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CHAPTER THIRTEEN
DOCTRINE OF GRACE

Catechism of the Catholic Church References

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Scripture References

Sanctifying Grace: 2 Pet 1:4; Jn 1:12, 18; 3:5; 1 Jn 3; 1 Pet 1:23

Summary of Lesson Content

**Lesson 1**
Grace is necessary for salvation.
Grace is a supernatural gift from God. It is a share in God's own divine life.

**Lesson 2**
Man is conceived with original sin and born without grace. (There are two exceptions: Jesus and Mary.)
Sanctifying grace makes us adopted children of God.
Mortal sin removes the life of grace from our souls.
The theological virtues are faith, hope, and charity.

**Lesson 3**
We receive sanctifying grace through the seven sacraments. They are the ordinary channels of grace.
The seven sacraments are Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance, Holy Orders, Matrimony, and the Anointing of the Sick.

**Lesson 4**
Actual graces are inspired opportunities to do good and to grow in holiness.
Aims

The students will learn that grace is necessary for salvation. They will learn that grace is a supernatural gift from God and a share in God’s own divine life.

Materials

- Activity Book, p. 49
- Optional: “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,” Adoremus Hymnal, #443

Begin

Begin class by having a student read the definition of grace:

“The free gift God gives us by which he helps us to reach heaven.”

It is of the utmost importance that the students learn that they can be saved only by remaining in the state of grace. Our purpose on earth is to know, love, and serve God so that we can attain the vision of God in heaven. To do this, we must receive grace, keep grace, grow in grace, and die in the state of grace. Only with grace can we reach our goal of eternal life with God in heaven.

You may review the loss of grace through original sin. We are all stained with original sin at birth. Jesus won grace for us by his death and Resurrection. We receive grace through Baptism.

Develop

1. Read paragraphs 1–3.
2. What is grace? Grace is a supernatural gift that God, because of his free benevolence, bestows on men for their eternal salvation. Grace can be considered in two ways:
   - Sanctifying grace, the life of God in our souls by which we are made children of God, and without which we cannot go to heaven.
   - Actual grace, a transient help of God enlightening the mind and strengthening the will to do good and to avoid evil.

3. Grace is a supernatural gift. This means that it is above the nature of man (he has no right to it; he does not have grace naturally within him or even within his reach). Grace is entirely a gift from God. Review that although grace cannot be seen, it is real (though air cannot be seen, we breathe it).

4. Man has free will and can cooperate with grace. Grace perfects nature. We must exercise our spiritual muscles and become strong in virtue. We must choose to receive the sacraments and to receive and grow in grace. Grace is effective and transforms man in God’s image and likeness. We choose to live in the state of grace; we also choose to remove the life of grace in our soul (through mortal sin). We choose to go to heaven or hell by our actions. Our thoughts, words, deeds, and omissions determine our ability to receive, sustain, and reject grace, which determines our eternal reward.

5. Have the students think of analogies for grace to explain the necessity of grace to their fellow students. Saint Augustine uses the analogy of a raging river and a man who must cooperate by staying in a boat. Grace is the current that carries us down the river. Man can reject grace by dropping anchor or attaching himself to something on shore.

Reinforce

1. Have the students work on Activity Book p. 49 (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 165).
2. The students may work on the Memorization Questions and Words to Know from this chapter (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 161).
3. The students should discuss that it is grace that gives value to our good works. The merit we receive from good works is due first to the grace of God and only secondly to our work.
4. You may parallel the life of grace with a sport, such as football. Grace is the football. You get the ball and try to advance toward the end zone for a touchdown. Without the football, you cannot have a touchdown. You can fumble the ball (through sin) and intercept the ball (with the Sacrament of Penance). Every Escherist is a first down!

Conclude

1. Teach the students to sing “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,” Adoremus Hymnal, #443.
2. End class by leading the students in praying Eternal Rest (see the facing page).

Pelagianism

Pelagianism is an ancient heresy that denies the necessity of grace. Pelagius, the teacher of the heresy, denied original justice and original sin, saying that the state of Adam and Eve before the fall is the same as the state of a child who has not yet sinned. Therefore, Adam and Eve suffered from concupiscence and could have died before they had sinned. Adam’s sin, then, is reduced to mere bad example, and Christ’s death on the Cross is denied any atoning power, becoming nothing more than a good example to counter Adam’s bad example. In that case, salvation is simply the result of our own good works and we have no need of grace. This heresy was denied by Saint Augustine of Hippo, Saint Jerome, and the ecumenical council of Ephesus.

Mistaken Grace

On the opposite extreme from Pelagianism, some people have taught that salvation rests solely on grace, thus depriving of free will. In the extreme, proponents of this belief claim that there are some whom God has predestined to salvation and they will be saved no matter what they do, while those not predestined to salvation will go to hell regardless of their faith and works. Such a belief denies the love, justice, and mercy of God and ignores free will. Instead, we must understand the union between grace and free will. As Saint Augustine says: “he who completes his work by cooperating with our will began by working so that we might will it,” and “we also work, but we are only collaborating with God who works, for his mercy has gone before us.”

Eternal Rest Prayer

V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
R. And let perpetual light shine upon them.
V. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
R. Amen.

Preview

In the next lesson, the students will learn about sanctifying grace.
CHAPTER THIRTEEN: DOCTRINE OF GRACE
LESSON TWO: SANCTIFYING GRACE

Aims
The students will learn that man is conceived with original sin and born without grace. (There are two exceptions: Jesus and Mary.) They will learn that sanctifying grace makes us adopted children of God. Mortal sin removes the life of grace from our souls. They will learn that the theological virtues are faith, hope, and charity.

Materials
• Activity Book, p. 50
Optional: • “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest.” Adoremus Hymnal, #443

Begin
Discuss that we were all born with original sin. In fact, since the Fall, only two people have existed without original sin—Jesus and Mary. We refer to Mary’s conception without sin as the Immaculate Conception. Mary was conceived without original sin and preserved from sin throughout her life. Mary’s grace at her conception was the grace won by Christ on the Cross.

Develop
1. Read paragraphs 4–7.
2. Review the hierarchy of creation. (See Chalk Talk on the facing page.) Inanimate objects (e.g., rocks and metal) do not have life. Plants have life—they can grow and bear fruit. Animals are greater than plants—they can grow, move around, reproduce, and learn. Men are above all animals—they are rational beings with immortal souls. God is the giver of all life and, indeed, he is life itself.
3. Sanctifying grace is a supernatural gift that heals and perfects our imperfect human nature. Sanctifying grace is a gift from God that draws us more deeply into his heart. This grace is a real participation in the divine nature (cf. 2 Pet 1:4; Jn 1:12; 3:18; 1 Jn 3; 1 Pet 1:23). Grace, the seed of glory, is destined to blossom perfectly in heaven.
4. Sanctifying grace sanctifies the soul. A soul in the state of grace is free from mortal sin and has the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity. Sanctifying grace also gives supernatural beauty to the soul. Sanctifying grace sanctifies the soul and makes it into a living temple of the Holy Spirit.
5. A Catholic’s primary duty is to retain and develop a relationship with God through sanctifying grace. Sanctifying grace cannot exist in a soul in mortal sin. If we confess our sins in the Sacrament of Penance, God who is ever-faithful will forgive us our sins and renew sanctifying grace within us. If one dies in mortal sin he will receive eternal damnation. All who die in the state of grace inherit heaven.

Sanctifying Grace is a wonderful gift because it gives us a share in God’s life and draws us ever more closely into the union and mystery of God. It is like marriage—the longer one is married, the more one understands the sacrament and grows in love with his spouse. Receiving sanctifying grace is like a wedding; the more we respond to grace, the more our holiness and love will grow.

Reinforce
1. Have the students work on Activity Book, p. 50 (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 165).
2. The students may work on the Memorization Questions and Words to Know from this chapter (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 161).

Conclude
1. Lead the students in singing “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest.” Adoremus Hymnal, #443.
2. End class by leading the students in praying Eternal Rest (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 157).

SANCTIFYING GRACE
Sanctifying grace is a wonderful gift because it gives us a share in God’s life and draws us ever more closely into the union and mystery of God. It is like marriage—the longer one is married, the more one understands the sacrament and grows in love with his spouse. Receiving sanctifying grace is like a wedding; the more we respond to grace, the more our holiness and love will grow.

Reinforce
1. Have the students work on Activity Book, p. 50 (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 165).
2. The students may work on the Memorization Questions and Words to Know from this chapter (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 161).

Conclude
1. Lead the students in singing “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest.” Adoremus Hymnal, #443.
2. End class by leading the students in praying Eternal Rest (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 157).
CHAPTE R THIRTEEN: DOCTRINE OF GRACE
LESSON THREE: Channels of Grace

Aims
The students will learn that we receive sanctifying grace through the seven sacraments. They are the ordinary channels of grace. They will learn that the seven sacraments are Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance, Holy Orders, Matrimony, and the Anointing of the Sick.

Materials
- Activity Book, p. 51
- Optional: “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,” Adoremus Hymnal, #443

Begin
Review that Christ won grace for us by his life, death, and Resurrection. He is the source and giver of all grace. He founded the Church to continue his work of teaching and sanctifying on earth. Sanctification requires grace. Thus, Christ instituted seven sacraments and entrusted them to the Church to be the ordinary channels of grace. By receiving the sacraments, we may become holy and faithful followers of Christ.

Develop
1. Read paragraph 8.
2. Review the seven sacraments, and how they are channels of grace.

Sacraments of Initiation:
- Baptism: Sanctifying grace is first infused into the soul; the door is opened to all other sacraments.
- Confirmation: This sacrament unites a man and a woman together in a relationship that bears witness to Christ’s love for the Church—it is life giving. The spouses become ministers of grace for one another.
- Holy Orders: This sacrament configures a man to Christ and gives him the power to continue the apostolic ministry as a bishop, priest, or deacon.

3. Review additional ways to grow in grace:
- Living virtuously and doing good works (building habits that make us strong in the life of grace)
- Prayer (asking God to share his grace with us)

Reinforce
1. Have the students work on Activity Book, p. 51 (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 165).
2. The students may work on the Memorization Questions and Words to Know from this chapter.
3. The sacraments are necessary for the life of grace. Have the students write a paragraph on this topic. The students may make a plan of action, describing ways they can live lives of grace.
4. The students may research the lives of various saints and discuss how they modeled holy lives filled with grace.

Conclude
1. Lead the students in singing “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,” Adoremus Hymnal, #443.
2. End class by leading the students in praying Eternal Rest (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 157).

CHAPTE R 13
Doctr ine of Grace

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:11

We have learned that God created each one of us to know, love, and serve him on earth, and to live with him forever in heaven. This is the purpose of our lives. This happy expectation of eternal life is called grace.

But this is an impossible task for us. How can we, who have been separated from God because of our sins, reach the greatest of all goals? We must beg for God’s grace to come to our aid and help us in grace.

Grace is a supernatural gift from God to us through Jesus Christ. It is a call to supernatural holiness that it always remains for us to accept or refuse. It is always open to us as long as we do not refuse it and as long as we continue to ask for it. We must accept grace simply because it loves us.

God’s Greatest Gift: Sanctifying Grace
Because of original sin, all of us are con­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­�...
**Materials**

- **Activity Book, p. 52**
- **Thimble, glass, bucket, water**

**Optional:**

- **“Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,” Adoremus Hymnal, #443**

**Aims**

The students will learn that actual graces are inspired opportunities to do good and to grow in holiness.

Sometimes we need additional help to give us the “boost” (desire or inclination) to do the right thing. God provides this assistance all the time. Often we do not recognize or heed this help, but it is there for us to receive. Have the students discuss ways God prompts them to do good and avoid evil. For example:

- When passing a church, God inspires us to pray or to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.
- Seeing your mother helping your brother do homework, you know to set the table or help get supper ready.
- We are called to sacrifice something good as a penance.
- We feel the need to visit someone who is lonely.

**Begin**

1. Read paragraphs 9 and 10.

2. Actual grace is a temporary supernatural act of God to move man to do good, avoid evil, and become holier. This grace internally and directly enlightens the intellect and strengthens the will.


4. Actual grace is what accompanies our works to make them meritorious. It is a supernatural gift that God freely gives to us. God wills all men to be saved; thus, it can be understood that he gives all sufficient grace to observe his commandments, enough grace for conversions, and the grace necessary for innocent unbelievers to achieve eternal salvation.

5. Sometimes it seems like some people get more grace than others. Saints, for example, seem to have a superabundance of grace, and we often think we need an apparition or a miracle to aspire to be a saint. How wrong we are! We are all called to be saints! God gives us all the grace necessary—we simply need to respond to God and receive the grace he offers us. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux tells us that God wants to fill each of us with grace. All of us have different capacities for love, and whether we are like a thimble, a bucket, or a lake, when we are filled to the brim, we cannot hold any more. (You may demonstrate this by filling a thimble, glass, and bucket full of water.) God knows our needs and capacities. He gives us enough grace to be filled, to be a saint, and to be perfectly happy forever with him in heaven.

**Develop**

1. Have the students work on Activity Book p. 52 (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 165).

2. The students may work on the Memorization Questions and Words to Know from this chapter. They may also prepare for the quiz.

3. When we are in the state of grace, responding to actual grace merits us rewards in heaven. Actual graces help us to build up our treasury. When we are in mortal sin, no good act we do will build up this treasure; these acts only will have human value. However, if we are in the state of grace, good acts can have human and eternal rewards! This is a special gift from God.

4. To be sure the students understand the differences between them, play a game comparing actual and sanctifying grace. Call out a grace and have students identify it as either actual or sanctifying.

**Conclude**

1. Lead the students in singing “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,” Adoremus Hymnal, #443.

2. End class by leading the students in praying Eternal Rest (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 157).

**Reinforce**

1. Have the students work on Activity Book p. 52 (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 165).

2. The students may work on the Memorization Questions and Words to Know from this chapter. They may also prepare for the quiz.

3. When we are in the state of grace, responding to actual grace merits us rewards in heaven. Actual graces help us to build up our treasury. When we are in mortal sin, no good act we do will build up this treasure; these acts only will have human value. However, if we are in the state of grace, good acts can have human and eternal rewards! This is a special gift from God.

4. To be sure the students understand the differences between them, play a game comparing actual and sanctifying grace. Call out a grace and have students identify it as either actual or sanctifying.

**Preview**

In the next lesson, the students’ understanding of the material covered in this chapter will be reviewed and assessed.
**Aims**

The students’ understanding of the material covered in this chapter will be reviewed and assessed.

**Materials**

- Quiz 13, Appendix, p. A-19
- Optional: “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,” Adoremus Hymnal, #443

**Review and Enrichment**

1. The students should understand that grace is necessary to get to heaven. They should understand what it means to live the life of grace and to be in a state of grace.
2. The students should be able to define sanctifying grace. Ask them to give examples of sanctifying grace.
3. The students should know what actual graces are and be able to give examples.
4. The students should know that Jesus is the source of all grace. He won grace for us by his death and resurrection. This grace is entrusted to the Church and is dispensed through the seven channels of grace, the sacraments. The students should be able to distinguish between the sacraments of initiation, healing, and service.

**Assess**

1. Distribute the quizzes and read through them with the students to be sure they understand the questions.
2. Administer the quiz. As they hand in their work, you may orally review the correct answers with the class.

**Conclude**

1. Lead the students in singing “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,” Adoremus Hymnal, #443.
2. End class by leading the students in praying Eternal Rest (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 157).

**Name:**

**Doctrine of Grace**

**Quiz 13**

**Part I: Define the following terms.**

**Grace:** The free gift that God gives us by which he helps us to reach heaven.

**Supernatural:** Something that is above the powers of man or of nature. A supernatural event can be done only by God.

**Sanctifying grace:** The gift of God in our souls by which we are made the adoptive children of the Father; a share of God’s own life. It is infused by God.

**Actual grace:** A free gift of grace by which we are made better and strengthened in our duties.

**Part II: Put an S beside the examples of sanctifying grace and an A beside the examples of actual grace.**

1. It inspires you to spend a few minutes reading the Bible.
2. It gives you the supernatural powers of faith, hope, and charity.
3. It urges you to go to confession.
4. Without it a person cannot be saved.

**Part III: Answer in complete sentences.**

1. What is our purpose on earth? How can we fulfill this purpose?
2. How does actual grace come to us?
3. What does “supernatural” mean?
4. It is the supernatural state of being infused by God.
5. Our purpose on earth is to know, love, and serve God so that we will be with Him in heaven. We receive sanctifying grace in Baptism and, if lost, in Extreme Unction.

**Name:**

**The Doctrine of Grace**

**Quiz 11**

**Name:**

**Sanctifying Grace**

**Part I: Put an S beside the examples of sanctifying grace and an A beside the examples of actual grace.**

1. It tells you to avoid a person who gets you into trouble.
2. It is given to you at baptism.
3. It is the supernatural state of being infused by God.
4. It is a temporary supernatural act of God to help us become holy.

**Part II: Put an A beside the examples of actual grace.**

1. It gives you the life of God and the right to be saved.
2. It gives you the supernatural powers of faith, hope, and charity.
3. It tells you to avoid a person who gets you into trouble.
4. Without it a person cannot be saved.

**Part III: Answer in complete sentences.**

1. What is our purpose on earth? How can we fulfill this purpose?
2. How does actual grace come to us?
3. What does “supernatural” mean?
4. It is the supernatural state of being infused by God.
5. Our purpose on earth is to know, love, and serve God so that we will be with Him in heaven. We receive sanctifying grace in Baptism and, if lost, in Extreme Unction.

**Name:**

**Actual Grace**

**Part I: Put an S beside the examples of sanctifying grace and an A beside the examples of actual grace.**

1. It inspires you to spend a few minutes reading the Bible.
2. It gives you the supernatural powers of faith, hope, and charity.
3. It urges you to go to confession.
4. Without it a person cannot be saved.

**Part II: Put an A beside the examples of actual grace.**

1. It tells you to avoid a person who gets you into trouble.
2. It is given to you at baptism.
3. It is the supernatural state of being infused by God.
4. It is a temporary supernatural act of God to help us become holy.

**Part III: Answer in complete sentences.**

1. What is our purpose on earth? How can we fulfill this purpose?
2. How does actual grace come to us?
3. What does “supernatural” mean?
4. It is the supernatural state of being infused by God.
5. Our purpose on earth is to know, love, and serve God so that we will be with Him in heaven. We receive sanctifying grace in Baptism and, if lost, in Extreme Unction.

**Answers will vary.**