



# The Blessed Trinity and Our Christian Vocation

Student Workbook

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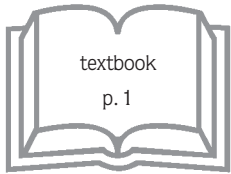
*The Didache Series*

– SEMESTER EDITION –

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## Chapter 1

# FAITH AND REVELATION

## INTRODUCTION

1. What do St. Columbanus and Jean-Pierre de Caussade teach about faith?

2. Why did God create man?

3. Speaking of God, the text states: "Endowing man with the gift of free will, he invites us to seek, know, and love him through our free choice. In doing so, however, he also permits man to reject him. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, chose sin over obedience and thus severed their relationship with God."

Why is choosing sin necessarily a rejection of God? Is it possible to sin and yet still desire to seek, know, and love God? If we truly have a "free will," then why are we not free to decide for ourselves what is morally right or wrong?

4. Why did God give Moses the Ten Commandments?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What did the Death and Resurrection of Christ make possible?

## MAN IN SEARCH OF GOD

6. Explain the “paradox” described in this section of the text.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What does St. Thomas Aquinas mean when he says, “Our intellect does not adequately grasp the divine essence in any of the conceptions which the names applied to God signify, the definitions of these terms cannot fully define what is God?”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What is the difference between *knowing* God and *knowing about* God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. This book is about the Blessed Trinity. Will we know God by the time we finish studying this text during this semester? Explain.

## GOD IN SEARCH OF MAN

10. What does it mean for the text to say God “seeks us first” and “chose us first”?

11. What three gifts from God set us apart from all other created beings?

12. Where can the fullness of God’s truth be found?

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## WHERE CAN GOD BE FOUND?

13. According to Pope Benedict XVI, what did Plato understand about the human search for God?

14. Explain how the search for God is different from the search for a cure for cancer, a new planet, or a previously unknown subatomic particle. Then explain how the search for God is similar to these other searches.

15. How is natural (or ordinary) faith similar to supernatural faith? How are they different?

16. What did St. Augustine mean when he wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you"?

## REASONING GOD'S EXISTENCE

17. What is the best way to explain the Faith to most nonbelievers? Why?
18. For each of the sets of statements below, identify which of St. Thomas Aquinas' arguments for the existence of God applies:
- a. The way trees, plants, grass, and all of nature grows and matures and the way animals and humans are conceived, born, and grow all reveal an intelligent design. Such a design must have an intelligent designer, an intelligent being that created it all and directed how nature would work. That intelligent being is God.
  - b. Astronomers say the universe began with a "Big Bang," with the explosion of a super-dense collection of matter that scattered atomic particles and energy in all directions and led to the formation of galaxies and stars. If the universe was caused by that Big Bang, then what caused the Big Bang itself? Before that, what caused that dense matter to exist? Science acknowledges that matter does not generate from non-matter. Whatever or whoever is ultimately responsible for the creation of the universe is God.
19. Explain the "Paley and the Watch" argument for the existence of God. To which of St. Thomas Aquinas' arguments is it related?

20. How did Sts. Paul and John compare human understanding of God while on earth with human understanding of God in Heaven?

## REVELATION

21. When did "salvation history" begin? Why not before that?

22. Why did God select a Chosen People?

23. What is the Incarnation?

24. Who is the culmination of all Divine Revelation? Why?

## AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS CHRIST

25. How did the Apostles encounter Christ?

26. Name five primary means by which we may encounter Jesus Christ.

27. How is Christ present in his Church?

28. List the Seven Sacraments.

29. What does the term "efficacious" mean?

30. What means of encounter with Christ is typified in the Gospel story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24: 13–35)?

31. What did St. Jerome mean when he wrote, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ"?

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32. Suppose a friend were to say to you, "I don't like set prayers like the Our Father or the Hail Mary. When I try to pray the Rosary, I end up saying the words unconsciously and my mind wanders all over the place. I find myself thinking about this week's football games, the homework I have to do, or just plain zoning out." What would be a good response to your friend's concerns?

33. According to the Second Vatican Council, how does the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass contain all the ways in which Christ is present to us?

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