

Today's message:

On January 1 we began “**Ascension Press with Fr. Mike Schmitz**” “**The Catechism in a Year.**” On day one Sunday we started off with “**The Prologue**” that summarizes the “whole of the Catechism.” We also have in the news the passing of our dear Benedict. There is a connection between these two news items (See below quote).

Benedict

*As a young priest, he served as a theological expert during the Second Vatican Council. As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he served as Archbishop of Munich and Freising and then was Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith **under Pope St. John Paul II. In that role, he played a key part in preparing the Catechism of the Catholic Church and clarifying and defending Catholic teaching ... (Bold is my emphasis).*** Full article below.

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2023/01/01/benedict-xvi-thinker-preacher-saint-scholars-and-former-students-discuss-legacy/>

Another link below on Benedict (Memories and reflections).

https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2023/01/02/benedict-xvi-a-tribute/?utm_source=The+Catholic+Thing+Daily&utm_campaign=07b512fcbc-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_12_07_01_02_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_769a14e16a-07b512fcbc-244259033&mc_cid=07b512fcbc&mc_eid=1d9b140ef5

As I mentioned: On “day 1” of the Catechism; Father Mike discussed The Prologue, which summarizes the Catechism. This is from an article picked up by Aleteia.

*The aim of the Catechism is not to simply dictate rules for Catholics to live by, but to **help Catholics to love God more fully.*** See full article below.

Prologue of the Catechism:

https://aleteia.org/2023/01/01/this-one-word-summarizes-the-entire-catechism/?utm_campaign=EM-EN-Newsletter-Daily-&utm_content=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sendgrid&utm_term=20230102

Happy and Blessed New Year
Father Vic Gournas

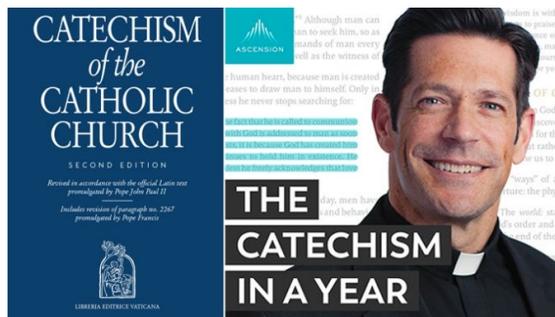
Previous message:

The days directly after the Nativity (Christmas Day), we celebrate St. Stephen (First Martyr of the Church), St. John the Evangelist, The Holy Innocents, and the Holy Family. One focus, particularly with St. John's writings, WE FOLLOW THE EYEWITNESSES (those who saw, talked, and walked with Jesus (1John 1: 1-3).

These eyewitnesses have received from Jesus what we call "The Deposit of Faith." All the teachings on how to live a full and holy life; ultimately teaching us how to live in the present, so as to achieve Heaven (Salvation).

Thus; to help us to grow in fellowship and holiness, I offer this resource below to help us grow in faith during 2023, as we come to know God's plan for us, as revealed in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, as articulated in the Catholic Catechism.

I will be celebrating a Mass at 11pm this Saturday night to give thanks to our Lord as we usher in another year of life in Christ.



Following the monumental success of the **Bible in a Year podcast**, Ascension and Fr. Mike Schmitz will soon embark on a new yearlong adventure. The **Catechism in a Year podcast** begins January 1st, and one look at posts from people on the over-80,000-member Facebook group offers a glimpse into the excitement from Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Fr. Schmitz is the Director of the Newman Center at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the diocese, and the author of **Made For Love** (Ignatius Press, 2018).

Blessings this Christmas Octave and New Year.
Fr. Vic Gournas

