

UNIT SEVEN: Preaching and Teaching

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LEADERSHIP & MISSION IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1. The Deposit of the Faith.

Through the Church we have access to all that we need to live life to the full and to be united with God in Eternity. The Deposit essentially consists of the revealed Word of God and the accumulated wisdom of millennia of considered reflection thereon. The Church enables us to confidently discern what is truly is of God and what is merely speculative or erroneous.

A thorough grounding in the deposit of faith is a prerequisite for preaching and teaching. *Nemo dat quod non habet.*

Creed:

Our beliefs are handed on from the Sacred Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, and articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and other decrees from popes and Church councils. It centers on:

- The Holy Trinity, whereby we proclaim God to be One in being or essence, but Three in person or communal relationship;
- The Incarnation of the Second Divine Person as Man in Jesus;
- The Redemption by which the Son of God offered his life on the Cross in Atonement for man's sin in order to obtain his salvation; and
- The continuation of this mystery in the life of the Church by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Code:

- 10 Commandments of the moral law as given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai, but it is fulfilled and expanded by the teachings of Jesus,
- Sermon on the Mount. It includes the
- Beatitudes, the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Its special emphasis is charity and-self sacrifice, and the sacredness of life.

Cult:

- 7 Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of the Eucharist through the Holy Mass.
- Some variations in ritual were established by individual Apostles - the Latin Rite, founded in Rome by the apostles Peter and Paul.

Jesus is not merely a teacher of the truth, proposing doctrines for belief, the way prophets normally act as mouthpieces of God; he is the Truth.

Jesus does not merely provide good example of conduct for men to follow, the way gurus and guides show people how to live; he is the Way.

And Jesus does not merely lead the people in worship and blessing, he is the blessing which comes down from heaven and gives Eternal Life.

3. Faith (Preaching) and Reason (Teaching)

- Faith as knowledge is insufficient for effecting radical change in our lives
- Is Faith for Christians today “a life-changing and life-sustaining hope? Is it ‘performative’ for us—is it a message which shapes our lives in a new way, or is it just ‘information’ which, in the meantime, we have set aside...?” the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known—it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing”
- Christianity is not a collection of truths to be believed; of laws to be obeyed...Christianity is a person, one who loved us very much, one who calls for our love. Christianity is Christ.”
— Archbishop Oscar Romero

4. The of Distinction b/w teaching and preaching

Teaching is the impartation of knowledge to enable the living of a full life of Catholic faith. Preaching will be identified as communicating truths with the aim of encouraging to hearer(s) to actively chose to commit to following Christ or to deepening in discipleship.

5. Teaching

Ordinary Catholics can access Catholic teaching and how to present it in appropriate ways.

6. Preaching

- The mystical aspect of preaching
 - Prayer:
 - There is a distinction b/w speaking about Jesus and allowing Jesus to speak through you
 - You can't preach unless you are a person of prayer. Unless you are steadily and deeply immersed in Christ.

- A Call to conversion
- Good preaching makes the people see the world differently
...good preaching causes people to turn around
- Summons to mission
- All good preaching is an offer of grace, a turning on of the light, It invites conversion – turn around change

7. 21st Communication

New media: Benefits and Drawbacks

- At a time when we are more connected than we have ever been we also have been shown statistically to feel less connected than ever -Connected but in a virtual way – secondhand, third hand, etc What do we do about this?
- Pope Francis refers to the story of the Good Samaritan to point out how these new tools have to lead to an authentic encounter among persons, and become a means to practice charity with others. “It is not enough to be passers-by on the digital highways, simply ‘connected’: connections need to grow into true encounters. We cannot live apart, closed in on ourselves. We need to love and to be loved. We need tenderness.

Available resources

There is no shortage of Catholic websites. In fact, even if you spent all day wading through just the Catholic Internet, you still couldn't see it all. Part of that is due to the abundance of information out there, and part is due to the fact that in the last five years especially, more people, apostolates and organizations have taken the time to craft really great websites.

Catholic Websites

- vatican.va
- ewtn.com
- newadvent.org
- scborromeo.org/ccc.htm
- newadvent.org

Prayer

- divineoffice.org
- comepraytherosary.org
- integratedcatholiclife.org
- spiritualdirection.com
- decentfilms.com
- wordonfire.org
- catholic.com
- catholicculture.org
- zenit.org

News

- www.firstthings.com
- www.ncregister.com
- ewtnnews.com/headlines/World
- catholicherald.co.uk
- catholicweekly.com.au

Prayer

- divineoffice.org
- comepraytherosary.org