

## Grace Catechetical Preparation

**Consider the following statement:** God, by a gratuitous initiative of His love, intends for us to be in communion with Him by receiving His Divine Life through the sacraments. We call this gift grace (CCC, 1998). He is impelled to give Himself to us in order to bring to completion the reason He created us that we be united to Him (CCC, 2001).

**Keeping the above statement in mind, read and meditate on the following passages:**

### Scripture:

I Cor 2:7-9	God's plan, determined before all the ages for our glory.
Eph 2:7-10	God's immeasurable riches of grace.
Col 1:26-27	Christ in you, the hope of glory.
II Pet 1:3-4	We are called to partake in the divine nature (see also Jn. 14:23)
Gal 1:6	We are called/justified by grace (see also rom 3:22-24; IITim 1:9)
Luke 1:28	Mary is "Full of Grace."
I Pet 4:10	Be good stewards of God's grace.
II Cor 12:9	God's grace is sufficient.
Matt. 7:16-20	By their fruits you shall know them.
Matt 11:23-24	Refusal of God's grace.
Rom 5:20-21	Where sin abounds, grace abounds.
Rom 6:20-23	Sin brings death, God gives eternal life.

### Catechism:

CCC 1996-2016	Doctrine of Grace.
CCC 2001	We are made to receive grace.
CCC 1997	Grace is God's life in us.
CCC 260	Grace makes possible the end for which God made us (see also CCC 1721, 460)
CCC 2000	Different types of grace.
CCC 1129, 2003	Sacramental grace (see also CCC 1127).
CCC 1810-11	Grace is necessary to pursue the virtues.

### Key Terms:

<i>Grace:</i>	God's free gift of His life, His love
<i>Sanctifying Grace:</i>	The habitual, persisting presence of God's life which perfects the soul, making is more united to Jesus. Also "sacramental grace".
<i>Actual Grace:</i>	God's interventions at particular moments to do good actions.

## Grace Catechetical Session

### **Preparation :**

Hymn: (Vs. 1-2): *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace*

First Reading: Eph 2:1-10

Psalm: Psalm 99

Gospel: John 1:14-18

**Proclamation:** God, by a gratuitous initiative of His love, intends to give Himself to us. We call this gift grace (CCC, 1998). He is impelled to give Himself to us in order to bring to completion the work He began when He created us (CCC, 2001).

### **Explanantion:**

1. We are made to receive Grace (CCC 2001).
  - More than a gift
  - God brings to completion the work of creation
  - We have a right to approach the throne of grace (see Heb 4:16).
  
2. Grace is God's Divine life in us (CCC 1997).
  - Grace is seen by its fruits
  - Grace is powerful
  - Grace is not just a state in which to be in or out. Grace is a share in God's Life – it is a share in our friendship/communion with Him.
  
3. There are different types of grace, God's life in us in different forms (CCC 2000).
  - Actual grace
  - Sanctifying grace (Sacramental Grace)
  - God's Providence
  
4. Grace can be increased and also lost.
  - Sacramental Grace (CCC 2003, 1127-1129)
  - Respond to God.
  - Prayer (CCC 2010)
  - Grace can be lost through sin and rejected by a refusal to believe.
  
5. Justification & Merit (CCC 1987-2011)
  - Justification: The grace of the Holy Spirit has the power to justify us – that is cleanse us from our sins and to transform us into His righteous children, by Baptism, and faith in Jesus Christ.
  
  - Merit: refers in general to the recompense owed by a community (reward or punishment) for the actions of one of its members.
  
  - In relation to Justification, God freely chose to unite us to Himself by His grace, and as such, the charity/grace of Christ is the source in us of all our merits before God.

**Application:**

1. What is grace?
2. What are the different types of grace?
3. When have I seen the power of God's grace manifested?
4. How and when do I cooperate or ignore God's grace?
5. How and when do I ignore God's grace?
6. "What must I do to have eternal life?"
7. How do I express gratitude to God for the Divine Gift of grace?

**Conclusion:**

Closing Prayer: *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace*

Hymn (Vs. 3-4)

## Grace Outline

**Proclamation:** God, by a gratuitous initiative of His love, intends to give Himself to us. We call this gift grace (CCC, 1998). He is impelled to give Himself to us in order to bring to completion the work He began when He created us (CCC, 2001).

### **Explanantion:**

1. We are made to receive Grace (CCC 2001).
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
2. Grace is God's life in us (CCC 1997).
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
3. There are different types of grace, God's life in us in different forms (CCC 2000).
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
4. Where do you get grace? (or Grace can be increased and also lost).
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
5. Justification & Merit:

