



# **A Concise Companion and Commentary for the New Catholic Catechism**

*James Tolhurst*

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Pope Benedict XVI has announced a special "Year of Faith," dedicated to rousing a "new impetus to the mission of the whole Church to lead men out of the desert in which they often find themselves, to the place of life, of friendship with Christ." The Year of Faith will begin on October 11, 2012: a date that marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II. Pope Benedict notes that the date is also the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which he describes as "a precious and indispensable tool" for the task of evangelization. The Year of Faith will have to see a concerted effort to rediscover and study the fundamental content of the faith that receives its systematic and organic synthesis in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Here, in fact, we see the wealth of teaching that the Church has received, safeguarded and proposed in her two thousand years of history. From Sacred Scripture to the Fathers of the Church, from theological masters to the saints across the centuries, the Catechism provides a permanent record of the many ways in which the Church has meditated on the faith and made progress in doctrine so as to offer certitude to believers in their lives of faith ... In this Year, then, the Catechism of the Catholic Church will serve as a tool providing real support for the faith, especially for those concerned with the formation of Christians, so crucial in our cultural context. Pope Benedict XVI *Porta Fidei* The Year of Faith offers a special opportunity for all believers to deepen their study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. In this useful book Fr James Tolhurst provides a paragraph by paragraph exposition of this key text, supplemented by a wealth of information and an extensive prayer section which is intended to aid reflection on the teaching of the Catechism itself. Also included is a thematic preface which lays out the major concepts contained in the work, a full index, and extensive cross references to other Church documents. Drawing out its doctrinal richness, this is an ideal tool for catechists, groups of faithful, schools and families, for educators in centres of theological studies, seminaries and Catholic universities, for those concerned with the continuing education of the clergy and for priests studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a resource for the pastoral care of their parishes - catechesis, preaching, Sacramental preparation. Dr James Tolhurst studied at Fribourg and Salamanca Universities. He has served as Theology Tutor at the English College, Valladolid, and as Dean of Studies for the Permanent Diaconate of the Southern English Dioceses. He is Series Editor of the Newman Millennium Edition, and his many books include the bestselling *A Concise Catechism for Catholics*.

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