

That Catholic Show

Instructional Guide and Catechetical Supplement

Overview:

That Catholic Show is an on-going video podcast addressing various elements of the Roman Catholic faith. The series delivers 5-minute shorts on various topics directly or indirectly related to the expression of that faith, while making connections with the Church's rich 2000-year history, Sacred Scripture, and the Sacred Tradition. The host, Jennifer Willits, guides the viewers through a brief introduction to relevant topics. The series' light-hearted approach to these serious topics provides a springboard to more in-depth discussion at any level of catechesis.

Audience:

That Catholic Show can be used in a variety of catechetical situations. Because the show is designed as a brief introduction to Catholic topics, it can be used as a traditional educational *set* at the beginning of catechism classes to introduce a relevant lesson. However, it is also a versatile tool that can be shown in Sacrament Preparation Classes, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults classes, or can be shown for its entertainment value in informal gatherings.

That Catholic Show is not a comprehensive catechetical tool and should be used in conjunction with formal instruction in order to maximize its value.

It is appropriate for children and adults.

Suggested Viewing Activities:

That Catholic Show is an ideal opening for a religious education class. Its brief coverage of relevant topics easily sets-up an opportunity for generating class discussion, and therefore is best utilized when instruction follows the presentation of the video.

The light-hearted tone of the series maintains reverence for the topics while speaking to the questions that many Catholics and non-Catholics have about the idiosyncrasies of the faith. Used appropriately, *That Catholic Show* will stimulate dialogue and open the way for further study and enrichment.

That Catholic Show—Episode 1: Sit, Stand, and Kneel

Episode Synopsis:

Episode 1 examines the movements commonly found in the celebration of the Holy Mass. The faithful sit, stand, and kneel at various times during the Mass. Host Jennifer Willits explains the historical and spiritual significance of these actions. The focus of the episode is on the prayer postures used to convey the congregation's participation in the sacred nature of the Mass.

Basic Viewing Questions:

1. What are the three common postures for worship during the Mass?
2. What do each of these postures convey?

Questions for Discussion:

3. Why is there so much movement during the Mass? Does each component of the Mass require a different attitude on the part of the faithful?
4. Explain why the faithful sit during the readings.
5. Explain why the faithful stand during the Gospel. Are there other times that standing is appropriate? Why?
6. Explain why the faithful kneel during the consecration.
7. Discuss a fourth posture not addressed in the episode. On what occasions do the faithful bow during Mass?

Suggested Activities:

8. Find other scriptural references to sitting, standing, or kneeling.
9. Check the Missal for the Order of the Mass and determine how many times the congregation sits, stands, and kneels. Find references to bowing.
10. Find out what other norms for postures exist in the other Rites within the Catholic Church (Byzantine, Chaldean, Ukrainian, etc).

References Mentioned in the Episode:

Luke 4:20-30

Psalm 95

The General Instruction for the Roman Missal by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. See Chapter II: The Structure of the Mass, Its Elements and Its Parts, section II: The Different Elements of the Mass—Movements and Postures

The Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 1651 addresses a prayerful attitude to “manifest an attentive solicitude” during Mass.

That Catholic Show—Episode 2: Candles and Light

Episode Synopsis:

Episode 2 explores the historical and symbolic use of candles and light in the Catholic Church. Candles and lamps were necessary in pre-electricity days, but continue to be a source of liturgical symbolism today. The focus of the episode is on the use of light as a powerful symbol of the light of Christ.

Basic Viewing Questions:

1. What are the practical uses of candles and lamps in Church history?
2. Why do we still use candles today?

Questions for Discussion:

3. Why is an open flame used in Church tradition? What can it symbolize?
4. What is the origin of the symbol of flames for the Holy Spirit?
5. Why does the Church retain the use of candles in the sanctuary when electricity is readily available in most parts of the world?
6. An old rule of the Catholic Church is mentioned where, if a candle goes out during Mass it must be relit within 15 minutes. This rule came from the Catholic Encyclopedia, which was last updated in the early 20th century. Why do some rules no longer apply? And what kind of rules will never change?

Suggested Activities:

7. Find other scriptural references to lamps, fire, flames.
8. Research the meaning and usage of the Baptismal candle.
9. Make your own "Easter Candle"

References Mentioned in the Episode:

Exodus Chapters 25 and 27

The General Instruction for the Roman Missal by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. See The Articles to Be Prepared 117; The Altar and Its Appointments 297, 307; The Place for Reservation of the Most Holy Eucharist 316.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 1189 and 1154 on use of candles.

**The on-line Catholic Encyclopedia* <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01347a.htm>

*Please note this is a document from the early part of the 20th century and is used for historical purposes only. It does not replace the CCC or GIRM for current practices.

That Catholic Show—Episode 3: Night of the Living Catechism

Episode Synopsis:

Episode 3 introduces the viewers to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. In this episode, host Jennifer Willits explores the historical context of the CCC and its use as part of every Catholic's understanding of the faith. The focus of the episode is on demystifying the document and sharing its practical, as well as spiritual value for all Catholics.

Basic Viewing Questions:

1. What does the Catechism of the Catholic Church provide?
2. Why is the Catechism of the Catholic Church such an important resource?

Questions for Discussion:

3. The Catechism is broken down into four sections. Name them and explain why each area is relevant to Catholic life.
4. How can the Catechism enhance our spiritual life?
5. Name other texts that together with the CCC can be excellent additions to a Catholic household's library.

Suggested Activities:

6. Explore the extensive Scriptural footnotes in the Catechism, and use them as a means to illuminate the Scriptural support for the Church's teachings. There are many programs available that introduce Catholics to this resource.
7. Look up the CCC references in That Catholic Show and other catechetical programs. Discuss the text with family and friends.

References Mentioned in the Episode:

The Catechism of the Catholic Church second edition (2000)
Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2005)
United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (2006)

That Catholic Show—Episode 4: Charity and Mercy

Episode Synopsis:

Episode 4 examines the Christian call to charity and mercy. Host Jennifer Willits examines how Christians can live that call daily. She explores the biblical call to action, and the modern day execution of the Corporal Works of Mercy. The focus of the episode is on how easily persons can incorporate a spirit of charity and mercy in their lives.

Basic Viewing Questions:

1. Why should we show charity and mercy?
2. What is the commandment that Jesus gives us that implicitly tells us to care for our brothers and sisters??

Questions for Discussion:

3. What are the Beatitudes?
4. What are the Corporal Works of Mercy?
5. What are the Spiritual Works of Mercy?
6. How can simple folks with limited resources still live this call to action?

Suggested Activities:

7. Find other scriptural references to works of charity and mercy.
8. Find an event at church or in the community where you can respond to this call to action.

References Mentioned in the Episode:

Matthew 24:40

John 13:34

The Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 2013

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

That Catholic Show—Episode 5: Statues and Icons

Episode Synopsis:

Episode 5 examines the historical, artistic, and catechetical nature of statues and icons. Host Jennifer Willits explores the meanings behind having statues and other representations of real holy people as reminders of their greatness and to serve as points of reference for veneration. The focus of the episode is on explaining the value of symbolism, and debunking the widely misunderstood interpretation of idolatry.

Basic Viewing Questions:

1. How can a statue or icon be helpful in our understanding of holiness?
2. What is the purpose of a statue or icon?

Questions for Discussion:

3. Why is it a sin to worship images?
4. What is the difference between worshipping and venerating?
5. This episode uses the term “Dark Ages” to convey a negative impression of a period in history. Most historians prefer the term “Medieval.” Why would this have been a better phrase to use, and why does the term “Dark Ages” have a negative association with the Catholic Church?

Suggested Activities:

6. Identify the icons and statues of saints in your church. Do you recognize them all? If not, do some research and learn something about those holy men and women.

References Mentioned in the Episode:

Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 2132

That Catholic Show—Episode 6: You Are a Priest Forever

Episode Synopsis:

Episode 6 examines the priesthood in the Catholic Church. Host Jennifer Willits explores the role of priest from the first creation of the role by Christ. This episode explains the rationale for the apostolic tradition of the priesthood, and the Church's teachings on the sanctity and importance of this role. The focus of the episode is on the tradition that has remained unbroken for almost 2000 years.

Basic Viewing Questions:

1. What is the origin of the priesthood?
2. Why does the Catholic Church ordain only men to the priesthood?

Questions for Discussion:

3. Why does the Catholic Church have priests?
4. What are the origins of the priesthood?
5. Who are these spiritual leaders for millions around the world?
6. What are titles that the church uses for the men who lead us?

Suggested Activities

7. Pray for priests everywhere. Pray for vocations.
8. Invite a priest to share his discernment/vocation story with a group.

References Mentioned in the Episode:

The Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 1564

That Catholic Show—Episode 7: Water, Water Everywhere

Episode Synopsis:

Episode 7 examines the use of water and water symbolism in the Catholic Church. Host Jennifer Willits explains the essential uses of water, physical as well as spiritual, and explores the presence of water from its destructive forces in the Old Testament, to the source of spiritual rebirth through baptism in the new testament. The focus of the episode is on the symbolism of death and life, and the role of water in the Catholic faith as the Living Waters.

Basic Viewing Questions:

1. What are some uses of water in the Catholic faith?
2. What are specific uses of water in church?

Questions for Discussion:

3. What does water mean in the Sacrament of Baptism?
4. Why is there a Holy Water font in the church?
5. Why do the priest wash his hands during mass?
6. What is the purpose of sprinkling Holy Water during blessings?

Suggested Activities:

7. Install a Holy Water font in your home.
8. Invite a priest to your home and have it blessed.

References Mentioned in the Episode:

The Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 694, 1147, 1218, 2557, 2560, 2561

That Catholic Show—Episode 8: I Confess!

Episode Synopsis:

Episode 8 examines the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. The faithful are called to confess their sins to a priest, and host Jennifer Willits explains the historical and spiritual significance of these actions. The focus of the episode is on seeking the healing power of this sacrament.

Basic Viewing Questions:

1. What is the purpose of going to confession?
2. Why do we confess to a priest and not directly to God?

Questions for Discussion:

3. Why are there so many names for this Sacrament?
4. Why is reconciliation essential to us?
5. How has the Sacrament of Penance changed over the years?
6. What must be present for a “good” confession?
7. The examination of conscience is not discussed in this episode. Why is that essential as a preparation for the Sacrament?

Suggested Activities:

8. Attend a reconciliation service, or conduct your own examination of conscience in preparation for reception of the sacrament.
9. Receive the Sacrament!

References Mentioned in the Episode:

John 20:23

Matt 19:18; 2 Cor 2:10; James 5:15 speak to the forgiveness of sins

The Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 1423 and 1424 address the names by which the sacrament is called. Paragraphs 1456 and 1497 speak to the confession of sins to one another.