

# Lesson 1

Please read paragraphs 1-49 and then answer the following questions:

1. According to the Catechism, why did God make us? (# 1) How does this answer compare with the one given in the old Baltimore Catechism to the question, "Why did God make me?"
2. In # 3 the Catechism says: *"This treasure [i.e. the Good News], received from the apostles, has been faithfully guarded by their successors."*\* In this statement, the word "guarded" is extremely important. Why?
3. According to the Catechism, lay people are responsible for evangelization (i.e. for spreading the Good News). How are they to fulfill this mandate? (# 3) In your opinion, what makes evangelization so difficult in our modern, American society?
4. What are the *"four pillars"* of the Catechism? (# 13) Explain how these "pillars" relate to one another. (#'s 14-18, see also # 26)
5. Many people are miserable today, even in the midst of wealth and great earthly success. What insight does the Catechism give us on this situation? (#'s 27-30, 45)
6. John says, "You can't prove to me that God exists." How would you respond to John? (#'s 31-35)
7. How does the "world's beauty" reveal the existence of God? (# 32)
8. Discuss the following statement, in light of what you read in # 37: "For many people, atheism is not an intellectual problem, it's a moral problem."
9. "The teachings of the Church concerning God are accurate, but not adequate." Discuss this statement, in light of what you read in #'s 39-43.
10. Given the truth that the Catechism affirms in # 44, would you say that public school education is comprehensive or deficient at the present time? Give a reason for your answer. If you say it is deficient, what can you do to make up for the deficiency?

**\*Direct quotations and key phrases from the Catechism are placed in italics and surrounded by quotation marks, both in the question booklet and in the answer key.**