

THE CATECHISM PROJECT

The duty of each and every Catholic is to conform themselves to timeless truth. That truth is the truth revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, and entrusted to the holy Catholic Church to be made known through Scripture and Tradition. Only through the revelation of Christ do we find what is good and true. It is not to be found in the world; it is found in the deposit of faith.

Last Wednesday, the Church celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, when the prophet Simeon called the newly-born Christ “the light of revelation to the Gentiles.” In the darkness of that world in which Christ was born, the light of the fullness of truth was made known. So, today, we still long for that fullness of truth revealed in Christ and entrusted to His holy Catholic Church.

Today, as throughout history, the truth of Christ has been clouded and even discarded, and in its place we find, instead, opinions not founded in faith or reason but in popularity, and where believing what is contrary to what is popular is called hate. As St. James wrote in his epistle: “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God” (4:4).

As we face times of great difficulty and of confusion amidst ever-changing beliefs, we must remember, as Our Lord said, “My teaching is not mine but his who sent me” (Jn 7:16). The Church has been entrusted with the deposit of faith handed on since the time of the Apostles by way of sacred Tradition and sacred Scripture. The fathers of the Second Vatican Council wrote that the Church is “Divinely sent to the nations of the world to be unto them ‘a universal sacrament of salvation,’... driven by the inner necessity of her own catholicity, and obeying the mandate of her Founder... ever to proclaim the Gospel to all men” (*Ad gentes*, n. 1).

It is inspired by the mission of Our Lord and given to the Church as made known in Scripture and Tradition, that I launch, today, a new pastoral work of the parish, which I call “The Catechism Project”. I encourage all of you to begin to read the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and to know and to make known the unchanging truth of Our Lord as taught by the Church through the ages.

It was Pope St. John Paul II who, in 1992, decreed that a catechism of the Catholic Church should be prepared and promulgated throughout the Church. Of this he said: “Guarding the deposit of the faith is the mission which the Lord entrusted to His Church, and which she fulfils in every age” (*Fidei depositum*).

Because of this, I offer to all parishioners who will dedicate themselves to participating in the work and the life of the parish, and who will commit to reading a paragraph of the Catechism of the Catholic Church every day and praying for our holy mother, the Church, and our parish dedicated to the Holy Cross, a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. I have personally bought and donated copies of the *Catechism* and I offer them to those who will join the parish in “The Catechism Project”.

To be a part of this pastoral work of the parish and to commit yourself to the reading of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, speak with me after the Mass. Let us join together and participate in the mission of the Church to which we are all called by virtue of our Baptism and, by the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church and the Seat of Wisdom, work towards knowing and making known the deposit of faith entrusted for all time to the holy Catholic Church so that “the light of true faith [may] free humanity from the ignorance and slavery of sin in order to lead it to the only freedom worthy of the name (cf. *Jn* 8:32): that of life in Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit” (John Paul II, *Fidei depositum*).

As St. Paul wrote to St. Timothy, we must, each of us: “avoid the profane chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge” (I *Tim* 6:20) and “guard the good treasure entrusted to [us], with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us” (II *Tim* 1:14).

With this, the Holy Cross Parish “Catechism Project”, let us make known the beauty of the unchanging truths of God entrusted to His Church for the salvation of all men and women.

It is my hope that all parishioners will join the parish in this work of the Holy Spirit to know and to make known the faith so that we may be drawn ever deeper into the wisdom of God and to understand how, in our time and in our place, He seeks to raise us to the fulfillment of our humanity and to make known He who is the light of truth to all the world.