

## Ten After Ten

### Lesson 1: Introduction

Catechism: from the Greek *Kata-echein* – “To sound down” (Into the ears)

#### History of Catechisms:

- Roman Catechism – circulated by Council of Trent (1566). Pope Pius V. It was intended for the bishops so that they could teach the faithful --- elevated, theological language
- Catechism of Pius X – promulgated in 1908. Question and Answer format. Written so that everyone could understand.
- Baltimore Catechism – in use from 1885 to the late 1960’s. Put out by the bishops of the United States to regulate religious education: was the textbook for RE in the USA.
- Vatican II – there is a move away from “knowledge” in favor of “experience.” Instead of kids knowing **about** God, we want them to **know** God! Ultimately, it fails to teach kids anything, and two generations of religious education are lost.
- Dutch Catechism – 1966. Dutch bishops promulgate Catechism based on ‘conscience.’ Moved away from true doctrine to a relativistic mindset of our faith. We see these affects still infecting some parts of our Church
- John Paul II – lasting legacy of the new saint was to develop a new catechism to regulate the Church’s teaching. Finished in 1992, this is a concise presentation of the faith and morals of the Catholic Church. This is an infallible document, holding the authority of a Council.

Parts of the Catechism:

1. The Profession of Faith – the Creed
2. Celebration of the Christian Mystery – Sacraments, life of the Church
3. Life of Christ – Beatitudes, Morality, the Ten Commandments
4. Christian Prayer – With a special emphasis on the Our Father

The Catechism utilizes the **Teaching of Sacred Scripture**, in communion with the **Living Tradition** of the Church. It reflects the **Authentic Magisterium**, as well as the **Spiritual heritage** of the **Fathers, Doctors, and Saints** of the Church.