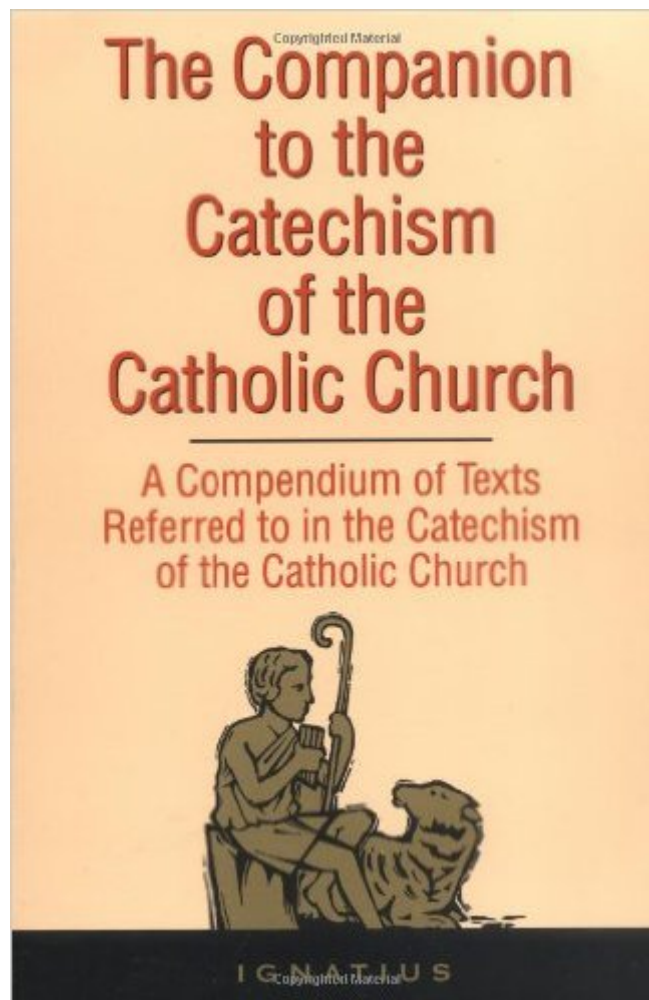


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# **The Companion To The Catechism Of The Catholic Church: A Compendium Of Texts Referred To In The Catechism Of The Catholic Church Including An Addendum For The Second Edition (1997)**





## Synopsis

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reads "often the texts of Sacred Scripture are not quoted literally but merely indicated as a reference ('Cf.') in the footnotes. For a deeper understanding of those passages, the reader should go to the texts themselves. These Biblical references are a working tool for catechesis." This Companion to the Catechism of the Catholic Church Book of References contains all the passages of Sacred Scripture referred to in the Catechism arranged according to the paragraphs in which the references are made. But that is only a beginning. The Catechism also refers to conciliar texts, papal documents, writings of the Fathers and of the Saints. There are more than 3,600 of these references extending from the earliest credal formulations of the ancient Church to the documents of Vatican II and beyond to the magisterial teaching of Pope John Paul II. The Book of References includes all the texts referred to arranged, along with the Scripture passages, according to the paragraphs of the Catechism in which they are referred. This Book of References is a valuable instrument in teaching, understanding, and implementing the Catechism. It is a handy one-volume reference library for use with the Catechism.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

One of my fellow-reviewers here (who rated the book two stars) is asking the Companion to do something it was not intended to do. It does not explain the Catechism, it provides the background material from which the Catechism is based. It is a marvelous piece of work which provides all the cited material in an easy to use format. Useful to all who want to verify, backup, or defend the

material in the Catechism. Bravo to the Church--who else puts together such a great Catechism and Companion. Steve Ray

The Companion to the Catechism of the Catholic Church is a wonderful resource for the inquiring mind or the serious academic. It is a treasure of all of the quote sources from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and allows you to go much deeper in your study without having to carry a giant reference library with you, or to have a stack or 10 or 20 books beside your desk.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a ground-breaking document. However, it contains many, many footnotes, not only to scriptural passages but to various church documents and passages in the Church Fathers. This helpful companion volume lists all the quoted passages and saves the serious student hours of research trying to track down the documents referred to in the Catechism. It's not a book for helping you understand the Catechism (as some have misunderstood it to be), but it is the perfect companion for studying the Catechism and appreciating its fullest meaning.

This is an amazing book. It does not try to interpret The Catechism of the Catholic Church, but it provides all the text for the many references in the footnotes. While some of this information would be easy to find (scripture references), other references to passages in the Church Fathers or church documents are much more difficult to find for ready reference. Even having the scripture references written out makes it easier to look at all of them. The Catechism is a very important book for our times, showing exactly what the church believes. This companion volume, published by Ignatius Press (an excellent publishing house, BTW), is a great resource for everyone who reads and studies the Catechism.

The full text of all the citations in the Catechism (except those in the Bible and those quoted in full) for *all* the footnotes in the Catechism in one volume is a remarkable achievement. Another reviewer felt that one shortcoming was that sources quoted in full in the Catechism were not repeated here. Well, yes, that might be a problem for some, but then this book is not intended to be used alone. This is a straight footnote lookup from the Catechism. Here you have a chance to trace the thoughts of those who wrote the Catechism. It is more than merely helpful or even enlightening. It opens the door to many wonderful works, including some which are hard to find in English. The paper used is quite heavy for a book this size (980 pages) making it quite thick. The binding, even

though it is paperback, is first-rate. This book is made to be used and to last. In addition to this book and, of course the Catechism, please take a look at "Introduction to the Catechism" by Cardinal Ratzinger (Now Pope Benedict XVI). The new "Compendium of the Catechism" released in April 2006 by the USCCB, is a superb work as well. If you are serious about your Catholic faith and want to learn more, this will certainly help.

The idea behind this Companion is wonderful: collect into one book the texts that are referred to in the footnotes of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This would allow readers ready access to the church documents, biblical passages, and spiritual writings related to the material in the Catechism. BUT, this Companion includes only texts which appear as indirect references, that is, those indicated by "Cf." in a footnote. It does not contain texts that are quoted by the catechism -- even if only a few words are quoted. This is a serious shortcoming for someone interested in studying the background sources. The book's Preface explains that it includes the texts of "indirect references," but I do not think the title of the book makes this clear. The Reader should be aware of what is lacking.

This is an excellent way to see the thousands of sources that the Catechism relies on in transmitting the Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church to its reader. It is an invaluable resource for anyone who would like to understand the springs of Catholic Tradition as found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

This is a great resource book for use with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. When I am doing research using the Catechism, this companion guide saves time and trouble by giving you the MANY references right at your fingertips.

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