

PART ONE—READING LESSON No. 8.

CATHOLIC TRADITION.

Some of the truths which God has revealed and which have always been taught by the Catholic Church, are not contained in the Bible. These truths have come down to us by what is called oral tradition; that is, they have been handed down by word of mouth. By Catholic Tradition, therefore, we understand all those truths which the Church received from Jesus Christ and the Apostles, but which are not found in the Bible. These truths we firmly believe, because they were revealed by God and are proposed to us by the Church.

Some of the truths that have been handed down to us by Tradition and are not recorded in the Sacred Scripture, are the following: that there are just seven Sacraments; that there is a Purgatory; that, in the New Law, Sunday should be kept holy instead of the Sabbath; that infants should be baptized, and that there are precisely seventy-two books in the Bible.

The truths of Catholic Tradition have been handed down in the Church by means of the writings of the "Fathers of the Church," as well as by the decrees of Councils, by approved Creeds and by the prayers and ceremonies of the Church. These ancient writings and institutions show plainly what has been the faith of the Church from the earliest times.

However, it is only the infallible teaching of the Church that secures us against error as to the truths contained in Tradition as well as in Holy Scripture. The voice of the Church is the voice of God.

- QUESTIONS.—1. What do we mean by oral Tradition?  
 2. Name some of the truths of Tradition not found in the Bible.  
 3. How were the truths of Tradition handed down in the Church?  
 4. What do the writings of the early Fathers show?  
 5. What secures the faithful from error in regard to the truths contained in Scripture and Tradition?

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BUTLER'S HOLY FAMILY SERIES OF CATHOLIC CATECHISMS.

No. 8.

FOR THE USE OF THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE ADVANCED CLASS.

The Catechism prepared and revised by order of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, completely re-arranged, simplified and supplemented.

FRANCIS J. BUTLER, Priest of the Archdiocese of Boston.

"Butler the little children to come to him, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God." Mark 9:14.  
 "This is intended for those who may know that the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom they have seen."—John 17:3.

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