

OUR QUEST FOR HAPPINESS
BOOK 1: OUR GOAL AND OUR GUIDES

ANSWER KEY

Introduction - Questions p. 20

1. In the eighth grade, we emphasize the virtue of faith by studying the sacrament of Baptism along with the creation and the fall. The sacrament of Baptism is God's promise fulfilled. It is the opening of the Gates of Heaven, which were closed with the fall of our first parents. We see the love of God the Father.
2. A study of the Holy Eucharist and the Mass in the same year as the study of the life and death of Christ is most appropriate. It emphasizes our hope in eternal salvation. The Holy Eucharist proceeds from the Mass; the Mass proceeds from Calvary; and Calvary proceeds from Bethlehem. This is the story of our redemption and future. We see the love of God the Son.
3. In studying the Holy Spirit, Who directs the Church of Christ, and the forgiveness of sins, we see the immense love of God the Holy Ghost. Accompanying this with the study of the sacrament of Penance provides the help we need to remain in the love of God and practice the virtue of charity with the aid of the numerous gifts of the Holy Spirit.
4. The first three commandments pertain particularly to God as the Supreme Being and instruct us in the honor, respect, and obedience due Him. One cannot violate any commandment and not violate the first commandment.
5. A study of purity is most appropriate in the year we study about the Holy Spirit because our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Appreciating that fact, we learn to treat them as such.

Review p. 22

1. This religion series is entitled Our Quest for Happiness. It means that, because God has placed in every human being a natural desire to be happy, life is a search for true happiness. As Catholics, we know that this true happiness can come only from conforming ourselves to God's will as we seek to live so as to enjoy the greatest happiness of all: eternal salvation in the Beatific Vision.
2. The title of this year's book is Our Goal and Our Guides. This title indicates that the emphasis in our search for true happiness will be placed on the creative love of God the Father in the gift of Faith and the guidelines for attaining this true happiness.
3. The four-year Our Quest for Happiness plan includes the four year-long courses laid out below, beginning in the eighth grade, and going through the eleventh grade. (For the senior year religion course, Our Lady of Victory offers and recommends in its curriculum, an Apologetics course, an in-depth and concentrated look at our Faith, to launch the graduating High School student on his way, and to prepare him to be able to defend his Faith, and to re-confirm his beliefs in an unbelieving world.)
 - a) Eighth Grade: Our Goal and Our Guides reveals God's love for us in His creation and we shall strive to return that love through the virtue of faith. The liturgical calendar will be our guide.
 - b) Ninth Grade (H.S. Freshman Year): Through Christ Our Lord

will unfold the redeeming love and wisdom of the Incarnate Son and we shall endeavor to show our appreciation through the virtue of hope.

- c) Tenth Grade (H.S. Sophomore Year): The Ark and the Dove will open our minds and hearts to the sanctifying love of God the Holy Spirit and we shall try to show our gratitude by the practice of the virtue of charity.
- d) Eleventh Grade (H.S. Junior Year): Toward the Eternal Commencement will clarify our quest for happiness by looking into the future, on earth and in heaven, to present the beatifying love of the Blessed Trinity. We shall give equal attention to all three virtues: faith, hope, and charity.
4. Everyone looks for happiness wherever he thinks he will most surely find it. Some seek it in riches; others in fame; others in power and influence; and still others in pleasure and dissipation.
5. The secret of true human happiness is a quest for the infinite goodness, the infinite truth, the infinite beauty which only the supernatural possession of God in glory can truly give.
6. Heaven shall fulfill men's desire for happiness because men's yearning for happiness is really a yearning for God. In heaven we shall see God face to face and experience the fullness of beauty, truth, justice, love, unity, peace, friendship, and all good things beyond mortal man's comprehension (this being what we refer to as the Beatific Vision).
7. This year's central theme is this: to succeed in my quest, I must first know about God, about what He has done for me, and what I must do in return out of love for Him. Faith tells me this and enables me to believe it.

This year's special objective will be to build a firm foundation for our hope and love by increasing our knowledge of our holy religion and strengthening our faith.

Unit 1 Overview - Questions p. 28

1. Faith is a supernatural gift of God, which enables us to believe without doubting whatever God has revealed.

Reason is a natural gift which God has given us, raising us above all the animal kingdom and most closely mirroring the perfections of God.

Faith, as a supernatural gift, is far superior to reason.
2. Faith is necessary for salvation, for without faith we could not truly know God and His immense love for us. "Without faith, it is impossible to please God." (Heb. 11:6)
3. A summary of Catholic beliefs includes:
 - a) There is one God who created all things in heaven and on earth;
 - b) There are three divine Persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost;
 - c) God created Adam from the slime of the earth and breathed into him a soul; He created Eve from a rib from Adam; all men are descended from Adam and Eve; all men inherit original sin;
 - d) The Son of God was born of the Virgin Mary and became man

BOOK 1: Our Goal And Our Guides - ANSWER KEY

(taking on both a human nature and will, in addition to his divine nature and will), suffered under Pontius Pilate, died and was buried, and on the third day arose from the dead;

- e) The soul of man is immortal and after death will be judged by the Son of God, and sent to heaven or hell for eternity, or to purgatory as a temporary cleansing for heaven;
 - f) Jesus Christ, the Son of God, established the one, true, Catholic, and apostolic Church on earth, of which St. Peter and his successors are the infallible heads;
 - g) The Blessed Virgin Mary was conceived without original sin and her body was assumed into heaven;
 - h) The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of Calvary;
 - i) The bread and wine at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is changed by transubstantiation into the body and Blood of Jesus Christ;
 - j) Sins are forgiven through the sacrament of Penance.
4. We know what to believe by the testimony, teaching, and authority of the Catholic Church.
 5. We believe the truths of our religion on the words of Jesus Christ, the founder of the one, true, Catholic Church, and as taught by the Apostles and their successors.
 6. What we believe is called conviction, which must be arrived at correctly to keep us from having erroneous convictions. As Catholics, we must act according to our convictions; otherwise, we are hypocrites and as such have no credibility. Those in error also attempt to act in accordance with their false ideas; in most cases, they act in error just as they believe in error.
 7. The Bible is a collection of sacred books of which God is the principal author. These books were written by men inspired and guided by the Holy Ghost; they contain much of what God has revealed to the human race. Not only are Catholics permitted to read the Bible but they are encouraged to do so. The Church grants an indulgence of three years to those who read the Bible for 15 minutes, and a plenary indulgence once a month to those who read it daily. Interpretation of the Bible; however, belongs to the Church who is its sole guardian.

Unit 1: Section 1 - Review p. 41

1. Reason is that power or ability of the soul which enables us to think and thus to arrive at knowledge and at truth.
2. Animals do not possess the power to reason. If they did, they would be able to improve themselves from generation to generation as man has done. A spider, for example, spins its web now in exactly the same fashion as its ancestors did a hundred or even a thousand years ago. There is no difference; no improvement. The spider acts from instinct. It cannot think or reason and therefore it cannot profit from experience.
3. The existence of God can be proven by several lines of reasoning.
4. The three lines of reasoning to prove there is a God are: a) the desire for happiness; b) the planning in the universe; c) remorse of conscience.
5. a) The desire for happiness: All men have strong unquenchable desire for perfect happiness, yet no finite created thing can satisfy that desire completely.
b) The planing in the universe: All the heavenly bodies race

through space at terrific speeds without colliding. The earth, the waters, plant and animal kingdoms and the seasons all work in perfect harmony. The human body and its complex organization functions in a pattern. Only an infinite Mind could have designed and maintained this universe.

- c) Remorse of conscience: Conscience tells us what is right and wrong by comparing our acts with a law laid down by a Will superior to our own. When we act according to this law, conscience commands us; when we act contrary to it, conscience condemns us. when we have done wrong, a strange feeling of shame and remorse comes over us. these admonitions of conscience are really the admonitions of God. They prove that all men know there is someone who punishes wrongdoing.
6. Reason can tell us some important things about God.
 7. The first thing that reason tells us about God is that He is a Supreme Being.
 8. Reason also tells us that God is a spirit and that He is self-existent and eternal.
 9. By reason we can come to know some of our duties to God.
 10. Some of the duties toward God which reason proves are:
a) we, His creatures, owe Him homage and adoration because He is the Creator of all things; b) it is our duty to obey His commands because He is the infinitely perfect and Supreme Being; c) we must always be attentive to the voice of our conscience and follow its directions because this is God telling us what He wants.
 11. Reason is a gift of God to be used in seeking truth and happiness. However, we can make mistakes in reasoning due to lack of intellectual ability, ignorance, mental laziness, hastiness and superficiality. These causes are a result of original sin which has darkened our understanding and weakened our wills.
 12. God has given us another and even better guide to happiness; He has given us faith.
 13. The main facts learned in this section are: a) the nature of reason; b) the power of reason; and c) the reliability of reason.

Unit 1: Section 2 - Review p. 51

1. There are many truths about God that our reason cannot grasp.
2. Reason cannot grasp all truths about God because our reason is limited and finite while God is unlimited and infinite.
3. God has given us an extra gift – the gift of faith – as our Master Guide in knowing Him.
4. Natural faith is the belief based upon the word of a human being, Supernatural faith is an act of the intellect under the dominion of the will, by which, with the help of grace, we assent with complete certainty to the truths God has revealed.
5. We believe a historian when he tells us that Caesar lived 2,000 years ago. This is natural faith. When we believe a truth that God has revealed, even though we do not understand it, such as the doctrine of the Trinity, this is supernatural faith because it is above our natural ability and dependent upon the grace of God.
6. Characters in the Old Testament outstanding for their faith: a) Abel: “Abel also offered of the firstlings of his flock, and of their fat; and the Lord had respect to Abel, and to his offerings.” (Gen. 4:4) b) Henoah: “And he walked with God, and was seen no

BOOK 1: Our Goal And Our Guides - ANSWER KEY

- more: because God took him.”(Gen. 5:24) c) Noe: “And Noe did all things which God commanded him.” (Gen 6:22) d) Abraham: “And Abraham said: God will provide himself a victim for an holocaust, my son.” (Gen 22:8)
7. Characters in the New Testament outstanding for their faith: a) The Blessed Virgin Mary in her acceptance to become the Mother of God even though she did not understand. (Luke 1: 26-38) b) St. Joseph, when tempted to put Mary away, believed the angel’s assurance of the will of God. (Matt. 1:18-25) c) The Blessed Mother’s faith in Our Lord at the marriage feast of Cana. (John 2: 1-10) d) The centurion whose servant was ill who asked Jesus to “say but the word and my servant shall be healed.” (Matt. 8:3-13) e) The two blind men at Jericho. (Matt. 20:29-34)
8. Some persons who were lacking in faith: a) Moses doubted that water would flow from the rock as God had promised. (Num. 20:12) b) Zachary doubted the word of the angel foretelling the birth of John the Baptist and was struck dumb. (Luke 1:18-20) c) St. Thomas doubted the appearance of Our Lord after His death. (John 20:24-29) d) St. Peter started to walk on the water and began to sink when he lost faith. (Matt. 14:22-32)
9. Faith is superior to reason. Reason is a natural power; faith is a supernatural power. Reason reaches God slowly; faith reaches God quickly and directly. Reason is limited; faith accepts everything which God has revealed. Reason alone cannot merit eternal life; living faith merits eternal life.
10. Human reason cannot fully understand everything that faith enables us to know because it is limited. there are many truths which reason cannot reach no matter how brilliant it might be or how hard it might try.
11. True science and true faith are never opposed to one another for although science studies human and material things, and faith is concerned with what is divine and spiritual, they are both rooted in God.
12. There are many things about which faith tells us nothing. In such a case, we must study, experiment, and draw our own conclusions.
13. The Catholic Church encourages and fosters the sciences since reason and faith support each other. (N.B.: Pope Pius XI issued a document in 1936, which erected the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. It is the only supranational body of its kind in the world, with a pope-selected, life-long membership of outstanding mathematicians and experimental scientists from many countries. The normal complement of members is 70, the total number, however, includes additional honorary and supernumerary members. Non-Catholics as well as Catholics belong to the Academy. Purposes of the Academy are to honor pure science and its practitioners, to protect the freedom of pure science, and to foster research.)
- Some famous Catholic scientists are Louis Pasteur, Guglielmo Marconi, and Marie and Pierre Curie.
14. Some qualities of true faith are: a) firmness: it never doubts. b) constancy: it abides in times of trial as well as prosperity. c) universality: it accepts all truths revealed by God and taught by His church. (Nowadays, this is referred to as “Integralism” or “Traditionalism”.) d) living: it is accompanied by

sanctifying grace.

Review p. 62

- Habit is a certain inclination to the performance of an act, and an ease in acting gained by practice. Natural habits which are good are virtues acquired by man. Supernatural virtues are habits or capacities freely given to the soul by God which enable us to perform good acts that will have an eternal reward in heaven.
- The basic good habits or virtues are the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity, and the four cardinal moral virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.
- Humility is recognizing the talents God has given you, acknowledging that they and all they enable you to accomplish are His gifts, and then using them to the best of your ability, unto the glory of God, not of self. Humility does not mean underestimating oneself or mistrusting oneself.
- Prudence is a moral virtue which inclines our intellect to choose the best means to attain our aims, in light of our supernatural goal.
Signs of prudence are: reflection, deliberation, seeking of advice, forethought, discretion, decision, avoiding extremes, utilizing supernatural opportunities.
Signs of lack of prudence are: acting on impulse, rash independence, speaking thoughtlessly flippantly, delay, lack of decision, wasting time, going to extremes, neglecting opportunities to advance in grace.
- Fortitude is the moral virtue which strengthens us to overcome difficulties and to do our duty despite all obstacles and not allowing ourselves to be overcome by fear. Signs of fortitude are: steadfastness, determination to duty, cheerful courage, patience in trials. Signs of lack of fortitude are: giving up in the face of difficulties, yielding to what people say, neglect of duty, leaving tasks incomplete, yielding to self-pity.
- The best source of assistance for advancing in virtue is frequent prayer and, if possible, daily attendance at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with reception of Holy Communion. Frequent reception of the sacrament of Penance is another excellent means of rooting out vices and fostering the opposite virtues. Finally, a habit of reading the lives of the saints is an excellent means to make ourselves want to practice virtue.

Review p. 65

- We cannot succeed in our quest for happiness without the supernatural gift of faith. Christ Himself has said, “He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; he who does not believe shall be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)
- Habitual faith is the habit or virtue of faith which is infused into the soul by God together with sanctifying grace in Baptism. Actual faith is the exercise of the gift of faith by frequent acts of faith and living in accordance with God’s law.
- We exercise the gift of faith by frequent acts of faith and living in accordance with God’s law.
- There are four fundamental truths which all should know and believe. a) There is one God Who rewards good and punishes evil. b) There are three Divine Persons in one God. c) Jesus Christ, Son of God and Second Person of the Blessed trinity, assumed a human nature and become man. d) Jesus Christ by