

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION STUDY GUIDE

[Comp __] refers to the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

[CCC __] refers to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, published by the Vatican.

Biblical references are cited in standard notation.

8.01.01 What is the Holy Trinity and why is it important? [Comp 44]

The Holy Trinity is one God in three Persons, and is the central mystery of Christian faith and life.

8.01.02 What does it mean to say God is transcendent? [Comp 40]

God is an infinite mystery, existing beyond all limitations and human boundaries.

8.01.03 In the Lord's Prayer (The Our Father), what does "Hallowed be thy name" mean? [Comp 588]

God is holy and completely deserving of our love and worship.

8.01.04 Why do humans have a desire for God? [Comp 2]

The desire for God is written in the human heart because we are created by God and for God.

What is faith?

The theological virtue (a gift from God) that makes it possible for us to believe in God and all that he has revealed.

What is reason?

The ability to use one's intellect to explore the truth among alternatives. Reason is a process that works with faith to come to knowledge of God.

8.01.05 Is there a contradiction between faith and reason (science)? [Comp 29]

Both faith and reason work together to help us find and understand the truth. There is no contradiction because there cannot be two kinds of truth.

8.01.06 How does faith help us to face hardships? [Comp 57, 58]

Faith helps us to face the hardships of suffering, disappointment, and tragedy because we take strength and encouragement from the knowledge that God is with us.

8.01.07 What Original Holiness and Justice? [Comp 72]

The state of grace in which Adam and Eve were created. Made in God's image "to share in divine life," there existed between Adam and Eve and all creation a harmony and friendship free from the stain of sin.

8.01.08 What is original sin? [Comp 76]

The consequence of the disobedience of Adam and Eve which affected human nature. Through this sin, human beings lost the original blessing of God and became subject to sin and death.

8.01.09 Why does God permit evil? [Comp 57, 58]

Faith gives us the certainty that God would not permit evil if he did not cause a good to come from that very evil. God helps us to understand the mystery of evil through his Son, Jesus Christ. The greatest evil (the murder of Jesus) brought forth the greatest of all good (glorification of Christ and our redemption).

8.01.10 What does the word "Incarnation" (with a capital "I") mean? [Comp 86]

The mystery that at the time appointed by God, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, without losing his divine nature assumed human nature

8.01.11 What is the Paschal Mystery? [Comp 122, 131, 132]

Jesus died for our sins, rose from the dead to make eternal life with God possible for us, and is now alive in heaven interceding for each of us.

8.01.12 **Who is redeemed by Jesus' death and resurrection?** [Comp 171]

Jesus' death has the power to save all people, even those who do not know Christ.

8.01.13 **How many earthly lives does God give us?**

God gives us **one** life, unique and unrepeatable.

What is Redemptive Work?

The life, death, and resurrection of Christ that saves us from slavery to sin and death.

8.01.14 **How does Mary cooperate in the divine plan of salvation?** [Comp 97]

Mary's grace-filled "yes" allowed her to participate with the whole redemptive work of her Son.

8.02.01 **How is Sacred Scripture to be read?** [Comp 19]

Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted with the help of the Holy Spirit, who opens the eyes of those who read Scripture and moves them to have faith in God.

8.02.02 **Name and describe the two senses of Scripture.**

The literal sense is the meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture.

The spiritual sense is the understanding we gain by recognizing the significance of the events described.

What does "divine revelation" mean?

[Comp 6]

God reveals himself and his will for humankind.

How is divine revelation given to us?

[Comp 11]

Apostolic Tradition – The teaching of the apostles as handed down through the ages, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Sacred Scripture – The holy writings of the Old and New Testaments. They were composed by human writers inspired by the Holy Spirit and contain the truth of God's Revelation.

8.02.03 **What is the relationship between Tradition and Sacred Scripture?** [Comp 14]

Tradition and Sacred Scripture, as entrusted to the teaching ministry of the Church (the Magisterium), make up a single deposit of the faith.

8.02.04 **To discover the Scripture writer's intention, what must the reader consider?** [Comp 19]

The reader must take into account the culture, history and literary forms of that time.

8.02.05 **Describe the origin of the Church.** [Comp 144]

Fifty days after the Resurrection, at the time of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples as tongues of flame. This inspired Jesus's disciples to begin preaching the Good News and baptizing new Christians into the Church.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The third person of the Holy Trinity who came to the apostles at Pentecost and empowered them to establish the Church after the Ascension of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is still at work in all the Baptized today.

8.02.06 **In the Acts of the Apostles, what major figure helped to establish the Church?** [Comp 143-145]

After the Ascension of Jesus, the Holy Spirit gave the Apostles courage and inspiration to spread the Good News and to "make disciples of all nations."

8.02.07 **What is the importance of the Old Testament for Christians?** [Comp 21]

While Christians consider Christ's teaching when reading the Old Testament, we believe the Old Testament retains value as Revelation on its own.

8.02.08 What importance does the New Testament have for Christians? [Comp 22]

The Gospels are the heart of all Scriptures because they are our main source of information about the life and teaching of Jesus.

8.02.09 Why are letters (epistles) incorporated into Sacred Scripture? [Comp 24]

Written to various people and communities by early Christian leaders, they pass on wisdom, correction, and instruction on how to live the faith. Today, they give us the same wisdom and direction.

8.02.10 What is the Acts of the Apostles about, and why is it included in Sacred Scripture? [Comp 24]

Stories of the early Christians help us to understand the beginnings of the Church.

8.03.01 Are the benefits of the sacraments for individuals or for the whole Church? [Comp 226-230]

The grace of the sacraments builds up both the individual and the Church.

Individual – receiving sacraments strengthens us to live a life without sin, bringing us closer to God.

Church – receiving sacraments as a community strengthens each other's faith and brings us closer to one another as Christians.

8.03.02 Why is the sacrament of Confirmation called Confirmation? [Comp 266]

We use the term "Confirmation" because the sacrament both confirms our baptism and strengthens baptismal grace.

8.03.03 What is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults? [Comp 257]

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a faith formation process in which new members are welcomed into the church.

What are the Sacraments of Initiation? [Comp 251]

Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

What is an indelible character?

A permanent, supernatural quality that is imprinted on the soul in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. It remains even in a person who may lose the state of grace or even the virtue of faith.

8.03.04 What are the effects of Confirmation? [Comp 268]

Confirmation marks the soul with an indelible character and seals the confirmands with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

What are the requirements for validly receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation? [Comp 269]

The confirmand (person who is to be confirmed) must:

- 1) be baptized;
- 2) be in a state of grace;
- 3) know the chief truths of the faith; and
- 4) be prepared to be a witness for Christ.

8.03.05 What are the two essential elements of the sacrament of Confirmation? [Comp 267]

Laying on of hands and anointing with Sacred Chrism.

What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

The gifts given to us by God in Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation that make it possible for us to live our lives for and with God.

8.03.06 List and describe the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. [Comp 389]

Piety – calls us to be faithful in our relationships, both with God and with others

Understanding – helps us to make the right choices in life and in our relationships

Counsel – helps us make correct choices in consulting and advising of others

Knowledge – helps us know what God asks of us and how we should respond

Wisdom – helps us understand God’s plan and live to bring that plan about

Fortitude – the strength to do the right thing, even when it is difficult

Fear of the Lord – a sense of wonder and awe of God because we recognize his greatness

8.03.07 Who is the ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation? Why? [Comp 270]

The original minister of Confirmation is the bishop, a successor to the original apostles. This demonstrates that the effect of the sacrament is to unite the confirmands more closely to the Church, to her apostolic origins, and to her mission of bearing witness to Christ. May be delegated to a priest in special cases.

8.03.08 State the meaning of transubstantiation in the Holy Eucharist. [Comp 283]

Transubstantiation means the change from bread and wine to the Body and Blood of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the prayer of the priest in the Eucharistic celebration.

8.03.09 What does Christian marriage symbolize? [Comp 341]

Jesus made matrimony a sacrament to serve as a symbol of Christ’s love for his bride, the Church: “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church.” [Ephesians 5:25]

8.03.10 What is the definition of a Christian marriage? [Comp 337-338, 344]

Matrimony is the intimate communion of life and love between one man and one woman.

8.03.11 What are the effects of the Sacrament of Marriage? [Comp 346]

Matrimony establishes a permanent and exclusive bond, gives grace to live a life of holiness in marriage, and gives the grace to accept the gift and responsibility of children.

8.03.12 Is a sacrament valid if the priest who performs it is somehow unholy? [Comp 229]

Because Christ is at work in the sacraments, they are effective independent of the disposition or holiness of the priest. However, the fruits of the sacraments do depend on the dispositions of the people who receive them.

8.03.13 What is the role of the faithful at Mass? [CCC 1348]

Full, conscious, and active participation is our role at Mass.

8.04.01 What is the function of the liturgical year? [Comp 242]

During the course of the liturgical year, the Church explores the entire life of Christ.

8.04.02 What are the four special signs of the bishop? [CCC 1574]

Miter – The tall headdress, worn at liturgical functions.

Crosier – The shepherd's staff.

Pectoral Cross – A cross worn around the neck.

Episcopal Ring – A ring representing his office.

8.04.03 Explain what is meant by: “The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of Christian life.” [Comp 274]

In the Eucharist, God’s sanctification of us and our worship of him reach their high point. The Church professes that the Eucharist is:

- 1) Thanksgiving and praise to the Father;
- 2) Sacrificial memorial of Christ and his Body;
- 3) Representation of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection; and
- 4) the Real Presence of Christ by the power of his Word and of his Spirit.

- 8.05.01 Give evidence of being made in God's image and likeness.** [Comp 66]
We are endowed with an immortal soul, intelligence and free will. Humans are capable of knowing and of loving their Creator with free will, each with the individual dignity of a person. Humans are the only creatures that God has called to share in his own divine life.
- 8.05.02 How is a moral conscience formed?** [Comp 374]
Formation of a moral conscience is a lifelong task, assisted by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the witness and advice of others, guided by the teaching of the Church, and nurtured through prayer.
- 8.05.03 What is free will?** [Comp 363]
Free will is the ability to voluntarily choose good or bad actions. Choosing good deepens our relationship with God, while choosing evil injures that relationship and leads to the slavery of sin.
- 8.05.04 What is the moral conscience?** [Comp 372]
Moral conscience is a judgment of reason which urges a person to do good and avoid evil. It is the “inner voice” that helps us to judge the morality of our actions and take responsibility for our actions. A prudent person can hear the voice of God who speaks to him or her.
- What is sin?** [Comp 392]
Sin is a word or act contrary to the God’s Law, or the failure to act uprightly.
- What factors are necessary for an act to be sinful?** [Comp 395]
One commits a sin when he or she:
1) has full knowledge that the act is wrong;
2) has freedom to choose whether or not to act; and
3) deliberately chooses to act.
- 8.05.05 What does acceptance of God’s mercy require from us?** [Comp 391]
We must admit our faults and repent of our sins.
- 8.05.06 What is a virtue? How can we develop virtues?** [Comp 377-388]
Virtues are the habitual and firm dispositions to do good. A virtue must be developed through practice until it becomes easy to do.
- List and define the Cardinal Virtues.** [Comp 379-383]
Prudence – directs us toward good and helps us to choose the right path.
Justice – guides us to give God and others what is due them.
Fortitude – the strength to do the right thing, even when it is difficult.
Temperance – helps us to control our attraction to pleasure so that our desires are kept within proper limits.
- List and define the Theological Virtues.** [Comp 384-388]
Faith – helps us believe in God.
Hope – trust that God will always be with us and help us to live in his friendship.
Charity – helps us love God above all things and love our neighbor as ourselves.
- 8.06.01 What is human sexuality?** [Comp 487]
Human sexuality is everything that makes a person male or female: physical characteristics, spiritual awareness, and the ability to participate in procreation.
- 8.06.02 Why does the Church teach about morality?** [Comp 429-430]
The Church has a right and duty to teach moral truth because living in morality is necessary for salvation.

8.06.03 What does the Holy Spirit do in the Church? [Comp 145, 422]

The Holy Spirit guides Christians to set their hearts on the Kingdom of God.

8.06.04 What is the Magisterium of the Church? [Comp 15-17]

The living, teaching office of the Church, given by Christ to the Apostles and their successors the bishops, in union with the Pope. It provides faithfulness to the teaching of the apostles on matters of faith and morals.

8.06.05 Identify the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching principles. [Comp 509-519]

Catholic Social Teaching is the teachings of the Catholic Church aimed at creating a more just world. The seven themes focus on issues that relate to the basic social and economic rights of every individual and community.

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person – Every human life is sacred and every person’s dignity must be respected. This is the foundation of all the other social teachings.
2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation – Participation in family and community is central to our faith and to healthy society.
3. Rights and Responsibilities – Every person has a right to life and those things required for human decency.
4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable – We must defend the poor and vulnerable, promote their dignity, and meet their immediate material needs.
5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers – The basic rights of workers must be respected: productive work, fair wages, private property, the right to organize (join unions), and pursue economic opportunity.
6. Solidarity – Because God is our Father, we are all brothers and sisters, and must care for each other.
7. Care for God’s Creation – We have the responsibility to care for all that God has made.

8.07.01 How is our relationship with God developed? [Comp 534]

Personal prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God.

8.07.02, 8.11.01, 8.11.02 What is a vocation? [Comp 177-178]

The unique way each person is called by God to love and serve him in this world and to live a holy life.

8.07.03 What importance do the Gospels have for Christians? [Comp 22, 579]

Prayerful reflection on the Gospel affirms and/or challenges our thoughts and actions. The Gospels are witness to the life and teaching of Jesus.

8.07.04, 8.07.05 List and describe the three expressions of prayer. [Comp 568]

Vocal – Speaking prayers aloud.

Meditative – Using silence and listening to seek to understand how to respond to what God is asking.

Contemplative - Silently entering into communion with God who loves us.

8.07.06 Describe the Catholic devotion known as a novena. [Comp 353]

The Catholic prayer tradition of nine days of prayer in a row with a specific prayer intention in mind.

8.07.07 Why do Catholics meditate? [Comp 570]

Meditation on Scripture or spiritual readings is part of the prayer life of Catholics. It is a prayerful reflection that begins above all with the Word of God in the Bible that deepens our faith, converts our heart and fortifies our will to follow Christ.

8.07.08 What is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament? [Comp 286]

Eucharistic adoration is worship of Jesus Christ who is present in the exposed consecrated Host. We offer our devotion, gratitude and love to Christ our Lord by spending time with him.

8.08.01 What does it mean to say that the Church is the sacrament of salvation? [Comp 152]

The Church is the sign and instrument of the communion of God and humans in this world.

8.08.02 Why is it acceptable that the Eastern Catholic Churches have their own unique church laws, rites and spirituality? [Comp 247-248]

The Church is catholic (universal) and celebrates the different expressions of worship of various peoples and cultures.

8.08.03 What importance does the Second Vatican Council hold for us? [CCC 884]

The Second Vatican Council demonstrated the spiritual leadership of the Catholic Church for the modern world. The council taught that every person is to share in the Church's mission to love, teach and heal in our families and communities.

8.09.01 What is ecumenism? [Comp 168]

Ecumenism is an evangelizing work of the Church to unify all Christians.

8.09.02 What beliefs do we share with non-Catholic Christians? [Comp 163]

Christian faiths share a common belief in the Trinitarian baptism - in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

8.09.03 What is the mission of the Pope? [Comp 182]

The Pope is the leader of the Catholic Church throughout the world, the successor of the Apostle Peter, and a sign of our unity.

8.09.04 How do we treat non-Catholic Christians and other faiths? [Comp 163]

We respect other Christians and other faiths and reject nothing that is holy and true in these faiths, but we also believe that the fullness of truth is found in the Catholic Church.

8.09.05 What does "respect other Christians and other faiths" mean? [Comp 163]

We can both recognize what we share in common and also be honest about how we differ, particularly in the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.

8.10.01 What is chastity? How do friendships grow through chastity? [Comp 488-491]

Chastity is a virtue that helps us control our sexual desires by conforming them to right reason and Christian faith. Chastity helps us grow friendships by helping us to see others the right way – as people made in the image of God – and to be respectful of others in thoughts, words, and desires.

8.10.02 What is abortion? [Comp 470]

Abortion is taking a human life by killing an unborn child. It is a grave sin which calls for personal conversion to God and healing through His mercy.

8.10.03 What is Temperance? [Comp 383]

The Cardinal Virtue of Temperance helps us to moderate our desires for pleasure in earthly goods.

8.10.04 What guidance do Catholic moral values give us about sex outside of marriage? [Comp 487-496]

Catholic moral values, which guide how we use our gift of sexuality, prohibit sex outside of marriage.

8.11.03 What is the vocation of religious life or consecrated life? [Comp 192]

Religious life is a vocation in which men or women commit themselves to a life of special service to Christ.

8.12.01 Why must human life be respected? [Comp 466]

The protection of life and the dignity of every person is rooted in Scripture: "Do not slay the innocent and righteous." [Exodus 23:7]

8.12.02 What does the Fifth Commandment forbid? [Comp 470]

Murder, suicide, abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and capital punishment oppose the dignity of human life.

What are disciples?

Those individuals who accept Jesus's message of love and follow him. Disciples share in the mission, joy and suffering of Jesus.

8.12.03 What does the Seventh Commandment require?

[Comp 503]

Disciples practice stewardship and respect for others' belongings as a response of gratitude to God the giver of all created and material goods.

8.12.04 When is a citizen forbidden to obey civil authorities?

[Comp 465]

Our conscience guides us to resist unjust laws and/or laws opposing moral order as taught in the Gospels.

8.12.05 What does moral law require regarding war?

[Comp 485]

- 1) Every effort must be made to avoid war, but it is sometimes necessary to correct an injustice against humanity.
- 2) Noncombatants, wounded soldiers and prisoners of war must be treated humanely.
- 3) Acts of mass destruction and genocide (extermination of peoples or ethnic minorities) are grievous sins and must be resisted.

8.12.06 What must be done to avoid war?

[Comp 486]

Because every war brings evil and injustice with it, the Church praises those who renounce all violence and bloodshed. Christians are called to do all they reasonably can to avoid:

- 1) accumulation and sale of arms which are not regulated by legitimate authorities;
- 2) all forms of economic and social injustice;
- 3) ethnic and religious discrimination;
- 4) envy, mistrust, pride, and the spirit of revenge.

8.12.07 What is religious freedom?

[Comp 444, 463]

It is a fundamental human right to worship God freely and live our faith in the public forum, and governments should create laws that protect and respect this right.

8.12.08 What are beatitudes and why are they important?

[Comp 359-362]

The Beatitudes are Jesus's teachings on the way to achieve eternal happiness. The Beatitudes challenge us as disciples to continual conversion in our personal and social lives, especially by seeking happiness in God above all else.

8.12.09 What is service?

[Comp 576, 590]

Service is action rooted and nurtured in prayer.

8.12.10 What is stewardship?

[Comp 431-2, 509-12]

Stewardship is our responsibility to use our time, talent, and treasure as an act of gratitude to God.

8.12.11 How do we continue Jesus' mission?

[Comp 191, 404, 413]

We continue Jesus' mission when we participate in the ministries of the Word, build community, worship, and serve others.

8.12.12 Why do we refer to the Church as the Body of Christ?

[Comp 177-178]

The Church is the Body of Christ because

- 1) we act for Jesus here on earth;
- 2) there is diversity in her members and functions; and
- 3) all are linked together in Christ. [Eph 4:11-13, 16]

8.13.01 What is the relationship of the Catholic Church with the Jewish people? [Comp 169]

The Church recognizes our common heritage with the Jews, and deplores all hatred, persecutions, and displays of anti-Semitism.

8.13.02 What does monotheism mean? What is the root of monotheism? [Comp 169-170]

Monotheism is the belief in one God. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are monotheistic religions that all trace back to the God of Abraham.

8.14.01 Identify situations in family life and the parish community that challenge us to live out our baptismal call to discipleship and service. [Comp 155, 190-191, 459-460]

A few examples:

- 1) We are called to offer spiritual sacrifices.
- 2) We are called to adhere to our faith and to deepen our understanding and witness to it.
- 3) We are called to service, especially to the poor and suffering. (Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy)

8.14.02 What is a charism? [Comp 160]

A specific gift or grace of the Holy Spirit that helps a person to live a Christian life, serve the common good, or build up the Church.

8.14.03 Why must the Church proclaim the Gospel to the whole world? [Comp 172-173,177]

All the faithful are called to evangelize – proclaim Christ in their words and through the testimony of their lives, regardless of their vocation – because Jesus gave us that command: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. [Matthew 28:19]