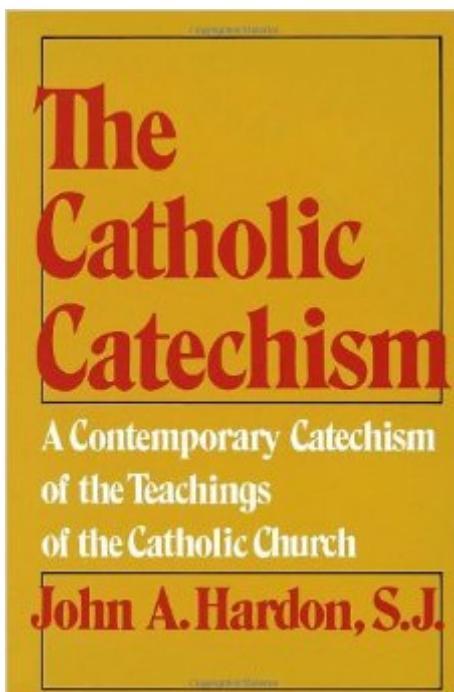


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The Catholic Catechism: A Contemporary Catechism Of The Teachings Of The Catholic Church



Synopsis

"This volume is intended to meet a widely felt need for an up-to-date and concise source book on the principal teachings of the Catholic Church. Since the close of the Second Vatican Council, there has been such an accumulation of ecclesiastical constitutions and decrees and so many changes they introduced in Catholic practice that few people have been able to keep up with all that has happened... A parallel purpose of this volume is to offer those who use it a handy guidebook of the Catholic tradition, whether formally documented in ecclesiastical sources or implicitly accepted by the faithful under the aegis of the Church's hierachial leaders."The method followed in presenting the Church's doctrine is a combination of history and logic. Doctrines are placed into a historical framework by tracing their origins to the Old and New Testaments and placing their development within the context of persons, places, and times. The doctrine thus becomes more intelligible because it is viewed in the setting of its vital growth over the centuries."The intended reading audience of this Catholic catechism are all those priests, religious and laity, and above all parents and teachers, who are looking for a concise statement of the faith they profess, the conduct they practice, and the worship they give to the Lord."--From The Catholic Catechism by John A. Hardon, S.J.

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Customer Reviews

I am going to make an attempt to compare this Catechism against several of the other popular Catechisms being read today. First, let us look at the Catechism of the Catholic Church, second

edition. This is the current normative text by which other Catechisms are supposed to be developed. It is an excellent text. Where it falls down in my view is in the manner in which it was written. English is obviously not the original language, it was Latin and as such, the translation can be clunky at times and is often not written in a style of English that most are familiar with. Second, it was written for the Bishops, not the laity, and as such, it tends to obfuscate and dance around certain issues so that the reader can go through a paragraph of the text and come away having no idea what they just read or what it meant. Second, let us look to the US Catholic Catechism for Adults, published by the USCCB. Overall, this is a great text and presents the faith a clear and direct manner, much more so than the Universal Catechism I discussed above. My major concern with the US Catechism is the manner in which it handles Social Doctrine as taught by the Church. The section on Catholic Social doctrine is good for the most part, but there are some disturbing problems. For instance, the manner in which the doctrine of Subsidiarity is portrayed in this Catechism is as if it was of minimal importance, when the CCC and the Compendium for the Social Doctrine of the Church treat it as essential, and a major aspect of Catholic Social Teaching. This gives the impression that the Church is in support of governmental action in all parts of our lives, which is not remotely the case. "CCC 1883 states: Socialization also presents dangers.

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