

Catholic religion from the beginning of the world to the present day, the Catholic religion before, during, and after the preaching of Jesus Christ, is the object of this Catechism.

It is divided into four courses; the first embraces the period from the first day of creation to the coming of the Messiah: the second, the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ: the third, the establishment, preservation and propagation of the Catholic Church: the fourth, the church visible—its worship, both exterior and interior.

### FIRST COURSE.

The first course will embrace the following matter:

1. GOD.—THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION. We adore in his ineffable essence the God of eternity, who has created time and all things that exist in time. The existence and perfections of this eternal Being demanding first our attention, we consider his power, his wisdom, his goodness, his liberty, his immutability, his providence.

After contemplating God in himself, we consider him in his works. With the morning stars we assist at the glorious spectacle of the creation of the universe. Each creature, as it comes forth from his hand, bears on its brow, graven in living characters, the omnipotent word, *God*. All things speak the unity, power, wisdom, goodness, and paternal providence of Him who watches with the same care over those majestic orbs which will run their destined course until the end of