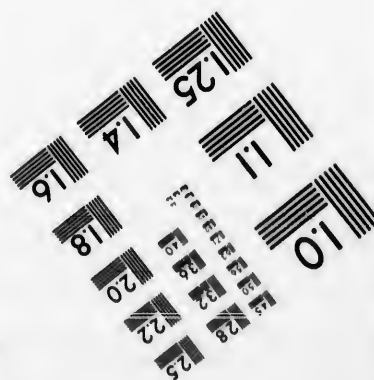
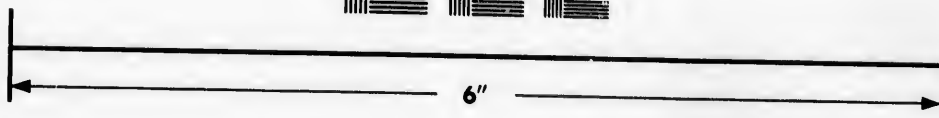
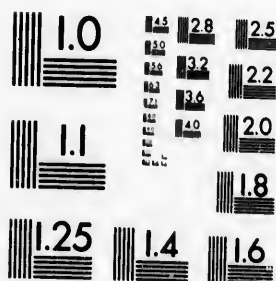


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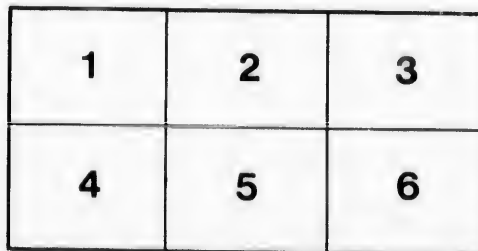
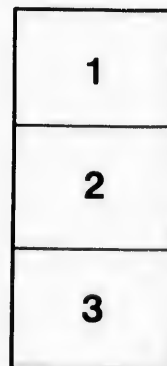
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CATECHISM

FOR

FIRST CONFESSION

AND FOR

FIRST COMMUNICANTS.

HALIFAX, N. S.

THOMAS F. CONNOLLY,

1880.



CATECHISM

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FIRST CONFESSION

AND FOR

FIRST COMMUNICANTS.

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HALIFAX, N. S.  
THOMAS P. CONNOLLY,  
1880.

We recommend to the faithful of this  
Diocese a small Catechism for "First Con-  
fession and Communion," published by Mr.  
THOS. P. CONNOLLY of this city.

†MICHL. HANNAN,  
Archbishop of Halifax.

*Halifax, N. S., July 8th, 1880.*

# CATECHISM

FOR

## FIRST CONFSSION.

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QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY A CHILD  
BEFORE ADMITTED TO FIRST CONFSSION.

QUESTION. What is the use of going to  
confession ?

ANSWER. To obtain the pardon of my  
sins.

Q. Who will forgive your sins ?

A. God Almighty.

Q. Whom has he appointed to forgive  
you ?

A. The priest.

Q. What kind of confession must you  
make, that your sins may be forgiven you ?

A. A good confession.

(My dear child, as you could not make a  
good confession, nor benefit by any Sacra-  
ment, Baptism excepted, without knowing  
the principal mysteries of your religion, I  
must ask you—)

Q. What is meant by a mystery ?

A. A divine truth which we cannot  
understand.

this  
Con-  
Mr.

k.



Q. Which are the principal divine truths or mysteries of our religion?

A. The Trinity, the Incarnation, the Death and Resurrection of God.

Q. First, as to the Trinity; how many Gods are there?

A. There is but one God, who will reward the good and punish the wicked.

Q. How many Persons are there in this one God?

A. Three Divine Persons, really distinct and equal in all things.

Q. Tell me the names of the three Persons.

A. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Q. Did one of these three Divine Persons come down from heaven and live on earth amongst us?

A. Yes; God the Son, the second Person.

Q. What name did he take when He became man?

A. Jesus Christ—also called Our Blessed Redeemer.

Q. What brought Him from heaven, and why did He become man?

A. To save us.

Q. To save us from what?

A. From hell.  
 Q. Why were we destined for hell and shut out from heaven?

A. On account of the sin of Adam and Eve.

Q. Who were Adam and Eve.

A. The first man and woman.

Q. What sin did they commit?

A. Disobedience.

Q. Who tempted them to commit this sin?

A. The devil.

Q. Who is the devil?

A. A wicked angel whom, with his wicked companions, God Almighty expelled from heaven.

Q. Why were they expelled from heaven?

A. Because they committed sin there.

Q. What sin did they commit?

A. The sin of *Pride*.

Q. How do we obtain pardon for the sin of our first parents, and for all our own sins?

A. Through the merits of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Q. What merits? What did he do for us?

A. He left the glories and joy of heaven to come down and live amongst us, to teach us how to live, and then He died to save us.

Q. What kind of death did He die ?

A. He died nailed to a cross.

Q. On what day did He die ?

A. On Good Friday.

Q. After He was dead and buried what did He do ?

A. He arose again to life.

Q. On what day did he arise ?

A. On Easter Sunday.

Q. Why was He able to bring himself again to life, what no one ever did before or since ?

A. Because He was God.

Q. Is He now alive ?

A. Yes.

Q. Where ?

A. In heaven.

Q. Will He ever come back to this world ?

A. Yes, on the last day of the world.

Q. What will He come for ?

A. To judge us.

(Yes, my dear child, we shall all see Him, coming through the clouds in grandeur, and glory, and majesty, &c., &c., &c. Here

describe, in a few simple words, the scene of the last judgment. The good on God's right hand, the wicked on His left—the good, beautiful and happy ; the wicked hideous and miserable, &c., &c.)

Q. When the Judgment is over, where will the good go to ?

A. Into heaven.

Q. And the wicked ?

A. Into hell.

Q. Now, on what side of our Redeemer would you like to be on the last day ?

A. On the right.

Q. But what must you do to deserve being there ?

A. I must keep the commandments.

Q. What commandments ?

A. The ten commandments of God.

Q. But you cannot keep them unless you know them, let me hear you repeat them ?

A. 1st. I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt have no other God but me.

2nd. Thou shalt not take the name of God in vain.

3rd. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

4th. Honour thy father and mother.

5th. Thou shalt not kill.

6th. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

7th. Thou shalt not steal.

8th. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

9th. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife.

10th. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods.

Q. Are there any other commandments which we must keep?

A. Yes, the commandments of the Church.

Q. How many are the commandments of the Church?

A. Six.

Q. Repeat them?

A. 1st. To hear Mass on Sundays and holidays.

2nd. To fast and abstain on the days commanded.

3rd. To confess our sins, at least once a year.

4th. To receive at Easter, or thereabouts.

5th. To contribute to the support of our pastors.

6th. Not to solemnize marriage within the forbidden time, nor within the forbidden degrees of kindred,

Q. Could any one keep these commandments by their own strength or cleverness?

A. No.

Q. What is it that enables us to keep them?

A. The grace of God.

Q. How do we obtain the grace of God?

A. By prayer and the Sacraments.

Q. How many Sacraments are there?

A. Seven.

Q. Repeat them?

A. Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.

Q. Did you ever receive any Sacrament?

A. Yes, Baptism.

Q. When?

A. I was baptized when I was an infant.

Q. What good did it do you?

A. It washed away the sin of Adam and Eve from my soul.

Q. Is there any Sacrament through which you obtain pardon for the sins committed after Baptism?

A. Yes, Penance, or Confession.

Q. What must you do to obtain advantage of the Sacrament of Penance?

A. I must make a good confession.

Q. What is the first thing you must do to make a good confession ?

A. First, I must beg of God, in prayer, to grant me the grace to make a good confession.

Q. What is the second thing you must do ?

A. I must examine my conscience.

Q. What does that mean ?

A. To try and find out all the sins I have committed.

Q. What is the third thing you must do ?

A. To be very sorry in my heart for them.

Q. Why are you to be sorry for your sins ?

A. Because they displease God.

Q. Any other reason ?

A. Yes. Because they deserve hell, and make me lose heaven.

Q. Any other reason ?

A. Yes. Our Divine Redeemer died to atone for sin, and every one of my sins increase his sufferings.

Q. Repeat again the three things necessary to be done in order to make a good confession.

A. To pray to God ; to examine my conscience ; and to be sorry for my sins.

Q. What must you do and say when you go to the priest?

A. I must kneel down beside him, bless myself, and say—"Bless me father, for I have sinned"; then say the prayer, "I confess to Almighty God, to blessed Mary ever virgin, to blessed Michael the archangel, to blessed John the Baptist, to the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, to all the saints in heaven, *and to-you, father*, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, through my fault, through my fault, through my exceeding great fault. Father, I never was at confession before. I accuse myself of—" (here mention your sins).

Q. What are you to say when you have told all your sins?

A. Father, I can remember no more at present. Then finish the prayer, "therefore I beseech," &c., &c.

Q. What are you to do next?

A. To listen attentively to the instructions I receive from the priest.

Q. What are you to do when you come from Confession?

A. To thank God, to say my penance, and to resolve to be a good child in future.

END OF THE CATECHISM.



### A Few Words to the Instructor.

On each day of examination in the above Catechism, enlarge on some one point, and only on *one*. Let your words be few and very simple, in the form of familiar conversation.

On the first day, stop at the question of Adam and Eve. Describe the creation of the world—the beautiful garden of Paradise—the forbidden fruit—Satan in the form of a serpent—the fall of Adam and Eve.

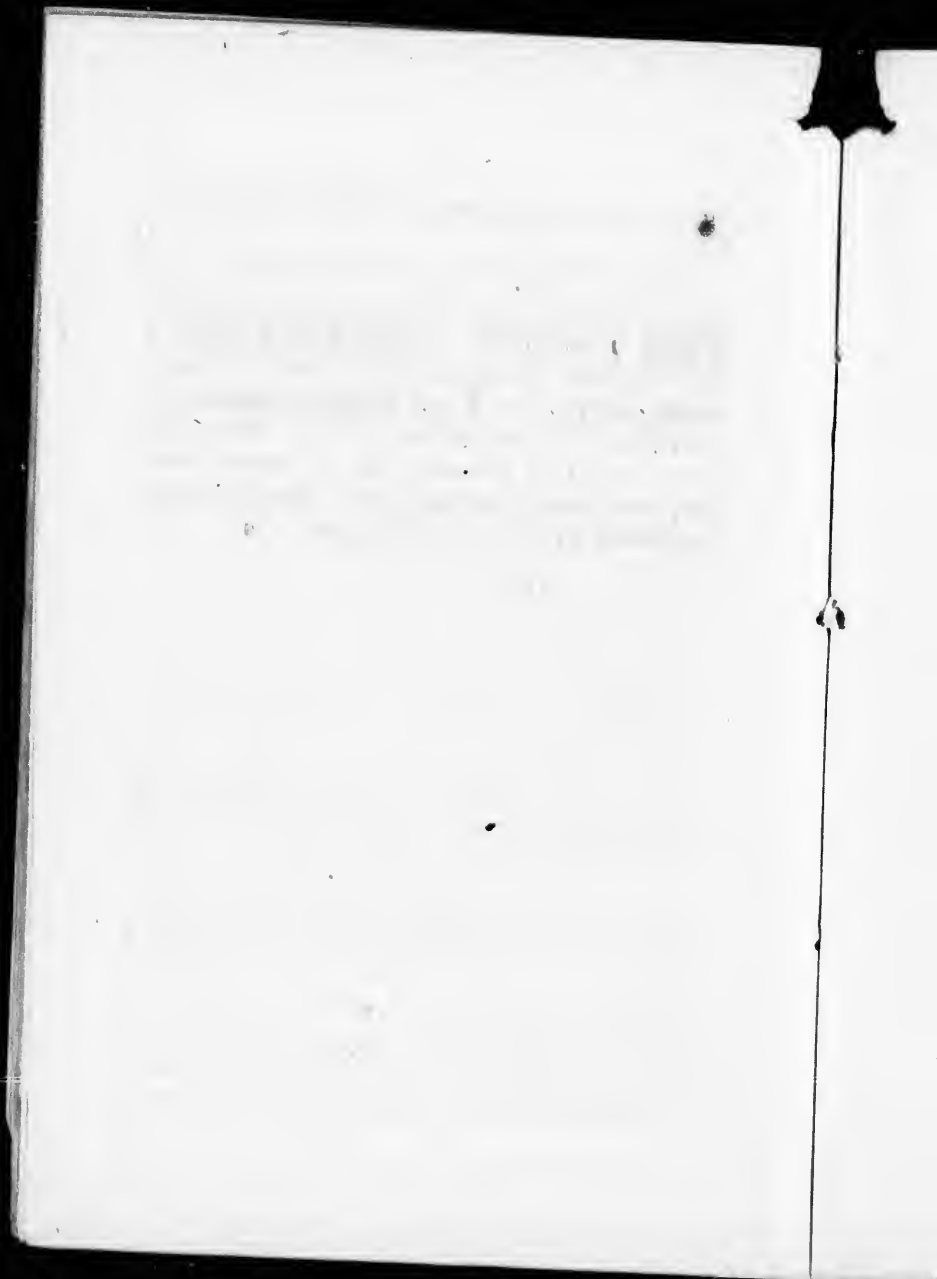
On the second day, pause at the question about our Redeemer. Speak of Him—His birth—His submission to Mary and Joseph, being and knowing He was God. His miracles—His last supper—His sufferings—His death—how our sins were amongst those that caused that suffering.

On the third day, speak of the mystery of the Trinity—the greatness—the majesty—the glory of God.

On the fourth day, explain the commandments very simply; and after explaining them, then say, What commandment do you break by disobedience?—what by telling a

lie?—what by passion?—what by stealing?  
&c.

Finally, impress upon their minds, that without sorrow for their sins, God will not forgive them by the sacrament of Penance; and conclude by appealing to their feelings: speak of the love of our suffering Redeemer for *them*—His particular love for *little children*—and that He only asks in return that they will love Him, and share His glory and happiness with Him in Heaven.



A CATECHISM  
OF  
**THE HOLY EUCHARIST,**  
Especially for First Communicants.

CHAPTER I.

Ques. Which is the greatest and most excellent of all the Sacraments?

Ans. The Holy Eucharist.

Q. Why so?

A. Because Jesus Christ himself is present in it.

Q. But is not Jesus Christ present in all the Sacraments?

A. Yes, as their author and principal Minister, but not *really* and *substantially* as in the Eucharist.

Q. What then is the Eucharist?

A. It is the true body and blood of Jesus Christ under the species of bread and wine.

Q. By whom and when was it instituted?

A. By Jesus Christ at his last supper.

Q. How did He institute it ?

A. "He took bread, and blessed, and broke, and gave it to His disciples and said : Take ye and eat : this is my body :—and taking the chalice, He gave thanks and gave to them, saying, Drink ye all of this ; for this is my blood, &c."—*Matt. 26.*

Q. What was the effect of these words ?

A. As soon as they were pronounced the substance of the bread was changed into His body, and the substance of the wine into His blood.

Q. How could this be done ?

A. By His almighty power, for He is true God.

Q. What did He then say to His apostles ?

A. Do ye this in commemoration of me.

Q. What was the effect of these words ?

A. Power was given to them and their Successors to do what He had just done, that is, to consecrate, offer up and administer the Holy Eucharist.

Q. When the bread and wine were changed by Jesus Christ into His body and blood, did the species remain the same as before ?

A. Yes.

Q. What do you mean by the species ?

A. The external qualities, called also accidents, as color, taste, smell, touch, shape and appearance.

Q. Why does Jesus Christ give us His body and blood under the species of bread and wine?

A. 1. To show that He is the food of our souls. 2. To conceal His majesty, that we may be able to receive Him.

Q. How is the Holy Eucharist the food of our souls?

A. Because as bread and wine nourish our bodies so does the Holy Eucharist nourish our souls.

Q. Do our souls then require food?

A. Yes, for "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye shall not have life in you."—*John 6.*

Q. What benefits does this Divine food produce in our souls?

A. It feeds and nourishes them by its sanctifying grace, and so strengthens, enlivens, elevates and perfects them.

Q. How is Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist?

A. Truly, really and substantially, that is, in body, soul, and divinity, such as He is in heaven.

Q. Do you firmly believe that Jesus Christ, is *so* present in the Eucharist?

A. Yes, I firmly believe it.

Q. Why do you firmly believe it?

A. Because He himself has said it; and I firmly believe what Jesus Christ has said.

Q. How do you know that he has said it?

A. From his own words, understood in their natural and obvious sense, as interpreted by the Holy Catholic Church: "the pillar and ground of truth."—*1 Tim. 3.*

Q. But is not the Eucharist the *figure* only of the body and blood of Jesus Christ?

A. No, it is the *reality*, as the Catholic Church teaches.

Q. When are the bread and wine *now* changed into the body and blood of Jesus Christ?

A. When the words of consecration are pronounced by the Priest in the Mass.

Q. What is there on the altar before consecration?

A. Bread and wine.

Q. And what after consecration?

A. The body and blood of Jesus Christ, under the species of bread and wine.

Q. Does any of the bread and wine remain after consecration?

- A. No, the species alone remain.
- Q. How can the species, or accidents, subsist without their subject?
- A. By the Almighty power of God.
- Q. Is the same body present in the Eucharist that was crucified for us, and is now glorious and impassible in heaven?
- A. Yes, the very same.
- Q. Is Jesus Christ present in all the hosts wherever the Eucharist is?
- A. Yes, in all the consecrated hosts throughout the world.
- Q. Has Jesus Christ then many bodies?
- A. No, He has but one body.
- Q. How is it possible that His one body should be in many places at once?
- A. Nothing is impossible or difficult to Him; who does many things, even in nature, surpassing our comprehension.
- Q. When the host is divided or broken is the body of Jesus Christ divided or broken?
- A. No, it remains whole and entire under each divided part.
- Q. Is Jesus Christ present under the smallest as under the largest host?
- A. Yes, and under each particle thereof "after separation." *Coun. Trent.*



Q. Is the blood of Jesus Christ present under the species of bread alone ?

A. Yes, and His body under the species of wine alone.

Q. Why so ?

A. Because, since His resurrection, His body and blood are inseparable.

Q. How long does Jesus Christ remain present in the Eucharist ?

A. So long as the species subsist.

Q. When then does He cease to be present ?

A. When the species are quite consumed or disappear.

Q. Why so ?

A. Because with its outward sign the Sacrament ceases.

Q. Are God the Father, and God the Holy Ghost present in the Eucharist ?

A. Yes, by concomitance.

Q. What do you mean by concomitance ?

A. That the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, co-exist in the unity of the divine nature.

Q. Is the Eucharist necessary for us ?

A. Yes, it is the necessary food of our souls.

Q. Are we then obliged to receive it ?

A. Yes, under pain of death to the soul.

## CHAPTER II.

Q. At what age are children obliged to receive the Eucharist ?

A. At the age of discernment, that is, as soon as they are capable of discerning the body of the Lord.

Q. What is required besides discernment for children to make their first communion ?

A. Sufficient instruction and good conduct.

Q. Are those children guilty of sin, in the sight of God, who, being of sufficient age, are found unfit to make their first communion ?

A. Yes, if this be through their own fault.

Q. When is it to be considered their own fault ?

A. When they neglect to learn their catechism, or to seek instruction, or to correct their bad habits ?

Q. What is the most important duty children have to perform ?

A. Their first communion.

Q. Why so !

A. Because the effects of it are wont to reach through their whole life.

Q. What are the effects of a good first communion?

A. Joy in the Lord, fervor of spirit, great strength to resist temptations and to practise virtue, and final perseverance.

Q. What is to be expected from an unworthy first communion?

A. Troubles of conscience, perplexities, weakness of soul, and many other miseries.

Q. What then should children do that they may make their first communion with suitable dispositions?

A. They should prepare for it a long time before hand.

Q. How?

A. By seeking instruction, by ready and cheerful obedience, by earnest prayer, by devotion towards the Blessed Sacrament, and, especially, by carefully avoiding everything sinful.

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### CHAPTER III.

Q. Is it necessary to receive under both species?

A. No, except for the Priest in the Mass.

Q. Do those who receive under the species of bread alone receive as much as those who receive under both species?

A. Yes, because they receive Jesus Christ whole and entire.

Q. But did not Jesus Christ, at His last supper, command all to receive under both species?

A. No, for none were then present but the Apostles whom He commanded to do what He had just done, that is, to celebrate Mass.

Q. Is it forbidden to receive under both species?

A. Yes, to all but those who celebrate Mass.

Q. By what authority?

A. By the authority of the Holy Catholic Church.

Q. Has then Jesus Christ authorized His Church to determine when and where the faithful may receive under one or both species?

A. Yes.

Q. What are the fruits of a good communion?

A. 1. Union with Jesus Christ. 2. Increase of sanctifying grace. 3. Remission of venial sins. 4. Actual graces to resist temptations and to persevere in virtue. 5. Sanctification of the body to prepare it for a glorious resurrection.

Q. Do all Christians participate equally of the fruits of a good communion?

A. No, some participate of them more than others.

Q. Who are they that participate of them most?

A. They who prepare themselves best and receive with most devotion.

---

#### CHAPTER IV.

Q. What dispositions are required for a good communion?

A. 1. A firm faith in the real presence.  
2. The state of grace. 3. A fast from midnight. 4. Actual devotion.

Q. What should you do on the morning of your communion, as soon as you arise from sleep?

A. I should admire the excessive love and kindness of Jesus Christ, in thus inviting me to His holy table and beg His grace duly to prepare myself for it; continuing to entertain myself with these sentiments whilst dressing, &c.

Q. What should you do when you enter the church or chapel?

A. I should adore Jesus Christ, present

in the tabernacle, and recite, with devotion, the prayers before communion, especially acts of faith, hope, charity and contrition.

Q. How should you approach the altar rails?

A. With great respect, with my hands joined, and my eyes cast down.

Q. What should you do when the Priest holds up the host at the "Domine non sum dignus," &c.?

A. I should, with a lively faith, and profound humility, adore Jesus Christ, and strike my breast three times, saying, "Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof, speak but the word and my soul shall be healed."

Q. What should you do at the altar rails, when about to receive?

A. I should hold the communion cloth upon my hands, to prevent any particles from falling to the ground, with my head raised, my eyes cast down, my mouth conveniently open, and my tongue resting upon my lower lip.

Q. What should you do if the host sticks to the roof of your mouth?

A. I should quietly let it moisten, then

remove it with my tongue, but never touch it with my fingers.

Q. What should you say when you have swallowed the host ?

A. O Divine Jesus, preserve my soul unto life everlasting.

Q. How should you return to your place ?

A. In the same manner as I came.

Q. What should you do when you come to your place ?

A. I should adore, thank, and praise Jesus Christ, as earnestly as I can, offer my whole self to Him, resolve always to serve Him with fidelity, and ask of Him the graces I most want for myself and others.

Q. How long does Jesus Christ continue present within us ?

A. Until the species are consumed.

Q. How long then should we remain in the church or chapel after communion ?

A. At least a quarter of an hour.

Q. How should you spend the day of your communion ?

A. In works of piety, and in carefully guarding against worldly dissipation, and sin.

## CHAPTER V.

Q. What ought children to do after they have made their first communion ?

A. They ought in a special manner to imitate the virtues of Jesus Christ in His childhood.

Q. What virtues in particular ?

A. Meekness, humility, obedience, love of poverty and of work.

Q. What does the Scripture say of Jesus Christ when He was twelve years of age ?

"A. "That He went up to Jerusalem to the Feast ;"—"that He sat amidst the Doctors hearing them and asking them questions ;"—who were astonished at His wisdom and His answers—"that He was subject to His Parents, at Nazareth ;" and that "He advanced in wisdom, and age, and grace, with God and men." *Luke 2.*

Q. What does this conduct of the child Jesus teach children ?

A. To attend church or chapel, to improve in religious knowledge to the satisfaction of their Pastors and Teachers, to be subject to their Parents, and to be always advancing in wisdom and holiness.

Q. How often does the Scripture say that Jesus advanced in wisdom and grace ?



A. Twice,—once in His infancy, and then at the age of twelve.

Q. Why so?

A. To teach us that as we advance in age we should advance in wisdom and holiness.

Q. Why is it said with God and men?

A. To show that our advancement must be real in the sight of God, and such as may edify men.

Q. What must children do to advance in wisdom and holiness as they advance in age?

A. They must, by prayer and the holy sacraments, seek to obtain God's grace, and then duly correspond with it by carefully avoiding evil and doing good.

Q. What is the evil they must avoid?

A. Sin, which is the greatest of all evils, or rather the only true evil.

Q. What sins should they especially avoid?

A. Pride, disobedience, impurity, anger, lying, sloth, and idleness.

Q. What is the good they must do?

A. They must fear and love God, reverence their Parents and Supervisors, strive to save their souls and diligently practise the virtues of Jesus Christ.

## CHAPTER VI.

Q. Is it good to communicate often ?

A. Yes, if we derive benefit from it.

Q. How often ?

A. Once a month at least, and oftener with the advice of our confessor.

Q. Is an unworthy communion a great sin ?

A. Yes, a great sacrilege.

Q. Who was the first unworthy communicant ?

A. Judas Iscariot, the traitor.

Q. How was he punished ?

A. "The devil entered into him and he hanged himself; then his body burst, and his bowels gushed out." *Acts 1.*

Q. Does the Scripture say nothing about unworthy communicants ?

A. Yes, that many among the Corinthians were sick, and dead, on account of their bad communions. 1 Cor. xi. 30.

Q. What kind of worship should we pay to the Holy Eucharist ?

A. The same as to Jesus Christ Himself, that is, Supreme Divine worship.

Q. Why so ?

A. Because He is truly God, and is truly and really present in it.

Q. When in particular ought we to pay this worship ?

A. 1. When we enter the church or chapel where the Holy Eucharist reposes. 2. When we hear Mass. 3. When we go to communion. 4. At Benediction, and whenever the Sacred Host is exposed.

Q. Why ought we frequently to visit the Holy Eucharist ?

A. Because gratitude and our own interests require it.

Q. How does gratitude require it ?

A. Because Jesus Christ is our High Priest, Father, Brother, Spouse, King, Mediator and Saviour, in fact, the Source of all good.

Q. How does our own interest require it ?

A. Because He says, "Come to me all you that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you;" and, at every pious visit we receive some consolation or recompense.

Q. Why is the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle ?

A. 1. To be ready for the sick in danger of death. 2. For the consolation and recompense of those who devoutly visit it. 3. And for the perpetual adoration of Him who is there present.

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