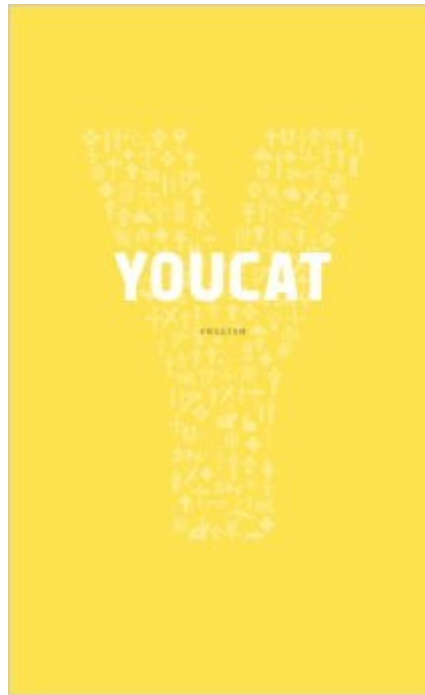


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# Youcat



## Synopsis

YOUCAT is short for Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, which will be launched on World Youth Day. Developed with the help of young Catholics and written for high-school age people and young adults, YOUCAT is an accessible, contemporary expression of the Catholic Faith. The appealing graphic format includes Questions-and-Answers, highly-readable commentary, summary definitions of key terms, Bible citations and inspiring and thought-provoking quotes from Saints and others in the margins. What's more, YOUCAT is keyed to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, so people can go deeper. It explains: What Catholics believe and why (doctrine) How Catholics celebrate the mysteries of the faith (sacraments) How Catholics are to live (moral life) How they should pray (prayer and spirituality) The questions are direct and honest, even at times tough; the answers straightforward, relevant, and compelling. YOUCAT will likely become the "go-to" place for young people to learn the truth about the Catholic faith. Pope Benedict XVI on the YOUCAT project: "Dear young friends! Today I recommend for your reading an unusual book.... Should we not attempt to translate the Catechism of the Catholic Church into the language of young people? Should we not bring its great riches into the world of today's youth? Of course, there are many differences even among the youth of today's world. And so now, under the capable direction of the Archbishop of Vienna, Christoph Cardinal Schoenborn, YOUCAT has been produced for young people. I hope that many young people will let themselves be fascinated by this book. Many people say to me: The youth of today are not interested in this. I disagree, and I am certain that I am right. The youth of today are not as superficial as some think. They want to know what life is all about.... This book is exciting because it speaks of our own destiny and so deeply engages every one of us. So I invite you: Study this Catechism! That is my heartfelt desire. This catechism was not written to please you. It will not make life easy for you, because it demands of you a new life. It places before you the Gospel message as the "pearl of great value" (Mt 13:45) for which you must give everything. So I beg you: Study this Catechism with passion and perseverance. Make a sacrifice of your time for it! Study it in the quiet of your room; read it with a friend; form study groups and networks; share with each other on the Internet. By all means continue to talk with each other about your faith...."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I received my copy and have gone through many select sections to see how different issues are handled. This should be MANDATORY reading for all Catholic High School and College students. Fantastic, easy to read, q and a format and written in a style and language that the youth today will likely identify with. This makes the faith even more accesible and is faithful to the Catholic Church teaching and faith. I believe the Pope is giving one to each youth that attends World Youth Day. This is a great \$17 investment for your home library and your soul. And buy an extra copy and donate it to your local library! I have no financial stake in this book at all, I just want more of my brothers and sisters in heaven. God's Blessings to you.

The one gripe I have with most youth and teen Catechisms is that they tend to gloss over the teachings of the faith by using "loose" language. "YOUCAT" does away with the ambiguous language and TELLS IT HOW IT IS. Imagine that! It also does a fantastic job of treating it's audience, teenagers, like they are smart human beings capable of understanding the meaning behind the Church's teachings. My generation was not well catechized, yet we're still using so much of the material and methods from MY GENERATION. It makes no sense to be using obviously broken strategies to train the new leaders of the Church. It is my fervent desire that every Catholic church uses "YOUCAT" as the primary tool for catechizing today's youth. They thirst for the Truth and this book gives it to them!

This morning I heard a great interview on EWTN with Ignatius Press, "speaking out" for the new YOUCAT. YOUCAT is short for Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church. Everyone will want to know why YOUCAT is yellow and white. Some may have guessed, "Because it is the color of the Vatican flag!" You would have been correct! For two years, groups of 50 youth banded together to

work on this new Catechism of the Catholic Church for youth, under the direction of Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna, Austria, who was the editor of Catechism of the Catholic Church. The EWTN interview was exciting for me and, with 15 grandchildren, I hurried to order YOUCAT! I was happy to see the comments by Pope Benedict XVI on the new YOUCAT. He said much more than the following but here are a few things that are interesting: (my personal comments in the parentheses)"Today I recommend for your reading an unusual book . . ." (this Pope cares for the youth!)"Should we not attempt to translate the Catechism of the Catholic Church into the language of young people? Should we not bring its great riches into the world of today's youth?" (YES!!!!)"Many people say to me: The youth of today are not interested in this. I disagree, and I am certain that I am right. THE YOUTH OF TODAY ARE NOT AS SUPERFICIAL AS SOME THINK. They want to know what life is all about . . ." (this was my personal favorite! POPE BENEDICT XVI has confidence in the youth of today!)"This book is exciting because it speaks of our own destiny and so deeply engages every one of us. I invite you: Study this Catechism! That is my heartfelt desire.""This catechism was not written to please you. It will not make life easy for you, because it demands of you a new life." (this was my other personal favorite!)"It places before you the Gospel message as the "pearl of great value" (Mt 13:45) for which you must give everything.""So I beg you: Study this Catechism with passion and perseverance. Make a sacrifice of your time for it! Study it in the quiet of your room; read it with a friend; form study groups and networks; share with each other on the Internet. By all means continue to talk with each other about your faith...." (and this was another favorite! "study with passion and perseverance")"Of course, there are many differences even among the youth of today's world. And so now, under the capable direction of the Archbishop of Vienna, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, YOUCAT has been produced for young people. I hope that many young people will let themselves be fascinated by this book."(Added after having time with YOUCAT! It is just terrific. You have to see the inside, read the questions and see the designs on the pages. It is going to be hit. I have been buying it for gifts. Great index! )

YouCat is a great catechetical tool; no doubt about it, and I'm excited to be using it for my Confirmation Students this year. As I read through the text, especially the commentary, I do notice some "weakness" of expression. For example, when referring to the possibility of salvation for those who, through no fault of their own, have never heard the Truth of the Gospel, yet live a good life sincerely seeking God according to their understanding, the YouCat says that these "also find salvation," as though it is certain. Yet, the cross references in the CCC (and to/from there in the

Compendium, and in the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults) ALL say "these also 'may' find salvation." There are other such "gloss overs" which 'could' present a deficient understanding if the cross references in the CCC (Catechism of the Catholic Church) are not employed WITH the YouCat. Other than this one flaw, I do recommend YouCat as a great tool for Youth in learning more about the Catholic Faith.

I have the (CCC) Catechism of the Catholic Church and love it. But this little book goes above and beyond that. It truly answers to very real and practical questions about our Faith. My favorite section is the "Ten Commandments". I have been a practicing and devoted Catholic for at least 12 years but before reading this book I did not fully realize how the 10 Commandments have a real impact on every single aspect of my life -- from how I do my taxes to what priority I give to my prayer life. As the Pope says at the beginning of that section, being Christian goes beyond observing a set of moral codes: it requires a "living relationship to Jesus". The law then becomes written in our hearts and rather than being restrictive is truly liberating. I also really enjoy the quotes of Saints on the side... priceless. Great job, Holy Spirit!!

Fantastic book. A must have for anyone that works with youth or wants to learn more about the Catholic faith. It is broken down in sections and there is a very helpful index to search teachings by keywords. The sides of the pages also include insightful quotes and passages that are relevant to the section.

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Youcat YOUCAT Confirmation Leader's Handbook

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