

LEARN BY HEART THE SMALL CATECHISM

THE PRIMARY TEXTS OF THE CATECHISM are those texts from the Bible that have been received by Christians in catechesis since the early church:

- **The Ten Commandments** (Exodus 20: 3, 7, 8, 12-17 and Deuteronomy 5:7, 9b-12, 16-21)
- **The Apostles' Creed** (Biblical summary of the Holy Trinity's acts of love for us in our creation, redemption, and sanctification)
- **The Lord's Prayer** (Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4)
- **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism** (Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:16)
- **The Office of the Keys and Confession** (John 20:22-23) *
- **The Sacrament of the Altar** (Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20, and 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

* The text of John 20:22-23 was added by the Reformers to the list of "Primary Texts" of Christian doctrine in the Catechism to emphasize the centrality of the preaching of the forgiveness of sins in the life of the Church and every Christian.

THE EXPLANATIONS OF THE CATECHISM are those rich Biblical explanations of "the primary texts of the Catechism." They assist the Christian in understanding the meaning of those primary texts and how those texts are to be understood and used throughout the Christian life.