

**1. QUESTION:**

- 1) What is the current status of the Father Hardon's Cause for Sainthood?
- 2) I am retired from my ministry of serving the Catholic elderly at nursing homes and Care-Centers. Prior to my retirement, a problem arose over having lighted candles during Catholic services. This was caused by the misunderstanding about the hazard of oxygen tanks causing fires which forbade having lit candles during Catholic services. This problem was solved by me about ten years ago. This problem has come to the surface again by the local fire department saying: *no lighted candles can be used at Catholic services*. Being retired, I no longer have authority or say-so at Care-Centers and the personnel at the local Stevens Point fire station ignore my requests. Eight years ago I cited the rules contained in the Roman Missal promulgated by USCCB, reference Chapter IV paragraph 117, chapter V paragraph 297, and chapter V paragraph 307 all citing the use of lighted candles during Catholic services. And there was no problem for eight years. With this problem surfacing since my retirement, I turned this problem to our present Dean Father Daniel Hackel but he has done nothing to my knowledge, with it. Maybe this is not a problem. Are other Care-Centers having trouble with not having lighted candles? Am I just "old-fashioned"? What is the proper (or modern) way of handling this situation?

**2. QUESTION:**

- How do we know when to abandon human prudence and let the *Gift of Fortitude* guide us? I am a catechist at my church. I was scheduled by the Faith Formation Coordinator to take a dozen Confirmation students to a soup kitchen by public transit. The trip would require us to walk through a busy city for half a mile and I was concerned about crime. No other catechist wanted to come along and assist. The evening before, it rained hard and I could not get a hold of the Faith Formation Coordinator so I cancelled the trip. The next morning, the sun shined but the students were already told to stay home. The Faith Formation Coordinator was furious because he said the cancelation hurt the church's reputation. Was I too humanly prudent? How do I know when I am humanly prudent and when I am guided by the virtue of prudence?

**3. QUESTION:**

- 1) I have been asked to teach Confirmation in my parish. First, is there a listing of good catechetical series for Confirmation?

**ANSWER:** Yes, here are a few suggestions. These are available from the Marian Catechist Bookstore. Your purchase helps support the Apostolate.

**High School Students**

- *The Sacrament of Confirmation: A Complete Preparation Course* – Midwest Theological Forum
- *Come Holy Spirit* - Academy of the Immaculate

**Grade School Students**

- *The Sacrament of Confirmation* – New Hope
- *Confirmation Prep for Young Catholics* – Seton Press.

- 2) Second, what should our focus be when we teach on the Sacrament of Confirmation that have literally a second grade education in the Catholic Faith? Should we be teaching on the Sacrament itself or helping students learn to serve by organizing projects such as raking lawns, painting, etc.?
- 3) Do people in Heaven remember their relatives who have been lost?
- 4) Would you recommend mothers naming aborted babies? To pray for them?

**4. QUESTION:**

- 1) On August 23, 1928 Pope Pius XI had a *Decree on Modesty in Dress* sent to the Ordinaries of Italy and then on January 12, 1930 the Pope directed the Sacred Congregation of Council to issue a strongly-worded letter on Christian modesty to the whole world. Is this Decree still binding today and if it is, how as Marian Catechist should we teach (with charity) on this Decree to help bring back modesty to the Christian family?
- 2) Mother Mary and the Muslims - What is her role?
- 3) What do you believe to be the signs that must take place preceding to Christ's Second Coming and Glory?

- 4) What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church today and how are we hindering the Holy Spirit from the Father's Will?

**5. QUESTION:**

- How should a Catholic view the current debate on immigration taking into account charity and prudence?

**6. QUESTION:**

- 1) What is your favorite devotion?
- 2) What prayer do you find most efficacious when tempted?

**7. QUESTION:**

- Under the section “The Matrimonial Bond in a Sacramental Marriage” on Page 178 of the *Basic Catholic Catechism Course* is written:

For sacramental marriages (except where clandestine marriages are permitted by Church law) to be valid, the following conditions must be met on the wedding day: 1. Both husband and wife are validly baptized Christians. 2. Both choose freely, with adequate knowledge and understanding that marriage is a commitment to the good of the other which must also be a monogamous, lifelong union open to life. 3. Both are of age, and free to marry without any impediments. 4. If at least one party is Catholic, then the marriage must be contracted before an authorized Bishop, priest or deacon (or, in some rare cases, a lay person) and two witnesses.

Four conditions are listed, however, my question is concerning condition number two which includes “lifelong union open to life.”

- 1) If this is a condition for a sacramental marriage to be valid, how do we explain Mary and Joseph’s marriage as valid if they both intended to remain virgins and if the marriage was not consummated?
- 2) I have heard their marriage referred to as a “Josephite Marriage.” Is that correct?
- 3) And may other couples enter such a marriage?

**8. QUESTION:**

- Can you give away your Guardian Angel? I heard a father say that he gave his to his son?

**9. QUESTION:**

- I know a lady who had asked an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to take Communion to her sick husband but the Extraordinary Minister could not fit him into her schedule. Therefore, the Extraordinary Minister gave a pyx to the lady and told her she could give her husband Holy Communion. Is this allowed or must one have proper training and or permission from the Bishop or pastor?

**10. QUESTION:**

- 1) The Church Fathers teach that Marriage was sanctified by Christ's presence at the Wedding Feast (I only know this from reading the *Basic Catechism Course*). Is it possible then that the couple married at the wedding feast at Cana imparted the Sacrament of Marriage on each other? I believe the answer is no because the assumption is they were not baptized and thus could not receive other Sacraments, but isn't it also true that the Apostles never received the Sacrament of Baptism, but were indeed the first to receive: Communion, Holy Orders, Confirmation and the faculty to forgive?
- 2) Is it theoretically possible that the Apostles could have consecrated the host Good Friday, or Easter Sunday? Is there a tradition as to when and by whom the first consecration (after Christ) took place?
- 3) I've recently learned that the Child Jesus was engaged in ecclesiastical catechesis when He was found in the temple.
  - a) Can you further explain how Jesus learned what the Scholars were teaching Him vs. the knowledge He has in His divinity?
  - b) Was the Child Jesus: -"listening and answering" in the form of scrutinizing, as if He was listening to see how well the teachers knew what they were teaching, -was He listening and answering as a child who was in the process of learning? -Or, seeing that ["all were amazed at His understanding"], was it not so much learning on His part, but rather a moment of self-revelation and glorification of God (through this marvel?)

**11. QUESTION:**

- In an EWTN article, according to journalists traveling with the Pope in January 2018, Pope Francis married a couple on a plane, mid-flight traveling from Santiago to Iquique. The couple claimed they had to cancel their marriage in 2010 due to an earthquake that destroyed the church. They had their two children with them on the plane. Since they didn't have an official marriage certificate to sign, Pope Francis asked the Cardinals with him to draft one, so they grabbed a piece of blank copy paper and each signed their names and what role they played in the ceremony. One of the Cardinals also signed as a witness.

1) How does this spontaneity with the Church discipline in administering the Sacrament of Matrimony by the Pope assist in convincing the faithful that Marriage laws are not changing in our midst?

2) How do catechists navigate through these irregularities in the Sacrament of Matrimony? What the Pope is teaching by his actions and example are causing more division and scandal among the faithful.

**12. QUESTION:**

- 1) If a Pope is infallible, why did Pope Francis approve divorced and remarried couples without an annulment to receive Holy Communion?
- 2) Is he going to change some words in *The Lord's Prayer*? Are we supposed to follow if he does?

**QUESTION:**

- 1) Whose job is it to decide which mail is actually seen by the Holy Father?
- 2) What happened to the proposal of a Fraternal Correction of Amoris Laetitia based on the issues raised by the 5 Dubia?

**13. QUESTION:**

- 1) Will there be an official public correction to combat the current Roman errors?
- 2) How would you explain the current divide in the Church to catechumens?

- 3) Why are priests and Bishops who travel around giving talks clearly opposing Church teaching allowed to continue to do so? They are just adding to the confusion and division existing now among the laity.
- 4) Some time ago, you said that, despite the growing confusion, we must "soldier on." Beyond prayer, which is obviously the first arrow in our quiver, what else can we do? Would fasting help? Catholic author Philip Lawler has suggested writing our Bishops for clarification. Is that wise? I don't wish to bother him or have him think I'm disrespecting him. From what I can tell, my Bishop is an orthodox Bishop who is already overloaded. I don't wish to add to his burdens.

**14. QUESTION:**

- Could you give a summary of the German Bishops' recent petition for shared Communion by non-Catholic spouses along with any insights or other details that may helpful to anyone wishing to better understand the situation?

**15. QUESTION:**

- In the face of shootings in schools, what is the best thing that we can do?