

Catechism on Prayer

Taken from **A Surge in Prayer**
A Six Part Course on Prayer
by Ken Vaughn, ocds

Part 1 Introduction

To really understand the Catholic faith, we need to go to the Catechism for **guidance, teaching** and **exhortation** (strong urging to do something).

The Catechism has **four interdependent parts** :

a-What we Believe,

b- How we Worship,

c- How we live out our Faith,

d- How we Pray.

1a- What is the Catechism?

It is book that contains the **fundamentals of Christian Truths** formulated in a way that makes them understandable.

This current version of the catechism ----and don't call it the new Catechism because that is not what it is --- is called the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. It is a **re-statement**, it is not new.

It has its origins back to 1985. It was at this time that John Paul II appointed a commission of Cardinals and Bishops to represent the truths of the faith.

In 1989, this commission sent a proposed text to every bishop in the world and got back 24, 000 suggestions.

After weeding through all of those suggestions, they, in 1991, gave it to the Pope John Paul II and he approved it.

In 1992, the **official version** was promoted. It arrived in the US in 1994 and it became a sensation ! a bestseller! It was very hard to get. If you consider the rate at which the Church moves, ten years, 1985-1994, was a very short time. It was done very quickly.

2a- What is the Catechism for?

Well, it conveys the **basic truths**; it is a positive **explanation of doctrine**; it assists those involved in teaching the faith. But it is for more than that.

It is for teachers of the faith such as priests and catechists but it is also for us, the faithful in the pews. It has been given to us in a spirit of communion, made available to us for use in our **mission of evangelization**.

In short, the Catechism is a resource for all Christians, those of other faiths, and for agnostics and atheists too.