

The Catechism and the OCIA Mission Statement

Our Mission Statement:

“God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life.”

Vaticana, Libreria Editrice. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (p. 32, §1).

Our mission statement is the first line of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We will return to our mission statement many times throughout the year. Everything that we learn will, in some way, shed light on our mission statement and vice versa.

What is the Catechism of the Catholic Church?

“A catechism should faithfully and systematically present the teaching of Sacred Scripture, the living Tradition of the Church and the authentic Magisterium, as well as the spiritual heritage of the Fathers and the Church's saints, to allow for a better knowledge of the Christian mystery and for enlivening the faith of the People of God. It should take into account the doctrinal statements which down the centuries the Holy Spirit has intimated to his Church. It should also help illumine with the light of faith the new situations and problems which had not yet emerged in the past” (Fidei Depositum, no. 2). The Catechism was originally intended to be a teaching aid for Church leaders and educators. Specifically, “It is meant to encourage and assist in the writing of new local catechisms...while carefully preserving the unity of faith and fidelity to catholic doctrine” (Fidei Depositum, no. 3). Thus, it does assume a certain level of prior knowledge. Nonetheless, it quickly became a popular reference text among the laity. It is one of the most valuable resources that anyone can use to better understand the faith.

Throughout the year, we will refer to the Catechism often. It is important to note that the Catechism does not include every detail about every topic. Much of its contents are conclusions. If one would like to learn more about a particular topic in the Catechism, it is beneficial to look at the footnotes. The Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church is a book that contains all the footnote references.