Catechist Lesson Notes

# Unit 1

## ****Journey of Faith****

**This session of Symbolon Part 1 is aligned to Task 1 of the Six Tasks of Catechesis and it will cover the following doctrinal points:**

1. God, who is infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, did not create us to increase his own happiness. He freely chose to create us out of his own love and goodness, so that we could share in his blessed life (CCC [[CCC:1]], CCC [[CCC:293]]).
2. We were created by the God who is love, and we are made for his love. As St. Augustine says, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in him” (CCC [[CCC:27-30]]).
3. At every moment of our lives, God draws near to us, calling us to seek him, to know him, and to love him (CCC [[CCC:1]]).
4. There is only one God (CCC [[CCC:200–202]]), but this one God has revealed himself as a communion of three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (CCC [[CCC:221]]).
5. By sending the Son and the Holy Spirit to us, God has revealed his “inmost secret”—that his very being is a communion of love. As the Catechism teaches, “God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange” (CCC [[CCC:221]]).
6. The Holy Trinity is three Persons in one God. As the Catechism teaches, “We worship one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in unity, without either confusing the persons or dividing the substance; for the person of the Father is one, the Son’s is another and the Holy Spirit’s another; but the Godhead of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal” (CCC [[CCC:266]]).
7. Faith is our response to God, who has made himself known to us. Faith has two key aspects. On one hand, it is an assent of our minds to all that he has revealed. On the other hand, it is a personal adherence to God in which we entrust our lives to him (CCC [[CCC:150]]).

**Additional Reading from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults:**

USCCA Chapter 1: [My Soul Longs for You, O God](http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca/files/assets/basic-html/page-29.html)

USCCA Chapter 4: [Bringing About the Obedience of Faith](http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca/files/assets/basic-html/page-63.html)

USCCA Chapter 5: [I Believe in God](http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca/files/assets/basic-html/page-77.html)

USCCA Chapter 35: [God Calls Us to Pray](http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca/files/assets/basic-html/page-489.html)

## ****Divine Revelation****

**This session of Symbolon Part I is aligned to Task 1 of the Six Tasks of Catechesis and it will cover the following doctrinal points:**

1. God has chosen to reveal himself and make known to us his loving plan of salvation so that we can know him and love him (CCC [[CCC:50–52]]).
2. God gradually communicated himself and his will through deeds and words in salvation history culminating in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, who is the fullness of Divine Revelation (CCC [[CCC:53–65]]).
3. The revelation of Jesus Christ was handed on in the Church orally through Sacred Tradition and in writing through Sacred Scripture (CCC [[CCC:75–79]]).
4. This “Deposit of Faith” contained in Sacred Scripture and Tradition was entrusted by the Apostles to the teaching office of the Church, called the Magisterium, for its authentic interpretation (CCC [[CCC:84–85]]).
5. To know and understand God’s revelation, a Christian needs Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture, and the Magisterium. Each are so connected in the transmission of Divine Revelation that one cannot stand without the others (CCC [[CCC:95]]).

**Additional Reading from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults:**

USCCA Chapter 2: [God Comes to Meet Us](http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca/files/assets/basic-html/page-39.html)

USCCA Chapter 3: [Proclaim the Gospel to Every Creature](http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca/files/assets/basic-html/page-49.html)

## ****The Bible****

**This session of Symbolon Part I is aligned to Task 1 of the Six Tasks of Catechesis and will cover the following doctrinal points:**

1. Sacred Scripture contains the Word of God in the words of man (CCC [[CCC:101]]).
2. God is the author of the Sacred Scriptures. He inspired human writers who wrote  
   as true authors, using their own language, style, and powers. But God worked in  
   them and by them so that they consigned to writing “whatever he wanted written,  
   and no more” (CCC [[CCC:105-106]]).
3. Because God is the divine author and everything affirmed by the human writers is  
   affirmed by the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures always teach the truth (CCC [[CCC:107]]).
4. The Bible is not to be read in a literalistic way, but literarily, with attention to  
   what the human writers intend to affirm and to what God wants to reveal through  
   them (CCC [[CCC:108-114]]).
5. All Scripture tells a single story—the story of salvation that culminates in Jesus.  
   The Old Testament prepares for the New, and the New Testament fulfills the Old  
   (CCC [[CCC:101-102]], [[CCC:122]], [[CCC:128-129]]).
6. The Catholic Church, under the guidance of the Spirit, has discerned which  
   books are included in the list (or canon) of authentic Scriptures (CCC [[CCC:120]]).
7. The Church has always seen the Scriptures as essential to nourish and govern  
   Christian lives (CCC [[CCC:131]]).

**Additional Reading from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults:**

USCCA Chapter 3: [Proclaim the Gospel to Every Creature](http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca/files/assets/basic-html/page-49.html)

## ****The Story of Salvation****

**This session of Symbolon Part I is aligned to Task 1 of the Six Tasks of Catechesis and it will cover the following doctrinal points:**

1. God, who is infinitely perfect and happy in himself, freely created man to make him share his own goodness and love (CCC [[CCC:1]).
2. Originally, we were united with God (on the vertical level) and experienced harmony within the human family (on the horizontal level). Humanity was the united family of God reflecting the unity of God himself (CCC [[CCC:376]]).
3. Man and woman sinned, disobeying God and refusing to give themselves in love (CCC [[CCC:397–398]]).
4. This sin broke our relationship with God and broke the harmony between man and woman (CCC [[CCC:396]]).
5. This Original Sin also brought death into the world and wounded our human nature, leaving us with an inclination toward sin, called concupiscence (CCC [[CCC:400]], [[CCC:404–405]]).
6. God sent his Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins, offering on our behalf the perfect gift of love that restores us to the Father, and to send the Holy Spirit to fill us with his very life (CCC [[CCC:457–460]]).
7. Jesus established the universal “Catholic” Church to gather the broken family of man into the united family of God (CCC [[CCC:830]]).

**Additional Reading from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults:**

USCCA Chapter 6: [Man and Woman in the Beginning](http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca/files/assets/basic-html/page-93.html)

## ****Who is Jesus****

**This session of Symbolon Part I is aligned to Task 1 of the Six Tasks of Catechesis and it will cover the following doctrinal points:**

1. God spoke to his people through the prophets during the Old Testament times, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son (Hebrews 1:1–2; CCC [[CCC:65]]).
2. In the fullness of time, the divine Son of God became incarnate, meaning that he took on human flesh. In doing so, he assumed human nature without losing his divine nature (CCC [[CCC:479]]).
3. Jesus Christ is not part God, part man. He is truly God and truly man, in the unity of his divine person (CCC [[CCC:464]]).
4. Because Jesus is both God and man, he is the one and only mediator between God and man (CCC [[CCC:480]]).
5. The Son of God became man in order to save us by reconciling us with God, so that we might know God’s love, to be our model of holiness, and to make us partakers of the divine nature (CCC [[CCC:457–460]]).
6. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is one divine Person who possesses two natures. He has a divine nature and a human nature, which are united in the one divine Person. This mystery of Christ is the profound union of the divine and human natures in the one Person of the Son (CCC [[CCC:483]]).

**Additional Reading from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults:**  
  
USCCA Chapter 7: [The Good News: God Has Sent His Son](http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca/files/assets/basic-html/page-105.html)

## ****The Pascal Mystery****

**This session of Symbolon Part I is aligned to Task 1 of the Six Tasks of Catechesis and it will cover the following doctrinal points:**

1. No mere human being, even the holiest, would ever be able to take on the sins of all humanity and offer himself as a sacrifice for all (CCC [[CCC:616]]).
2. Jesus Christ is both God and man (CCC [[CCC:240–242]], [[CCC:455]]).
3. Fully human, Jesus can represent the human family and offer a gift of love on behalf of all humanity. Since he is also fully divine, his gift of love takes on infinite value—offering the perfect, redemptive sacrifice for all (CCC [[CCC:616]]).
4. When we say Jesus “descended into hell” in the Creed, this does not refer to the place of damnation, but the realm of the dead. . . . Jesus in his human soul, united to his divine Person, went to the realm of the dead and opened Heaven’s gates for the just who had gone before him (CCC [[CCC:637]]).
5. Jesus truly rose from the dead (CCC [[CCC:693]]).
6. By his Death, Jesus liberates us from sin. By his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to new life in him that we may become sons and daughters of God and have eternal life (CCC [[CCC:654]]).
7. By his Ascension into Heaven, Jesus precedes us into his Father’s glorious kingdom in Heaven (CCC [[CCC:666]]).
8. Jesus invites us to participate in the mystery of his Death and Resurrection by uniting our entire lives—our daily works, joys, and sufferings—with the Cross of Christ (CCC [[CCC:618]]).

**Additional Reading from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults:**  
  
USCCA Chapter 8: [The Saving Death and Resurrection of Christ](http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca/files/assets/basic-html/page-117.html)

# Unit 2

# Unit 3

Unit 4