

Learn our sacred **CATHOLIC WORDS** and know the faith

FAMILY CATECHETICS

HANDING ON the Catholic Faith at home is the oldest form of catechetics for children.

Children echo the faith of parents: note the “ech” in **catechist**, **catechumen**, **catechism**, **catechize**, **catechetics**, **catechesis**.

“Faith comes by hearing” (Romans 10:17). Faith’s ECHO bounces back from child to catechist. It flows into life for those who have heard and believed.

Today’s fathers and mothers, with the older siblings, are still the basic catechists to the younger disciples in the family.

FAMILY PRAYERS

PRAYING TOGETHER is the first and simplest instruction, the most important and most basic.

Giving good example flows from praying together. “Acts speak louder than words” — but not without them.

Next to praying comes informal teaching. Formal teaching follows, usually with religious texts and catechisms.

“We must acknowledge the supreme obligation of each Pastor [parish priest], and of every parent, to have the Catechism lessons taught to their respective children in the family, in the Church and in the School.” Archbishop’s letter of 1939 in the *Old Green Catechism*: note the order.

WORDS

INSTRUCTION can be given informally at meals or in the car with word games, such as Quizzes; or “I spy [or spied] with my little eye something starting with C [or colour or description] — what is it?” or “One each — name Catholic words starting with S?”

Formal instruction, too, depends on learning the right words: “By thy words thou wilt be justified,” Matthew 12:37

“If you use our words you will think our thoughts; if you think our thoughts you will do our deeds.”

That is why young disciples need to hear and memorize the vital Catholic words — not all at once, of course, but building up the vital Catholic vocabulary year by year. Medieval Catholics memorized lists of words, often grouped in sevens.

And the words must be understood and known in their context of Scripture and Tradition. A Bible History with its pictures puts flesh and organs on the bare bones of the words.

The *Catholic Family Catechism Disciples’ Edition* makes extensive use of Schumacher’s wonderful line drawings in Schuster’s *Bible History*. Explain things from the pictures.

BIBLE WORDS

THE SCRIPTURES were written by God’s Church, which includes our forefathers in the Old Testament.

Our single-volume omnibus called “The Bible” is the Catholic Church’s selection of 72 separate books to make up **The Books**, the *Biblia* (Latin plural).

Some vital Biblical Catholic words are God, sin, Saviour, Jesus, Christ, Christian, mediator, reconciliation, forgive, salvation, redemption, Baptism, Judgement, Heaven, Hell, sacrifice.

OTHER CATHOLIC WORDS

THERE are many other Catholic words that the Church approves for making her sacred teaching clearer.

They are implicit in Scripture and developed from it. Theologians and preachers began them. They became Tradition and received formal approval from Popes or General Councils: e.g. Trinity, Incarnation, Catholic, Mass, Eucharist, transubstantiation, Confirmation, Matrimony, purgatory, indulgences, grace, Devil (Satan), Confession, Contrition, Original Sin, Ordination, Annunciation, Assumption, Mother-of-God, Infallibility.

See *Catechism of Catholic Church* 2nd edition, July, 2000, for a Glossary of 397 words with their meanings, p. 864.

Catholic Family Catechism Disciples’ Edition

Use our words — know our faith

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OTHER WORDS

THERE are many everyday words that the Catholic Church uses with special meanings:

Creation, life, light, love, host, sacrifice, victim, body, flesh, blood, word, passion, ministry, doctrine, father, son, spirit, faith, hope, charity, grace, commandment, celebration, sorrow, person, nature, service, mystery, repentance, revelation.

A PAPAL MEMORIZATION CHECK LIST

1. The words of Jesus e.g. *Our Father...*
2. important Bible passages e.g. *God so loved the world...*
3. the Creeds e.g. *I believe in God, the Father Almighty...*
4. the Ten Commandments e.g. *I am the LORD Thy God...*
5. liturgical texts e.g. *I confess to Almighty God...*
6. essential prayers e.g. *Hail, Mary...*
7. key doctrinal ideas etc e.g. *50 Questions & Answers.*

Catechesis in our Time §55 with sample items added in italics

MARY Most Holy, living catechism, pray for us;

Mother and Model of catechists, pray for us. *ibid.* §73

“The blossoms of faith and piety do not grow in the desert places of a memory-less catechesis.” *ibid.*

You can read and send **MORSE CODE** just by learning 26 words

WHAT God hath wrought! (Numbers 23:23). This was the very first message sent by Samuel Morse in his coded alphabet of short and long beeps, **dit** and **dah**, sounded on a buzzer to his assistant in the next room. Written down, they become dot and dash.

He patented it in 1840. So began TELEGRAPHY, a technology for "writing far away". It revolutionized communications. When the *Titanic* sank in 1911, the distress signal S-O-S (Save Our Souls) ... --- ... was sent by wireless in Morse Code. SOS is always **SeriOuS: NEVER USE THE SOS AS A JOKE FOR FUN.**

Digital coding is the latest in communications. Binary numbers 0 and 1 are sent at high speed by fibre glass optics, wire or wireless, to transmit or to record sound and pictures.

But it all started with Samuel Morse's code. At first, it was sent along copper wires, later by wireless (radio), and also by flashing torches (Aldis Lamps) and waving a single flag (whereas semaphore used one in each hand).

True, it is an out-of-date technology nowadays, and no longer used by ships, aeroplanes or the armed services. Nevertheless...

MORSE TODAY

YET SOLAR FLARES, lightning and ray guns could zap all our solid-state micro-circuitry. In the case of a widespread failure, Morse Code might be needed once more...

Besides, it is a challenging hobby.

MORSE CODE KITS

BUZZER KITS with morse keys are available from the electronic shops. They use a single transistor and the inductance of the loudspeaker to make an oscillator for beeps on an audible frequency.

Or one can be homemade from bits and pieces: insulated copper wire wound round soft nails, a broken hacksaw blade, a lever-arm switch (the "key") with a spring to hold it at "off" as the default, and with a short movement to "on". A cotton reel cut-in-half makes a knob. It is held with the thumb underneath and a couple of fingers on top.

The movement is not from the wrist but the entire forearm.

PHONETIC ALPHABET

THE phonetic alphabet for phone or radio TELEPHONY ("voice far off") has 26 official words for spelling out the letters with similar sounds like B,D & V, and P&T.

By contrast, our *unofficial* Morse words opposite are simply suggestions to help master the dits & dahs of Morse TELEGRAPHY ("writing far away"). In Morse, the silences & dits & dahs are a sort of "digital" with 0,1,2 instead of 0,1.

The phonetic alphabet suits everyone who uses English as a first or second language:-

Alpha Bravo Charlie Delta Echo Fóxtrot Golf Hotéll India Juliet Keelo Leema Mike November Oscar Páh-pah Quebec (say Kée-beck) Romeo Sierra Tango Uniform Victor Whisky X-ray Yankee Zulu..

LEARN MORSE as sounds, not as dots & dashes — **CHANT ALOUD** "d'-d'-dah-dit fas-cin-át-ing" for F, as below. Master one letter at a time: each morse rhythm *rhymes* with the accent(s) of its memory word.

Accented syllables (bold type and marked ') are **dah**; unaccented are **dit**. Remember: Don't say A = dot-dash but that d'-dah = A. Note that **dit** is written **d'** before a **dah** or another **dit**.

- **dah** is three times the length of a **dit**
- **within a letter**, the interval between dits & dahs is a **dit**
- **between letters**, the interval is the length of a **dah**
- spacing between words is not usually shown at all.
- learn Morse by **listening to it, not by sending it.**

Tapping fast on a Morse key *seems* easy but, if you record yourself, you'll find you can't "read" it! Listen to it to learn it.

Get downloadable **FREEWARE** to *listen to morse* from your keyboard or to translate your document files into Morse Code.

Chant the morse	Chant the words	Dot-Dash	abc
d'-dah	a-há	• -	A
dah-d'-d'-dit	beáu-ti-fully-y	- • • •	B
dah-d'-dah-dit	cát-er-píll-ar	- • - •	C
dah-d'-dit	dám-ag-ing	- • •	D
dit	eh	•	E
d'-d'-dah-dit	fas-cin-át-ing	• • - •	F
dah-dah-dit	gód-moth-er	- - •	G
d'-d'-d'-dit	heh-heh-heh-heh	• • • •	H
d'-dit	id-jít	• •	I
d'-dah-dah-dah	ju-ly+jáy-wálk	• - - -	J
dah-d'-dah	kíl-o-grám	- • -	K
d'-dah-d'-dit	li-cén-ti-ous-ness	• - • •	L
dah-dah	mém-óir	- -	M
dah-dit	náv-y	- •	N
dah-dah-dah	ósc-íll-áte	- - -	O
d'-dah-dah-dit	par-áde+bú-gle	• - - •	P
dah-dah-d'-dah	quéen+Bó-di-ceá	- - • -	Q
d'-dah-dit	rel-íg-ion	• - •	R
d'-d'-dit	sil-i-con (or syzygy)	• • •	S
dah	tár	-	T
d'-d'-dah	un-fore-séen	• • -	U
d'-d'-d'-dah	v'-v'-v'-veé (a stutter)	• • • -	V
d'-dah-dah	with-óut+me	• - -	W
dah-d'-d'-dah	Xérx-es+is+king	- • • -	X
dah-d'-dah-dah	yánk-ee+ráil-róad	- • - -	Y
dah-dah-d'-dit	zoo+án-i-mal	- - • •	Z