

# Test Your Catechism Knowledge

BY DAVID O'BRIEN

*This quiz can help you, your students, and your students' families review what you know about our Catholic faith. Check your answers against the answer key on page 43.*

**1** Which book contains an official summary of all Catholic teachings?

- a) the Bible b) the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* c) the Gospel d) the lectionary

**2** The Pope wrote the *Catechism*. True | False

**3** The word *catechesis*, in Greek, means \_\_\_\_\_?

- a) Sunday school b) to give tests c) to teach d) to echo

**4** The *Catechism* is called "universal" because it was written for \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) the universal Church b) people who like *Star Wars* c) aliens d) people who study planets

**5** The head catechist in a parish is the \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) high school principal b) 2nd grade math teacher c) pastor d) Pope

**6** The current universal catechism is the first catechism ever written.

True | False

**7** The \_\_\_\_\_ is the head catechist in the diocese.

- a) youth minister b) local pastor c) bishop d) Pope

**8** The *Catechism* was written primarily for children.

True | False

**9** St. \_\_\_\_\_ was the Pope when the universal catechism was written.

- a) Jesus b) Francis c) John d) John Paul II

**10** Before the Bible was written, people were taught about Jesus by his \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) enemies b) apostles c) angels d) grandparents

**11** "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, \_\_\_\_\_ them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

- a) requiring b) inviting c) forcing d) teaching

**12** Christian history experts say the earliest catechism was called \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) *The Iliad* b) the Jesus story c) the *Didache* d) the Bible

**13** Learning about our Catholic faith ends when we \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) die b) receive Baptism c) receive Confirmation d) receive first Communion

**14** The Apostles' \_\_\_\_\_ contains the most basic statement of Catholic teaching.

- a) Creed b) *Catechism* c) Parable d) Club



**15** The official teachings of the Catholic Church come from both Scripture and Tradition.

True | False

**16** When a baby is baptized, who receives catechesis?

- a) the baby b) grandparents c) uncles d) parents

**17** To receive first Communion, a child must be the age of reason, which is about \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

- a) 2 b) 7 c) 18 d) 21

**18** The *Catechism* uses the Ten \_\_\_\_\_ to explain how to follow Jesus and be a disciple.

- a) Commandments b) Beatitudes c) Corporal Works of Mercy d) Apostles

**19** The *Catechism* uses the \_\_\_\_\_ to teach about Christian prayer.

- a) Rosary b) Act of Contrition c) Hail Mary d) Lord's Prayer

**20** A version of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* geared for teens and young adults is called *YOUCAT*.

True | False



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The *Baltimore Catechism* is a universal catechism. True | False

For more Catholic IQ and to find the answer to the *What's Your Catholic IQ? Bonus Question*, go to [Catechist.com](http://Catechist.com).

## ANSWERS TO WHAT'S YOUR CATHOLIC IQ?

**1 B)** The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains Catholic doctrine, the Mass and the sacraments, morality and prayer.

**2 FALSE.** Popes don't write catechisms. They approve the efforts of experts — including cardinals, bishops and theologians — who work for years to write an accurate and complete summary of Church teaching.

**3 D)** In catechesis, we echo the teachings of Christ that come to us through the apostles.

**4 A)** A universal catechism is an authoritative point of reference for the development of national or local catechisms and catechetical materials throughout the world.

**5 C)** The pastor is chosen by the bishop to teach, sanctify, and govern a local church.

**6 FALSE.** Many local versions of a catechism were used throughout Church history. The Council of Trent commissioned the first universal catechism.

**7 C)** As the earthly representative of Christ and the successor to the apostles, a bishop is responsible for the spiritual education and faith formation of his diocese (see CCC, 1560).

**8 FALSE.** Local textbooks and resources based on the *Catechism* are written for children.

**9 D)** Responding to a recommendation from the world's bishops in 1985, Pope John Paul II called for the writing of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in 1986. The final version was approved in 1992.

**10 B)** Before Jesus ascended to his Father after the resurrection, he commissioned his closest followers to go out to all the world and teach people his Gospel (Matthew 28:19-20).

**11 D)** Right from the beginning, the Church was tasked by Jesus to teach people about him so they could become his disciples.

**12 C)** Possibly written in the first century, the full name of the Didache is *The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles*.

**13 A)** Catechesis and faith formation is a lifelong process because there is always more we can learn about God.

**14 A)** New Catholics state their belief in The Apostles' Creed because it contains the most important teachings of the Catholic faith including the doctrine of creation, the Trinity and Jesus' life death and resurrection.

**15 TRUE.** "The Church ... does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the Holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence" (CCC, 82).

**16 D)** Since a baby cannot understand anything yet, the parents receive instruction in the faith and tips on how to raise the child as a disciple of Christ.

**17 B)** "The administration of the Most Holy Eucharist to children requires that they have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so that they understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity and are able to receive the body of Christ with faith and devotion." (CIC, 913 §1)

**18 A)** The Ten Commandments are the basis for faith in God and moral decision-making.

**19 D)** "The Lord's Prayer is truly the summary of the whole gospel," the "most perfect of prayers." It is at the center of the Scriptures (CCC, 2774).

**20 TRUE.** *YOUCAT* stands for "Youth Catechism" and is written in a Q & A format.

