

CATHOLICISM *Table of Contents*

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE:

The *Facilitator's Guide* provides suggestions and directives for leading the CATHOLICISM Study Program in your particular setting.

LESSON ONE: *Amazed and Afraid* – The Revelation of God Become Man

Fr. Barron illuminates and explains the conviction of the Catholic Faith that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah and the revelation of God become man. He shows how Jesus fulfills the four tasks of the Messiah according to the Old and New Testaments, and how the living legacy of Christ, God and Messiah, is proclaimed by the Church. (*Broken into Parts 1 & 2*)

LESSON TWO: *Happy Are We* – The Teachings of Jesus

The revelation of Jesus as God is accompanied by a stunning invitation to a unique new way of life, explained in the teachings of Jesus. To every generation, the words of Jesus have proven fascinating, sometimes confounding, deeply transformative, and always unforgettable.

LESSON THREE: *The Ineffable Mystery of God* – That Than Which Nothing Greater Can Be Thought

Father Barron considers St. Anselm's description of God as "that than which nothing greater can be thought" and explains St. Thomas Aquinas' arguments which support the claim that God truly exists. He also speaks about the nature of God, as well as the challenging question of evil and the existence of God.

LESSON FOUR: *Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast* – Mary, the Mother of God

This lesson correlates the Catholic Faith's testimony to the revelation of God in Christ with the vivid practices of reverence offered to his Mother. Mary is explained as "an on-going presence, an actor in the life of the Church."

LESSON FIVE: *The Indispensable Men* – Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure

Father Barron calls Peter and Paul "two indispensable men, the ones without whom the Church never would have emerged and survived." In telling each man's story, Father Barron shows how the Holy Spirit worked through apostles and disciples to build the Church.

LESSON SIX: *A Body Both Suffering & Glorious* – The Mystical Union of Christ & the Church

Clearly answering the question, "What is the Church?" Father Barron presents the reality of the Church as "one, holy, catholic and apostolic." The Body of Christ can be seen all over the earth, while still escaping total understanding as the mystical union between Christ and his Church.

LESSON SEVEN: *Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven* – The Mystery of the Liturgy & the Eucharist

Father Barron explores the notion that "all value is summed up in the liturgy, the supreme act by which we commune with God." Considered by the Catholic Faith to be "the source and summit" of its identity and mission, the Eucharist is the central practice of the Church's culture.

LESSON EIGHT: *A Vast Company of Witnesses* – The Communion of Saints

Father Barron gives consideration to some of the Church's greatest heroes, and demonstrates how their extraordinary examples display both the passion and the creative potential of the Catholic Church. This lesson tells the story of the Church as a vast company of witnesses who are called by Christ to be a Communion of Saints.

LESSON NINE: *The Fire of His Love* – Prayer and the Life of the Spirit

In this lesson, Father Barron explores Catholic spirituality, which is centered on prayer. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Prayer is the lifting up of the mind and the heart to God."

LESSON TEN: *World Without End* – The Last Things

This lesson explores the Church's conviction that life here and now is preparation for an extraordinary world that is yet to come – a supernatural destiny. Father Barron presents the Catholic vision of death, judgment, heaven, hell and purgatory.

EXTENDED ANSWER KEY:

The *Extended Answer Key* provides detailed answers and further commentary on the teachings presented by Fr. Barron.