

THE  
CONVERT'S CATECHISM  
OF  
CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

BY  
REV. PETER GEIERMANN, C. SS. R.

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EIGHTH EDITION

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VATICAN, January 25th, 1910.

DEAR REVEREND FATHER:

His Holiness, in bestowing His Apostolic Blessing upon you and your labors, desires me to convey to you the expression of His appreciation of your zealous efforts for the salvation of souls and for the spread of the knowledge of the True Faith.

Wishing you every blessing, I am Dear Rev. Father,

Yours faithfully in Christ,

R. CARD. MERRY DEL VAL.

REV. FR. P. GEIERMANN, C.S.S.R.

DE SOTO, MO.

*Rev. Fr. P. Geiermann*

. C. HER MARKS.

Q. *Are there any Marks by which the Church of Christ can be recognized?*

A. There are four Marks by which the Church of Christ may be recognized. It must be One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.

Q. *How must the Church of Christ be One?*

A. The Church of Christ must be One in Faith, One in worship, One in obedience, and One in the means of grace throughout the world.

Q. *How is the Church of Christ Holy?*

A. The Church of Christ is Holy, because: (1) Her Founder, Jesus Christ, is holy; (2) She teaches a holy doctrine; (3) She invites all to live a holy life; (4) She has aided countless souls to attain great holiness.

Q. *How is the Church of Christ Catholic or Universal?*

A. The Church of Christ is Catholic or Universal, because: (1) She teaches all the doctrine of Jesus Christ; (2) She teaches all nations; (3) She subsists in all ages; (4) She was established by Jesus Christ to bring salvation to all of good will.

Q. *Why is the Church of Christ Apostolic?*

A. The Church of Christ is Apostolic, because: (1) She was founded by Jesus Christ on His Apostles; (2) She is governed by their Lawful Successors; (3) She can never cease to teach their doctrine.

C. THE TRUE CHURCH OF TO-DAY.

Q. *What Church of the present day can prove her claim to be the divine Church founded by Jesus Christ?*

A. The only Church of the present day which can prove her claim to be the divine Church established by Jesus Christ is the Catholic Church.

Q. *Which is the Catholic Church?*

A. The Catholic Church is the Church governed by the Pope, the Bishop of Rome.

Q. *Why is the Catholic Church called Roman?*

A. The Catholic Church is called Roman because the Pope, her Head, resides in Rome.

Q. *Why is the Catholic Church the true Church of Jesus Christ?*

A. The Catholic Church is the true Church of Jesus Christ because: (1) She alone has Apostolic Succession; (2) She alone possesses the Attributes and Marks of the true Church; (3) She alone exercises that Authority, which is necessary for the Church of God.

Q. *How did the other churches, sects and denominations originate?*

A. All the other churches, sects and denominations are of Purely Human origin.

CHAPTER VI

THE POPE — THE PRIMACY OF PETER — THE INFALLIBILITY OF THE POPE

A. THE POPE.

Q. *Who is the Holy Father or Pope?*

A. The Holy Father or Pope is the Visible Head of the Church, the Successor of St. Peter and the Vicar of Christ on earth.

Q. *Why is a visible head necessary for the Church?*

A. A visible head is necessary for the Church to maintain her Unity of Faith, her Unity of Worship, and her Unity of Government.

Q. *Why must the visible head of the Church to-day be the Successor of St. Peter?*

A. The visible head of the Church to-day must be the successor of St. Peter, because Jesus Christ made St. Peter The Visible Head of His Church.

#### B. THE PRIMACY OF PETER.

Q. *When did Christ promise to make St. Peter the Head of His Church?*

A. Christ promised to make St. Peter the Head of His Church when He said: "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matt. xvi, 18-19.

Q. *When did Christ make St. Peter the Head of His Church?*

A. Christ made St. Peter the Head of His Church when He appeared to His Disciples after His Resurrection, and solemnly said to Simon Peter: "Feed My lambs—feed My sheep." John xxi, 15-17.

Q. *Did Christ give St. Peter authority over the other Apostles?*

A. Christ gave St. Peter authority over the other Apostles.

Q. *What Scriptural proofs are there for the Primacy of Peter?*

A. The principal Scriptural proofs for the Primacy of St. Peter are: (1) St. Matthew (x, 2) calls St. Peter *the first Apostle*; (2) St. Peter proposed the election of a successor to Judas (Acts 1); (3) St. Peter was the first to preach (Acts 2); (4) The first to perform miracles (Acts 3); (5) The first to rebuke civil authorities (Acts 4); (6) The first to receive Gentile converts (Acts 10); (7) In the Council of Jerusalem there was much disputing until Peter spoke, when "all the multitude held their peace" (Acts 15); (8) When the Chief Pastor was in prison, prayers were offered for his delivery (Acts 12).

#### C. THE INFALLIBILITY OF THE POPE.

Q. *Was St. Peter infallible in teaching Faith and Morals?*

A. St. Peter was infallible in teaching Faith and Morals.

Q. *Why is the Pope an infallible teacher in Faith and Morals?*

A. The Pope is an infallible Teacher in Faith and Morals because the Attributes of a divine Church are necessarily found in their fulness in her headship, which the Pope inherits from St. Peter.

Q. *When does the Pope teach with the infallible guidance of the Holy Ghost?*

A. The Pope teaches with the infallible guidance of the Holy Ghost only when he acts in his official capacity as Vicar of Christ, that is, when he publicly teaches a doctrine of Faith or Morals to be held by all the faithful.