

The Catechism in Rhyme



Handwriting Practice

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All text in this handwriting book is

Taken from a book titled,

*"Songs for Catholic Schools and
The Catechism in Rhyme"*

1862

It was originally written as a way to "convey religious instructions to the young. The singing or chanting of such rhymes causes them to be learned quicker, and impresses them more deeply on the memory."

It is with these sentiments in mind that I put this together as a handwriting book. In the hopes that it too would help impress upon the child's memory the Truths of our Glorious Faith.

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What is Grace?

*Grace is the light God gives the mind,
That we the truth may surely find
Grace is the strength he gives free will,
His holy precepts to fulfill.*

What is a Sacrament?

*An outward sign of inward grace
By Christ ordained and made
A mystic rite by which his grace
Is to our souls conveyed.*



The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy

*Visit, give ransom, raiment, drink, and bread,
Shelter the homeless, and inter the dead.*

The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy

*Teach, counsel, soothe, correct, forgive, and bear,
Think of the living and the dead in prayer.*

An Aspiration

*A spirit sent by Satan, Mother,
Tempts me to go astray
Send one of thy good angels, Mother,
To drive him far away.*



The Four Cardinal Virtues

By Prudence we advise with virtuous friends,
And take wise means to forward noble ends.

By Justice we are always fair and true,
And honestly give every one his due.

By Fortitude in purpose we are strong,
Brave for the right, and patient under wrong.

By Temperance our passions we repress,
And carefully abstain from all excess.



The Four Last Things to be Remembered

*Prepare for Death for you will die one day;
But when, or where, or how, no man can say.*

*Fear Judgment to a wise and mighty Lord
You must account for thought, and deed, and word.*

*Remember Hell to shun it = dark despair,
Fire, and the worm that never dies, are there.*

*Look up to Heaven! if you are firm and true
In serving God, its joys are all for you*



The Four Great Ends for Which Holy Mass is Offered

I.

To worship at Jehovah's throne, adoring Him, and Him alone.

II.

To sue for pardon, and implore the help of God to sin no more.

III.

To beg Him that his holy grace may be our guide in every place.

IV.

*To thank and bless the Lord for all
His countless favors, great and small.*



Act of Faith

Great God! whatever through Thy Church Thou teachest to be true,
I firmly do believe it all, and shall confess it too.
Thou never canst be deceived, Thou never canst deceive,
For Thou art truth itself, and Thou dost tell me to believe.

Act of Hope

My God! I firmly hope in Thee, for Thou art great and good,
And gavest us Thine only Son to die upon the wood.
I hope through Him for grace to live as Thy commandments teach,
And through Thy mercy when I die, the joys of heaven to reach.



The Ten Commandments of God

I.

*I am thy God and Sovereign Lord,
Naught else must be as God adored.*

II.

*All sacred things thy reverence claim,
Take not in vain God's holy name.*

III.

*Keep holy every Sabbath-day,
And do not work, but rest and pray.*

IV.

All honor to thy Parents pay, nor their just wishes disobey.



V.

Treat all as kindly as you can, kill not, nor hate your fellow-man.

VI.

From lewd temptations turn with haste, and never do an act unchaste.

VII.

Give what is due to every one, and take not what is not thine own.

VIII.

Speak always what is true and fair, lie not, nor ever false witness bear.

IX.

Preserve thy fancy free from stain, and lustful thoughts ne'er entertain.

X.

Be just in purpose and design, and covet not what is not thine.



The Six Precepts of the Church

I.

Let not a Feast or Sunday pass without once hearing Holy Mass.

II.

*When Holy Church shall so ordain,
Keep fast, or from flesh meat abstain.*

III.

Make every twelve month once at least a good Confession to your Priest.

IV.

Each year, at Easter time at least approach the Eucharistic feast.*

V.

*The Priest must by the people live,
And you to him your mite should give.*

VI.

The rules for Christian marriage made must be respected and obeyed.



The Seven Sacraments

I.

We are cleansed from sin original in Baptism's holy waters;
We are chosen heirs of heaven,
and made God's happy sons and daughters.

II.

We are rendered perfect Christians when
We are signed in Confirmation,
And God the Holy Ghost gives strength to conquer all temptation.

III.

Christ present in the Eucharist to worship we are bidden;
Beneath the forms of bread and wine the Lord is truly hidden.



IV.

All sins that after Baptism a man may have committed,
If he is sorry from his heart by *Penance* are remitted.

V.

The *Last Anointing* heals the flesh, new life and strength imparting,
Or else insures a happy death to souls from earth departing.

VI.

In *Holy Orders* Priests receive their heavenly commission,
With grace to worthily fulfill the duties of their mission.

VII.

In *Matrimony*, Christians are as man and wife united,
Receiving grace from God to keep
The faith which they have plighted.



The Seven Deadly Sins

Pride is inordinate esteem that one
Has for himself, or what by him is done. *

Avarice is the immoderate love of gain
Which we have got, or which we would obtain.

Lust means all impure pleasure, be it sought
By look, by word, by action, or by thought.

Anger is passion quick and violent,
That moves the will some grievance to resent.

Guttony is the abuse of drink and meat;
It does not eat to live, it lives to eat.

* (Vanity means the inordinate desire that other folks may praise us or admire.)

Envy is sorrow at another's gain,
Or it is pleasure at another's pain.

Sloth is a cold disrelish that withdraws
The sluggish heart from God and from his laws.



The Eight Beatitudes

Blessed the poor in spirit, they are heirs
To wealth untold, for heaven itself is theirs.

Blessed the meek, for without strife their hand
Shall be victorious, and possess the land.

Blessed are they that mourn, for God one day
Will comfort them, and wipe their tears away.



Blessed who hunger and who thirst, unskilled
In wiles, for justice, for they shall be filled.

Blessed the merciful, they shall obtain
The mercy which they grant their fellow-men.

Blessed the clean of heart, for they shall see
The Lord in all his cloudless purity.

Blessed are all peace-makers kind and mild
Children of God they shall be justly styled.

Blessed are they that suffer in the right,
For endless joy their trials shall requite.



The Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost

*Spirit of Holiness Come from above,
Grant us thy sevenfold gift of thy love.*

Wisdom points out to us Heaven's true worth;
None but vain happiness springs from this earth.

Intellect teaches us even from youth,
Rightly to penetrate God's holy Truth.

Counsel throws plentiful light on our path,
Scatters our enemies, baffles their wrath.

Fortitude girdeth our arms for the fight,
Making us warriors true to the right.



*Knowledge weighs good and ill mingled by Doubt,
Goodness is treasured up, evil cast out.*

*Godliness pleasantly leads us to do
What we have learned to be noble and true.*

*Fear of the Lord in us trains us to die
Rather than break the law of the Most High.*





The Twelve Fruits of the Holy Ghost

*Holy Spirit, in my bosom plant and foster blessed fruit
In pure hearts it springeth ever from thy grace as from its root.*

***Charity** sincere and earnest in the service of the Lord
Makes us fear to disobey him, makes us love to keep his word,*

***Joy** inclines us still with pleasure to obey our Father's will,
Of the calm delights of virtue, so we come to drink our fill.*

***Peace** amid the toil and trouble brought upon our race by sin,
Spite of angry storms around us, keeps a tranquil mind within.*

***Patience** in our varied trials saves us from a peevish mood,
Makes us even view affliction as a mercy and a good.*



It is Berignity that makes us bear no malice in the mind,
Makes us slow in judging others, in forgiving prompt and kind.

Goodness keeps us ever ready to perform a kindly deed,
To feel pity for another, and to help him in his need.

Longanimity inspires us with endurance for the fight,
Trains us never to grow weary in the cause of truth and right.

Mildness forms an even temper, keeps rebellious passion low.
And by sweet and gentle manners wins the love of friend and foe.





Faith when we have made a promise keeps us to that promise true,
Makes us honest in fulfilling what we pledge our word to do.

Modesty restrains the Christian from all proud and boastful ways;
In his speech it makes him careful not to utter selfish praise.

Continence by steady combat holds in check the carnal mind,
Makes it keep the path of duty by the law of God defined.

Chastity creates within us perfect love for purity,
Till the soul, grown like the angels, even from truant thought is free.





The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Mother! our sins with seven swords have pierced thy sacred breast,
But in thy presence and thy Lord's all sin we now detest.*

I.

*By Simeon old the future's told of God's incarnate Word,
And Mary's care is to prepare her heart for sorrow's sword.*

II.

*Rude soldiers stain fair Bethlehem's plain with children's rosy gore,
Warned from on high his parents fly with Christ to Egypt's shore.*

III.

*Through streets and ways Our Lady strays,
Till three long days are done; all sorrow past, she then at last
Embraces her dear Son.*



IV.

*Our Lady hears how Jesus bears His cross oh, bitter load!
With heart resigned she hastes to find and meet him on the road.*

V.

*Mount Calvary's brow is gained, and now the Lord they crucify;
While to fulfill the Almighty's will His mother stands near by.*

VI.

*With reverent care his friends repair to take the Body down;
In death He sleeps, His mother weeps, and shares His thorny Crown.*

VII.

*They reach the cave, and in its grave the Saviour's body lies;
His mother's grief finds no relief till from the dead He rise.*





The Fourteen Stations of the Cross

*Thou goest forth, O Blessed Lord, to suffer death for me,
And I too wish for thee to live I wish to die for thee.*

I.

*The Son of God came down from heaven, upon the earth to dwell,
And man condemns to cruel death the heart that loved him well.*

II.

*He taketh up his heavy Cross, and bears the crushing load;
And as he meekly journeys on, His blood bedews the road.*

III.

*Rude soldiers press and goad him on, and straighten him around,
And now, beneath his weighty Cross, He falls upon the ground.*





IV.

*His Mother hastens forth to join the Son she loved so well;
Their glances meet, their hearts are filled with grief no tongue can tell.*

V.

*They fear the Saviour may expire beneath his heavy load,
And Simon is compelled to bear His Cross along the road.*

VI.

*A Jewish woman wipes his face her pity to reward,
Upon her veil remains impressed an image of the Lord.*

VII.

*The Saviour falls a second time, oppressed with bitter pain;
The soldiers force him to arise, and journey on again.*





VIII.

*The Daughters of Jerusalem bewail his cruel fate;
He bids them for their children weep, before it is too late.*

IX.

*He's urged to move with quicker step; His blood in torrents flows;
Again, again he falls to earth, beneath their cruel blows.*

X.

*The soldiers strip with violence the garments from his flesh,
And every wound he had received is made to bleed afresh.*

XI.

*They lay him down upon the Cross; they nail his hands and feet; The
Cross is raised, and he is left His coming death to meet.*





XII.

*Three hours of agony had passed since he was crucified;
His work was done, his hour was come. He bowed his head and died.*

XIII.

*Now his disciples come and take the body from the Cross;
His Mother folds it in her arms, and mourns her bitter loss.*

XIV.

*His followers bear him to the tomb, prepared with pious care,
Then silently depart, and leave the sacred body there.*



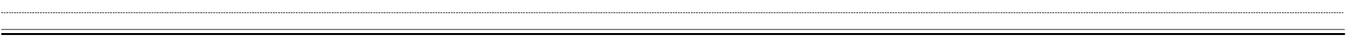
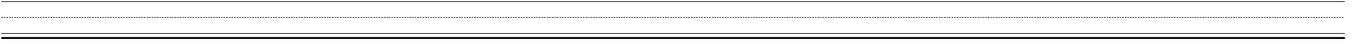
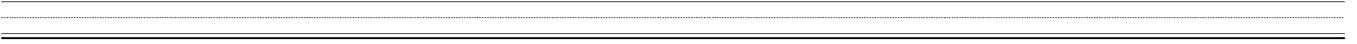
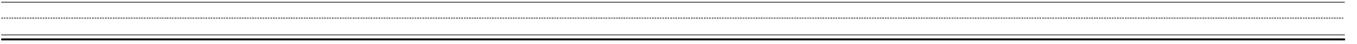


Morning Prayer

The earth, O Lord, rejoices, and sings with glad acclaim,
A hymn of many voices, in honor of thy name.
We join the happy chorus, that hails the morning light
And bless the Lord that o'er us, kept loving watch all night.

Our every thought and action, we offer up to thee
From folly and distraction, we beg thee keep us free.
Let no profane example, no censure, no applause,
Lead us this day to trample, O Lord, upon thy laws.

It pleased thee, Lord, to make us, that we might serve thee here
Let not thy grace forsake us, but keep us in thy fear.
Preserve our life, O Father, that we may serve thee still
But let us lose it rather than disobey thy will.





Night Prayer

Great God, I call upon thy name, and bow before thy throne,
Amid the silent shades of night, unwatched, unseen, alone.
How oft amidst the glare of day, when worldly friends were nigh,
I have forgotten that I moved beneath thy watchful eye

Mine eyes have dwelt on vanities, thy children should not see;
My feet forsook the pleasant paths, that lead to Heaven, to Thee.
I kneel and humbly own my sin, with many a tear and prayer;
My soul hath dwelt in earthly joy, and found no pleasure there.

I know, I feel, my own dear Lord! I cannot happy be,
Unless my soul shall centre all its hopes, its love in thee.
Be faithful, then, my wayward heart, let worldly joys grow dim;
Thou'rt made for God, and never wilt, find rest unless in Him.





Prayer Against Temptation

Oh, Mary ! Mother Mary! we place our trust in thee
Our faith shall never vary, though weak the flesh may be.
Too oft with steps unwary, from duty we have bent:
Oh, Mary ! Mother Mary ! thou teach us to repent.

The grisly form of terror now rises on our way;
Now more seductive error "would lead our feet astray.
Satan is strong and wary, but thou wilt crush his might:
Oh, Mary ! Mother Mary! strengthen us in the fight.

From dangerous occasions that blind, imprudent eyes
From treacherous persuasions that point not to the skies
From mirth too light and airy, from thought too sad and deep:
Oh, Mary ! Mother Mary thy little children keep.

Let us remember ever the presence of the Lord;
Let us with fond endeavor obey his holy "Word.
As Monster, or as Fairy, Satan may take the field
But Mary ! Mother Mary ! thy name will be our shield.



A series of horizontal lines for writing, organized into 10 sets. Each set consists of a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.





Purgatory

Spirits that languish, in cleansing fire,
Great is your anguish, as your desire!
We who could lend you aid and relief,
Fail to befriend you, leave you to grief.

When gentle showers cool the parched beds,
Languishing flowers lift up their heads.
Christ's precious merits, like gentle rain,
Soothe the good spirits, in their great pain.

To the dim region, where dear ones mourn,
Love and religion bid us oft turn.
Prayer hath the power to give them peace,
Speeding the hour of their release.





A Child's Hymn to the Guardian Angel

*How kind it is of you to come,
Bright angel, from your starry home,
And watch by night and watch by day,
Beside a sinful child of clay.
How good and pure I ought to be
Who always live so near to thee,
Beneath thine eyes the whole day round
Where'er I tread is holy ground.*

*And if I had my wish I would,
Dear angel mine ! be always good,
This minute I would rather die,
Than say bad words or tell a lie.
I always feel disposed this way,
Whenever I kneel me down to pray,
But I forget when church is o'er,
And am as naughty as before.*



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.



Oh blessed guardian, kind and mild,
Have pity on a poor weak child,
And pray that God will make me strong,
To do the right and shun the wrong.
Whenever I commit a sin,
I feel my very heart within
Grow chill and heavy like a clod,
Because I have offended God.

But I would love to fear the Lord,
And shun each sinful deed and word,
Not do the sin, then feel the force
Of bitter shame and keen remorse.
I wish to think of God and thee
Whenever pretty things I see,
Till every flower that gems the sod,
Shall make me think of thee and God.

Inspired by faith, I wish to hear,
Thy gentle footfall strike my ear;
Before thy radiant face to bow,
And feel thy kiss upon my brow.
Thy broad white wings shall be my shield,
While battling on life's dusty field;
Thine arms enfold me when I die,
And waft me homeward to the sky

