

United States Catechism for Adults Overview

History:

The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA) was written and published by the U.S. Bishops as a response to a request of Pope John Paul II for a local catechism in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. (copyright 1997). The request asked for this publication to “take into account the local situation and culture, while at the same time preserving the unity of faith and fidelity to Catholic Teaching found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church”. (USCCA, 2006)

Format:

The format of the USCCA follows the same 4 pillars found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

- The Creed: *The Faith Professed*
- The Sacraments: *The Faith Celebrated*
- Christian Morality *The Faith Lived*
- Prayer *The Faith Prayed*

These 4 pillars are subdivided into 36 chapters (see Table of Contents for more details)

Specific Outline of Each Chapter:

1. Story or lesson of faith. Usually these involve the story of a modern day Catholic (e.g. Dorothy Day, Cesar Chavez, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, Sr. Thea Bowman to name a few)
2. Teaching: Its Foundation and Application
3. Sidebars of interest
4. Relationship of Catholic Teaching to the Culture
5. Doctrinal Statements
6. Meditation and Prayer

Some resources for help in using the USCCA:

Models for using the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults prepared by NACARE (National Advisory committee on Adult Religious Education) available for download through the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Office of Adult Faith Formation Website

Catechist’s Companion to the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, Our Sunday Visitor, can be purchased through their website at www.osv.com. This is a leaflet handout with quick and easy to use ideas for studying the USCCA.

Study Guide for the U.S. Adult Catholic Catechism, Jem Sullivan author and also published by Our Sunday Visitor. \$9.95. Chapter by chapter lesson plans.