



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

**CATHOLICISM 101 WITH FATHER O'BRIEN
JUNE 21, 2018—"WHO IS GOD?"**

From the Baltimore Catechism:

1. Q. Who made the world?

A. God made the world.

2. Q. Who is God?

A. God is the Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things.

3. Q. What is man?

A. Man is a creature composed of body and soul, and made to the image and likeness of God.

6. Q. Why did God make you?

A. God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.

13. Q. What is God?

A. God is a spirit infinitely perfect.

14. Q. Had God a beginning?

A. God had no beginning; He always was and He always will be.

15. Q. Where is God?

A. God is everywhere.

16. Q. If God is everywhere, why do we not see Him?

A. We do not see God, because He is a pure spirit and cannot be seen with bodily eyes.

17. Q. Does God see us?

A. God sees us and watches over us.

18. Q. Does God know all things?

A. God knows all things, even our most secret thoughts, words, and actions.

19. Q. Can God do all things?

A. God can do all things, and nothing is hard or impossible to Him.

20. Q. Is God just, holy, and merciful?

A. God is all just, all holy, all merciful, as He is infinitely perfect.

21. Q. Is there but one God?

A. Yes; there is but one God.

22. Q. Why can there be but one God?

A. There can be but one God, because God, being supreme and infinite, cannot have an equal.

23. Q. How many Persons are there in God?

A. In God there are three Divine Persons, really distinct, and equal in all things--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

24. Q. Is the Father God?

A. The Father is God and the first Person of the Blessed Trinity.

25. Q. Is the Son God?

A. The Son is God and the second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

26. Q. Is the Holy Ghost God?

A. The Holy Ghost is God and the third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

27. Q. What is the Blessed Trinity?

A. The Blessed Trinity is one God in three Divine Persons.

29. Q. Are the three Divine Persons one and the same God?

A. The three Divine Persons are one and the same God, having one and the same Divine nature.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) paragraph 42

“Human words always fall short of the mystery of God”

Acts 17: 24-28- St. Paul in the Areopagus speaking to the crowds

God is mysterious- What does that mean?

How do we know about God?

-Reason

-Revelation

REASON

The natural power of the human mind. Through reason we can come to know God exists.

St. Thomas Aquinas 5 Proofs of the Existence of God

1) Motion- First Mover. Motion exists. Everything that moves has to be moved by something outside of itself. There had to be a first mover.

- 2) Cause and Effect- Everything that exists was caused to exist. Everything created has a cause. There must be an ultimate cause. If you see a chair, a chair build exists. God is the uncaused cause.
- 3) Existence- Things exist but they didn't always exist. There must be something to make the created things since something can't come out of nothing. He is the self-existent one.
- 4) Progression- Good, better, and best- We can only use these terms if there's something that is the maximum of all things.
- 5) Design- There is an order to things. Take an acorn. It will always grow into an oak tree. The world has order and obeys certain laws. What directs the universe to act the way it does? God.

REVELATION

Knowledge we can't know by reason like "Jesus rose from the dead."
 God makes himself known in the Bible and in the Tradition of the Church.
 Reason helps us know God exists. Revelation helps us with who He is.

First Vatican Council (1869-70)- "...that there is one true and living God, creator and lord of heaven and earth, almighty, eternal, immeasurable, incomprehensible, infinite in will, understanding and every perfection."

- God is Creator
 - Genesis 1:1, Psalm 33: 8-9, Psalm 124: 8, Psalm 146: 5-6
Wisdom 13:5
 - God knit us together- Psalm 139, Jeremiah 1:5
 - Not merely a divine craftsman who works with preexistent external matter but is the source of which all contingent reality, including matter, depends for its existence.
 - Acts 17:25, Colossians 1: 16-17
 - God is not just the greatest of beings- He is THE BEING that gives existence but does not receive it.
- God is transcendent
 - above and beyond the world in every way.
 - "Infinitely greater" than all His creation CCC 300
 - All powerful- Job 42:2, Jeremiah 32:17, Matthew 19:26)
 - All knowing
 - Creating everything by his Word
- God is Immanent
 - Not only created the world but sustains it- CCC 301
 - He is personally present- Genesis 2
- God's Name- HE TELLS US HIS NAME
 - Exodus 3:14- Burning Bush- "I AM"- He alone is God and there are no others
 - God is being itself/unchanging
- God is Love (Trinity)

- I John 4:8- God is love
- 3 persons one God
- The inner life of God is an exchange of love- a community of love
- St. Augustine- The Lover (Father), The Beloved (Son), and the Love that unites them (Holy Spirit)

Future Talks

Talk #2 June 28- Who is Jesus Christ?

Talk #3 July 12- What is the Church?

Talk #4 July 19- Accessing God: A Guide to the Sacraments

Talk #5 July 26- A Cloud of Witnesses- Saints in the Life of the Church

Talk #6 August 2- How to be Happy: The Moral Life

Talk #7 August 9- Catholicism and the World: Catholic Social Teaching

Also "A Walk Through the Catechism"- Part I on The Creed

June 23- 9:30

July 14- 9:30

July 28- 9:30

August 4- 9:30 (Mass at 9am for 1st Saturday)