

The Magisterium of the Catholic Church and You

1. In Latin the word *magister*, the root of the word *Magisterium*, means “teacher.” By which title did Jesus’ disciples refer to him? (This is not in your student book; hint: begins with an *r*.)

2. What is the primary purpose of the official Magisterium?

3. What is the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and why is it useful for Catholics and other Christians?

4. Does the Catholic Church consider the Nicene Creed and the Apostles’ Creed to be infallible statements of belief in the Church? Why or why not? (You can find these creeds in article 15 in chapter 4 of the student book.)

5. Can the verbal expression of an infallible truth be changed? Why?

6. Most doctrines of the Church are not classified as infallible doctrines. Can these noninfallible doctrines be changed as times change? Why?



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7. Briefly describe the four pillars of the *Catechism* in your own words:

Pillar I: _____

Pillar II: _____

Pillar III: _____

Pillar IV: _____

8. Can what we are doing right now be classified as theological inquiry?

9. Why are the official members of the Magisterium required to engage in theological inquiry, contemplation, and study?

10. What does the gift of indefectibility mean?

11. What does the gift of infallibility mean, and how is it different from scientific or mathematical certainty?

