

Student Notes for Unit 1

Key Understandings for This Unit

These are the key concepts you need to understand by the end of the unit:

- God wants us to know him so that we can share in his life.
- God initiates the relationship with us by revealing himself to us.
- God reveals himself to us through Church and Tradition, our everyday lives, the people in our lives, and creation.
- Catholicism is not just about “me and Jesus” but about the whole community of believers, the Body of Christ.

The God-Human Relationship

Article 11: What Is Revelation?

1. What is Revelation?
2. List four ways we can learn about God.
3. Give an example from everyday life that shows how you can find God in each of these ways.
4. What do we mean when we say Revelation is a loving gift offered to us by God?
5. Explain how Revelation is complete in Jesus Christ.
6. What is the difference between public revelation and private revelation?
7. Look up the meaning of *salvation history* and write its definition.

Article 12: Sharing in God's Life

1. What are the three parts of God's plan for us?
2. Explain the meaning of each part of God's plan.
3. Who were the patriarchs?
4. God continues to offer his friendship today through the ministry and _____ of the Church.
5. What is a vocation?

Article 14: How Do We Know God Really Exists?



1. Some people find it hard to believe that God exists because they can't see him. When this happens, they need to surrender to the _____.
2. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that we don't believe in God because it makes sense but because God is _____.
3. List four sources of information that can help us to believe in the existence of God.
4. What did Saint Anselm mean when he said, "Faith seeks understanding" (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 158)?

Sacred Scripture and Tradition

Article 16: God's Revelation through Sacred Scripture: The Old Testament

1. The Old Testament recounts the story of God's _____relationship with the ancient _____.
2. What do we mean when we say that the Scriptures are inspired?
3. Explain how Saint Paul uses an image of a tree to make his analogy between Judaism and Christianity.
4. What book in the Old Testament has been a cornerstone of Christian prayer for many centuries?

Article 17: God's Revelation through Sacred Scripture: The New Testament

1. After Jesus' death and Resurrection, how did his disciples first share the "Good News" of Jesus with other people?
2. The sacred authors of the four Gospels are called the _____.
3. How did the authors of the Gospels choose which teachings, parables, and miracles of Jesus to write about?
4. What is the canon of Scripture?
5. What three criteria did the early Church Fathers use to determine which books on the life of Jesus would form the canon of the New Testament?



Article 18: God's Revelation through Tradition

1. Define Sacred Tradition.
2. Sacred Tradition is inspired and guided by the _____.
3. What is the Magisterium?
4. The _____ identified Tradition and Sacred Scripture as the two primary ways the Church passes on God's revealed truth.

Article 19: Passing On God's Revelation

1. Explain what is meant by the process of Apostolic Succession.
2. The word *infallible* means "_____."
3. Literally, *ex cathedra* means "_____." It tells us the _____ is speaking in his official role of authoritative teacher about matters pertaining to _____ and _____.
4. What is ecumenism?
5. What is interreligious dialogue?

Article 20: The Lives of the Saints

1. Deceased Catholics the Church has officially canonized for having led lives of exemplary holiness are called _____.
2. What does the word *canonized* mean?
3. If only God can answer our prayers, why should we pray to the saints?

Discovering God in Creation

Article 21: Discovering God in Our Daily Lives

1. Why did Saint Ignatius recommend that his followers conduct an *examen* at the end of each day?
2. List the five basic steps of an *examen*.
3. What are two ways an *examen* has helped people who use it regularly to change?



Article 22: Discovering God in the Faith of Others

1. What does it mean to say that Catholicism is not about “me and Jesus” or “me and my neighbor” but is about “the whole community of believers”?
2. Explain how celebrating the Eucharist can help us to understand what this means.
3. Our faith becomes stronger when we share it with others through _____, _____, and _____.

Article 23: Discovering God in the Natural World

1. Why should Catholics be stewards of creation?
2. What would you say to a friend who says, “I feel the presence of God when I’m at the beach, so why do I need to go to church?”

Article 24: Discovering God through the Human Intellect

1. What is the definition of *theology*?
2. How can we use God’s gift of intelligence to understand our faith more fully?
3. Why will we never be able to completely describe God?
4. Explain why the teachings of the Catholic Church are not in conflict with the scientific theories of evolution.

