

STUDY GUIDE

COVER NOTE AND STUDY SUGGESTIONS

Although this is being distributed as a reference guide, my recommendation for a future method of study is to ‘copy and paste’ the referenced sections from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) into a document and to use that as a study sheet. It is important to know (1) the content (i.e., its formulation, key terms, mode of expression); (2) the meaning of the content (i.e., what does it mean?); and (3) how that doctrinal content *expresses* and *preserves* the mystery of God’s love.

This last point is crucial for your own ministry and formation, and therefore deserves a brief explanation. The CCC states:

The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching must be directed to the love that never ends. Whether something is proposed for belief, for hope or for action, the love of our Lord must always be accessible, so that anyone can see that all the works of perfect Christian virtue spring from love and have no other objective than to arrive at love” (CCC #25).

What this means is that if “the whole concern of doctrine and its teaching” is love and if “God is love” (1 Jn 4.16; cf. CCC#221), then one can say that *all of the doctrines of the Christian faith are attempts to express and preserve in some way the ultimate mystery, the mystery of God’s love*. Thus, as you read the CCC, try to ask yourself: *how does this doctrine express and preserve the mystery of God’s love?* Consistently posing this question will make your study time especially fruitful.

STUDY LIST

Natural Desire for God; Natural Knowledge of God; “Natural Theology”:

CCC ##27-28, 31-34, 37-38.

Revelation:

CCC ##50-53; 65-66.

Transmission of Revelation:

CCC ## 76-78; 80-83, 85-86; 94-95.

Scripture:

CCC## 105-08

Faith:

CCC##142-44; 150; 156-59; 163-64.

God:

CCC##200, 203, 206, 211-13, 218, 221.

The Trinity:

CCC##232-34, 237, 242, 251-55.

Study Guide for the MATS Comprehensive Exam (Objective Portion)

Creation:

CCC## 268, 272, 280, 282-84, 287-289, 293-94, 295-96

Providence and Evil

CCC 302, 309-12

Sin in General; the Doctrine of Original Sin

CCC 385-89, 396-400, 403-05

Incarnation

CCC 422-23, 457-60 (only the italicized words in the first sentence of each), 461, 463, 466-67 for the meaning of “Theotokos” (“Mother of God”) and dates of Ephesus and Chalcedon, 478 (Sacred Heart); excellent summary section: 483

The Life of the Lord as Mystery

CCC 512, 514-15, 536, 539

The Trial and Execution of Jesus

CCC 597-98

Atonement

CCC 599, 603-04, 609, 616

Descent Into Hell

CCC 634-35.

Resurrection of the Lord

CCC 639-40, 642, 646-47

Ascension of the Lord

CCC 659-60, 64

Christ the Judge

CCC 679, 1039

Resurrection of the Body

CCC 991, 96, 998-1000

Heaven and the Beatific Vision

CCC 1024, 27-28

Purgatory

CCC 1030-32

Hell

CCC 1033

Transformation of the Cosmos

CCC 1042-43

The Mystery of the Church

CCC 766, 770, 772, 775-76, 780, 790, 795-96

Four Marks of the Church

CCC 811-12, 865

One

CCC 813, 816-19

Holy

CCC 823, 825-27

Catholic

CCC 830-32, 34, 836-39, 841-44, 846-48

Apostolic

CCC 857, 864

Communion of Saints

CCC 946-48, 954, 956, 958

Mary, Mother of God

CCC 487, 495

Immaculate Conception

CCC 490-91

Virginity of Mary

CCC 496-97, 499, 503

Mary, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church

CCC 963, 966-68, 971-72

Icons

CCC 1159

Sacraments in General

CCC 1127-28 1131, 1210-11

Baptism

CCC 1221, 1239, 1250, 1256-57, 1272

The Eucharist

CCC 1324-25, 1362, 1364-65, 1374, 1376-78, 1380, 1396-97, 1402