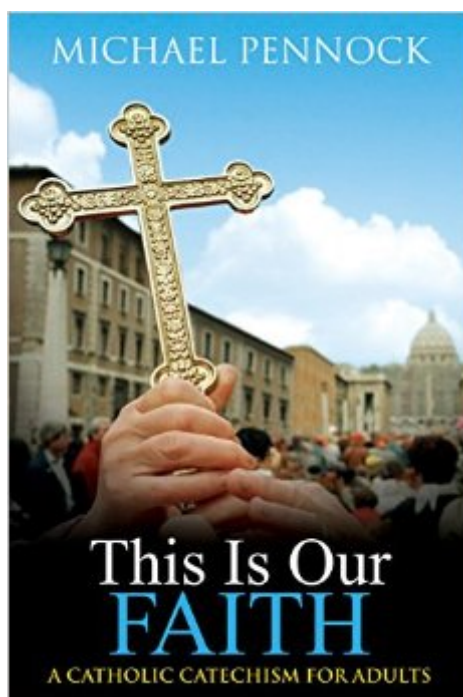


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This Is Our Faith: A Catholic Catechism For Adults



Synopsis

This catechism is specifically designed for Catholic adults, for those who are new to the church, and especially for those who are journeying through the Rite of Christian Initiation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

We have been using "This is our Faith" by Michael Francis Pennock in our RCIA class. Written in a simple and direct style, "This is our Faith" is an eminently readable and highly accessible introduction to Catholic teaching and theology. Pennock divided the text into four sections that parallel those of the Catechism: The Profession of Faith, focusing on the creeds; The Celebration of the Christian Mystery, which focuses on liturgy and the sacraments; Life in Christ, which emphasizes Christian morals; and Christian Prayer. Individual chapters consist mostly of Questions and answers--making "This is our Faith" sort of a FAQ for Catholics. Each question is cross-referenced to the Catechism. Curiously, the teachers of my RCIA class sort of discourage us from reading the Catechism. (Is that typical?) But I like having the cross-references so that I can follow up where the text doesn't provide enough detail. Pennock's theology seems sound and conventional, yet he reflects both traditional church teaching and current thinking. Anyone in RCIA ought to pick up "This is our Faith."

As a catechist, this book makes more sense to use for RCIA than the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults. The discussion questions are way easier to understand in this book. When I tried to answer

the questions in the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults, you need a degree in theology to even understand the questions. This RCIA book is way more succinct, to the point, and easier to understand than the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults--without dumbing down RCIA.

I have two catechism books, one huge one and another almost as big, but this one is easy to read. I feel this should be read first to "wet your feet" once you've felt comfortable with "This is our Faith" than move on to the others. There are many references so you can always look things up when needed. The other 2 books are heavier reading. The author, Michael Francis Pennock, has written a wonderful book on the introduction to the Catholic Catechism for adults. Easy to read, and sits gently on your mind and heart, and the price is right. You'll be happy you bought this book.

I thought this book did a wonderful job of explaining Catholic beliefs in a straightforward manner. It touches on pretty much every topic that you could be interested in, and I especially like its question-and-answer format. I believe that one of the best aspects of this book is that, for the most part, you can skip around. If you just have questions about the sacrament of marriage for instance, you can just read that chapter to get your information; it doesn't depend too heavily on all the chapters before it (although everything leading up to it is certainly important also, specifically things like the basis of the Catholic faith). What I don't feel is covered as well is the reasoning behind the beliefs. In many sections of the book, references are made to the bible as well as various papers the Vatican has composed. However, I feel that many of the topics warrant much more information about the history behind them, how certain decisions were made, etc. After thinking about it though, I think perhaps that is outside the author's intention for this book; I'm sure someone could write a book on the history of each topic alone. Ultimately, this is a great no-nonsense book about the beliefs and teachings of the Catholic church. You'll have to look elsewhere to find out WHY they believe and teach it, though.

I have been recommending this book now for 13 years. I am a RCIA director and this book backs up what I teach and continues to be of great help to the people way after their time in the RCIA. I am always looking for what might be better for the price but have yet to find anything that takes the place of This Is Our Faith.

This is Our Faith by Michael Pennock which is based upon his earlier Seeker's Catechism which has received very poor reviews on is very, very weak and troubling. I would not recommend it to

anyone serious about the Catholic faith. It is a very poor text, in many ways. The correlation between it and the CCC is very awkward at times, or other times, they just plain conflict. For example, the CCC states that the goal/objective of ecumenism is the reconciliation of all Christians to the Catholic Church. You will not find this anywhere in Pennock's book. In fact, Pennock, in contradiction to the CCC, states that the goal of ecumenism is: a common commitment among Christians to live out the gospel and to be open to the unifying action of the Holy Spirit." Or, in violation of USCCB instruction regarding catechetical instruction, Pennock caveats nearly every statement of faith with: "the Catholic church teaches"... or "Catholics believe.." lending the impression to the reader that there are other acceptable teachings that are just as valid as what "the Catholic church teaches." Most alarming, though, is his depiction of Christ. In the chapter "Jesus: Lord and Messiah", we are first told that Christ is compassionate, self-giving and humble, but Pennock doesn't get around to addressing his divinity until the last page and then only places it in a list of dogmas. Similarly, when answering the question "What is meant by the 'real presence'?", Pennock states that Jesus is present in the "assembly", the priest, and "the word", but he lists Christ's presence in the Eucharist - what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls the "source and summit of the Christian faith" - last. Pennock, has such a lack of zeal for the Catholic faith, that by reading his "catechism" he nearly sucked out all the zeal I had inside of me. This primary texts gets two big thumbs down. How did this book ever get a imprimatur???

I have used this book in the RCIA for over ten years and I have yet to find a better text for people with questions that urge the reader to go further. I'm only sad that the price makes it difficult for parishes to purchase in bulk.

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