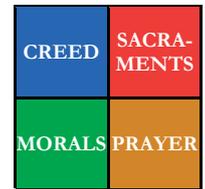
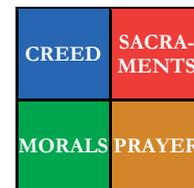


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Introduction



Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.

Mark 16:15



What is 'EVANGELIUM'?

'Evangelium' means 'gospel' or 'good news'. This course is called EVANGELIUM because it aims to teach the good news of our salvation in Jesus Christ.

Aim of EVANGELIUM

The EVANGELIUM multimedia catechetical course teaches the essentials of Catholic faith and life in a straightforward, precise and attractive manner. The course is based on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the materials are organised in the same fourfold way: Creed, Sacraments, Morals and Prayer.

Those who with God's help have welcomed Christ's call and freely responded to it are urged on by love of Christ to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world. This treasure, received from the apostles, has been faithfully guarded by their successors. All Christ's faithful are called to hand it on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer.

Catechism of the Catholic Church par. 3 (Prologue)

Who is EVANGELIUM for?

EVANGELIUM is for all those who wish to deepen their knowledge of the Catholic Faith, whether or not they are practising members of the Church.

The course materials are intended principally for those participating in the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults* (RCIA) or other adult catechetical programs. Other uses include Confirmation preparation, youth catechesis, marriage preparation and self-instruction. The study of the course materials can be carried out in classes, in small groups or by individuals.

The aim of this Participant's Book

The principal aim of this *Participant's Book* is to assist each person taking part in an EVANGELIUM course; it summarises the course presentations and provides additional references for further reading.

This *Participant's Book* can also be used independently of any course, as a complete, attractive and concise summary of the key teachings of the Catholic Faith.



Teaching an EVANGELIUM session using a PC projector, one way in which the course can be used by groups, such as RCIA candidates

BENEFITS OF EVANGELIUM

- Concise, precise wording to communicate key ideas in a timely manner
- The use of computer based presentations to animate and link concepts and images
- Quotations from Scripture, the *Catechism* and other Catholic sources to illustrate and explain
- Suggested further reading and activities to reinforce learning
- A modular approach: each session can stand alone to provide maximum course flexibility
- Beautiful religious art to convey a rich visual experience of the key persons and ideas

The centuries-old conciliar tradition teaches us that images are also a preaching of the Gospel. Artists in every age have offered the principal facts of the mystery of salvation to the contemplation and wonder of believers by presenting them in the splendour of colour and in the perfection of beauty. It is an indication of how today more than ever, in a culture of images, a sacred image can express much more than what can be said in words, and be an extremely effective and dynamic way of communicating the Gospel message.

Pope Benedict XVI, Introduction to the *Compendium of the Catechism*.

The order of the sessions

The order of the sessions in this *Participant's Book* follows the main fourfold division of the *Catechism*.

Creed	Sacraments	Morals	Prayer
10	5	5	5

Since each session is a complete lesson in itself, the order in which the sessions are presented is flexible and should be adapted to the needs of participants. Page 51 of this book shows a possible sequence of sessions to accompany the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)*. Page 52 presents an alternative sequence for general purpose catechesis.

The estimated time required for teaching a session using the CD is 1 hour 10 minutes.



Viewing EVANGELIUM presentations on a laptop, one way in which the course can be used for personal study

Praying and living the Gospel

EVANGELIUM seeks to impart much more than information. Although it is possible to know about the Catholic Faith using human reason alone, to *know* the faith with a kind of inner illumination of its truth is a gift from God. It is important to ask God to impart and increase this gift of faith.

It is therefore highly recommended to begin and end each session with a prayer. Page vii offers a suitable prayer of St Thomas Aquinas; others are provided in the *Presenter's Guide* and the course presentations.

To know the faith also involves experiencing and living the faith. Catholic art, prayers and practical suggestions are included in this course to encourage and nurture this experience and life of grace.

Course materials and sources

EVANGELIUM COURSE MATERIALS

- *Presentations on CD*. A self-starting CD with twenty-five PowerPoint Viewer[®] presentations.
- *Participant's Book*. A written summary of the content of the presentations.
- *Presenter's Guide*. A guide to presenting the sessions with further references and activities.

The main reference sources for EVANGELIUM are Scripture and the *Catechism*. Scripture citations are generally taken from the Revised Standard Version (RSV) Catholic Edition. Citations from other standard translations are used occasionally when an alternative translation highlights a particular point more clearly. On such occasions, the alternative translation is indicated by an abbreviation.

The following tables list the Bible translations and Biblical books cited in EVANGELIUM:

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS USED IN EVANGELIUM

No abbreviation	Revised Standard Version
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NJB	New Jerusalem Bible
DRA	Douay-Rheims Bible
KJV	King James Version

BIBLICAL BOOK ABBREVIATIONS

Gen	Genesis	1 Cor	1 Corinthians
Ex	Exodus	2 Cor	2 Corinthians
Deut	Deuteronomy	Eph	Ephesians
Isa	Isaiah	Col	Colossians
Mt	Gospel of Matthew	Jas	James
Mk	Gospel of Mark	1 Pet	1 Peter
Lk	Gospel of Luke	2 Pet	2 Peter
Jn	Gospel of John	1 Jn	1 John
Rom	Romans	Rev	Revelation

References to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* are indicated by “ccc.” followed by the paragraph number. The reference “ccc. 50”, for example, indicates paragraph 50 of the *Catechism*.

The majority of other citations are sources cited by the *Catechism*. In such cases, both the original source and the *Catechism* reference are provided.

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.

Mk 1:15