



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This month's *Via Fidelis* activity is to "Buy a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* if you don't have one yet and look up a topic that you have always wondered about." As we are now halfway through our Year of Catechesis, you are hopefully aware of this important resource. I want to share more with you about how the *Catechism* has developed over time, where it comes from and what topics it covers.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a comprehensive collection of the teachings of Christ's established Church. It is divided into four parts: the Profession of Faith, the Celebration of the Christian Ministry, Life in Christ and the Lord's Prayer. The Catechism's current edition was promulgated by St. John Paul II in 1992, and it was informed by the writings of the Magisterium, that is, the teaching and authoritative body of the Catholic Church. This includes the works of the doctors of the Church, the findings of the 21 ecumenical councils and the decrees of the papacy over two millennia. We continue to pass on, understand and learn about the fullness of these truths through the Deposit of Faith: sacred Scripture and sacred Tradition. Please don't forget there are simple ways to share the Catholic faith, especially for children and young people.

We lean on the wisdom of the revealed truths of Christ through the great minds of the saints, especially the early Church Fathers who, inspired by the Holy Spirit, developed the human language surrounding the central beliefs of Christianity. Today, the successor of St. Peter, Pope Leo XIV, in union with bishops around the world, are called to ensure the "authenticity" of the message of Christ through the Church on earth.

It might sound complicated, but it narrows down to one simple truth: Jesus Christ's ministry will always endure, and he will continue to lead us in right paths through his timeless words and the successors of the apostles.

So, as you explore the depths of the *Catechism* — whether in your own time, or with in-person and online study groups — I encourage you to begin by saying a short prayer to the Holy Spirit. Pray that he guides you, and the Universal Church, to the fullness of truth: the Word made flesh dwells in our midst, and our loving Father will always provide for his children.

In Christ's love,

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston