teaching. This series is a must read for anyone who wants to know what the Catholic Church teaches and why the Vatican holds the premier position of Spiritual Authority in our world.

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