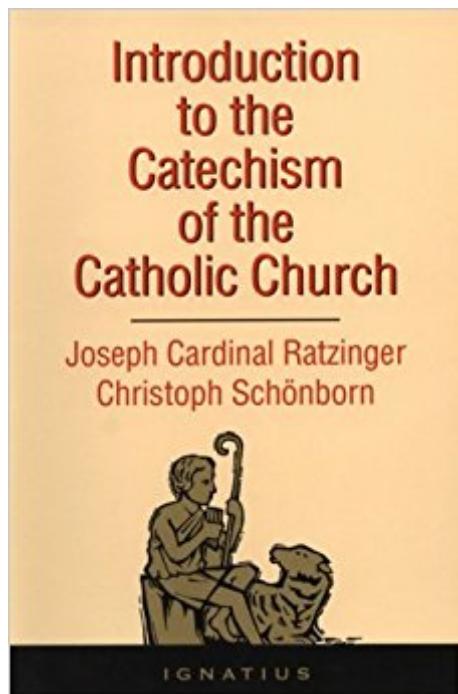


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# Introduction To The Catechism Of The Catholic Church



## **Synopsis**

This is a valuable introduction to the Catechism by the general editor of the Catechism (Schonborn) and the head of the Bishops Commission for the implementation of the Catechism (Ratzinger). Providing helpful insights on how to read and study the Catechism, this book includes a prehistory of the Catechism, an overview of its structure and contents, the major themes and methods in it, a special introduction to the four parts of the Catechism, and specific advice on how to use the Catechism. Ratzinger and Schonborn illuminate the Catechism's teaching on faith, morals, prayer and sacraments, and how a Catholic lives those teachings in today's world.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

On April 19, 2005, CARDINAL JOSEPH RATZINGER was elected POPE BENEDICT XVI and became the 264th successor to Peter as the "Vicar of Jesus Christ." He may well be the most accomplished theologian to be elected Pope in modern times. Beginning in 1981 he spent over 20 years as the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, a role often depicted as the "defender of the faith." Cardinal Ratzinger was also President of the Pontifical Biblical Commission and of the Preparatory Commission that codified the new "Catechism of the Catholic Church," published in 1994.

Beware though, the book is written by highly intellectual people, so be ready to read it as something of a text book. It supplies interesting history behind the writing of the catechism and explains why the arrangement is so unlike most books. If you desire to follow the writers logic and approach to the

topic, it is almost essential. If you wish to get more use out of the catechism than merely "looking things up," this will help you learn how the doctrines connect and, if you follow the path, you will find yourself understanding each doctrine more completely.

required for bible study

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a beautiful work which seeks to break open the Catholic faith both for believers and those with questions about Catholicism. This book which is a collection of short essays by then-Cardinal Ratzinger and then bishop SchÃ¶nborn now Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal SchÃ¶nborn, serves as a backdrop to the Catechism, it explains the development of the Catechism, the rationale for its construction, why certain things were included and others weren't. Then it goes on in a very brief but insightful manner to give a thumbnail sketch of the Catechism. It's a short read, and very useful in doing what the title claims.

This short (under 100 pages) treatise is a wonderful addition to one of the newest gems of the Church; the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Written by two true intellectual powerhouses of modern times, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI) and Bishop (now Cardinal) Christof SchÃ¶nborn, it is full to brimming with insights into the motivations behind putting together a new universal catechism, what options they considered before starting such a monumental task, and how one might prepare himself before embarking on reading or teaching the Catechism. Don't be put off by its relatively small size...while it is not necessarily a hard read by any means, its wisdom is concentrated and will definitely deserve several read-throughs to fully appreciate. This belongs on the bookshelf right next to the Catechism itself, along with Ignatius Press' "Companion to the Catechism" right next to them both! A must-have for any serious student of Catholic doctrine.

Helpful general study by someone who was there.

Very comprehensive and scholastic.

Excellent book

In a very succinct manner the authors provide an excellent introduction and background to the CCC.

They place the Catechism in its correct context, organization, and level of authority. Very well worth reading.

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