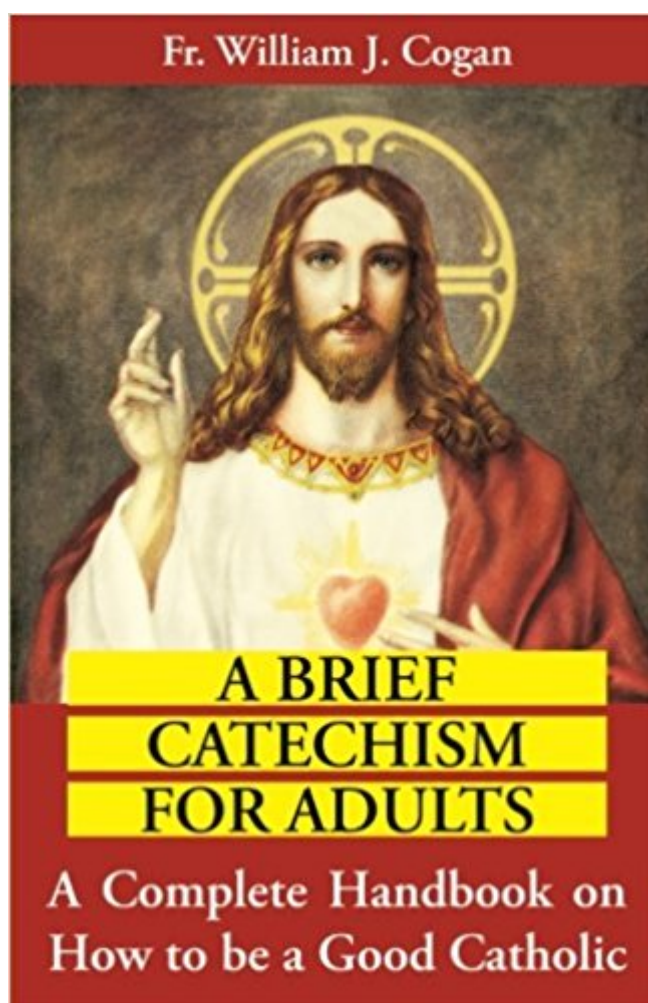


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# A Brief Catechism For Adults: A Complete Handbook On How To Be A Good Catholic



## Synopsis

A Brief Catechism for Adults is a little masterpiece designed for instructing converts. But it also serves as a useful handbook for lifelong Catholics who want to understand their faith more deeply. After the first edition of the book was used to catechize tens of thousands seeking to become Catholic, this second edition was revised in the light of notes made by numerous Catholic priests who had used the text. So it represents the fruit of extensive experience in teaching the Faith to converts, and for years it was practically the standard catechism in the U.S. and Canada for that purpose. This book is packed with facts and written in short, clear, question-and-answer format, accompanied by brief Scripture quotes. Using concise, ordinary language to explain profound theological and moral truths, it examines: • what we must believe and do to be saved • how to form a correct conscience • the duties of Catholic spouses and parents • common mortal sins • the interior design of a traditional Catholic church • how to pray the Rosary • popular saints • names for Baptism and Confirmation • familiar Catholic prayers • practical points for responding to common questions that arise in an unbelieving world. A Brief Catechism for Adults is a valuable handbook for becoming a faithful Catholic • perfect for inquirers, but excellent for cradle Catholics as well.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Rev. Father William J. Cogan was a priest and author of the twentieth century, serving the diocese of Chicago. His *A Brief Catechism for Adults: A Complete Handbook on How to be a Good Catholic* was first published in 1951, receiving the Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur around 1958. Father Cogan's brief but comprehensive work was designed for the instruction of converts, and was compiled from the numerous notes of other priests. The book was also reprinted by TAN in 1993 with additional material.

I got this book in the mail today, but was irritated at the fact that it included the new disciplinary changes and even changed some of the wording in the book. The author's preface also emphasizes that as well. I don't know if other reviewers got a version that was not revised according to the Second Vatican Council. While even Our Lady of the Rosary Library has included the disciplinary changes, their version of this catechism said, "The Mass is said in Latin because Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church and was the official and universal language in many parts of the world 2,000 years ago; also, because it is a language that does not change (it is not spoken anymore). (Ed. note: This way, no matter where you travel, the Mass will always be the same and you will recognize it and the language.)" Compare that with this on page 16: "The Mass until recent years was said in Latin because Latin is the official language of the Church and was the official and universal language in many parts of the world two thousand years ago; also, because it is a language that does not change. (Mass is also said in several other sacred languages, such as Greek and Old Slavonic.) Today it is usually said in the language of the people, but in some places it is still said in the traditional Latin. In the old missals (books containing the Mass prayers) you will find the Mass prayers in both Latin and English." The Catholic Mass, particularly the Western Rite, is in Latin. It's not open to interpretation. Greek and Old Slavonic are sacred languages, too? What exactly needed to be revised from the original Catechism? I'm getting kind of tired of trying to find catechisms that teach the True Faith on a wide variety of topics without the adding of all these innovations that are not necessary. That which is binding, they reject and that which is not binding on them, they embrace. It's annoying. I simply need to know what the Catholic Church teaches, whole and entire without guile, falsehoods, deceptions, and misguided and misplaced sympathy for viewpoints and values that are contrary to the teachings of Holy Mother Church.

I have used this book for many years preparing Adults for Confirmation or Conversion. It is in Question & Answer format with short lessons. It is filled with Bible citations. Generally each lesson begins with a Bible quotation, then Q & A's on the topic of the lesson (eg. "The Bible and Tradition," "Sanctifying Grace," etc.), and finally some practical points. In the back there are sections of popular prayers, lists of common mortal sins or venial sins, how to pray the Rosary, and Profession of Faith. This book is originally printed in 1958, so certain modifications to ecclesiastical discipline are not mentioned (such as change in fasting and abstinence.) Overall it is a very useful book for the basics.

This book is for anyone in search of the truth! Written in easy to understand language. If you want to become a better person or a better catholic read this book! Or if you just want to understand catholics a little better! It demystifies common catholic practice and the culture of the church! "Peace be with you!"

very informative catechism

This book offers informative information about what the Church teaches in an easy to read question-and-answer format. I appreciate the prayers contained in the back of the book. Recommend this to anyone just beginning to learn the faith or wanting to brush up on their catechism.

Most useful and concise Catholic tool I've ever had! I keep it with me all the time!

Strait forward and informative.

Fantastic, concise catechism. Very easy to read.

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