



Our Lady of the Rosary
FAMILY CATECHISM

INFORMATION PACK
FOR PARENTS



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OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY FAMILY CATECHISM

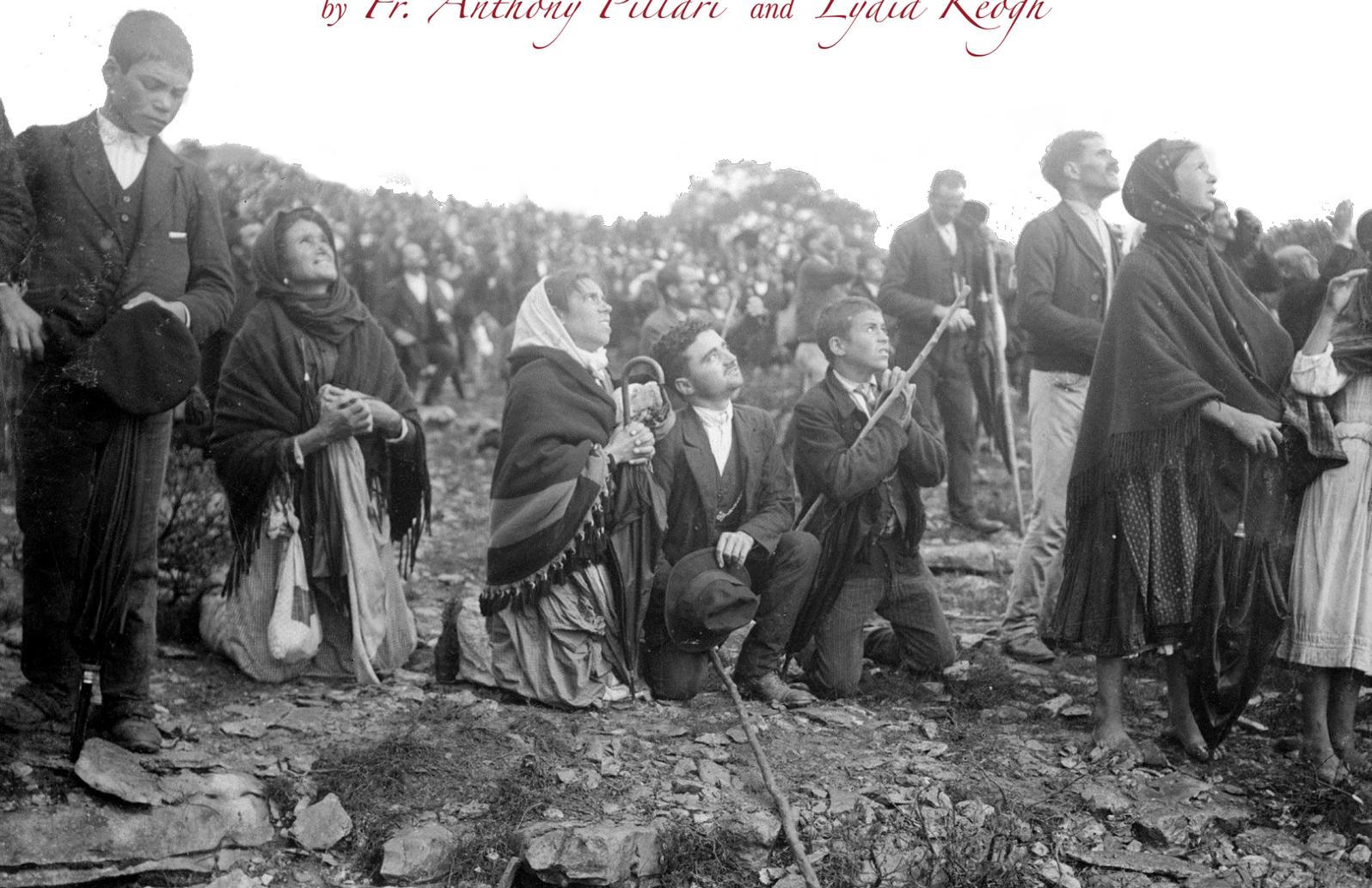
is dedicated to

Our Lady of the Rosary

in thanksgiving for Her apparitions at Fatima.

May She dispose of this course according to Her good pleasure,
for the greater glory of God,
and the salvation of souls.

by Fr. Anthony Pillari and Lydia Keogh



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WHAT IS *Our Lady of the Rosary Family Catechism*

In 1917 the world was plagued by war and sin. And so, God sent His holy Mother to Fatima, to three young children who were firmly rooted in the unchanging truths of the Catholic Faith, and who gave an unconditional yes, embracing a mission of holiness that would save countless souls. Would you like your own children to be capable of the same? Would you like them to be formed in the unchanging Truth that comes from God?

Our Lady of the Rosary Family Catechism (OLRFC) provides each family and child with the opportunity to be taught these timeless truths according to the classic Baltimore Catechism, and for them to hear, in many cases, the exact same explanations, containing the same clarity and simplicity, that the millions of children throughout the world would have received in 1917.

OLRFC is a free, online, traditional catechesis video course for children and families. It is filled with beautiful sacred art and music and is taught by a Catholic priest, who presents the carefully crafted words and teachings of the traditional catechism. OLRFC also draws on the message and lives of the children of Fatima, in order to encourage and foster a deeper, daily living of the Catholic Faith in those taking part in the course.

Although aimed at children, OLRFC has been created for the whole family and therefore, children both younger and older are encouraged to participate in the course. Adults, who may wish to learn the basic teachings of the Catholic Faith, are also invited to follow the course. OLRFC is truly a crusade of learning thoroughly the essentials of the Catholic Faith.

The key teaching takes the form of **41 online videos**; 3 introductory videos, 37 videos of lesson content and 1 closing video. The content for the 37 lessons follows the structure of **the Baltimore Catechism, which has been covered in its entirety**. Of the 421 questions and answers contained in the Baltimore Catechism,

404 questions and answers have been selected to be included in OLRFC. Thus, one of the aims of OLRFC is to encourage children to **commit to memory** the answers to the questions found in this traditional and comprehensive catechism.

The structure of each video lesson is as follows:

The children are introduced to the topic of the lesson and begin with the **prayer** taught by Our Lady to the children of Fatima:

*“Oh Jesus, [I choose to live this day] for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.” Amen.*¹

A brief **Bible story**, normally taken from the Gospel, begins the lesson, followed by the **teaching from the Baltimore Catechism**. This involves the presenting of the questions and answers from Baltimore Catechism 1 and 2, and often incorporates teaching provided in Baltimore Catechism 4. The lesson then finishes by introducing the children to the **life of a saint** or another **miracle** from the history of the Catholic Church, such as a Eucharistic miracle.

With the additional help of support materials and of a reward system in which they can attain different levels as crusaders for Christ, as well as the mutual encouragement of other children partaking in the programme throughout the world, OLRFC teaches children to internalize the truths of the Catholic Faith, committing them to memory, much as the children of Fatima, and countless other children throughout the world at that time, were taught to do.

THE BALTIMORE CATECHISM

The Baltimore Catechism is a catechism of Christian doctrine which was prepared and enjoined by order of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore. From 1885, it was the standard catechism used in the teaching of the Catholic Faith throughout North America. It has since been used by Catholics throughout the world to catechise their children.

The Baltimore Catechism is composed of:

Baltimore Catechism No.1 (for First Communicants up until 5th Grade)

Baltimore Catechism No.2 (for those preparing for Confirmation)

Baltimore Catechism No.3 (post Confirmation)

Baltimore Catechism No.4 (a teaching manual for Baltimore Catechisms 1 & 2)

1. Please note that the section in brackets has been adapted from the original “it is” for the purpose of OLRFC.

OLRFC has selected 404 questions from the total of 421 questions found in Baltimore Catechism 1 and 2, referencing and drawing heavily from the explanations contained in Baltimore Catechism 4.

Where appropriate, the explanations contained in the Baltimore Catechism have been adapted or expanded upon by Fr. Anthony Pillari JCL, MCL, STL, who has drawn upon his experience of over 20 years of apostolates for children and families, including a variety of home-schooling apostolates. Additionally, when judged appropriate, the explanations contained in the *Catechism for Children, Catechism for English-Speaking Dioceses* by Canon Quinet and Canon Boyer, published by Angelus Press, has been used to provide additional, age appropriate explanations.

Thus, OLRFC seeks to provide and make available the timeless, traditional teachings of the Catholic Faith as well as the example given by the lives of the Saints, in a way easily accessible to children, so that parents may be supported in their role as primary educators of their children. “Since they have given life to their children, parents have a most grave obligation and possess the right to educate them. Therefore, it is for Christian parents particularly to take care of the Christian education of their children according to the doctrine handed on by the Church.” (Can. 226 §2)

However, with this in mind, the purpose of OLRFC is *not* to replace the catechetical formation provided by the pastor of a parish who, “by virtue of his function... is bound to take care of the catechetical formation of adults, youth, and children” (Can. 776), “...by offering catechetical instruction... [and who] is to have particular care for the Catholic education of children and youth.” (Can. 528 §1)

In a few cases, some of the questions and answers from Baltimore Catechism 2 have not been included in OLRFC or may have been taught in a different order (see Appendix).

CATECHISM CRUSADE ACTIVITY PACKS

All children following OLRFC are encouraged to take part in the *Catechism Crusade*. This involves **committing to memory** the answers to the questions taught in OLRFC and which have been taken from the Baltimore Catechism.

With each lesson, there is a supplementary *Catechism Crusade Activity Pack*. Each pack consists of a number of activities for different ages or abilities, and that can be done individually or as a family. Thus, children are not necessarily expected to complete all of the activities provided. This is left to the judgement of parents. For example, a parent may wish to encourage an older child to complete some activities from memory, whereas a younger child may be encouraged to use their catechism to help them. Our hope is that the *Catechism Crusade Activity Pack* will provide options for all members of the family.

Each pack includes a total of 7 activities.

All packs include:

1. A copy of the questions and answers taught in OLRFC
2. A “fill in the gaps” activity
3. A word search
4. The option to make memory pairs/flash cards

The other 3 activities alternate between:

- Prayer and devotions
- Sacred music
- Colouring
- Artwork
- A project
- An assignment

These packs are not exhaustive but are provided so that parents may be supported in helping their children commit the catechism to memory. Parents may wish to develop or expand upon different activities, in particular the activities involving prayer, devotion and sacred music. Likewise, where a particular topic or devotion has not been covered in the activity pack, parents are free and highly encouraged to introduce these to their children.

The numbering of the questions and answers in the Catechism Crusade Activity packs correspond to the numbering of the questions and answers as found in Baltimore Catechism 4. They also appear in the same order as is taught in OLRFC (See Appendix). Where adjustments have been made, this has normally been indicated at the beginning of each pack.

In the cases where a lesson is particularly academically demanding, parents are free to decide how many of the questions and answers their child will try to memorise. Additionally, parents may wish to pause videos or return to certain sections in order to refresh, revisit or reinforce certain teachings. We encourage you to print out in advance, before watching each video, the questions and answers found in Activity 1 of the *Catechism Crusade Activity Pack*, so that children are aware of the content that will be covered in the particular lesson. All resources are therefore provided so that parents be supported in their role of primary educators of their children and so that learning the Baltimore Catechism may be an encouraging and fruitful endeavour for the whole family.

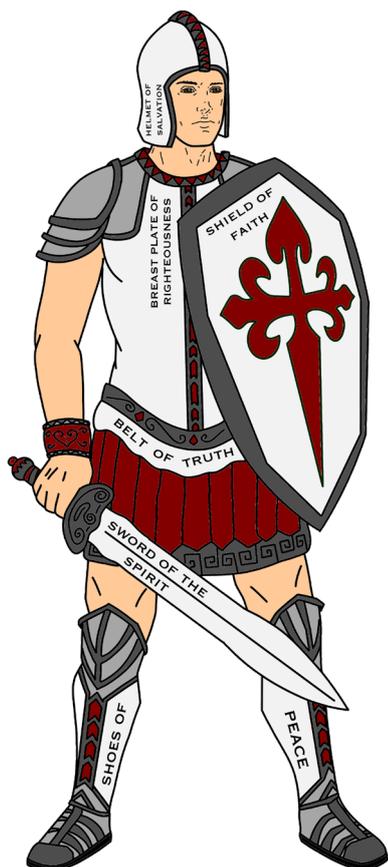
REWARD SYSTEM

In order to incentivize the *Catechism Crusade* and encourage the children to engage in the memorisation of the Baltimore Catechism, there will be a reward system for anyone who takes part in the course. This reward system will take the form of online quizzes in which parents can log their children's progress and record whether an answer to a question has been successfully memorised by their child.

This system can be accessed online by enrolling in the course at:
www.olfamilycatechism.com

Whenever a child has successfully memorised an answer to a question of the Baltimore Catechism and can repeat it verbatim to their parents once, they can mark this answer as memorised via the online quiz attached to the particular lesson. The more answers memorised, the more points they earn and can begin to progress through the different levels of "Crusader". As the children progress through the levels, gradually committing to memory more of the catechism, they receive an item of the armour of God. Based on the exhortation given by St. Paul in Ephesians 6:10-18, the children are therefore encouraged to become more equipped as soldiers for Christ, putting on the full armour of God as shown in the table below.

When a child reaches a certain level, they will be awarded an item of armour in order to acknowledge their achievement. The account page will show their quiz results, how many points earned and the rewards achieved.



CRUSADER LEVEL	POINTS EARNED	REWARD
1	25	The Belt of Truth
2	50	The Breastplate of Righteousness
3	100	The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
4	175	The Shield of Faith
5	250	The Helmet of Salvation
6	350	The Sword of the Spirit
7	500	CRUSADER FOR CHRIST

FATIMA PRAYERS AND REQUESTS

Prayers taught by Our Lady of Fatima

THE SACRIFICE PRAYER

O Jesus, [I choose to live this day] for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Amen.

The section in the brackets has been adapted from the original "it is" for the purpose of Our Lady of the Rosary Family Catechism.

THE DECADE PRAYER

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee! My God, my God,
I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Amen.

Prayers taught by the Angel of Fatima

THE THEOLOGICAL PRAYER

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee. I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee. Amen.

(Repeated three times.)

THE ANGEL'S PRAYER

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of thee, the conversion of poor sinners. Amen.

The Communion of Reparation on the First Five Saturdays

In December 1925, Our Lady appeared to Sr. Lucia and requested the Communion of Reparation on the First Five Saturdays. Our Lady requested that, on the first Saturdays of five consecutive months, all should do the following with the intention of making reparation to Her:

- Receive Holy Communion
- Confess one's sins
- Recite the Rosary (at least 5 decades)
- Keep Our Lady company for 15 minutes while meditating on the 15 mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

In 1930, Our Lord revealed to Sr. Lucia the reason for this request was the five types of offenses and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

- Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception
- Blasphemies against Her Perpetual Virginity
- Blasphemies against Her Divine Maternity, refusing at the same time to recognize Her as the Mother of men
- The blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children indifference or scorn, or even hatred of the Immaculate Mother
- The offenses of those who outrage Her directly in Her holy images.

Prayer for the Consecration of Russia by the Holy Father to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, you are the holy Mother of God and our tender Mother. Look upon the distress in which the Church and the whole of humanity are living because of the spread of materialism and the persecution of the Church. In Fatima you warned against these errors, as you spoke about the errors of Russia. You are the Mediatrix of all graces. Implore your Divine Son to grant this special grace for the Pope: *that he might consecrate Russia to your Immaculate Heart*, so that Russia will be converted, a period of peace will be granted to the world, and your Immaculate Heart will triumph, through an authentic renewal of the Church in the splendour of the purity of the Catholic Faith, of the sacredness of Divine worship and of the holiness of the Christian life. O Queen of the Holy Rosary and our sweet Mother, turn your merciful eyes to us and graciously hear this our trusting prayer. Amen.

+ Athanasius Schneider, Auxiliary Bishop of the archdiocese of Saint Mary in Astana



FR. ANTHONY PILLARI
JCL, MCL, STB

Fr. Anthony Pillari is a Roman Catholic priest of the Diocese of Plymouth, England, for which he is the Promoter of Justice. He holds degrees in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana; in sacred theology from L'Institut Catholique of Toulouse, France and from L'Institut Saint Thomas d'Aquin; and in canon law from St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada and from the University of Ottawa. He is currently studying for a doctorate in Canon Law at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

He has been engaged in apostolates for children and young families for the past 20 years, including a variety of home-schooling apostolates. Fr. Pillari's role in *Our Lady of the Rosary Family Catechism* includes writing, hosting, and overseeing the content of the course so that it conveys faithfully the truths of the Catholic Faith.

VOICE OF THE FAMILY is an international coalition of pro-life and pro-family organisations, formed to promote Catholic teaching on the family. The following truths are particularly at the heart of Voice of the Family's work:

- Marriage, the exclusive, life-long union of one man and one woman, is the foundation of a stable and flourishing society and is the greatest protector of children, born and unborn.
- The procreative and unitive ends of the conjugal act cannot licitly be separated; the rejection of this truth lies at the root of modern attacks on life and the family.
- Parents are the primary educators of their children and the protection of this right is essential for building a new "culture of life".



LYDIA KEOGH
Executive Producer

Lydia Keogh is from England and holds a first-class honours degree in philosophy and religious studies from The Open University, UK. Prior to overseeing the production and creation of *Our Lady of the Rosary Family Catechism*, she worked in the charity sector as well as with children, families, and youth. She has been responsible for production and cinematography, for creating all of the videos for the course, and has supported Fr. Pillari in the research, writing and editing of the course, including the creation of the content of the *Catechism Crusade Activity Packs*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fr. Anthony Pillari and Lydia Keogh also wish to extend their gratitude to:

Lifesitenews.com and Voice of the Family

The Benedictines of Mary Queen of the Apostles for their generous permission to use their music.

The Dominican Sisters of Idaho for their generous permission to use the *Catechism for Children, Catechism for English-Speaking Dioceses* available at Angelus Press.

The Shrine of Fatima for their generous permission to film at the Shrine as well as the sites of the apparitions.

Jason Taylor at Lifesitenews.com for his expert advice and support in videography as well as the creation of the website.

The Layfield family, Anne-Marie Carter, Debra Keogh and Shelley Davis for the hours of proof reading, support and ideas, which were invaluable in the creation of *Our Lady of the Rosary Family Catechism*.

Joseph Keogh for providing invaluable assistance as the camera operator while filming in Fatima.

Daniel Brooks at KRAEONS (@boxofkraeons) for providing the Armour of God graphic design for the Catechism Crusade.

Father Pillari extends his particular gratitude to the Blessed Virgin Mary for the gift of his priestly vocation, and to his parents, as they prepare to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, for the gift of the Catholic Faith and for the countless sacrifices they have made on his behalf.

Lydia Keogh extends her particular gratitude to Mum and Dad; for the gift of being raised in the Catholic Faith and their personal support throughout the production of *Our Lady of the Rosary Family Catechism*. And to Fr. Pillari for the blessing of his priestly ministry and his commitment to teaching the Catholic Faith in its fullness.

APPENDIX

The numbering of the questions and answers in OLRFC retain the same numbering that is found in the Baltimore Catechism. This has been done so that you may easily find and reference the questions and answers against the Baltimore Catechism. For this reason, they may appear in the wrong order, depending on the order in which they are taught in OLRFC or there may be gaps in the chronology, if a question and answer have not been used from the Baltimore Catechism. Where the former is the case, this has normally been indicated in the *Catechism Crusade Activity Pack*.

Although OLRFC agrees with all of the questions and answers found in the Baltimore Catechism, a total of 18 questions and answers from Baltimore Catechism 4 have not been used. They may have been covered implicitly in the lessons, or may have been omitted due to time constraints, or may have been judged not appropriate for younger children. However, the list below is provided so that you may reference them if you wish:

Lesson 8: Q84
Lesson 14: Q164, Q165
Lesson 18: Q207
Lesson 19: Q219, Q220, Q221
Lesson 20: Q230
Lesson 23: Q257, Q258, Q259
Lesson 26: Q288, Q289, Q209
Lesson 30: Q 319, Q323, Q325
Lesson 36: Q405

How has the Baltimore Catechism 4 been organised or adapted in OLRFC?

Lesson 8 of the Baltimore Catechism:

This Lesson is taught over two lessons (8A and 8B) for the purposes of OLRFC.

Lesson 15 of the Baltimore Catechism:

Q174 of the Baltimore Catechism differs in Baltimore Catechism 1 and Baltimore Catechism 2. For the purposes of OLRFC, we have included both questions. In the numbering of the questions, B1 and B2 have been used to indicate this. Additionally, Q185 has been transferred from Lesson 16 of the Baltimore Catechism to Lesson 15 of OLRFC.

Lesson 20 of the Baltimore Catechism:

The answer to Q224 has been adapted from the original, so that it corresponds more closely with the explanation and formula given in Lesson 17 of Baltimore Catechism 4.

The original reads:

224 Q What should we do on entering the confessional? A. On entering the confessional we should kneel, make the Sign of the Cross, and say to the priest: “Bless me, Father”; then add, “I confess to Almighty God, and to you, Father, that I have sinned.”

This has been adapted in OLRFC to:

224 Q What should we do on entering the confessional? A. On entering the confessional we should kneel, make the Sign of the Cross, and say to the priest: “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It is a month (or a week, or whatever time it may be) since my last confession, and these are my sins.”

Lesson 29 of the Baltimore Catechism

Q315, Q316 and Q317 have been transferred from Lesson 30 of the Baltimore Catechism to Lesson 29 of OLRFC.

Lesson 35 and Lesson 36 of the Baltimore Catechism:

These two lessons are both covered in Lesson 35 of OLRFC.



