

Old Testament Catechesis

Learn by Heart for the Year:

- The Books of the Old Testament
- The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
- The Sacrament of the Altar
- Table of Duties:
 - To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers
 - What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors

Lesson 1

God—The Creation of All Things

Bible Story: Genesis 1:1–2:3

Learn by Heart: The names of the first seventeen books of the Old Testament in order: the Pentateuch and the historical books.

Old Testament Terms:

The Holy Trinity
the Word of God
creation

the Pentateuch (or the Torah)
the historical books

————— *To the Catechist* —————

Central Thoughts:

- ◆ The Holy Trinity is the true God who created all things out of nothing.
- ◆ God the Father created all things by His Word.
- ◆ Everything in creation is dependent upon God.
- ◆ Man is made in the image of the Triune God of love to “be fruitful and multiply; and to have dominion over the creation.”

Key Questions:

Who is the God who created all things? Where are the three persons of the Holy Trinity seen in the first three verses of Genesis? How does the God the Father create all things? How is this shown in the text of chapter one? Why did God create the world? Why does God refer to Himself with the plural pronouns “us” and “our”? How is the “image” of the one God in three persons “reflected” in the creation of man? How was man to “reflect the Triune God” in the world?

Catechesis Summary:

The Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is the only true God who created all things. The person of the Father is seen especially in the word “God.” He is the source of the divine nature. The person of the Son is seen in the “Word” that the Father speaks in creating all things. He is the only-begotten Son of God, the eternal Word of the Father (John 1:1-3). The person of the Holy Spirit is seen in “the Spirit of God” that hovers over the surface of the waters. He proceeds from the Father and the Son to give the breath of life to the world. Man is made in the image of the Triune God of love, who is both one God and a plurality of persons. Man is one, yet a plurality of persons: male and female from whom children come. Just as God created the world in love to give of Himself to the world, so man was created to reflect God’s loving nature in the world by having children and caring for the creation. God gives life and graciously cares for the creation. Man was created to do the things that God does: to love by giving of himself in the procreation of children and in the benevolent dominion over the creation.

“Learn by Heart” Catechism Connection:

The Word that God first spoke orally was later recorded by Moses. Likewise, other prophets, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, also recorded God’s oral Word in the books of the Old Testament Scriptures. “Prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21)

Lesson 2 Adam and Eve—The Creation of Man and the Institution of Marriage

Bible Story: Genesis 2:4-25

Learn by Heart: The names of all the books of the Old Testament in order: the Pentateuch, the historical books, the poetical books, the major prophet “sandwich,” and the minor prophets.

Old Testament Terms:

the poetical books	the tree of life
the major prophet “sandwich”	Adam
the minor prophets	Eve
the tree of knowledge	marriage

————— *To the Catechist* —————

Central Thoughts:

- ◆ God created man from the dust of the ground by breathing His Holy Spirit into man, and the woman was created from the man (order of creation).
- ◆ Man’s life was dependent upon the Word of God; death comes by turning away from