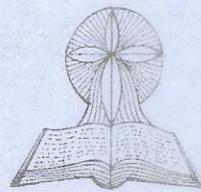


CATECHISTS' FIRST EXAMINATION

HANDBOOK



Prepared by
The National Catechetical Centre

Catechists' First Examination

The National Centre for Catechetics and Bible Apostolate, annually conducts three examinations for Catechists such as Catechists' First Exam, Catechists' Intermediate Exam and Catechists' Final Exam. From this year we will conduct all the three exams in English medium too.

This text book for catechists' First examination will help to you prepare yourselves for the examination and will impart knowledge on various subjects related to Catechetics. We have included in this text book certain themes of the Holy Bible, the Holy Sacrifice of the Eucharistic Celebration, Liturgy of the Church, Prayer, Vatican II, Catechism and Its Arms, Christian Leadership and Ethical values and World Church History.

We appreciate dedication in the Catechetical Apostolate in the workd of evangelization.

We wish you all success!
God bless you!

Fr. Pradeep Niroshan Fernando,
National Director for Catechetics and Bible Apostolate
National Catechetical Centre, "Lankarama", Borella.

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First Lesson

1. Geographical Structure and the History of the Holy Land

1:1 Names used for Holy Land.

Cannan; Palestine; Israel; Promised Land; Holy Land

(a) Cannan

The country that produces purplish woolen cloth. This is supposed to be the most ancient explanation. During the early period the name Cannan was used only for the coastal part of Phenecia but later on the West of river Jordan too was indicated. That was between Syria and Egypt where the Israelits resided. Around the bay of Sidon there were oysters. Their shells were used to produce purple paint which helped in the manufacture of purple woolen material. Moses too sent his spice to this country – One of the three sons of Noah Ham had a son called Cannan. Thus the area he lived was known as Cannan according to legend, Abraham went from Mesopotamia to Egypt and settled in Cannan.

(b) Palestine:

Palestine is the country of Philistians. The Romans used this name. But the Jews never used it because the Philitians and the Jews were enemies. But the Bible story of David and Golaiath brings back this name quite after. Gen21:34; Ex 13:17 1 Sam 6:1; 27; 1kgs 8:2

(c) Israel:-

The meaning of the word Israel "Triumphant with God." It's also one of the names given to Jacob by God. (Gan 32:28) This name was re-used after gaining independence at the separation of Jordan from Palestine.- (After the 4th of May in 1948)

-Reference-

(1 Sam 13:19; 2 Kgs 5:2; E27:2; 21:17; Mt2:22)

(d) Promised Land:-

It was the promise of God to give this land to the ancestors of Atrateau – Thus it was named the Promised Land.

(e) Holy Land:-

As the birth of Jesus, mission of Jesus, suffering of Jesus – Death of Jesus and the Resurrection of Jesus were ocured here, the Christian faithful called this land the Holy Land – and thus it's called so.

1.2. Geographical Structure of the Holy Land and the Israelits.

(a) Geographical Structure:-

The length from Dan to Beersheba is 150 Miles.

The breadth 50 to 60 miles; the area 10,000 square miles.

To the East of Jordan 4,000 and to the West 6,000.

The area of present state of Israel is 8,000 Sq. miles.

The Length of the Sea of Galilee is 13 miles and its breadth is 84 miles. Its 28 miles away from the **Mediterranean** Sea. Israel is situated between Africa and Asia. Lebanon and Syria from the North-Jordan from the East and The Sinai Continent from the South East are the Land Marks.

Originally the Israelites considered the neighbouring nations as their enemies, they came to the land first as tourist shepherds, as Semite tribes. Having settled down permanently they began to cultivate. The land of Israel is predominantly a dry country. Rainfall is had only twice a year. But, God named this land flowing with milk and honey.

(b) People of Israel

People of Israel are called Israelites. The other countries call them Hebrews. The reason for it was that they speak in Hebrew- The meaning of the term Hebrew means "pass over". Once Abraham was recognized as the Hebrew, (Gen 14:13). The meaning of the word Hebrew is wider than the meaning of the word Israel. We don't get this classification in the Old Testament because this name had been first used for the robbers. Later this name had been used for Arameian Tribes. These tribes came first to Mesopotamia. They were known as Semites. Their language was Arameik and Hebrew. However the Israelites were a monotheistic people because they believed in One God. This separated them from other nations.

1.3 Main Divisions:

Galilee – Judea – Samaria.

The narrow border land that runs from the North to South between the Mediterranean Sea of Palestine and the river Jordan is divided into three areas;

The North as Galilee, The mid area as Samaria and the South as Judea.

(a) Galilee

An area famous for growth of useful crops. Sea of Galilee or Lake Gennesareth was the place where Jesus preached during the first part of his public ministry. – This is situated 700 ft. below Sea level about 13 miles of the length. 165 ft. – 230ft. in depth. In the Old Testament, the Sea of Galilee was also known as the Sea of Chinnereth (Numbers 34:11;- Dt. 3:17, Joshua 13:27; 19:35); In the New Testament the Sea of Galilee is known as the lake Gennesareth; (Mt 14:34; Mk 6:53; Lk 5:1- and the Sea of Thiberius (Jn 6:1; 21:1)

The Sea of Galilee and the areas around Galilee are associated with much of the life of Jesus Christ.

Eg: -

- Calling of the first four disciples (Mt 4:18)
- Healing the leper (Mt. 8:1)
- Commanding the wind (Mt 8:27)
- Appointing the 12 disciples (Mk 3:13)

The Sea of Galilee is mentioned in the four Gospels 45 times.

The main towns around the lake of Genesareth are – Tiberius – Bethsaida – Magdala and Capernaum.

Nazareth, Naaim and Cana were towns inside the city. Galilee was the most residential area in Palestine. Cultivation or fishing was their main occupation. Jews disregarded them to be ignorant about the Jewish law.

Though the Judeans had to claim to the areas in Palestine, Galilee was the closest to all countries. The the Galilians had the opportunity to work hand in hand with those of the foreign countries. Thus they became hospitable. Our Lord Jesus Christ began his ministry with enthusiasm among these strong and generous people.

(b) Samaria

Samaria is situated in the South of Galilee and the North of Judea. Though a hilly area, there were several fertile valleys. People here were mostly immigrants and foreigners from Asia Minor who descended from the Jews were known as Samaritans. They followed the Judean Law on religious matters, but were rejected by the Jews during social activities. The reason being that they were mixed with foreigners. The genuine Jews dislike the Samaritans. They felt that the Samaritans were unclean and avoided their company. But our Lord appreciated the Samaritans. His helps and his appreciations indicate how much he cared for the Samaritans.

(c) Judea

Judea is in the North of Palestine – It's partially a hilly country. Jerusalem is the heart of the Jews because their religious and social life is centred in Jerusalem. A Synagogue built on a hill about 2,400 feet above Sea level is prominent in Jerusalem. The main place of worship of the Jews was the temple of Jerusalem. The Head Quarters of the Roman Governor too was in Jerusalem.

This particular temple which was situated in the longest border of the town achieved high tribute. The stretch of steps that extended up to to the most sacred apartment's resembled a giant groomed at attention. It was so prominent. During the times of worship and especially during Easter, Jews from all areas of Palestine gathered in his sacred temple.

Most of the Jews are those who had been loitering or living out in Babylon and then made their "come back". They were quite confident of being the closer people of God. Thus they uttered in confidence. They refused to keep its – contact with foreigners and were utterly rude in their behaviour. Even their manner of speech they themselves highlighted their fame and dignity. They were not in the manner of tolerance like the Galilians. This was the main reason that Jesus had not received; warm welcome on Judea.

1.4 Social Classes:

(a) Sadducees - Priests - the rich

They worked as the religious leaders of the people, (the community). They paid utmost attention to the laws and accepted only the "Pentateuch". Believed in One God and the life ever lasting (Eternal Life).

(b) "Scribes" (Writers)

Babylonians belong to this clan. They are the leaders of the Pharesies. As there was no particular temple for worship in Babylon, these writers transcribed the Word of God. These were a chosen set of people. During the period of Jesus they were the teachers of the Constitution. The people addressed them as "Rabboni" or the "Gurudevas". Thus, the disciples addressed Jesus in the same manner.

(c) The Pharisees.

The Pharisees means one who separated from the others. (I.e. A person who is separated from others) These people (the pharesies) paid attention towards other (concepts) traditions mostly.

Believed in Eternal life and the Angels. Took much in avoiding the Jews to keep away from them. They were the most powerful religious group among the Jewish community. They took much effort in presenting themselves as the group that was knowledgeable of the Jewish religion and the law, and remained separated from the others.

(d) Samaritans

Though similar by race, lived isolated due to difference in religion wise. The reason for this being that the time they spent as slaves, they paid less heed to Judaism and mixed up in other faith too. (Really they had complications in their faith). They accepted only the "Pentateuch". They worshipped in the temple that was built by them on the mountain at "Geriseem". The other Jews did not cross over Samaria. The reason being that they were harrassed by the Samaritans. The Jews treated them in low manner; lower than even the foreigners – They were residents of Samaria.

(e) The Assyrians

Up to the year 64, there had been a set of people living in the city of Kumran closer to the Dead Sea. Thus it indicates its that the Kumran literature. According to reason excavations it is evident that people hail from monasterialic heritage and could be hermits either.

1.5 Ordinary Life of the People

There wasn't much difference in the life style of the Israelites. The common man paid taxes and the upper class) lived in luxury. The Priests who lived closer to Jerusalem imposed rules and regulations and kept the innocent person under them while they lived a luxurious life. The common generation depended on their cultivation and dairy farming to earn their living. Majority of the Galilians were fisher folks. (Luke 5:1-11,- Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20) - The New Testament explain on agricultural concept too' (Mathew 13:1-9; 13:24-30;-John 15:1-11) The Galilians were taken as a weaker set of people quite low in the intellegence quotient. The Samaritans lived only in their particular areas. They were intelligent and educated in the language of Greek. There were a set of people living around Jerusalem who were too haughty and proud. They lived a double life. Mislead the people and collected taxes inside the temple. They lead a luxurious life; making the people believe that they kept strictly to the laws of Moses. According to Language; there were divisions in the society such as those educated in Greek and those conversed in Arameik. Thus the society was divided.

1.6 Political Background

It's time to investigate on the political background and the religious standard around Palestine. Palestine was under the Roman King and Greek culture was given first performance. The governors who where appointed by the Roman King; governed Judea. Samaria and Galilee. They were known as the Deputy Kings too.

The political standards were Greek atmosphere. The Jewdish people who lived in Alexandria, Egypt, made the magistrate court was recognized as the council of Sanhedrin. It consist of the following members:

- The treat of priests, leading priests that belongs to 24 families. (1 Chronicles 2)

- Experienced and matured area leaders (Mark 11:27)
- Disciplinarians exemplarily (teachers) learned of the Jewish Constitution. All rights of the Jews were empowered to the council of Sanhedrin. Meetings were held in the temple itself. Taxes were paid to the Roman King. Those were collected by the taxcollectors.

Thus, the Jewish society automatically got divided into two categories. One for the government and one against the government. The Cellots and the Sicars expected freedom through revolution. The Pharisees rejected Greek and Roman culture. The Sadducees accepted the Greek and Roman culture and because they were quite appropriate.

1.7 Religious Background

Aron's ancestors took the initiative in the liturgical – services in the temple of Jerusalem. Offering Sacrifices, lighting the lamps on the altar, lighting the lamp tree, preparing the the host and reading were their tasks. "Shuddhathi" is holy place. The chief priest is also a valid person. There were so many synagogues around Palestine. The Sabath meditations were held in these synagogues. The Constitution was displayed in every temple or synagogues. Praying and explaining the Scriptures were prayerfully done. The Sadducees were the group, quite particular about the spiritual cleansing. Giving alms and fasting was a special religious practise. Sabbath was a religious acceptance. They kept to it and followed it districtly. There were several feasts. During the times of the feasts, people gathered in the temple. The special prayer book was the Book of Psalms. The main place of worship was the temple of Jerusalem. There are four main Feasts. The very special of them is the Feast celebrating Passover.

Thus people were classified according to their religious practices and religious acceptances, such as those keep to the law and those who don't. Those clean and unclean. Those holy and unholy. The religious laws were those in the 'Pentateuch' and the traditions of the ancient people. The religious place was the temple of Jerusalem. Practicing Cubicle or the Podium. Sacrifice were the burnt sacrifice; Sacrifice of participation, Sacrifice of sin, Sacrifice of grain, Sacrifice of incense and the offering of the bread.

1.8 Economical Background

"Shekal" is the common name used for money. Though religious leaders and the elite were rich in money; the common Palestinians were quite poor. Agriculture, Shepherding, Fishing, Carpentry were their main occupations.

Society divided according to certain occupations; such as, the governors of the country, labourers, farmers, coolies and slaves. There were two methods of taxations;

1. The tax to be paid to the temple 2. Tax to be paid to the Roman King.
Every Jew who lives overseas should come back to home town to pay his tax to the temple. The priests lead luxurious lives using the tax payments. They refused to pay the civil tax and the land tax to the Roman King because they believed in One Almighty God. The Jews disliked the appearance of the coins with the faciel of Ceaser (Mathew 22:17) they thought it was a sort of wrong worship. Another kind of money used were the Dinars (The Roman

Dinar). Another kind is the Greek – Drakma (Drukma) this is a silver coin. The tax payment of the temple was from silver coin.

1.9 Main Feasts

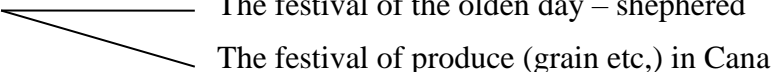
Introduction-:

The Israelites came to Jerusalem annually, with their families to attend to these main feasts. They were-:

- i) The feast of Passover. (Levi: 23:5-8; Exodus 23:9-21)
- ii) The feast of Pentecost (Exodus 23:26)
- iii) The feast of Tent or
The feast of Providence } Exodus 23:16
- iv) Feast of Offering or
Feast Dedication } John 10:22

Besides there are other religious festivals

- a) Sabbath Day
- b) Day of Repentance
- c) Festival of grain (produce)
- d) Passover.

There are two festivals in one 

The shepherds were in the habits of following religious rites before they took out their cattle, sheeps' goats etc out on the range. They killed a sheep or goat and applied the blood on the main sill of the entrance. By doing this as they passed they expected God's protection. The Israelites introduced this as the Passover of Slavery. The Cananites gave their fresh produce to God. They made 'host' with the first term of flour and ate them. Therefore this pass over is compared to the Exodus and thus celebrated within the months of March or April on the 14th day combining both feasts. Thus the feast of Passover was enjoyed.

(e) Feast of Pentecost:

Pentecost is a Greek term (word) (Pentecostaries). It explains as 50 days. Seven weeks after the harvest, this feast was celebrated. The same feast is introduced as the weekly feast. (Exodus 34:22; Levi 23:15) The first crops are laid before the Altar. After seven weeks; on the 50th day the final feast was celebrated. Here they offered two sacrifices. This reflects the feast held by the Cananites. Having offered the yeast a sheep or an ox too was offered. As days grew by this feast combined the Sinai pact, and that too was held as a feast of harvest. This related specifically to the feast of Pentecost explained in the book of Acts chapter 2: People gathered to the temple of Jerusalem. During the past it celebrated the ancient feast of Pentecost. The Apostles received the Holy Spirit; 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Combining all these ideas and happenings today the feast of Pentecost is held.

(f) Feast of Tent

This feast was held on the 7th month, during summer on the 15th day after the collection of the crops such as fruits mostly. (Levi 23:33-43) This was a joyous happening of these people and they enjoyed for exactly seven days; Offering devotions morning and evening and a grand offering being held on the seventh (last) day. (Levi: 23) This explains the religious acceptance of the Canaanites. It also describes (reminds) the life spent in tents; by the Israelites in the desert.

g) Consecration of the temple of God:

The King of Antioch IV pressurized the Jews. He forcibly attempted to teach them the Greek culture and the Greek religion. The Holy Scriptures were burnt and following the Jews rules were banned. In BC 167, 25th December the statue of God Seus was erected, and offered pigs in the altar. Three years after King Judas Antioch Maccabeus, and consecrated the temple of God once again. Celebrations were held for ten days from the 25th of December onwards. The people carried Olive branches, singing (Psalm 30) went in the procession to the temple of God. (2 Maccabees 10:6-8) while in procession Palms 113 were sung. After the procession entered the temple – the offerings were made. There was a lamp lit in every house. One lamp on the First day and thus up to 10 lamps accordingly through the ten days. Long after this feast was known as the feast of Light or the (Luminous Feast)

1.10 The Map of the Holy Land. During the time of Jesus.



Second Lesson

2. Common Introduction to the Holy Bible

2:1 Introduction.

Through the classification of the Greek Word '**Biblos**'

The Word Bible is introduced. The meaning of it is "it is the Book". St. Clement signified that the Holy Book of the Christians should be called as "The Bible". Really the Bible is a book as well as a library. (It can be classified as a library as well).

There are 73 books that had been written through a period of 1500 years. The Bible is not a book of Biology - Zoology - or History; but a book that expresses the 'love story between God and man; which modifies the nature of mankind and the way to salvation.

- i Who am I?
- ii. Why do I live in this world?
- iii. What is my place in this world?

The book highlights the will of God in three aspects.

- i. Through incidents of humanity.
- ii. Through stanzas , songs, and stories.
- iii. Through signs and symbols

As the Bible written through the inspiration of God, about God almighty and God's chosen holy people. Thus, it is called the "Holy Bible". Holy Scriptures, Word of God, and constitution are other names entitled to introduce the Holy Bible. Holy Bible is common to the Christians and common among the Christians, the Catholics and those follow, Judaism. It is a book that conveys vivid values as God speaks to man in many different ways. It is also the only book that has been translated to several languages; which is also, printed the most and it's the only book that has a tremendous sale. It is also the one and only book that is read by most of the people world wide.

The Bible has two divisions.

i. The Old Testament

God's covenant that God had with the Israelities.

ii. The New Testament

God's intervention with the entire human family circle. (Hebrew 1:1-3)

2.2 Motive and Theme

2.2.1 Motive

The Holy Bible was written by different authors, at different periods, in different places, for different purposes. But the main motive of Holy Bible is the kingdom of God. God's promises relating to the kingdom of God are highlighted in the Old Testament. About the dawn of the kingdom of God is explained in the New Testament (the Divine Word is the basis of Christianity)

The Holy Bible strictly explains the gravity of the love of God and how God reacted in helping mankind to understand the desire and the acts of God to let man own the Kingdom of God; and thus it explains how this covenant should be maintained. That is God revelation.

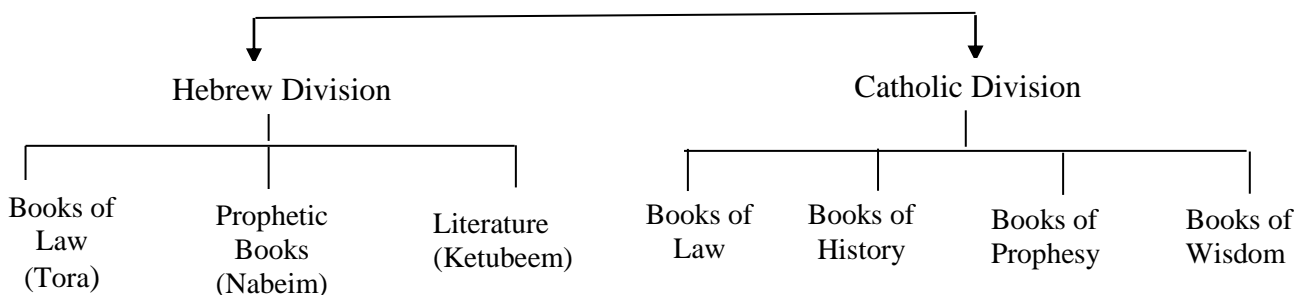
2.2.2 Theme

The main theme of the Holy Bible is Jesus Christ. According to the Old Testament, through the chosen people God intervenes in the coming of Messiah. In the New Testament, He Himself among His people and “as it was in the beginning is how and ever shall be....” (Luke 24:27; Ephesus 1:9-10; 1 Peter 1:20)

2.3 Types of Books

Bible	Old Testament	New Testament	No. of Books
Hebrew	39	-	39
Christian	39	27	66
Catholic	46	27	73

Old Testament



❖ **According to the divisions of Catholicism there are four categories:**

(Four Categories according to Roman Catholic classification)

- i. Books of Law** :- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deutoronomy (5 Books)
- ii. Historical Books** :- Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees (16 Books)
- iii. Wisdom Books** :- Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of songs, Wisdom, Sirach (7 Books)
- iv. Books of Prophecy**:- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Exekiel, Lamentations, Baruch, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obediah, Jonah, Micah, Havakkuk, Zephemiah, Haggi, Zechariah, Nahum, Malachi (17 Books)

❖ **Pantateuch**

The first 5 books of the Bible relate to the books of Law. The theme common to all these books are the emphasis of the Israelites being God's people or (being free from slavery) The incident of gaining freedom from Egypt, breaking the bonds of slavery. Moses is the character highlighted through out the "Pentateuch" (the first five books of the Bible). The covenant of Sinai is the centre of attraction. The Law of the Israelites are visible here. The book of Genesis explains the relationship between God and mankind, while confirming God as the one and only creator of the entire creation. The Book of Exodus reveals the story of the salvation of the Israelites. The Book of Leviticus indicates the formation of the religious. Book of Numbers gives the calculation of those who left Egypt, while Deuteronomy explain in detail the covenant of Sinai and the constitution of Moses.

❖ **Historical Books (Books of History)**

Reports of ancient incidents are inclusive. Indication towards the future. Stories of the Judges (the leaders) are included too; while describing the reigns of King David and Solomon. The Babylonian exile and the history of building the temple by Ezra and Nehemiah. The book of Tobit explains the story of an exemplary Son. Judith and Esther are books that explain the stories of bravery. The Book of Maccabees highlighted the Martyr of Maccabee as the first Martyr, who sacrificed life for the sake of Faith.

❖ **Wisdom Books (Books of Wisdom)**

Wisdom is God - thus the books reveal. God is the beginner (wisdom begins with God) It develops as a dialogue. The book of Psalms contains songs of praise and worship to God and therefore it has been the special form of worship in the mother Church. One who is blessed with God's wisdom enjoys immense happiness; thus it gives in the book of Proverbs.

❖ **Books of Prophecy**

One who speaks in the name of God is a prophet. The Israelites were a set of people who were close to God and who really feared the voice of God. They were interested in taking the Word to God appropriately; (to suit the place, the period). In the history of the Israelites; they were a group that lived single or in groups. The books of prophecy were written not merely by the prophets. Mostly the data collected after their deaths were included in these books. Sometimes, those written by their disciples were also included. The books of Prophecy vary according to the size.

- i. Major books of prophecy.
- ii. Minor books of prophecy.

There are three Major Prophets. - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel.
Minor books of prophecy are - The book of Hosea, Obedia, Jonah, Micha, Naahum,

Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zekeria, Malaci, Lamentation, Baaruk (Letters of Jeremiah.)

The main 'themes' they spoke on:-

- ❖ Justice in Society
- ❖ Monotheism
- ❖ Day of the Lord
- ❖ The suffering Servant
- ❖ Righteousness
- ❖ Messianic Tradition
- ❖ Treaties

The ways, they received the message of God.

- ❖ Through Vision
- ❖ By listening (hearing)
- ❖ Through inner inspiration.

The Book of Isaiah – 765 – 687 B.C.

His book contains the fall of Israel and Judea and the punishment to whole generation due to disbelief. The first prophecy of the Messiah contains (Prophecied) in the Book of Isaiah (2:1-5, 7:10-11)

The Holiness - The Strength - The power is expressed here. Isaiah is recognised as the Prophet of Faith.

The Book of Jeremiah – 646 B.C.

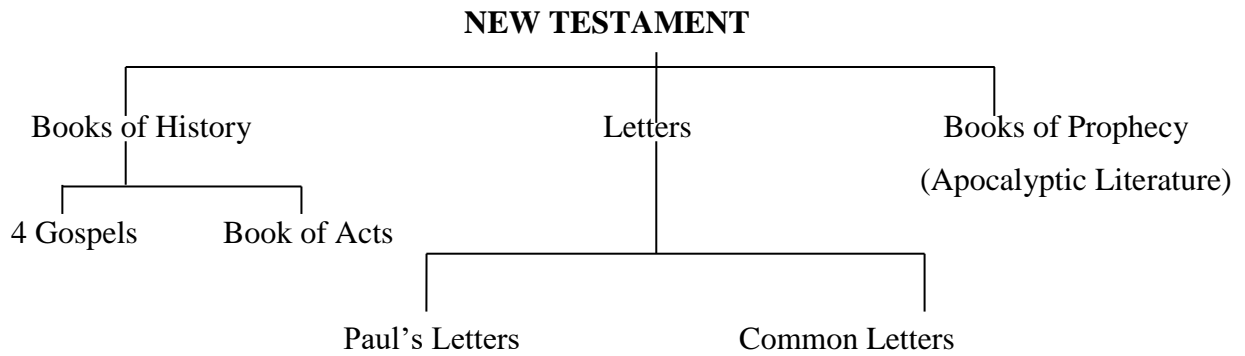
The theme of his book is 'Destruction' (110; 20:8) Being a peaceful man he emphasizes on his experiences battling with the peasants, with the priests, with false prophets, with the entire nation. From his point of view, he states that man acts according to his desires and the repercussions are according to the actions. Thus due to the sinful thoughts, the relationship with God be destroyed.

Ezekiel – 586 B.C.

As Ezekiel is a priest himself his pattern is moved towards the writing of holiness. Messages are expressed through symbols. (Symbolic messages are expressed) The fall of Jerusalem is explained with might. 'Exile' is highlighted giving three examples.

- The plain that contain the dried bones of human (37:1-14)
- The Lord is the Good Shepherd (34:11)
- The example on the two pieces of wood. 37:15-28)

Thus its given Messiah is not a mighty king but an ancestral-Shepherd of David's Clan



(i) Historical Books

Mark, Matthew, Luke, John, Book of Acts. (Five books)

(ii) Letters

(a) Letters of Paul

1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Galatians, Romans, Colossians, Philemon. (Thirteen books)

(b) Common Letters

James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Hebrews (Eight Books)

(c) Prophetic Books

Book of Revelation (one book)

• **Gospel of Mark**

Written in 65-70 AD. The symbol is lion. Written for the people of other races who lived in Rome. Consists of 16 short chapters. The shortest is the Gospel of Mark. Mark is a disciple of St. Peter. Jesus of Nazareth is the true God and true man, thus the Gospel of Mark confirms. Eighteen miracles are explained in this Gospel. Much emphasis is given to the evangelization in Galilee. Suffering of Christ takes prominence in this reason for that being, that six chapters in the Gospel are dedicated to the suffering and (separated) the death.

• **Gospel of Matthew**

In 80-90 A.D. that the Gospel of Matthew had been written. The symbol of this indicates to "man come from heaven". Written specially to the Jews who were in Palestine. There are twenty-eight chapters. Gospel of Matthew is the longest gospel written with a capacity of 42% of the contents to his (St. Matthew) favoritism. He is a tax collector.

The theme of this book is as; the saviour promised in the Old Testament is Jesus Christ. Christianity is the completion of Judaism. Holy Church is the New Israel. Attempts were made to focus thus –

i.e. the Holy Church – (New Israel – Christianity completes Judaism).

• **Gospel of Mark**

Written 65-70 AD symbol is lion. Written purposely for the different race that resided in Rome. Consists of 16 short chapters. The Gospel of Mark highlights the true God 'and true man' concept of Jesus; and explains eighteen miracles. Most of the contents are of the evangelization in Galilee. This Gospel is known also as the Gospel of the Passion. It is due to the reason that six chapters are completely dedicated to the Suffering and the Death of Jesus.

- **Gospel of Matthew**

Written in 80 - 90 AD. The symbol is a man from heaven. Written mainly to the Jews in Palestine. Consists of 28 chapters. The longest Gospel; that explains contents relating specially to Matthew. He is a disciple of Jesus. A tax collector. The theme of this Gospel is "Jesus the saviour promised in the Old Testament". Through this Gospel attempts have been made to highlight that Christianity is the completion of Judaism and the Holy Church is the New Israel. There are 70 extracts from the Old Testament. Also invites the Jews to embrace Christianity. Gospel of Mark is much known as the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Thus most of the literature are of the Kingdom of God.

- **Gospel of Luke.**

Written after 80 – 90 AD. The ox is the symbol. Written mostly for the other races. Consists of 24 chapters from which 55% are specifically for Luke himself. The love, kindness and salvation of Jesus Christ is common to the whole universe is the theme. When it comes to the life story of Jesus, Luke looks at it like a historian, a doctor or physician or as a writer. Special Jewish customs and traditions are highlighted for the benefit of those of other races.

- **Gospel of John**

There are no parables inclusive here in.

Written to the Christian Church (community) lived within the period of 90-100 AD. The symbol is the eagle. It consists of 21 chapters. Deep in doctrine and supposed to be the most important Gospel. The motive of this Gospel is to confirm the faith of the Christian faithful. John introduces the Gospel saying that God sent His only begotten son to the world.

- **Acts of the Apostles**

This is supposed to be the second episode of the book of Luke. The motive of writing this book is to proclaim the Good News of salvation to the whole world. It is not mere history, but God's Word contains the Gospel Truth. This the book reveals it.

- Chapters 1-5 - Explain the presence of the Holy Spirit presented to the whole Church.
- Chapter 6-12 - Explains the sermons of Stephen -Philip-Peter - Barnabas.
- Chapter 13-28 - Contains the three major trips of Paul and his visit to Rome where the Good News was preached.

- **Letters of Paul:**

Paul took authorship in writing (13) thirteen letters to the communities he organized. He advised them concerning their day to day life styles. The letters to the Corinthians were

written purposely to solve their problems. Especially the problems among the young community (youth) with adult community - (i.e. between the youth and the elders)

The Roman Church was not begun by Paul. It was mixed community.

The letter to the Romans clarified the doubts between the Jews and the Christians of other races. Mainly to make it clear that Judaism is similar to Christianity.

The letter to Philip highlights the importance of Christ Jesus in the New Testament. In the letter to Ephesian, Paul gives a distinct explanation to Theology.

In the Letter written to the Colossians, he elaborates the explanation of the Lordship in the man who is also Jesus.

In the letter written to the Galatians, Paul wrote strictly about the relationship of man with God; and give a firm indication, that it was not the laws of Moses that helped man to return to God. (To depend on God), that it was due to faith and faith alone.

Letter written to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians) Paul reminded them of the Christian way of living and encouraged man to keep patience for the coming of Messiah.

The letter he wrote to Titus was pretty short, but it explained the art of evangelization when it came to the leaders of the Church, females, males, children and servants and others.

In the letter to Philomen, Paul went out of his way to beg them to be friendly with slaves.

Finally Paul wrote to Timothy advising him to be concerned of living according doctrines.

Letters - Two categories

a) The letters sent to **Communities**

Romans, Corinthians, 1 Thessalonians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colosians,
1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians)

b) **Private Letters – (1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon)**

❖ **Common Letters**

8 Letters are inclusive among the common letters.

These were written to the Jews who knew Old Testament and who were also very good Christians.

Jacob, writing his letter gave prominence to good works and disciplinary principles.

The letter of Jude was written to condemn false teachers and to punish them according to the Jewish law.-

St. Peter who wrote 1 Peter, 2 Peter, contemplates on his baptism- He came to conclusion that just as Christ Jesus, one day we got to leave this world and go to eternity. Letters of 1,2,3 John attack the heretics. John takes the initiative to highlight the supremacy of Jesus Christ and apostolic teaching and confirms that faithfulness is useless without holiness.

Letter to the Hebrews expresses that Jesus Christ is the truth of God and the final celebration; encouraged the Lukewarm Christians and proclaimed that Moses and the priests in the Old Testament and thus He (Jesus) is righteous, fulfills the sacrificial devotions leading to salvation.

❖ **Book of Prophets**

Book of revelation was written during the period of King Domitian – when the Christians were open to religious harassment. Though it indicates that the book was written in 77-90 AD, Details written during 70 too are inclusive.

2.4 Combination of the Old and New Testament.

a) Covenant (Testament)

The word "Old Testament" is born in St. Paul. (2 Corinthians 3:14) Covenant I (Testament) reveals in 2 Corinthians 8:7. Covenant II (Testament) reveals in the 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9:15-20;

The word "Covenant" (Testament) relates" (Hebrew - Greek) Genesis 6:18; 17/1-14 Exodus 19-24; Numbers 25:6-15

Jeremiah 31:31-34; 1 Corinthian 11:23-25 – These circulate with the Biblical Concepts.

Combination of the Old and the New Testament

The New Testament is some what hidden in the Old Testament.

The New Testament reveals the Old Testament ". (St. Augustine)

The Old Testament is supposed to be the first step of the inspiration of God) and it reaches completion through the New Testament - (Hebrew 1:1-3)

It inquite evident that the Old and the New Testament are inseparable. Christ is the answer for the same. Thus activation takes place through distinct classification of the combinations of the two convenants. Therefore the Old Testament focuses on the signs of Jesus and the same are given here in for our reference.

Pre Historic indications of Christ in the Old Testament.

First example could be the Word of God and God's wisdom. God's wisdom and the Word of God relates to the creation. Word of God make events.

Word of God is a powerful instrument that make events. That depends on God's reactions. That is entirely the way of God and His involvement. (Genesis 1:1-2:4) Thus it reveals through the prophets as an indication of salvation. (It becomes a challenge) It challenges the man (Isaiah 1) and lets man repent. It proclaims the will of God. (Exodus 20:1-17). Wisdom too is God's and it combines during the time of creation. (Proverbs). Inclusive of all these matters, the New Testament introduces Jesus Christ to the world.

John 1:1-14; Ephesians 1:3- 23; Colossians 1:15-20). Therefore the final conclusion is that world of God and maturity through Jesus Christ.

The prophecies of the Messiah in the Old Testament fulfills completion through Christ. Thus it is given in the Gospels. (Mt. 1:23, Isaiah 7:14; Mt. 2:6, Micah 5:2). The tradition of Messiah combines through worldly dynasty. Christ is introduced as the mediator of a dynasty of spiritual upliftment inwardly. (John 18:33-38) But as Christ hails from the clan of David (Mtthew 1) and recognizes as the prince of peace; (Luke 2:8-14) the Messiah concept was finalized.

Thus the (Comparison) explanations that come in the book of Isaiah of the "Suffering Servant" confirms Christ Jesus. It is evident that the story of passion is explained by the Gospel writers – with the help of the Isaiah 52:13-53:12, discriminations.

Incidents highlighting the death of Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus are given in the book of Acts as a completion of covenants. Also in the letters of Paul. (Example: - Acts 2:14 – 36; 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16)

When it comes to the description of Christ to be highlighted among so many. Those two are the Covenant and the Holy Orders.

Prophet Jeremiah was bold enough to convey this message. Instead of the covenant of Sinai which was constantly neglected by the Israelites, God would give a New Testament (new covenant). This was confirmed by Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

In the letter written to the Hebrews, the writer explains – that, Jesus Christ gave his life for us. This sacrifice firmly indicates that it automatically fulfilled the Testament (covenant) explained by Jeremiah. (Hebrew 8:9)

This sacrifice, over-ruled the offering of a daily sacrifices that had been practiced in the Old Testament and instituted an eternal sacrifice. It indicates that a new set of people gloomed through the New Testament. (1 Peter 2:4-5; Revelation 1:6)

Thus it indicates (or explains) that a complete covenant (testament) was formed through an incomplete covenant; (the dawn of a complete covenant had taken place)

The Priesthood of Jesus. It differs from the priesthood of Aaron. According to Old Testament the priesthood of Jesus cannot be compared with Aaron's. It differs much.

Jesus Christ does not hail from the Levites, but from the Jews. Unlike the priests of the past, He sacrificed himself as the main offering for our sins.

In the letter to the Hebrews, clarifies that Christ has no connection to the ancestral priest-hood of Israelites. (Hebrew 10)

Then, what can be the gravity of this God and man? It is not a difficult task for one to understand the reason of Christ's intercession in performing what no one could ever be of the High Priesthood. Through the contents above, we understand and it is pretty clear the inseparable combination of Old and the New Testament.

b) Christ and the Holy Bible

The Jews regarded the Hebrew Bible as God's Word and treasured it much more than their lives. The Hebrew Holy Bible in the Old Testament was also Bible of Jesus Christ himself. We could follow-up the attitudes of Jesus towards God's Word through the descriptions given below:-

"Truly I tell you till heaven and earth pass away with all the earnestness; every law in the book will continue until its purpose is achieved. And so if anyone breaks the least commandment, and teaches others to, he shall be the least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but those who teach God's laws and obey them shall be great in the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matthew 5:18-19)

- i) Jesus Christ believed and accepted that word of God of inclusive in the constitution. Really the Holy scriptures are the word of God)
- ii) He studied the Holy Scriptures thus He gained through knowledge in the scriptures. (Luke 4)
- iii) He taught the people the Holy Scriptures. (Luke 24)
- iv) He used the Holy Scriptures dynamically in day to day life. He over came temptation over ruled temptation quoting from the book of Deuteronomy. (Answering to Deuteronomy) 8:3, 1:16, 6:13. Continuation of C)

Over came the challenges of the Pharisees, Levites and the priests through the Holy Scripture.

- v) Lived his life entirely to the word of God. Word of God in the New Testament is Jesus Christ Himself. (John 1:1)

Through the Word of God
 He healed people.
 He made them powerful,
 He sends them to correct pathway,
 He directed people to the right path,
 He uplifts them, He relieves them,
 He unites them.

2.5 The views of the wise, the educated – about the Holy Bible. (Classification)

a) A way to meet God, way of experiencing God.

"Heavenly Father meet children His children, through the Holy Scriptures. And converse with there so lovingly"(Vatican Document on Declaration /No. 21)

b) Raymond E. Brown Protestant Biblical Scholar

- The Holy Bible gives a vivid explanation about the relationships of the Israelites and God and their experiences, a library of the Israelites and the Early Church-maintained for the reference of the Post Generation of God. (Responses to 101 questions on the Bible", 29)
- A report of the relationship of God with the Israelites and the early Church. ("*Responses' to 10 questions on the Bible*", 29)

c) Rev. Fr. Philip C. Dissanayake:

- An ancestral religion that has taken the possibility to spread with in a period of Twenty centuries and the mother Church that explain thus, through wisdom has been some what a spring of the Holy Scriptures/and a spring of life and a spring of light to the people who walk towards their Eternity. (*Ecclesiastical Declaration*)

d) Carrloss Messtor

The Holy Bible is a tree well grown with 73 books. A tree with so many branches.

A tree with (73) almost 73 branches. A seed compared to Inspiration of God.

Planted in Soil fertile, compared to Liturgy well grown absorbing Sunlight and rain compared to Heavenly to power a seed which is planted in Good soil, manured sunlight and rain; grow, huge with many branches. These branches the books (73) the tree the Holy Bible. ("*The Bible. A Book Born Through Toil*")

e) Carrloss H. Abeysames:

Production of the experiences and the faith of the Israelist and the life circle of the early Church. (*Exploring the Core of Biblical Faith*)

Third Lesson

3. The Scripture Written by Divine Inspiration

3.1 In the Old Testament, in carefully planning and preparing the Salvation of the whole human race God chose for Himself people to whom He would entrust His promises. So He manifested Himself through words and deeds as the one true living God that the chosen people came to know by experiencing the ways of God with men. This is called Divine inspiration.

The mystical plan of God foretold by sacred authors, recounted and explained by them in their own language is found as the true Word of God in the books of the Holy Bible. They are written under the Divine Inspiration and remain permanently valuable. The Divine Inspiration of God was manifested on the lives of Israelites in all their important events, which is known as Shepherded Inspiration.

Eg:- Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and from that day on, the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David (I Sam. 16:13)

“Where is he who put his Holy Spirit in their midst. (Is. 63:71)

- * The Word of God is revealed orally by the power of the Spirit. This is known as the Oral Inspiration.

Eg :- “My Spirit which is upon you and my Words that I have put into your mouth, shall never leave your mouth, nor the mouth of your childrens’ children from now on and forever says the Lord” (Isa 59:21).

“For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that moment what you should say” (Lk-11:12)

“For no prophecy would ever come through human will; but rather human beings moved by the Holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God.” (2 Peter 1:21)

- * The Word of God recorded in the Holy Bible is known as the inspirational writings

Eg: “Then the Lord said to Moses write this down in a document as something to be remembered, and recite it in the ears of Joshua; I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under the Heavens”. (Ex 17:14)

“Now come write it on a tablet they can keep, inscribe it in a record; that it may be in future days an eternal witness.” (Is 30:8)

“Thus says the Lord the God of Israel; write all the words I have spoken to you in a book” (Jera 30:2)

- * The authors of the Holy Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit, their free will was appreciated accepted and respected in making their own decisions.
- * In his gracious goodness God has seen to it what he had revealed to them to record in their own languages adjustable to their lifestyle culture and environment.
- * In the symbol of faith, the Church recognizes this as a mystery. The books of the Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching solidly, faithfully without error that truth which God wanted to put into the Sacred Writings, for the sake of our Salvation. Therefore all the Scripture are Divinely Inspired and had its use for the teaching the truth and reputing error, for information of manners and discipline in right living so that man who belongs to God may be efficient and equipped for good work of every kind. The interpreter of the Sacred Scripture, in order to see clearly what God wanted to communicate to us, should carefully investigate what

meaning the sacred writers really intended, and what God wanted to manifest by means of their words.

- * The Biblical stories of the Holy Bible can be categorized as follows ;
- * Stories based on historical events

Eg: Certain events in the Acts of the Apostles

- * Stories based on myths

Eg: Lot's wife turning to a pillar of salt

- * Stories based on truth- The truth is set forth and expressed differently in texts which are variously hystorical, prophetic or other forms of discourse but there is deeper message.

Eg: Prodigal son, Good Samaritan, Story of Job.

- * The books of the Holy Bible have their principal author the Holy Spirit, although He Himself did not write them. The Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of the Holy Bible to write down in their own words in the manner and style of the day, what He wanted them to write. He guided them to write to the extent that they wrote faithfully what they had been taught. This working together of God and man in the writing of the Holy Bible is called Inspiration. This Inspiration covers not only matters of faith and morals, but extends as well to the facts of history as related, to the whole Holy Bible.
- * Lord reveals Himself to His people of Israel with remarkable honesty. They experienced the presence of God all throughout their life especially in battles. The Israelites considered the defeat in their battle as a punishment of breaking the covenant. They atoned for their sins and for the conversion of their hearts, as a result, they believed God has pity compassion on them and delivered them from their trials. In the Holy Bible there are many stories such as Lot's wife turning into a pillar of salt (Gen 19:26). And the event which took place when Abraham visited Egypt (Gen 12:10-20). The objectives of these stories are, to give people a deeper understanding of the Religion.
- * God being the author of nature guided the human authors to convey His message to the people according to their environmental behaviour and culture.

Eg: When two people belonging to two different environments wanted to draw a tree which is common to both, draw according to their culture and environment but the presentation of the drawing is not alike. In the same manner Human authors conveyed God's message to the people in their own language according to their culture, nature, and environment and so on.

- * The second Vatican Council reveals that the content of the Holy Bible is true and written by the Inspiration of God who is the Divine Author of the New Testament and the Old Testament. The Church has accepted that the Scriptures written by human authors who were inspired by the Divine Author God himself. Therefore the writings on the Holy Bible are sacred and true. This is revealed in (Revelation 2)
 - * The Scriptures are inspired by God and are useful for teaching, for reprobation or correction and training in righteousness so that one who belongs to God will be competent, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 - * This Divine Inspiration is not a mere vision or of an abnormal nature. God has used the talents, skills and abilities of human authors without causing damage to their identity, to write the Scriptures according to their language literature and their style of writing.
-

- * Therefore the Holy Bible is not a collection of Books but the living Word of God.
- * God's message is revealed to the reader because it was written by Divine Inspiration.
- * The defects when writing of the human author is minimized through the union of the Divine Author.
- * The Prophets preached the Word of God in their own language according to their culture environment and lifestyle, guided and inspired by the Divine Spirit. In the modern day writing, there is only one author for his own collection of articles but in the ancient time there were a group of writers responsible for the collection of books.
- * As a result the first group of authors preached and wrote the Scriptures under the guidance of the Divine Inspiration.
- * There were also individual authors inspired by the Holy Spirit who proclaimed the message of God and wrote down the Word of God in their own languages.
- * God is the Author of the Holy Bible and therefore is the revelation of God to the Apostolic Church through His own son Jesus Christ. So the Apostolic Church wrote down their beliefs and recognized them as a symbol of faith.
- * According to this, the Israelites could be considered as the author of the Holy Bible. Therefore the Patriarchs, Prophets, Wise men in the Old Testament and the Apostles in the New Testament are the people who wrote the Scriptures.

Some of the important details to be remembered:

- * All the contents in the Bible are written and presented according to human understanding and realization. Therefore for us to get the correct message we must have a deeper understanding and knowledge of the authors.

As we have to secure the uniqueness and the authenticity of the Holy Bible we must be careful in interpreting the message. Holy Bible is not a scientific book, the language and the literature of the Holy Bible cannot be compared with modern Science and Technology. However since God speaks in Sacred Scripture through men in human fashion the interpreter of the sacred scripture in order to see clearly what God wanted to communicate to us, should carefully investigate what meaning the sacred writers really intended and what God wanted man to manifest by means of their words.

Divine Inspiration is categorized in 03 different ways

1. Shepherded Inspiration: (Acts: Inspirable activities by priests and leaders of the Church) (Is. 59:21)
2. Oral Inspiration: The prophets and the apostles were inspired by the Spirit to preach the Word of God (Luke 11:12)
3. The above mentioned categories are improved and developed in inspirational writings (Exodus 17:14)

The proclamation of the Holy Church which proves that the Holy Bible is written by Divine Inspiration.

The books of the Holy Bible were originally written in 03 languages. Hebrew, Arameik and Greek. In 1527, King Martin Luther translated the Bible into German. In the year 395 St. Jerome translated the Bible into Latin.

- * In 1893, Pope Leo XIII in his Encyclical emphasized that the Holy Bible in all its part was inspired and that a stated fact must be accepted as falling under Divine Inspiration down to the most insignificant item; The Holy Bible is the Word of God (PROVIDENTISSIMUS DEUS).
- * On 15th March 1920, Pope Benedict the XV in "SPRITUS PARACLITUS" stated that the whole Holy Bible from the beginning to the end is written by Divine Inspiration.
- * On 30th September 1943, Pope Pious XII in his document "DIVINO AFFLANTE SPIRITU" stated that the whole Bible is written under Divine Inspiration.
- * On 18th November 1965, the second Vatican Council, the document named "DEI VERBUM" stated that the Holy Bible is written under Divine Inspiration.

3.2. Deuterocanonical and Protocanonical Books

According to the Roman Catholic Church there are Forty six books in the Old Testament but (reparamadu) Protestant and Jewish Church recognized only 39 books written by Divine Spirit. Therefore the books of Proverbs, Wisdom, Tobit, Judith, Baruch, Maccabees (2 books), together with Daniel Chapter 13, 14, Esther verse 101 are not recorded in Hebrew Holy Bible. The Hebrew Holy Bible or Jewish Old Testament accepted all the books in the Holy Bible and they are called Protocanonical books. In addition the books mentioned above are called Deuterocanonical. The Holy Church accepted and recognized the books that are not published in the Hebrew Bible are also written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Let us reason out why the Catholic Church has accepted these books written by the Divine Inspiration.

a) Main copies of the Old Testament

Attention is drawn by the Bible scholars that differences in the contents are due to writings done in three languages- Palestinian, Alexandrian and Babylonian

I. Massoretic version or Hebrew version

These writings belong to the Babylonian tradition (10 B.C.) There are only 39 books. It was decided by the senate of the Rabbi in (90 B.C.).

There were many questions to be solved.

- a. Doubts aroused regarding this college whether it was a college of law or a senate of Rabbi of the study of the Scriptures.
- b. What happened to the Protocanonical writers of Jaminia (Jabithe)
- c. They have not mentioned the names of the disputed books, therefore it was so difficult to find solutions to the above mentioned problems. As a result there are only 39 books in the Holy Bible.

II. Qumran Copies

These writings were found in 1947 to 1956 in a cave near Dead Sea. There were some Protocanonical books as well as some deuterocanonical books. Wisdom of Solomon, Judith and Maccabees belong to deuterocanonical category. There were some scripts that belong to Qumran or Esithians who lived in 135-68. The Esithians lived sacrificial and contemplative lives. They did not participate in the liturgy of the Church of Jerusalem. They criticized the

Priests of Jerusalem. These discoveries indicate that there was a relationship between Esithians and the Priests of Jerusalem.

Among those books were the books of Exodus found in 03 B.C. These are the oldest copies of the Hebrew Bible. These scripts are more than 1000 years older than the Massoretic scripts. They belong to the Palastinian time. The differences between the Qumran copies and the Massoretic copies, the book of Esthur is not included. This indicates Esithians have rejected it. The reason for this rejection may be due to the name "God of Israel" (Yahweh) was not mentioned, and the feast Purim was given priority. This indicates the Protocanonical books were not found in Jewish Bible. They have recognized the Book of Jubilian as the most sacred book in Qumran.

b) Greek copies of the Holy Bible

It is suffice drawing attention to the book Septuagint of the two recognized books written by the Greeks

- I. In year 03, the Jewish people who lived in Alexnedria accepted Greek language as their mother tongue as a result they translated the Bible into Greek. According to the book name Arsthayas myth the first five books known as Pentota was written in Greek. A request was made by Dimuthrius who was in charge of Tolamy II library from the 72 translators of Jerusalem to translate the Bible. Translation though done individually and independently writing revealed that the Divine Spirit has inspired those human authors as the contents were similar.

According to their writing the deuterocanonical books had been taken from the copy of Septuagint, which belongs to the Alexendrian writing. There were differences between the copies of Septuagint and Massoretic. There were differences in the writing between Qumran and Masoretic. These differences were found in the Septuagint copies so therefore it was noted that some kind of similarities exist in the copies of Septuagint and Qumran. It is important, therefore that the following related to the copy of the Septuagint be taken into consideration.

- The Deuterocanonical books in the copy of Septuagint teaches life after death has laid the foundation for the teaching of the New Testament (Ex: Wisdom Chapter 3).
- The Deuterocanonical books often state the Divine proclamation (Ex: Upadeshakayage Potha, Wisdom of Solomon, Dharmadeshakayage Potha)
- The Hebrew copy of the Protocanonical states some sections of the copies in the Septuagint introduces as the Scripture in the New Testament (Ex: Matthew 1:23)
- There are some differences that appear in Hebtrew Protocanonicle copies, but some sections of the Septuagint are introduced as Scripture of the New Testament.
- The Procanonical and the deuterocanonical copies are closely related to each other in Septuagint copy. This reveals the Sacredness of the Srcipture. If not for this those books would have been kept away from the Protocanonicle copies.

- There are witnesses to say these deuterocanonical books are used in the liturgy of the Jewish people in Alexandria and also among the early Christians.
- The facts mentioned above indicate the importance of study of the book Septuagint.

Important points:

Some of the Bible Scholars have stated the reason why of the Deuterocanonical book is not recorded in the Masoretic copy of the Jewish Bible as follows:

- i. The dispute between early Christians and the people of Judea concerning the Divinity of Jesus Christ, His Messianic mission and to prove other teachings, they have used the copies of Septuagint and specially the Deuterocanonical copies.
- ii. The dispute between the Pharisees and other religious sectors: (Ex: Revolutionists).

The book named "Tripo Samaga Sanvadaya" written by St. Justin in the year 160 proves the above mentioned reasons made the people of Judea to prepare the Protocanicle Books. The duration between the era of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament is around 400 years. The important events of Jewish Religion and Politics are stated in this book.

The Trent Senate held in 1546 has accepted 46 books instead of 39 as Protocanicle books according to Catholic faith.

Number of Protocanonical Books in the Roman Catholic Church:

The Protocanonical books adopted by the Trent Senate are the very books of the Senate of Hippo held in 393, Senate of Carthage in year 419, in the letter sent by the first Pope Innocent to the Bishop of Thulussi Exuperius in the year 401, and the Senate held in Florence in 1441.

The Rev. Fr. Cyril, Epiphanius, John Damascene, Gregory and Jerome of Jerusalem did not accept the Deuterocanonical Books.

According to the copy of Hebrew following the Church of Reformation Luther, Calvin, Swingle accepted only the Protocanonical books.

3.3 The Language of the Holy Bible:

a) Old Testament

- Most of the Books of the Old Testament are written in Canania Semathiya a language of Hebrew. Its style of writing is from right to left.
- Few number of books of the Old Testament are written in the Hebrew language known as Arameik language. Therefore the Old Testament contains some words and phrases of Arameik language.

Example Genesis 31: 47 "Jegar – Sahadutha" Some sections of Arameik

Jermiah 10:11

Daniel 2:4 – 7:28

Esra 4:8 – 6:18; 7:12-26

Before the exile of Babylon the language used by Israelites was Hebrew after the exile this became a dead language limited to liturgy and writings only.

- The Arameik language is used by the Israelites after the exile due to the force of Persians, Jesus Christ too used the same language. More Arameik words and phrases are used in the first Gospel of St. Mark of the New Testament. Ex: "Abba", "Eppatha" (Mark 7:34); "Akel Dama", "Gabbatha", "Golgotha", "Raka", "Mamon", "Kephas", "Rabboni", "Thalathakumi" (Mark 5:41): "Marathna", "Eli Eli Lama Sabakthani", (Mark 15:34)
- Arameik gradually became a dead language in the 7th century after the Arabians Captured the country.
- Accordingly in Israel the language of Arabic and English were made second languages and Hebrew language was their mother tongue. Today the Arameik language is used by about 10,000 people only by Lekanathase Siriya pathhehi Kalamun Kandukaraye Malula, some villages in Jabadin Baka. The Catholic Church of St. George and the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Tekla use the Arabic and Aramik languages in their liturgical services.

b) The New Testament

The New Testament was originally written in Greek language which is in Greek a language of Arrya Indu Europe. Greek language is originated by Emerik, Ionic, Dorik and Atik languages (Parinama viya)

- The simple language of Koine was originated in mixed Greek languages in the year 323 BC during the period of Alexender the Great. The Testament is written in this language. This language subsequently became an International language in Western Asia.
- The Greek Konie language was so simple that people were able to understand the New Testament well. The language simplifies and elaborates in detail the meanings of Scripture clearly. This international language which was common to many caused rapid spreading of Christianity (The beauty of God's wonderful plan)

Fourth Lesson

4. The Holy Sacrifice of the Eucharistic Celebration.

Introduction

Sacrifices were offered to God to adore Him, thank Him and to atone for their sins and also to beg God's grace for their lives and needs.

The Sacrifices in the Old Testament

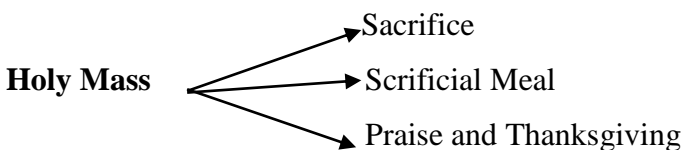
According to the Old Testament to thank and praise God, ask for Divine Providence, seek pardon for the sins committed and to have their needs fulfilled, the people of God offered sacrifice to God.

Eg: The offering of Caine and Able, Noah Melchisadek offering, Abraham offering, Zacheriah offering and the offering of the paschal lamb and so on, nevertheless, these offerings were often accepted by God and these pre-figured Sacrifices Jesus Christ offered later on the cross is Holy Mass.

The Holy Mass is the offering of the Body, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ under the appearance of bread and wine, by a priest as a sacrifice to God the Father, according to the rites of the New Testament as the Holy Mass. Jesus Christ becoming a victim, offers Himself to God the Father as He did on the cross. But here He does through the ministry of a priest. According to St. Luke "Jesus Christ took bread, Thank God, broke it and gave it to his disciples (LK -22:19)

The Sacrifice offered by Jesus Christ "fully atoned for our sins. Both the priest and the victim in this sacrifice which the Son offered to the Father on the cross was the Son Himself. Hence the sacrifice has infinite value.

The Holy mass which we offer according to the command of Jesus Christ is the same sacrifice of Jesus. The only deference is that there is no shedding of blood here. Jesus offers



How does the Holy mass and the sacrifice of Christ on the cross be the same?

The Holy Mass is the same sacrifice offered on the cross because offering and the priest are the same – Jesus Christ our lord, and end for which both are offered are the same.

Jesus makes use of the priest who offers mass as an instrument, but it is He Himself who offers the Holy Mass. On the cross Jesus shed His blood, in offering the sacrifice. At the last supper He took bread and Wine turn these into His Body and Blood offered them to the Farther Symbolically. The Holy mass also takes place with the help of Jesus Christ even though priest utters the word of Consecration, it is Jesus by His Divine power works the miracle of "transubstantiation". Therefore the priest who offers and the victim offered are the same the priest only shares the priesthood of Christ.

Holy Mass

The two main parts of the mass are:

1. Liturgy of the Word
2. Liturgy of the Eucharist

Liturgy of the Word

The liturgy of the Word commences with the Entrance Rite and extends to the Prayer of the Faithful. The important part of this is the reading of the Sacred Scriptures from the Old Testament.

Entrance Rite

It begins with the procession, Here we commemorate the delivery of Israelites from the land of Egypt to the Promised Land, the completion of the mission of Christ and his victorious entrance to Jerusalem. When the priest comes in procession the community of the faithful joins in the entrance hymn. In the past what they expected through this act was the unity of the faithful. According to the teaching of "Vidasthalia Apostolotrum" the Church which is the Body of Christ is united with the priest who represents Jesus Christ in order to celebrate the mystical Eucharistic celebration which is called "Koinonia/communion".

Addressing the community:-

- The Lord is with you (Ruth 2:4:2) (Thessolonical 3:16)
- And also with you (2 Cor 13:13) (1 Cor 13:2)

Penitential Rite

The purpose of this ritual is to atone for our sins and make ourselves worthy to participate meaningfully in the Eucharistic Celebration (Mat 5:23:24)

-God forgives those who forgive others (Mat 6 12:14:15)

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest –

Gloria is sung in all Sundays and some of the feasts of Saints and Martyrs as well, but not sung during the period of Lent and Advent. (LK 12:14)

Collective Prayer

Recite, by the priest only. The priest gives an introduction on the theme related to the feast of the particular day. The recitation of the prayer of the priest is inspired by the Holy Spirit, the faithful respond to the prayer saying Amen (1 Peter 5:11)

-There are two readings. Here God speaks to the congregation through the Scripture

First Reading

Readings are taken from any book of the Bible other than the book of the Psalms. The Responsorial Psalm is taken from the book of Psalms. Some readings are taken from the Acts of the Apostles during the period of Lent.

Second Reading

They are taken from the letters of the Apostles.

Then the Acclamation Alleluia is sung. Alleluia is not sung during Lent only the acclamation is sung. Through the Gospel reading Christ speaks to the people strengthening their faith, and inviting them for conversion of their hearts. This occasion is considered as the peak of the Scripture readings.

Homily

As Jesus did the priest convey the message to the congregation based on the relevant days reading (Mark 1:21), (Matthew 13:53-58).

The main objective of the Homily is the nourishment of souls and guiding the faithful to the way of Christ conveying the message of Christ to the parishioners how God works in their lives.

Apostles' Creed

Nicene Creed was introduced by council of Nicea which was held in 325 B.C. The same Creed is recited during the Holy Mass. This Creed is much longer than the Apostolic Creed which was used by early Christians to proclaim their Baptismal faith. This Creed was added to the Mass in 505 B.C.

Prayer of the Faithful

St. Paul encouraged the community to pray very often for their needs (1 Timothy 2:1-3) this procedure adopted in liturgy as follows

- i. Pray for the various needs of the Church
- ii. For the Sanctification of the world and its leaders
- iii. For the parishioners
- iv. For the various needs of the people
- v. On different occasions, such as ceremonies of Confirmation, marriage, rituals of the dead and so on.

Most important moment in the Eucharistic Celebration is the Communion Rite. This commemorates the Last Supper of Christ, which commences from the Offertory to the end of the Eucharistic Celebration consisting of 04 parts

- Preparation of Offering
- Prayers of Thanksgiving
- Breaking of Bread
- Distribution of Communion

During this period collection is made in aid of the Church, even during the period of Jesus Christ collection was made in aid of the Church. (Matthew 17:24). We must separate a portion out of this for the aid of the needy and for the clergy. Our daily works, pain, suffering, success and failure are also offered as an offering to God. Incense, Dryfood, Clothes etc can be used as offering. The hymns can be sung during the offertory procession but we must stop singing and participate in the prayers.

The prayers that are recited during this period of consecration are as follows.

- The Prayer of Consecration
 - The Prayer of Thanksgiving
 - The Prayer of Proclamation of Faith
 - The Prayer of Praise
 - The Prayer of the Holy Spirit
-

The consecration of Bread and Wine changing into Body and blood of Christ is the peak moment in the Eucharistic celebration.

1. The priest speaks to God on behalf of the participants. The faithful join in the proclamation of the mystery of faith.
 2. The congregation sings the prayer of praise to God by the power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ in honour of God's creation redemption and Sanctification.
 3. The priest prays to the Holy Spirit for the unity of the Church in communion with the Saints and offers this Sacrifice to God.
- Pray to the Saints.
 - Pray for the Holy Church its leaders and members.
 - Commemorate Mother Mary, the Apostles, Martyrs and all Saints.
 - Souls departed and the living are brought to mind to the presence of God.
 - Pray for the creation of God. Song of praise end with the sign of the cross saying glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, "through Him with Him in Him in the unity of the Holy Spirit all Glory and honours is yours now and forever". The response of the faithful is Great Amen.

Communion of Praise and Thanksgiving

Prayer of Jesus Christ with the faithful. Though the priest initiates this prayer the participation of the faithful are in threefold as follows

- i. The song of praise (Holy Holy Holy Lord.....)
- ii. Proclamation of the mystery of faith
- iii. Conclude with great Amen.

Receiving of Communion

This commences with the Lord's Prayer (Our Father)

For the establishment of the Kingdom of God, for the forgiveness of our sins and forgiving those who sin against us are beseeched through this prayer (Matthew 6-7:13) we wish and share peace with each other (Rom. 16:16) (Matthew 8:8). After receiving communion we response saying Amen.

Recognition of Jesus Christ in this manner helps us to see Jesus in others.

Final Rite of the Mass

After receiving Holy Communion the final blessing is bestowed on the people requesting them to share this peace with others in the world.

Active participation in the Eucharistic Celebration is as follows

- Participate from the beginning to the end
- Participate in all prayers
- Participate in Singing
- Atonement of sins at the inception of the celebration
- Take part in the offertory
- Receiving Holy Communion
- Share Peace with each other

Fifth Lesson

5. Liturgy of the Church

Introduction

The word liturgy is originated from the Greek word Leitourgia. The word leitourgia is combination of two words Laos and Ergone. Laos means people, Ergone means important task.

According to the word Leitourgia means a special voluntary service rendered for the people. The state functions, the important feasts and community services were known as Leitourgia. In the religious point of view Leitourgia is worshipping God says Pope Pious the XII in his document called Mediator Dei.

The second Vatican Council which was held in 1965 describes liturgy as the highest form of prayer offered to God by the Church, which is a part of the Mystical Body of Christ.

Liturgy is an action accomplished by Jesus in His role as Mediator and Priest united with His whole Church. In the liturgical action Christ's salvation is rendered present and its fruits are communicated to us. The principal liturgical actions are the Eucharist and the Sacraments. The liturgical action is also by its own nature an action of the whole community, realized in union with the High Priests Jesus Christ. In Liturgy word Helathissa means assembly of people worshipping God, celebration and commemoration of the mystery of Christ. Through this celebration peoples' relationship with God and each other are strengthened.

The Structure and the Importance of liturgy.

Jesus accomplished the salvation of the world on the cross which is the Pascal Mystery; the suffering, death and resurrection. Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Church mainly for us to participate in his salvific mission. The apostles were sent to proclaim salvation particularly in the celebration of the Eucharist and conferring of Sacraments. Liturgy is effective to the degree that one comes to Christ repentant, converted and with living faith in the presence and the person of Jesus Christ. This missionary activity of the Church is oriented in the liturgical action in a special way to the Holy Eucharist. The liturgical action should be an expression of faith and hope later expands to charity. Liturgical actions are not individual actions but collective actions.

Liturgy is divided into two parts

- Liturgy
- Peri liturgy

Liturgy

- The Holy Sacrifice of the Eucharistic Celebration
- The Sacraments
- The Official Prayers of the Church

Other Liturgical Acts

- Holy Mass
 - Recitation of the Rosary
-

- Benediction
- Evening Services (Vespers)
- Healing Services
- Bible Services
- Prayer Services

Liturgical Year

The Church has officially divided the year into different seasons in order to commemorate the Pascal Mystery and redemption for the people to live by it this is called the "liturgical". During the liturgical year the Church leads the people in a special manner, to worship God, praise God, and receive Sacraments; for the sanctification of the people the scripture readings are taken from the Synoptic Gospels. They are divided into three sections the first year readings are taken from the Gospel of St Matthew. The second year readings are taken from the Gospel of St Mark. Third year readings are taken from the Gospel of St. Luke and some readings are taken from the Gospel of St John.

Seasons in the Liturgical Year

- * Advent Season
- * Christmas Season
- * Ordinary Season
- * Lent Season
- * Easter Season
- * Ordinary Season

Advent Season

There are four Sundays in advent season, incarnation of Christ, second coming of Christ, continuous coming, is the pattern of the Church which leads the mass during Advent. This is considered as the season of hope, the faithful are being invited for the conversion of their hearts (Metanoia). Advent of Christ is three-fold

- i. Historical coming
- ii. Messianic second coming
- iii. Continuous coming

There are two main parts in the Season of Advent

- i. From first Sunday in December until the sixteenth of December period is considered second coming (Parousia)
- ii. From the 17th to 24th of December we commemorate historical coming of Christ. We come across five important Characters:
 - Abraham
 - David
 - Issac
 - John the Baptist
 - Mother Mary

Christmas Season

After the fourth Sunday of Advent the Feast of the Birth of Christ is celebrated on the 25th December (Christmas).

Three Masses will be celebrated

- Midnight Mass
- Morning Mass
- Noon Mass

The Christmas season ends with the feast of Epiphany. The Sunday between the second and eighth of January feast of infants, feast of the Holy Family, Feast of Mother Mary (01st of January) are celebrated during this period.

Ordinary Season of the Year

There are two sections from the end of Christmas season until Guru Agaharuwada which is one section. From Monday after the feast of Pentecost to Saturday before the first Sunday of Advent belongs to the second section.

There are 34 Sundays in ordinary time during this season the faithful meditate on the redemption.

The feasts of the Holy Trinity, feast of the Holy Eucharist, feast of Christ the King are celebrated during this period.

Season of Lent

There are 40 days in this season this is considered as the period of repentance, and conversion of Hearts this period begins on Ash Wednesday on this day priests apply Blessed Ash upon the peoples forehead with a cross reminding their unworthiness before God. The Holy week begins after 40 days of Lent. During this period, we commemorate the Pascal Mystery.

The early Christian Community prepared the people to receive the Sacrament of Baptism specially giving them a proper understanding of the Scripture, the Apostles' Creed, and Lord's Prayer during this period. It is a period of repentance and conversion of Hearts.

Easter Season

Forty days after Easter Sunday the feast of Ascension and ten days later the Feast of Pentecost are celebrated, and with that celebration the Easter Season will come to an end. The celebration of Easter is the highest form of celebration in liturgy. There are seven weeks. The important days in the Season of Lent.

Ash Wednesday

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. On this day the priests apply Blessed Ash upon the peoples forehead reminding their unworthiness before God.

Palm Sunday

Blessing of Palm leaves follows the procession; this reminds Jesus entering Jerusalem in a victorious manner and Jesus as the Suffering Servant and Suffering Messiah.

Chrism Mass

Chrism Mass, consecration of Blessed oil Special Mass is celebrated by the Bishop united with all the priests. There they renew the priestly vows. This Mass is celebrated in one of the days of the Holy week. Consecration of oil is done in three different forms.

Holy Thursday

Commemoration of the Eucharistic celebration, the Institution of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and Holy Priesthood are commemorated on this day. The washing of the feet reminds the commandment of Christ (Love one another as I have loved you).

With the ringing of the Church Bells the Prayer "Gloria" is sung. The Church Bells will be rung once again during the Easter celebration on Holy Saturday service. Thereafter the Holy Eucharist is exposed in a special altar for adoration until midnight.

Good Friday

The service begins at 3.00 p.m.

This service contains 3 parts

- Reading the Scriptures
- Adoration of the Cross
- Receiving Holy Communion

It is a day of fasting and refraining from eating meat.

Holy Saturday

Celebration of the Resurrection of Christ

There are four parts in this service

- Service, Blessing Fire and Paschal Candle.
- Scripture Reading
- Renewal of Baptismal Vows.
- Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

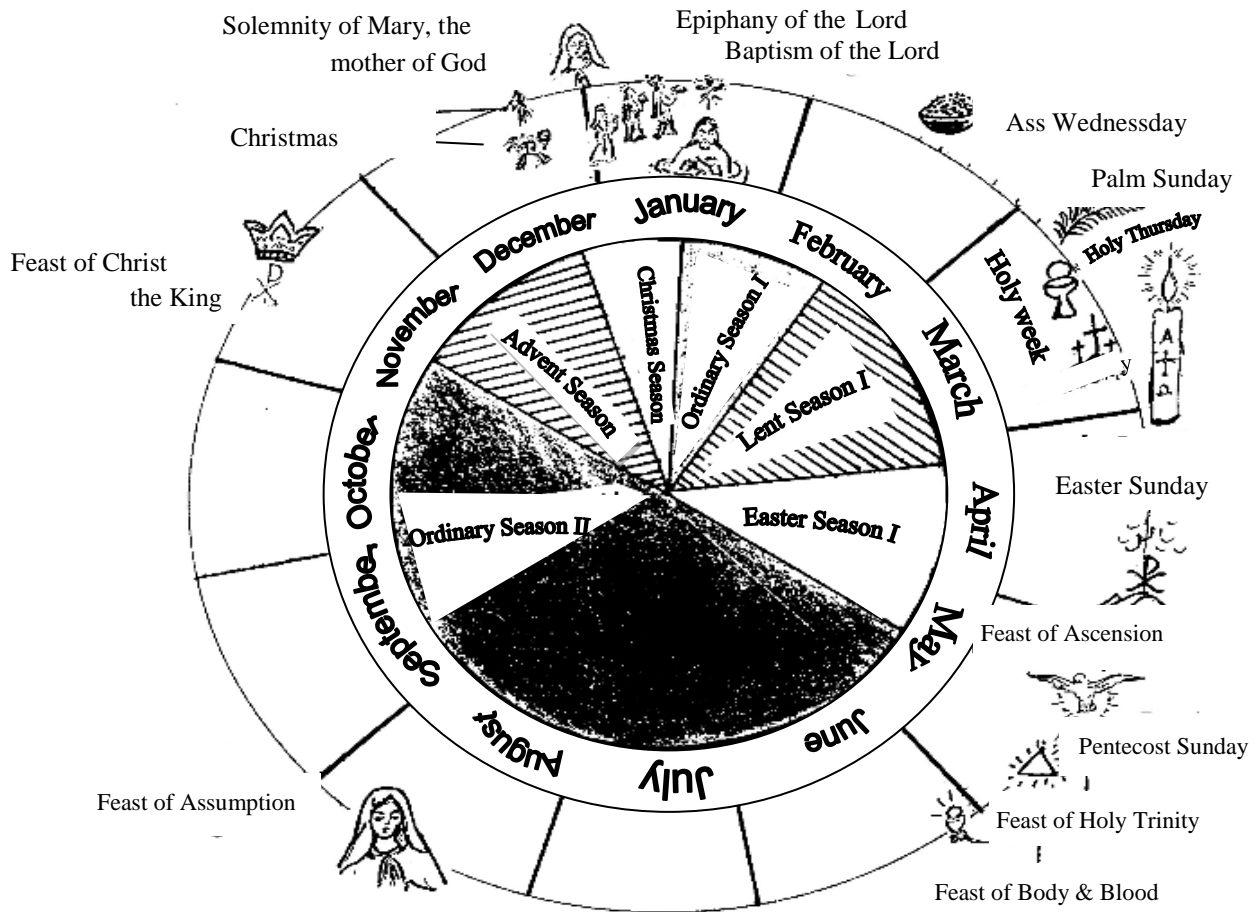
Blessing of Holy Water, Lighting of the Easter Candle, Adult Baptism are rituals of the Church.

Easter Sunday

Celebration of "The Resurrection of Christ".

This is the first feast of the Liturgical Year and the centre of the Christian life.

The Baptismal vows are renewed.



Sixth Lesson

6. 1. Prayer

What is Prayer?

CCC, classifies prayer into two categories.

- i. Christian life and prayer.
- ii. Lord's Prayer.

One explains about the life of Prayer and the other explains the Lord's Prayer (in details)

Prayer in the Old Testament

When we discuss about prayer during the Old Testament time the first person to indicate is Abraham Consenting to the will of God is a prominent feature in prayer (Seeking the will of God is a prominent feature in prayer). When God commanded Abraham to leave his home town and follow up to the area; God wished him to be, he did give a prayerful consent in silence through obedience. Once it was a conversation between God and Abraham, where he pleaded God to evade destroying Sodham and Gomorrah.

Moses too led a prayerful life. He consented to God at the burning bush, in obedience to the voice of God. Then onwards there was mutual understanding between God and Moses that they had face to face conversation. It was mostly a prayerful and deep dialogue.

The Old Testament testifies for the prayerfulness of the people during that period. Psalms had been cherished so much that they used them in their private and community prayer praise, thanks giving, joy, fear, sorrow, anger, happiness, disappointment, are expressed pathologically through Psalms. The Christian Church includes Psalms in Office.

Prayer in the New Testament

- i. St. Luke reports the manner of Jesus' prayer
The resurrection of Jesus revealed the importance of prayer (The importance in prayer)
Jesus taught us the gravity of prayerfulness through life's journey – not merely by Word but by his own practical examples. (Experiences)
- ii. Luke 4:1 explains that Jesus was Pre-Prepared for his mission. He prayed often in isolation, sometimes he prayed throughout the night. Very often He meditated on God the Father deep and lengthy prayer during important situations through his mission. He prayed very specially at the time of choosing disciples, at Transfiguration and at the beginning of the passion.

Book of Luke, chapter 11 teaches us, distinctly, the manner in which Jesus prayed.

Faithful Prayer

- ❖ “If you believe you will receive what ever you ask for in prayer” (Matthew 21:22)

- ❖ Healing the woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. (Luke 8:43- 48)
- ❖ Jesus calms the storm (Luke 8: 22-25)
- ❖ The yeast of the Pharisees and Herod. (Mark 18:19- 14) (Humble Prayer)

The Church Prays

Introduction

Adoration to God almighty and prayer is the significance of Christian Faith.

- i. Forms a strong bond with God who created the visible and invisible; through Prayer.
- ii. Prayer becomes a pleasant conversation in which God is accepted prayerfully as Lord.

Prayer in the Church

The disciples and the Pharisees prayed unitedly and waited for the moment to experience the will of God in restoration of the Holy Spirit that bestowed upon the Church on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1: 14)

{ *“They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women And Mary the Mother of Jesus and with his brothers* (All disciples are taken as Brothers)

As they received the gift of the Holy Spirit, they began to teach the teachings of Jesus; they recalled every word they heard from Jesus and made every attempt to live the word. (Acts 2:42) During the first years of the Church (Preliminary period) the Church gave first preference to prayer and breaking of bread and grew through rapid learning. (Acts 4:29 - 30) Depended on God through prayer. Later, this prayer was divided into (5) five categories

The Five Categories;-

1. God's blessings and Liturgy
Blessings take the valuable part in Christian prayer.
2. Prayer of the faithful
Accepting our sinfulness, asking for help/praying for eternal life.
3. Praying for the Church.
For, better living of a life faithful to God; sharing and caring for others.
4. Thanks giving.
The Holy Mass is the highest thanks giving
5. Prayer of Praise and worship

Aim of Prayer / Aim in Prayer

- To glorify God in word and in deed
- To pray on behalf of our brothers and their spiritual needs.
- Spiritual and physical needs of ourselves.
- Pray for the unity of the whole world for the Glory of God.
- Pray to proclaim our faithfulness and love for God.

- To love God in return, because he loved us and loves us.

Classifications of prayer

- Faith and belief are the outmost; in prayer Jesus taught us so, right through his Mission (Matthew 21:22, Luke 8:22-25; 43 - 48 for reference)
- Humbleness - (Meekness) as a quality, quite in need prayer life. Jesus explained thus with the example of the Pharisee and the tax - collector (Luke 18:9 -14)
- We should pray in love. There should not be bitterness, envy, anger, revenge in our hearts. Our hearts, should be full of love and purity. We must be able to love all at heart. Thus, God will love us in return (Read-Matthew 5:23, 24) and protect us.
- Examples of the widow and the judge and the friend who went for "bread" during midnight indicate the fruitfulness of constant prayer in love and unity.
- Many do pray expecting answers at random. When answers delay, they give up praying, get quite disappointed, this indicate the weakness in prayer life. God has this time. 'Giving' or 'Not' is his wish entirely. We got to bow to the will of God. God the Father know what's best for you and for me. And He gives it sometimes; even before you may ask - Jesus said so and encouraged the disciples to Pray. They prayed earnestly.
- Pray faithfully healing of the women (Luke 8:43-48), Calming the storm Lk 8:22-25). Jairus daughter (Luke 8:49-56 -), "If you believe you will receive, what ever you ask for in prayer. (Matthew 21:22)
- During prayer time, complete attention and response is necessary. Jesus advices his Disciples on the temptations that could occur when pray. To disciples on the temptations, that could occur when pray to distract one from prayer. Therefore, Jesus emphasized that continuous prayer over night would conquer the temptations. Thus, to be concerned and master the prayer life/with strong belief. (Luck 22:40-46)

Lord our God teaches us to pray. He advices us.

He taught the disciples the real way to pray avoiding the ancestral rituals; the disciples were keen on learning the real way to pray. Not by fear counted faith but by love centered faith that we got to pray to the Almighty Father Thus, Jesus taught the disciples the real way to pray through the Lord's Prayer. It's a simple prayer inclusive of every important request.

- i Praises to God
- ii. Request
- iii. Forgiveness
- 1v. Surrendering one's self to God's protection

Jesus Christ; through his exemplary life style - taught us the gravity of prayer. Christ is the prime example of the devotees. From the age of twelve, while engaging himself on the works of the Fathers, He himself exercised his life of prayer.

Examples of His

- Fasting and prayer - (Matthew 4:2)
- Pray before Sun Rise - (Mark 1:35)
- Pray in Isolation - (Mark 1:35)
- Pray for the, will of God - (Mark 26:29)
- Constant Prayer -
- Pray for the gift of Holy Spirit - (Wilderness)
(Study Scripture Verses given above)

Jesus Christ, through this exemplary life style, highlighted the value of prayer. Christ should be the most precious example in a Christ centred Christian's prayer life.

Jesus entrusted himself in his Father's work. From the age of twelve and improved (exercised) his prayer life

His Examples;-

- Fasting and prayer - (Mathew 4:2)
- Pray before Sun Rise - (Mk 1:35)
- Pray in Isolation - (Mk 1:35)
- Pray to, the will of God - (Mk 26:39)
- Pray continuously
- Pray for the gifts of ,Holy spirit - (Wilderness)
(Study and meditate always the above scripture verses)

Prayer of the Early Christian Church

Prayer is a gift of the Holy Spirit.
Holy Spirit enlightens our hearts to call out to Abba Father (Divine Father)

The power of the Holy Spirit is necessary for deep prayer. After the Resurrection of Jesus Christ; the people who were on the upper room began to pray continuously representing the entire Christian family. Having received the power of the Holy Spirit, they maintained small prayer groups. They got accustomed also to the teaching, participation, breaking of the bread and the prayers of the Pharisees. (Acts 2: 42 - 47)

- Read and analyses
- Refer/for the specialties of the early CC.

Private Prayer, Community Prayer of the Holy Church

The Church encourages the faithful on frequent prayer. Common worship or the community prayer when practiced ecumenically in the Church; it's recognized as liturgy. (Eccleasstically)
Thus/ this communal main prayer is offered during offers; in communion with the higher standard of the priest. (Mt 18:20)

Further;-

Holy hours, Bible study, healing service, Evening Services, Common Way of the Cross, are considered as community prayer. A community prayer could be raised as 'Promises of God' through the offering of fervent combined prayer and songs of praise.

Family prayers are common prayers. Recitation of the Rosary and Daily Prayers are used; to make it a praise of unity, mother in the family or the father should take the initiative, using the book of psalm - The Holy Bible - Hymns could prepare and adorable praise and worship. We must try our best to release ourselves from the rituals (dog - mafia) so that we open ourselves free and better for praise and worship.

Mother Church invites us to 'private prayer' Select on appropriate place and enter into prayer Eighter for silent prayer or for vocal prayer.

Prayer - as you wake up, before retire to bed at night, at times of need, at times of emergency, prior to every important event and after, Memories every common prayer mother Church has introduced. Recite them with faith and reverence. Use them even at community proceedings.

Prayer Sanctioned by Mother Church

- Sign of the Cross
- Lord's Prayer
- I Believe or the Apostle's Creed
- Act of contrition
- Prayer to mother Mary
- Prayer during Lent
- Angelus
- I confess
- Prayer to the Holy Sprit
- Glory Be
- Hail Mary
- Passion of Christ
- Night Prayer
- Prayer at meal time
- Prayer to Michael the angel
- Morning Prayer
- Blessing of meals
- Mysteries of Rosary

Memorize the following prayers

- **Sing of the Cross**
Cross is the symbol of Salvation. We dedicate ourselves to the Holy Trinity.
We profess it in action Let us dedicate ourselves to the Holy Trinity
- **Glory Be**
Expresses the mysteries of the Trinity.Praise to the God of the Trinity
- **Lord's Prayer**
The prayer taught to the disciples by Jesus our Lord and our God.
Dependency, on this prayer consists of every important request of God. It's of four parts.
i Praise ii. Gloria iii. Request iv. Beg pardon
- **Hail Mary**
Request intercession of the mediatrix through this Prayer.
Prayer to Blessed Mother Mary is the prayer every Christian is obligated to pray. It's in three parts:
 - The Angelus
 - "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear" But

Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"
(Luke 1:42, 43)

- The part, added by the Church

- **I Believe or the Apostle's Creed**

The exact truth of Catholicism is inclusive in the Apostate's Creed. There are twelve truths every Christian ought to believe. It's the profession of faith.

- **Passion of Christ (Lenten Prayer)**

Reference Book of Luke, a prayerful recollection of the passion of Christ Jesus.

- **Act of Contrition**

A promise prayer of confession.

- **Mysteries of the Rosary**

A Combination of the important incidents of Jesus and Mother Mary that relates to the mystery of salvation. Recitation of Rosary is a prayerful offering to Blessed Mother. It's a deep and blissful mediation - conveyed through four mysteries.

1. Joyful mystery (Monday - Saturday - Sundays during advent)

- **The Annunciation**
The angel Gabriel conceptive God's Message
- **The Visitation**
Mother Mary visits Elizabeth (Luk3 1:30-31; 42,43)
- **The Birth of Jesus**
Christ is born (Luke 2:7)
- **The presentation of Jesus**
Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:25-35)
- **Finding of Jesus in the Temple**
Jesus was lost of the age of 12 (Luke 2:41-51)

2. Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday - Friday - Sunday at Lent)

- **Jesus agony in the Garden**
Jesus prays in the Garden (Mk 14:36)
- **Jesus is scourged**
Jesus was scourged and handed over to be crucified (Mk 15:15)
- **Jesus is Crowned with thorns**
Jesus crowned; with thorny Crown (Mk 15:17-18)
- **Jesus carries the Cross**
Jesus carries a massive cross all by himself (Jn 19:17)
- **Jesus dies on the Cross**
Jesus takes his last breath on the Cross.

3. - Glorious Mysteries (Wednesday - Sunday)

- **The Resurrection of Jesus**
Jesus rose from the dearth (Mt 28:5-6)

- **The Ascension of Jesus**
Jesus taken up to heaven (Acts 1:9-11)
- **Descent of Holy Spirit**
Holy Spirit descended on Mother Mary (Acts 2:2-4) Assumption of Mary into heaven
- **Mother Mary ascended into heaven** (Thes 4:14-17)
Mary is crowned Queen of Heaven
- **Mother of God, Crowned as Queen of Heaven** (Rev. 12:1)

4. Mysteries of Light or (Thursday) Luminous Mysteries.

- **The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan** (Mk 1:9-11)
 - **The wedding at Cana,**
Jesus changes water into wine (John 2:3-5)
 - **Jesus proclaims the kingdom of God** (Matthew 5:1-12)
 - **The transfiguration of Jesus** (Mark 9:2-7)
 - **Jesus instituted the Eucharist** (Matthew 26:26-28)
-

Seventh Lesson

7. Vatican Council II

21st Council in church History.

His Holiness, Pop John XXIII, declared Vatican council II in 1959. It continued from 1962 - 1965 AD the enunciator was his Holiness Pope John passed away suddenly. There his Holiness Pope Paul VI succeed and continued the Council proceedings. There were four sessions. A period of four years for preparation.

- Session 1 - from 11th October 1962 - 8th December
- Session 2 - from 29th September 1963 - 8th December
- Session 3 - from 14th September 1964 - 8th December
- Session 4 - from 14th September 1965 - 8th December

Back Ground

Vatican council I begun in 1869 on the 8th of December. There were 51 documents for certification. But only two documents were certified. The French, Persian war broke out in 1870. There September before the Bishops of Germany had left for their country. In the meantime, the soldiers captured Rome; and thus the proceedings of the Council were with held. Then

- To bring down the misunderstandings on Trust and Ecclesiastical matters.
- To expose the condition of the council
- As the motive of joining hands with royalty failed
- The need of a sound forward march was evident to the 'Holy See'

The World Prior to the Vatican II

The people of the Middle Era were subject oriented.

Concentration was mainly on facts.

Writings focused on the middle Era were out dated.

By this time, there were changes in the play lose physical aspects.

Inside the Council and out side. The facts of trust drifted much away from reality.

Destruction of Science, Technical Revolution, French Revolution,

Due to these, development of a culture, away from trust, dawned in Western Europe man achieved a greater position than the creator.

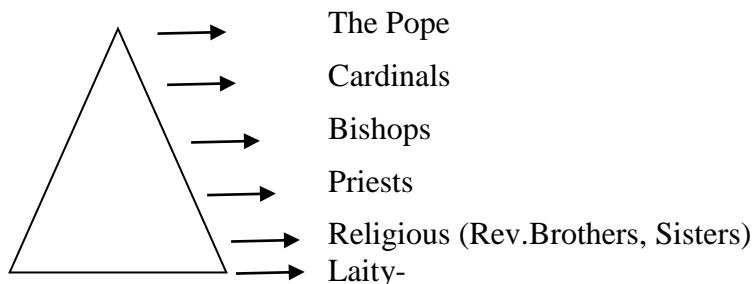
Church prior to Vatican Council II

The church presented a structural fraction

The religions were powerful and duty bound

The laity faced low situation in the council

The diagram indicates the details



The laity pay, pray, obey, for payment, to pray for the Church, obedient to church rooks and deep up to regulations. The situation changed after Vatican Council II

Pope, His Holiness, John XXIII came to conclusion that there should be newness, a revival in the church. With the prominence of Pope John XXIII, the church walked to success. Charitable work procedures introduced. The Vatican document that he wrote as the "Reply to injustice is world peace" indicates much about the Christian church. He intended to maintain unity among all. Pope John XXIII appreciated humility much more than victory. He apologized on behalf of the church; concerning the mistakes made at certain periods. He was so humble enough to go in for a public apology. Taking to grant the matters ahead, He understood the need of a Vatican Council for quick Proclamation and publicity.

The main (purpose) reason for Vatican II

1. Due to French, Persian war, Vatican I could not proceed. His Holiness Pope John XXIII was keen in the continuation of the Vatican procedure from where it stopped. Highlighting the points from the documents withheld, He intended to refresh the council. To give it a fresh move.
2. Vatican I was against those safe guarded Religious facts. And those who went against the facts and those with different faiths. But Vatican II emphasized to the Good shepherd procedure. Thus the main intention of the council was to show the importance and the greatness of man.
3. While evangelizing to all types, to pay much attention to the holy documents and the facts restored by the previous fathers.
4. Facts to be applied to tally with the mentality of the modern mass.
5. World moves to one direction.

The church to a direction, entirely different. Thus door of the Vatican that were locked so far be opened, so that the church may crucify her in the world, thus the pope understood.

6. To give up all miss understandings, rejections, and all Christian churches may come together in unity.

Discussions at Vatican II into 4 main Categories.

God - as a loving father John 15, 13, Luke 5:20, Mt 6:9)

Man - created to the image of Genesis 2:19 -20)

Holy Church - Resurrected Lord, through his mercy lives to the end of time

World, the entire Nation to live as one Family

Human values and Christian values are the same. There's no difference. Today, Justice, facts, reasonability, development, are other names to Christ Jesus. (Genesis 1:31)

Vatican II and the Response of People

Response differs, different types, react in different manner from the beginning, man centered thoughts, accepted the Vatican II joyfully. Some, through try to enjoy company, considering the values and the power of the Guru some enters the humane side of the Vatican II, reaches out to, his world, and blame for ignoring the Religions.

Extracts form Vatican II (16 Documents)

Divided into three Columns

- Constitutions
- Decrees
- Proclamations

Four constitutions (4)

1. About Liturgy
2. The Church
3. Revelation
4. The Church in the modern world

Nine Decrees

1. Media, modern regulations
2. Eastern Churches
3. For inclination of man, for unity in the Church
4. Regulations for the importance of Bishops and their responsibilities.
5. For the appropriate adjustments in making a pleasant place for consecrated life.
6. Regulations, Priestly Formation
7. Lay apostolic services, condition
8. Evangelization.
9. Conditions on pastoral services and Priestly Life.

Three Proclamations (3)

1. About Christian Education
 2. About Church and Religions
 3. About Religious freedom
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Eighth Lesson

8. Catechism and Its Aims

Introduction.

Jesus Christ instructed his disciples to teach the people all what they learned and experienced through him. Jesus empowered the disciples to go to all directions to Evangelise. That was the last mandate given to the disciples after his resurrection, i.e. To make disciples all over the world. (Matthew 28:18-20) Blessing of the Holy Spirit was bestowed upon the disciples to fulfil his task.

According to the teachings of Vatican II, Pope John Paul II insists that every Catholic should be actively motivated towards fervent and steadfast Faith.

Catechism is Faith Affirmation through Evangelization. This is exactly Christ centered. A way of spreading the teachings of Jesus. A mechanism of giving others the teachings of Jesus. Catechism is necessary to lead us to a meaningful Christian life. Thus it indicates that;

1. Catechism is emerged from the Revelation of God.
2. Religion means Jesus.
3. Catechetical knowledge on Christ should be conveyed at times systematically (Formally and informally)
4. Specification of Holy Spirit through human experiences, should go hand in hand in the teaching of Catechism and in giving the message of God.
5. The Mystery of Christ is the entire foundation of Christian life.
6. Lesson on Religion should be methodical.
7. It has to convey clear message. It must be of distinct aims, reasons.
8. It has to be according to the Holy Bible.
9. Catechism is focussed to life of Faith.

Main objective of Catechism

The main objective of Catechism is to carry the Word of God to the world. To continue the mission of Christ, teach the people the teachings of Christ and proclaim the Kingdom of God. Have deep relationship with Christ and inculcate in children the Spirit of Christ. The personality of Christ. The image of Christ.

Explanation in Brief

1. Divert heart to God, surrender completely.
2. Encourage to true repentance.
3. Persuasion towards the mysteries of Christ.
4. Enabling to witness to the Paschal Mystery.
5. Build up people who could be pillars in the salvation of God's people.

6. Include values (Biblical values) to worldly aspects and purify (purify the worldly dimension with Biblical values.)

The aim of Chatechism is to fill the hearts with Christ-life attitude and to build up a courageous man who could stand up to Christian values and encourage him to take an extra step to build the kingdom of God.

What is the pedagogy of Catechism?

It is the Science of teaching Religion. Understanding the preliminary facts of faith The Chatechist should know the different indications, the root causes etc.

The main Parts (data) of Chatechism are

Who does the teaching?	-	The teacher
To whom does the teaching done?	-	To the student
What is taught?	-	Subject matter (Religion)
How does it taught?	-	Method.

Teacher

The teacher is introduced as the Catechist. The first example is he himself. Catechetical teaching is not teacher centred. Student Centred Catechism is presently accepted. But the teacher how ever stands as an important, a person.

His Example (duty)

The Catechist's life must be empowered with Jesus and God the Father. Through prayerful life and meaningful pattern of living the Catechist must be a role model and a true witness to his teachings. He should evade self inclinations and worldly desires. His life would possess sacred values and a personality respected by the society.

His Dedication

Catechetical mission could be fruitful according to the dedications of the Catechist. Therefore he must be embodied spiritually with his students. There can be obstacles, his dedication should overcome all obstacles. He must be able to fulfil the task of building the kingdom of God amidst every obstacle. Jesus Christ took up His responsibilities in this mission entrusted to by God.

Blessed Mother silently fulfilled her mission and was obedient to God right through the mission of Christ. Just the same way, the Catechist must reduce in self (be selfless) and act according to the calling and be completely dedicated to the mission

Personality of Catechist

The picture that (builds) engraves in the mind of student about the teacher. (The picture created in the mind of student); Mostly the manner of the teacher, his way of teaching, way of speaking, the pattern of teaching, his ability of expression, class control, discipline, his way of dressing, behaviour all these count on the Catechist. In other words, the reflection of the Catechist is

similar to Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Really the Catechist represents Jesus of Nazareth, Personality.

The qualities of a good Catechist

- ❖ He proves to be a teacher and the parents as well to the students.
- ❖ In Catechism being a catechist is God's calling. Pay honour and respect to this calling and treat teaching as vocation and not an occupation.
- ❖ Catechism unites with the Holy Spirit. Therefore a catechist must be highly spirited, active and cheerful, teaching must be with great pleasure.
- ❖ Teaching the Word of God is the sole duty of Catechist. It has to be done with love, patience and acceptance and not through punishment and law.
- ❖ Students must be encouraged on self esteem. (i.e. to value themselves)
- ❖ The Catechist must be flexible. He must meet with the charges of the developing world and teaching must be to appropriate changes of Technology. The Catechist must be tactful.

Student

The student is the important person today in the field of Catechism. Education is student Centred. Therefore the teacher must be qualified in psychology. Educational, psychology and the principles of Education are areas where a Catechist must be well versed on. "Prior to teaching to John, one must know about John" is a common saying.

Thus, before teaching the student, the Catechist should know about the student. Then it would be much easier for the teacher to do much. He could help the student understand him. Increase the teacher student relationship.

Points to understand students better.

- Get in touch with the parents of the student.
- Be concerned of the students' attitudes.
- Conversation is necessary with student's world.
- Find out the family background of the student.
- Meet parents with regard to the needs of students.
- Check on his visits to the chapel and whether he attends Sunday Mass, prayer life etc..
- Study student during leisure (Observation)

Subjects

According to the mechanism of Catechism, the answer to "What is taught?" = Subject matter (content according to the subject)

Contents

Contents differ according to age levels.

Thus there is a particular book entrusted to each grade.

Those are prepared accordingly – keeping to yearly – monthly- and on daily basis.

But the teacher should not keep limit only to the text book.

She / he can refer other books relating to the subject for more knowledge.

His Holiness, St. John Paul II advises thus (Catechesi Tradendae 21)

1. Catechism should be methodical and clear.
2. Exact points inclusive and no unnecessary details.
3. Catechism is not for verification but strictly for faith. (It depends on faith)
4. Every lesson should reach completion.

All subject matter according to curriculum are extracts from the Holy Bible.

Life lived according to the messages conveyed through the Bible is what is expected.

The 'Good News' that Jesus brought to the world, should be treated important in the lesson conveyed.

The obligation of the teacher is to select exact and correct methodology and lesson note to give the student.

To explain the contents accurately.

To mould the students accordingly.

To help student to 'to live it'.

Books of different categories / stages could be used, according to grades.

- ❖ The preliminary books.(class text books)
 - ❖ Holy Bible
 - ❖ Character studies of Saints
 - ❖ Religious papers and magazines
 - ❖ Vatican Documents
 - ❖ CCC / Catechism of the Catholic Church
 - ❖ By following Sunday homily and also participating in Seminars and other, courses and examinations relevant to Catholicism, the teacher should improve his / her knowledge.
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Ninth Lesson

9. Christian Leadership and Ethical Values

Introduction.

Leadership is an active methodology

There are three specific ways that a leader could obtain leadership i.e.

- ❖ Leadership obtained by birth.
- ❖ Leadership obtained through self effort.
- ❖ Leadership obtained by force.

Leadership is not limited to one's self. It cannot be activated alone. A leader should possess a group or a team.

Examples

- The leader of a sports team
- Head prefect.
- The leader of a political party.
- The leader of a tourist group.
- The leader of a religious group.
- The leader of a religious congregation (Provincial)
- The principal of a school.
- The leader of a private company (Managing Director.)

All religious, political, social groups have their own leaders. Then, what really is taken as relationship?

Exemplary life style of a person that attracts the attention of others in building up of a good leadership.

Points to be remembered in the expression of leadership

- Characteristics and the ethical values of the leader.
- Expectations of others in the group.
- Inter relationships among the groups.
- Ability or the capability of problem solving

What is Christian leadership?

Leadership in the Holy Church is vivid. It stands divided according to Church administration. Christian leadership is mainly based on apostolic succession. It begins from the Holy See (His Holiness) and expands upto the Laity (Lay people). The aim of every leadership is to proclaim the kingdom of God. Church History and the Holy Bible stand witness to the leaders that were chosen by God the Father Almighty. Those selections of God indicate the fact that the knowledge, ability, wisdom, heredity or education is unnecessary for perfect leadership.

Leaders were appointed occasionally through the history of salvation.

The Call of Abraham

“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great and you will be a blessing” (Genesis 12:2)

The Call of Issac

“I am the God of your father Abraham. Fear not, I will be with you also. I will bless you”. (Genesis 25:11)

The Call of Jacob

“I am God almighty be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you”. (Genesis 35:11)

The Call of Joseph

God called Joseph to leadership through a dream. He explained his dream to brothers as thus eleven sons and stars did bow at him in courtesy. (Genesis 39:9)

Thus reveals the way God the Father almighty called leaders, from generation to generation through the history of salvation.

Qualities of Christian leadership

Activities of leaders / enrolled	Leadership qualities /in activity
Accept the call you received.	Trust in the Lord. Surrender to the will of God.
Teach self/ occupation to offspring (Just like the shepherds)	Inherit one’s own cultural values to future generation. Solve problems of Economy.
Be protective from evel and natural disaster.	‘Be protective and console at time of need.’
Problem solving	Be Justifiable to all. Forgive and accept mutually.
Teach about the one and only God.	Begin to worship one God. Bring people to worship the same.

Jesus Christ, Lord Buddha, Mahathma Gandhi were dynamic leades who carried their mission to fullest without any compulsion and also maintained very good and peacefull relationship with that disciples thus training them to leadership.

Therefore for good leadership

- Personality - reach up to ones goal
- Popularity - In everything, everyone is able to accept.
- Creativity (self esteem) and creativity is needed.

Jesus Christ choose Peter as the leader to the Holy Church. He was a fisherman, uneducated. But his leadership had been successful.

Matthew 16:18 says “So I tell you, you are Peter and on this rock, I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it”.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him”Yes Lord, you know that I love you” He said to him, “Feed my

lambs." He then said to him "Simon, Son of John, do you love me? He said to him, "Simon son of John do you love me? He said to him "Yes Lord you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep". He said to him the third time "Simon son of John, do you love me? And he said to him: Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. (John 21: 15-17)

Jesus Christ chose Paul to leadership in a quite a different manner. Paul was really Saul by name during the time he persecuted all Christian. As he was on such a cruel journey, that Jesus called him to be a leader. "Saul, Saul why do you persecute me".

Acts 9:3-9 – indicate

On his journey as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and hear a voice saying to him,"Saul Saul, why are you persecuting me? He said, "Who are you sir? The reply came, I'm Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do," The men who were travelling with him stood speechless, for they heard, the voice but could see no one. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. For three days he was unable to see, he neither ate nor drank.

Jesus Christ has called each one of us to inculcate the qualities of leadership in the society. Being members of the Holy Church through our Baptism. It is important to recognize the calling we have received today (now)

- To accept others and work in unity.
- To be generous.
- To obey rules and regulations.
- To share joy as well as sorrow.
- To be faithful to God.
- To live a life in complete faithfulness to God.

Exemplarily Leders in the Holy Bible

Moses	Read from Exodus 3:2 onwards
Gideon	Read from Judges 6:1 onwards
Jeremiah	Read from Jeremiah 1:4 onwards
Samuel	Read from 1 Samuel 3:19 onwards
St. Paul	Read 1 Thimothy Cahapter 3

Catechist and Ethical values

A catechist is a personal who follows Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism. He or she is bound to take the responsibility as a catechist to follow Christ in building the Kingdom of God. Therefore to be a catechist is a blessed calling. The catechist should be a living example of Christ who could also let others see Christ within him or her. She or he must have the potential to bring others to Christ through her or his own exemplarily life style.

Catechist must possess the qualities of Jesus who began his character, dedicated services unto his death on the cross and resurrection. Therefore the catechist must lead a life fulfilled in Christ to spread God's kingdom. For this he or she must receive God's grace. For this, one is being

strengthened by the Holy Spirit, through the Sacrament of Confirmation. To share God's love with all equally through kindness, dedication and sacrificing life of a leader, he or she must have sufficient knowledge. He or she must take a great responsibility towards spread of God's kingdom. It is because he or she is responsible for the growth of the children entrusted to him or her from the small age to their youthful lives. They need to be given a spiritual foundation. Therefore the catechist has to understand the child.

For example:-

- ❖ Children in grade I who are in the age limit of 1-5 follow religious values accordingly with parents.
- ❖ Age limit 6-12 combine faith in large groups.
- ❖ From 13-19 (teen agers) faith in private practise.(self motivation)

Therefore taking to grant the differences of all groups; help should be given to uplift and widen their faith. It is mandatory for a catechist.

Direct children to take up responsibility.

- ❖ To do what they can and to avoid selfishness.
- ❖ Follow up studies meaningfully.
- ❖ Train for service impending.
- ❖ To fulfill responsibility entrusted at present.
- ❖ To understand the calling and the service relying on the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Taking to heart the Christ of Salvation, bringing others for salvation.
- ❖ To live and let live in one's own environment.

The Catechist being exemplarily person

The life of a catechist should be of solid relationship with God. The family he lives with should be of good example. He must be prayerful and a person of devotion. Just as the sprinkles of splashes from an after fall gives a cooling sensation. The words and actions of a catechist should ease the minds of children and also be soothing, and consoling.

Jesus said "let the children come to me" just as so, the children must feel free to go to the catechist to feel free, the catechist must be soft spoken, humble and tender. Such persons are controlled by the truth of God. Those who are humble learn the 'Way' thus indicate (Psalms 25:9) as God's direction, guidance too is theirs always.

Giving first preference to worldly pleasures, the present society is lost. Spiritual upliftment is a dire need to the society that is lost due to worldly pleasures.

At times, when the parents draw back their responsibilities, the catechist must compensate for it. She or he must act as parent to the child, because catechism is child centered. Therefore the place of Christ has to be covered by the catechist. He or she being selfless and away from the world; the catechist should approach the child with the intention of building the kingdom of God; His or her life must be a mirror. A mirror of the 'Good News'. Every challenge should be met in humble manner. The only aim of the Catechist should be to glorify God through all dedicated services and not to gain praises of people.

Mark 4: 14 "The sower sows the Word" Thus Jesus wanted us to follow Him having the desire to be selfless. "That's why he asked to leave behind everything but carry the cross" Therefore catechist must bear it in mind that Jesus want us to be just like Him. So to know exactly whether the seeds are sowed and the crops be fruitful; the catechist got to double check on the harvest to be certain that she or he sowed well and the harvest is plentiful in the name of the Lord our God who was prepared to give his life for the salvation of so many.

Lastly the catechist should think about new horizons through those who are gifted by the Holy Spirit; those who are open to the Holy Spirit.

Ethical Values

We should believe that ethics relate to different, cultural, historical and social demands. As man is a social specimen, his acations tend to be common; accepted by certain societies in particular. Ideas, views and suggestions, feelings, thoughts, actions, rituals (that should follow and should not) ethical norms, human rights, obligations, obligatory rules, strengthen the social life. The above could also be taken as a collectin of creativity.

Due to ethical norms, man reach up to the standards of holy living; searching the truth, trying to be pleasent creative, artistic and much more sensible in thought and deed. Should these aspects materilize, man being the most advance crature of God would bring great Glory to God. Man beongs to God. They are His people, His very own, He is our God. God the Father. (The initiation of our nation, our society) The identity of our nation and our society.

Therefore Ethics are pleasant, rituals that could modify a persons social, and educationallife, including spirituality. The spring of every goodness is God the Father. The man He created to His own Image; carry all His good qualities. The wicked over-ruled and the goodness perished, but through the sacrificial mission of Jesus; He conquered death, brought back salvation and peace to the world.

Through classification of the Bible; let us be certain of the ethical norms man should possess; The following stanzas prove the depth and the gravity of a person who keep to ethcal morms. Noah was a holy person. He was the faultless person in his generation. He was close to God. (Genesis 6:9) You remain faultless lifelong to maintain goodness in that society"(Gemesis 17:1b)

- ❖ Be completely faithful to God (Deutoromny 18:13)
- ❖ The life of the holy and social life in success.
- ❖ Suitable for leadership (The word of the holy are for the betterment all)
- ❖ The life's Journey of the holy and the righteous are easy (Proverbs 11:5)
- ❖ The Holy one never moves from his place.
- ❖ Those sow goodness receive harvest (Proverbs 11:8)
- ❖ The holy are reasonable and honest in business matters. (Deutornomony 32: 4)

The Ten Commandments were the guidance during the Old Testament. Jesus Christ included the Beatitudes renewing them. He did so to make us true son of God. Jesus Christ invited us to a new holy pattern of living by introducing the beatitudes. The end of it is the ownership of the Kingdom of God. Therefore, taking every effort to enrich one's life to Christian ethics and bringing others to follow same obligation.

Tenth Lesson

10. 1. General Knowledge on the Primary Classes Text Books

Attitudes that can be learnt from Grade 1-3 Text Books

1. Experience God's love through nature and people.
2. Establish relationship with Jesus.
3. Accept Holy Bible as the Word of God.
4. Induce them to be good Christians.
5. Follow the life of Mary and the lives of Saints.
6. Love the nature as gift of God.
7. Living in harmony with others.
8. Respect Christian policies.
9. Recognize the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka.
10. Live in harmony with people of other Faith respecting their Customs.

Themes in 1-3 Text Books

1. Love God through his creation.
2. Understand that we have to love God.
3. Learn to pray –This is how we talk to God.
4. Recognize Jesus; his birth and special events.
5. We are children of God.
6. Recognize God through those who help us.

Themes in Grade 4 Text Books

1. Experience God's love
 2. Love God
 3. Talk with God - Pray
 4. Understand Jesus' special qualities
 5. Understand others who help us in the name of God.
 6. Holy Bible and special characters
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Themes in Grade 5 Text Books

1. Experience God's love and thank Him
 2. Love God
 3. Talk to God
 4. Recognize special qualities of Jesus
 5. Recognize Grorious Lord
 6. Invitation to new life
 7. Those who lived for God and did his mission.
 8. Turn towards the Holy Bible.
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Eleventh Lesson

11. World Church History

The First four Centuries

Jesus Christ came in to this world to establish the kingdom of God. The religion of Christ is the religion of the Kingdom. To proclaim the coming of the kingdom of God, Christ Jesus instituted the Church. The beginning of the Church can be viewed in three ways.

- ❖ In His public ministry choosing, teaching and training of the twelve disciples and laying the foundation of the Church.
- ❖ Through the self sacrificial life of Christ vivifying the Church through the suffering, death and resurrection)
- ❖ Through the Holy Spirit proclaiming the Church to the world; the Universal Church.

The period between 33 AD and 450 AD is known as the first four centuries according to history. Apart from this from the descending of the Holy Spirit up to 450 AD could be recalled as the first four centuries. The Acts of the Apostles emphasise that the Church of Christ is not limited to a particular race, language, culture or period. We notice how the Church is inculturated and keeps changing according to every different environment, background setting according to history. These different changes over the history, divide the periods in to three basic units for convenience of our study.

33 AD	-	450 AD	-	Period of Inception
450 AD	-	1500 AD	-	Medieval Period
1500 AD	-	onwards	-	Modern Period

Therefore the first four centuries belong to the period of inception of Church until the fifth century. During this period we learn how the Church adjusted according to the different cultures and backgrounds and over three centuries the persecutions faced, finally after the Edict of Milan in 313 AD how the Church gained independence as a free United Church.

The Holy Spirit descended upon Apostles on the Jewish Pentecost day through a new Pentecost giving birth to early, primitive Church. As stated in the Acts of the Apostles. From then the developments taken place mentioned in the written documents affirm as stated below:-

- i. Acts of the Apostles
- ii. Epistles
- iii. Writings of Church Fathers; Clement of Rome and Ignatious of Antioch.
- iv. Teachings of Apostles containing in the Didache.

As the years passed beyond, the first century, Christianity started spreading over the entire Roman Empire. From the Atlantic Ocean to the Middle East; Gulf Area. From the Danube boundary of France to North Africa, the Church spread in an amazing manner. This was due to the Apostles, who

travelled as evangelizers to establish Christian states and communities. St. Peter took the leadership out of the twelve Apostles. This is affirmed in the Acts of the Apostles.

- After the first preaching of St. Peter done on the day of Pentecost 3000 converted to Christianity.
- St. Peter took the initiative to select Mathias in the place to Substitute for Judas.
- When Assistants were appointed for their task, it was to St. Peter to whom the matter was first given over to.
- Before the Council of Jerusalem it was St. Peter who solved the debate of circumcision.
- It was St. Peter who cured the crippled man at the gate of the temple called “the Beautiful Gate”
- Later this leadership continued up to being the bishop of Rome.

With the spread of Christian states the number of Christian believers too kept on increasing. To maintain and govern these communities, it was necessary to appoint people. Therefore the Apostles appointed a certain group named “Elders for this purpose. Also Presbyters as another group of leaders and episcopos to act in the place of Apostles.

As the mission of the Apostles reached every nation, the believers who accepted Christianity started a new way of living (refer to book of Acts chapter 2) by then there were two different categories of Jews who were converted as Christians.

Jewish Hebrews - who spoke Arameik and observed Jewish tradition to the very Letter.

Hellenistic Jews (Gentile) - who spoke Greek and were exposed to the Greek language and Culture.

There were many other nationalities that were converted to Christianity apart from the above mentioned.

The political background of Palestine during the time from Atlantic Ocean as the Western boundry, till Uphratis in the East Britiain and Rhine Danube rivers marking the North, North African boundry from the South consist the area of Land belonging to the Roman Empire. This enormous area of land was a multi religious and multicultural people living in the empire. The empire was governed by the emperor.

The emperor was considered as God. The Apostles in the beginning were given support and facilitated to do their missionary service.

Roman Empire and its governance

The whole empire had one governance and ruling authority. Permission was not needed for one to travel between countries. There were advanced and developed land and sea routes for voyage and travelling. As there was peace and harmony in the atmosphere the Church spread very freely.

Effect of Greek Cultural Setting

As the Greek language had spread all over the empire, it was easy for the messengers to preach the Good News.

College of Education

Alexandria, Antioch and Athens, of Rome had schools situated in the Roman Empire. These schools had intelligent young ones learning and educating themselves in them. Plato, Aristotle, Socrates were some acquiring philosophical knowledge in schools. Therefore according to conscious to find intellect was desired through them.

Pagan worship during this period

All throughout the Roman Empire different forms of worship could be found. Multi religious practises with disgraceful acts were taking place during this era. Therefore there was a great necessity of the wise citizens of the kingdom, to reject these evil pagan worship cults in order to reform the moral conduct and inherit pure, better living through monogamy. This could be achieved through Christianity. These immoral practices were overcome through Christianity.

The Jewish in the Roman Empire

Throughout the Roman Empire, the Jews were involved in trade and business putting their Mosaic Law into practise wherever they remained. Hence the Messianic thought was spread throughout the Empire in advance. By the end of the first century (Apostolic Period) there arose conflicts and persecutions against Christians.

Conflict between Jewish Christians

There were disagreements and conflicts between Jewish Christians who spoke Arameik and Hellenistic Christian Jews who spoke Greek language. Hellenists complained that their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. To solve this issue there had to be assistants appointed in order to help the cause.

Conflict between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians

The reason for this conflict was the question whether circumcision was necessary for the Gentile Christians as for the Jewish Christians according to the Mosaic Law. St. Paul insisted and emphasised that it is not necessary to do so, as a result the council of Jerusalem came into existence (Acts 15) To carry out the agreement the below four decrees were given:

- i. To abstain from offerings of idols
- ii. Avoid unlawful marriage or adultery
- iii. Abstain from strangled animals.

Christianity across the Pagan Roman Empire

Towards the end of the first century (the Apostolic Period) Christianity had spread in the entire empire steadily. It had established under the leadership of the Episcopal structure. Christian Communities were governed by this and the centre was Rome. Therefore this new religion was called "Roman Catholicism." As time passed there were challenges that were coming up as obstacles that disturbed this religious harmony that prevailed.

The objections of Jewish religious Leaders.

High Priests and Sadducees took St. Peter and John to custody and they were threatened to death. Stephen was stoned to death. The person named Paul; imprisoned the Christians during this time.

The anti Christian Roman Emperor in Jerusalem

- He imprisoned St. Peter and beheaded St. Jacob.
- Persecution faced in Roman Empire

Reasons for Persecutions by the Roman Emperor

- Christians refusing to serve the emperor and his Army
- Christians refusing to accept the emperor cult.
- Christians refusing to offer sacrifices to the Greek divinities.
- Condemning the meetings held by Christians in private, accusing Christians as anti social and calling them spies who have incest relationships
- As the Christians speak of a kingdom of God, often misunderstood as people against the Roman Empire.
- Christianity becomes a banned forbidden religion.
- Christians were found to sign a document to give up their faith.
- Imprisonment, Confiscation of property, slavery, deporting or penalty of death brought upon people who do not give up Christian faith.
- For three centuries Christians had to go through such persecution and harassment. There were ten emperors who caused such difficulties, but later there were a few more emperors who allowed Christians to move freely.

Persecutions

1. First Persecution - Persecution of Nero

From 64-68 AD under the rule of Nero, he wanted to rebuild certain old sections of the Roman Empire, and the people objected to it. He set fire to these sections and accused Christians falsely. He set fire to these sections and accused Christians falsely. He turned the people against Christians, which caused the crimes. Christians were subject of sports eaten by wild animals. Some were drowned in the river Tiber, some were burned alive as Torches in the garden of Nero. During this time, St. Peter was crucified, St. Paul was beheaded. These persecutions were limited to Rome only, later in 68 AD after Nero committed suicide soon came to an end. From 69-70 AD Vespasian Emperor's era was a trouble free one. His son Titus set Jerusalem on fire and robbed the temple and caused destruction.

2. Second Persecution - Persecution of Domitian

From 81- 96 AD, during his time there were persecutions, St. John was dipped into a boiling pot of oil, yet he was unharmed. Later was deported to Patmos Island as a prisoner. The Emperor's sister Flavia's husband Flavius Clements was beheaded and Flavia too was deported during this time.

3. Third Persecution - Persecution of Trajan

From 98 – 117 AD. Trajan's era though not so bad, as certain minor emperors were Anti Christians, with Trajan's consent and knowledge Christians were put to death. Ignatius of Antioch, Archbishop of Jerusalem Simeon, Clement (Pope) of Rome, Tellusphorus and

Domitilla were martyred during this time. Emperor Hadrian who came later arranged protection for the Christians.

4. **Fourth Persecution - Persecution of Aurelius**

From 160 – 180 AD. He said Christians are responsible for all, the fatal deaths, natural calamities, sickness and invasions that took place in the empire. In 163 AD, St. Polycarp and Justin the philosopher were martyred during this period.

5. **Fifth Persecution - Persecution of Septimus Sevaris**

From 200-211 AD. Ireneus and Perpetua Petisthas of Carthege and St. Sisilia were martyred. Father of Oregan Leo of Alexandria were also caught in this persecution.

6. **Sixth Persecution - Persecution of Maximian**

From 235 – 238 AD. During this time Popes wee sent as slaves to work at the mines. Pope Pontanius, Pope Hipolitus who was appointed as an anti Pope both were killed.

7. **Seventh Persecution - Persecution of Dasius**

From 240 – 251 AD. This persecution was really affecting Popes and Priests. Pope Fabian, St. Agatha, Bishop Alsexander, St. Oregon and many more bishops of Antioch and Jerusalem were killed. As 251 AD. Desius was killed and the persecution came to an end.

8. **Eighth Persecution - Persecution of Valarian**

From 257 – 260 AD. Christian books were burned by Valarian. Temple was demolished and things were confiscated. Bishops and Priests were put to suffer death for Greek gods and goddesses. Second Sixtus Pope, St. Lawrance, Siprien and Cyril were martyred in Africa. 259 AD Persians captured king Valarian and made him prisoner. His son Gallinus was appointed next. Properties confiscated were given back to the owners.

9. **Ninth Persecution**

From 274 – 280 AD. There were many persecutions against Christians. St. Philix in Rome, Bishop Denis in Rome were killed and allowed to be eaten by wild animals.

10. **Tenth Persecution - Persecution of Dioclesian**

From 303– 305 AD. This was the most disasterous persecution of history. Sharpness of the arms became low during his time there were three decrces under which Christians were put to death.

1st Decree – Christians were not appointed for any public or social appointments. Christian sacred books and property confiscated.

2nd Decree – All priests to be taken into custody.

3rd Decree – All Christians who refuse to offer sacrifices were condemned to death.

St. Sebastian, St. Lucia, St. Agnus, St. Moris, Pope Marcellus, Bishop Januaris, Emlalia, Justin and Prancracy were martyred. Among the torchure, there were removing of eyes, chopping of feet, roasting on iron grids, and given to be eaten by wild animals, also they made them starve to death.

All these persecutions did not destroy the church but the blood of martyres rather became the seed and nourishment for Christian growth. Christianitiy spread mysteriously. Monastic life come to be

in desert. Next emperor Constantine came in to power, in 313 AD, through the Edict of Milan he freed the Christians.

Edict of Milan

- The prevailed impediments were lifted for three Centuries (from the time of Nero)
- Full freedom for Christian worship.
- Freedom to spread Christianity throughout the kingdom.
- He abolished Crucifixion that will not be a penalty for any one, it is a holy symbol that should be venerated.
- Freedom to build Churches.
- St. Peter's Basilica was improved and made better.
- The emperor's Lateran palace was given to the Pope to occupy.
- The mother of Constantine build three churches in Bethlehem and afterwards the Church gained full freedom.

With the wide spread of Christianity the church had to face some challenges that had occurred internally. Bishops, Priests and Hermits were the cause of the said challenges. They are called Heresies. These were heresies going on for periods of time.

They are:- Gnosticism, Nestorianism, Arianism, Euticheanism, Manichaeism, Monism

These heretics spoke against the teachings or the Apostolic teaching and traditions of Church. Commonly they spoke against the teachings of the Church touching these topics:-

- ❖ Creation of the world.
- ❖ Salvation of Christ and his Nature.
- ❖ Mother of God.
- ❖ Life after death.
- ❖ Angels.

The heretics seem to be forming ideas and theories based on their Greek Philosophical knowledge.

- ❖ Action taken by Church to overcome Heresies
- ❖ The heretics were excommunicated and expelled by the Church.
- ❖ The church called councils to reject these heretical view.
- ❖ Systematically logically presented Greek Philosophical literature and views were solved and answered by Church.

How ever the heresies and the negative effects of them kept on for Centuries according to world Church History.

Church Fathers

Church Fathers are people who led virtuous lives, preached and interpreted the sermons and sacred books up to the fifth Century. Books (Greek, Latin) language were authored by them. St. Justin (Greek), St. Athanasius (Greek), Cyril of Alexandria (Greek), St. Jerome (Latin) St. Augustine (Latin) are the famous we come across.

St. Justin

From 100-165 AD, a main Apostolic Author who lived in Rome. His books reveal a lot about the present primitive Church, liturgy and persecutions. He was indeed a philosopher. He explored the Roman Empire, researched and studied philosophies of Stoics and Aristotalianism, then critically explained Christianity. Presented two precious books. He presented the book "Apologia" to Marcus Avurelius. In 165 AD was martyred.

St. Athanasius

From 295- 373 AD, He was the bishop of Alexandria, he fought against Arianism. He was later banished from Alexandria, when Arianism was on the peak march. Later in 373 AD he expired.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

He faught against Nestorianism, as the bishop of Alexandria. He called the council of Ephesus to prove that mother Mary is Theotokos (God bearer) not Christokos (Christ bearer) as their was a controversy regarding this. In 431 he called the Ephesus Council to clear this conflict.

St. Jerome

From 340 – 419 AD. He was a linguistic scholar in Latin and Greek. He was appointed to translate the Latin Bible once again by Pope Damien the first. Then he came to Palestine and occupied the place where Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem. For twenty years he stood in the same Church and completed the tsk he was given. This translation is called the "Vulgate". There are many more books authored by St. Jerome, Sermons, Encyclicals and biographies of Hermits.

St. Augustine

From 354 – 430 AD, born in Thagasthe (Present Algeria) North Africa was an excellent Orator. A great author and a learned, who spent his youth freely enjoying himself. In 387 AD, he was baptised by St. Ambrose in Milan. He was appointed a Bishop in the city of Hippo. He translated many books to Latin. His own confession in his autobiography comes special among all his other books. He is a prominent figure in the Catholic Church.

Christian Authors

Owing to the freedom gained by the church over the periods there came to be an enomous amount of Chrisian literature and therefore this age is called the "Golden Age" (150- 550 AD) Many of the authors were church fathers.

Origen

In 185 - 254 AD : He was the Leader of the Theology school of Alexandria and Seseria both. He suffered persecution to a great extent during the persecution of Dacius.

Main Books

He did six translations of the Bible.(Hexcapla) A hand book on Theology “**Deprincipius**” which consists of four parts and which continued the principal teaching of Theology. A prayer book for the growth of Christian faith and a book of his sermons, as he was given authority to preach as a Layman are some of his specially published books.

St. Basil

In 330 – 376 AD, some belonged to the Alexandrian Authorship and discipleship of Origen are three. They are St. Basil, St. Gregory Nisianson 33 – 390 AD and Gregory Ninsa 335 – 395. They were super famous authors of the time. These three figures are named as Capadocian fathers. They were great scholars who explained the “**Trinity**”. St. Basil wrote about Monasticism. He specialised in this area. The section called “**Toralia**” relating to lay life has a special of the Bible and 365 letters written by him. He gave a theological foundation to Monastic life and established a monastery.

St. John Chrisostum

From 354 – 407 AD He was called the “**Golden Mouthpiece**”. He was a clever author and a preacher. Had written commentaries of the letters of St. Paul. The Book “Priesthood” is a famous book. There are 236 letters containing in this book. He was a brave doctor of the Church. As the bishop of Antioch he criticised queen Echdemia about him to be imprisoned and suffer death.

What is Heresy?

A teaching that contradicts a teaching of the Church and its tradition is a Heresy.

325 AD - Nicean Council

Called by Constantine. Priest Arius declared that Christ is not God and Jesus Christ is another creation of God. That Jesus Christ is first of all creations. St. Athanasius was totally against it and rejected this view. For this reason there was chaos in the Empire.

381 AD – Constantinople Council II

Nicean Council affirmed the view point of St. Athanasius and presented a true faith proclamation. The reason behind it is that even in the later periods the controversial view of priest Arius had an impact on people in a strong way. Therefore the bishop of Constantinople, Gregory Nasiansen called and headed the Council to formulate the Nicean Creed.

About Christ

Begotten not made one in being with the Father.

About The Holy Spirit

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

431 AD – Ephesus Council

Gathered to discuss on Mother of God". Rejected the view of Nestorian and affirmed Mary as Mother of God. As Nestorius said Mary should be called Mother of Christ. This controversy was fully controlled by St. Cyril of Alexandria (During the 2nd Theodosius Emperor 408 – 450)

451 AD – Fourth Council in Chalcedon

Hermit Eutychus taught that Jesus Christ has only one nature. In 450 AD Marcian Emperor called a Council in 451 and taught people to accept the true teaching of Pope Leo that Jesus is one person having two Natures, Human and Divine.

325 - 451 AD Period of Freedom

In 313 AD all the persecutions against Christians had come to an end, as Emperor Constantine made it happen. As Constantine won victory over invasions and proclaimed that it is through Christ's grace. And through the Edict of Milan Christians were set free and given religious liberty. As the empire was combined, Constantine who ruled the Western Europe also came to an agreement to bring religious freedom to the entire kingdom. In 324 AD he became the sole Emperor and in 380 AD 1st Theodosius Emperor made Christianity the state religion. He also took the responsibility of spreading the religion on his part.

Monastic life

What is monastic life? It is retirement from the noisy world withdrawing from the world for contemplation and peace of mind. Thus, individually or in a group they sacrifice and involve in prayer, enter into a community where members lead a life with a common goal of spiritual liberation
Eg: - Martyrs
- Hermits

Beginning

As in the beginning, they wanted to avoid persecution and lead solitary lives. Monastic life had started in the East before the West. From 255 – 341 AD St. Paul of Thebes used to live in caves. His disciple, St. Anthony (233-355) is considered to be the founder of Monastic life.

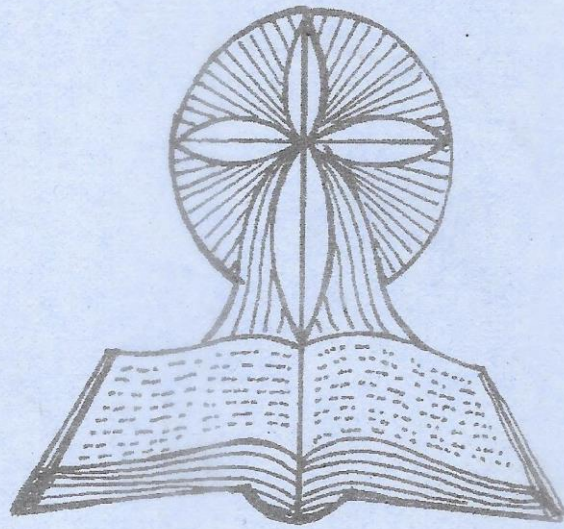
In 325 AD, there were about 5000 hermits in Egypt who belonged to this Category. Also there seems to have been monastic communities for females before men. In the fourth century the hermits who went towards the holy land in numbers hundred or more have lived in monastic communities in Bethlehem.

- They lived solitary lives but came together to offer Mass.
 - Living in one monastery, living in different homes around it.
 - Living according to the will and guidance of the head of the monastery.
 - Hermits lived near river Nile were involved in trade.
-

- St. Basil (329 – 379) established general norms that have effect even up to today for monastic living.

In the fourth century, the Eastern Church published books and established Monasteries. The first Monastery in the West is the one in France started and initiated by St. Martin of Tours. Renewal of Church and conversion of Barbarians could be achieved through the service of Monastic life. Leaders of Church were appointed out of them as they were favourable among the citizens. Civilization and History gained development due to them.





The National Catechetical Centre,
19, Balcombe Place,
Cotta Road, Colombo - 8.

Tel : 011-2685459

Fax : 011-2665021

E-mail : natcatbible@gmail.com

Rs. 400/=