

The Fifteen Goals with Rationales

Fifteen Goals have been ordered in a progression of systematic study of theology based on the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. There are rationales listed for each goal which constitute the validity for that goal. The rationales and concepts are excerpted from two resources: *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* and *Dominus Jesus (DJ)*. It is essential that the rationales and the key concepts listed under each goal are understood by the catechist and taught in order for the successful transmission of the faith.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

#1: Recognize God as Trinity.

Rationales:

- ▶ **CCC 234:** *The Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the “hierarchy of the truths of faith.*
- ▶ **CCC 240:** *Jesus revealed that God is Father. He is eternally Father in relation to His only Son. The Holy Spirit is sent to the Apostles and to the Church both by the Father in the nature of the Son, and by the Son in person.*
- ▶ **CCC 244:** *The sending of the person of the Spirit after Jesus’ glorification reveals in its fullness the mystery of the Holy Trinity.*
- ▶ **DJ 5:** *In fact, it must be firmly believed that, in the mystery of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God who is the way the truth and the life, the full revelation of divine truth is given.*

#2: Present an understanding of the human need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ based on revelation and faith.

Rationales:

- ▶ **CCC 27: *The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to Himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.***

- ▶ **DJ 14: *It must be firmly believed as a truth of Catholic faith that the universal salvific will of the One and Triune God is offered and accomplished once for all in the mystery of the incarnation, death, and resurrection of the Son of God.***

Essential concepts for understanding and teaching this goal.

- CCC 396 Man is dependent on his Creator and subject to the laws of creation and to the moral norms that govern the use of freedom.
- CCC 397 Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart, and abusing his freedom, disobeyed God's command.
- CCC 398 Man chose himself over God against the requirements of his creaturely status and against his own good.
- CCC 405 **Original sin** is a deprivation of original holiness and justice, but human nature has not been totally corrupted: it is wounded in the natural powers proper to it; subject to ignorance, suffering, and the dominion of death; and inclined to sin- an inclination to evil that is called "**concupiscence.**"
- CCC 407-409 The dramatic situation of the world makes the life of every man and woman a battle to go to heaven.
- CCC 1996-2005 **Grace** is participation in the life of God. It introduces us into the intimacy of Trinitarian life: by Baptism the Christian participates in the grace of Christ, the Head of his body.
- CCC 1849-1869 **Sin** is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is a failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. The gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God's mercy to sinners.
- CCC 385-395 **The Fall** is the biblical revelation about the reality of sin in human history. It is a fall from God's friendship and grace which the first human beings had received not only for themselves but for the whole human race.
- CCC 387, 1730-1742 **Freedom & Sin:** Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. By free will one shapes one's own life. Only in the knowledge of God's plan for man can we grasp that sin is an abuse of the freedom that God gives to created persons so that they are capable of loving him and loving one another.
- CCC 1821, 2794 - 2796 **Heaven** is the full union of the human person with God and of all persons in God. Heaven is the perfect happiness that comes from sharing in God's divine life.
- CCC 1030-1032 **Purgatory** is the process through which we are cleansed or purged of the selfishness that keeps us even minimally separated from God.

- **CCC 1030-1037 Hell** is the experience of final alienation and estrangement from God, isolation and separation from all that is good. Hell is the experience of eternal punishment for grave and unrepented sin.

#3: Illustrate a basic understanding of doctrine and dogma in light of the creed.

Rationales:

- ▶ **CCC 90: The mutual connections between dogmas and their coherence can be found in the whole of the Revelation of the mystery of Christ. In Catholic doctrine there exists an order of “hierarchy” of truths, since they vary in their relation to the foundation of Christian faith.**
- ▶ **DJ 1: The Church’s universal mission is born from the command of Jesus Christ and is fulfilled in the course of the centuries in the proclamation of the mystery of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the mystery of the incarnation of the Son, as saving event for all of humanity.**
- ▶ **DJ 5: It must be firmly believed that, in the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, who is the way, the truth, and the life, the full revelation of divine truth is given.**

#4. Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

Rationales:

- ▶ **CCC 737: The mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church, which is the Body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit.**
- ▶ **DJ 13: The truth of the Jesus Christ, Son of God, Lord and only Savior, who through the event of his incarnation, death and resurrection has brought the history of salvation to fulfillment, and which has in him its fullness and center, must be firmly believed as a constant element of the Church’s faith.**
- ▶ **DJ 16: The Lord Jesus, the only Savior, did not only establish a simple community of disciples, but constituted the Church as a salvific mystery: he himself is in the Church and the Church is in him.**

#5: Read, understand, interpret and apply Scripture to life.

Rationale:

- ▶ **CCC 97: Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God, in which, as in a mirror, the pilgrim Church contemplates God, the source of all her riches.**

#6: Exercise responsibility as caretakers of creation as an expression of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Rationale:

- ▶ *CCC 307: To human beings God even gives the power of freely sharing in His providence by entrusting them with the responsibility of subduing the earth and having dominion over it. God thus enables men to be intelligent and free causes in order to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony for their own good and that of their neighbor.*

CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

#7: Demonstrate the importance of sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.

Rationales:

- ▶ *CCC 1129: The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation.*
- ▶ *CCC 1324: The Eucharist is the “source and summit” of the Christian life.*

#8: Demonstrate an understanding of the faith community as a sharing in the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

Rationale:

- ▶ *CCC 949: In the primitive community of Jerusalem, the disciples devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers.*

LIFE IN CHRIST

#9: Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.

Rationale:

- ▶ *CCC 1700: The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God.*

#10: Develop a moral conscience grounded in the truth of Jesus Christ.

Rationale:

- ▶ *CCC 1783: Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened.*

A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator.

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#11: Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.

Rationale:

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CCC 1694: Incorporated into Christ into Baptism, Christians are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” and so participate in the life of the Risen Lord.

#12: Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

Rationale:

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CCC 1822: Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.

#13: Know, critique and apply social justice principles to personal and societal situations.

Rationale:

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CCC 1932: The duty of making oneself a neighbor to others and actively serving them becomes even more urgent when it involves the disadvantaged, in whatever area this may be. “As you did it to the least of my brethren, you did it to me.”

#14: Engage in service to the community (e.g., family, parish, local, national and global) in response to the Gospel call.

Rationale:

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CCC 1270: “Reborn as sons of God {the baptized} must profess before men the faith they have received from God through the Church” and participate in the apostolic and missionary activity of the People of God.

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

#15: Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

Rationale:

- ▶ ***CCC 2663: In the living tradition of prayer, each Church proposes to its faithful, according to its historic, social, and cultural context, a language for prayer: words, melodies, gestures, iconography to God. The Magisterium of the Church has the task of discerning the fidelity of these ways of praying to the tradition of the apostolic faith, always in relation to Jesus Christ.***