

Navigating the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

“We thank the Lord wholeheartedly on this day when we can offer the entire Church the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for a catechesis renewed at the living sources of the faith...the teaching of Sacred Scripture, the living Tradition in the Church, and the authentic Magisterium, as well as the spiritual heritage of the Fathers, Doctors, and saints of the Church...It should also help to illumine with the light of faith the new situations and problems which had not yet emerged in the past.”

Saint Pope John Paul II

- In the table of contents, what are the four parts of the Catechism, also referred to as pillars?
 - 1) _____ simply referred to as the _____
 - 2) _____ simply referred to as the _____
 - 3) _____ simply referred to as the _____
 - 4) _____ simply referred to as _____

These pillars originate from Acts 2:42:

“The Apostles devoted themselves to

- the teaching,
- to the breaking of bread,
- to the communal life,
- and the prayers.”

- In addition to the page numbers in the *Catechism*, what other type of referencing is provided on each page? _____
Why do you think these numbers are provided?

- Give the first and last paragraph number for each pillar.
 - 1) Creed _____
 - 2) Sacraments _____
 - 3) Life in Christ _____
 - 4) Christian Prayer _____
- Turn to paragraph 210 in the _____ section. What two numbers are referenced in the margin? Paragraph _____ which refers you to a paragraph in the third pillar on how we are to live and paragraph _____ in the fourth pillar on how we are to pray.

The *Catechism* states that it offers itself as an organic account of a living *whole*, one in which the different elements are united and are presented in relational fashion (see CCC 11, 18). It also asks to be read in this manner.

In other words, the four pillars of the *Catechism* are interrelated.

Note: The numbers in the margin are strategically located. The content of the specific line where a paragraph is referenced in the margin, when you look up the corresponding paragraph, it will have similar content.

How is paragraph 210 related with the paragraphs referenced in the margin?

- Turn to paragraph 396. From the footnotes given in the paragraph, what is referenced at the bottom of the page?

- Turn to paragraph 413. What is the summary called at the end of each section?

- Look in the Index of Citations in the back of the *Catechism*. (The Index of Citations begins on page 689) What is the paragraph number given for Luke 15:11-24? _____ What is the essence of that paragraph?

This could be helpful to you if you wanted to look up Church teaching on a specific Scripture passage that you heard at Mass.

- In the Index, what paragraph numbers are provided for Purgatory?

In looking up those paragraph numbers, what three Scripture passages are footnoted and would be helpful in speaking about Purgatory?

- In the Glossary, what is the definition for Prayer?
