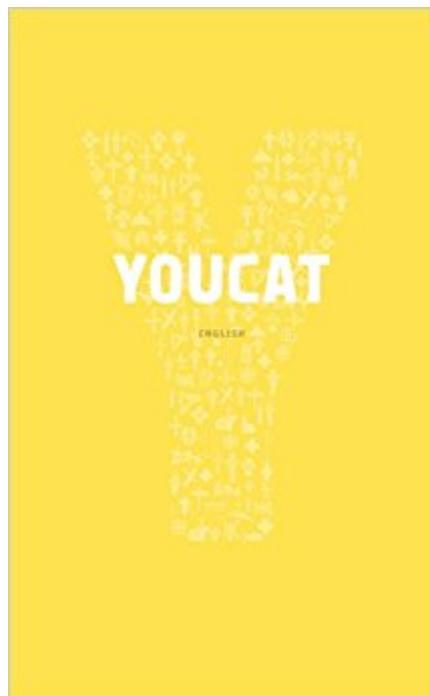


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# Youcat



## **Synopsis**

YOUCAT is short for Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, which will be launched on World Youth Day. Developed with the help of young Catholics and written for high-school age people and young adults, YOUCHAT is an accessible, contemporary expression of the Catholic Faith. The appealing graphic format includes Questions-and-Answers, highly-readable commentary, summary definitions of key terms, Bible citations and inspiring and thought-provoking quotes from Saints and others in the margins. What's more, YOUCHAT is keyed to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, so people can go deeper. It explains: What Catholics believe and why (doctrine)How Catholics celebrate the mysteries of the faith (sacraments)How Catholics are to live (moral life)How they should pray (prayer and spirituality) The questions are direct and honest, even at times tough; the answers straightforward, relevant, and compelling. YOUCHAT will likely become the "go-to" place for young people to learn the truth about the Catholic faith. Pope Benedict XVI on the YOUCHAT project: "Dear young friends! Today I recommend for your reading an unusual book.... Should we not attempt to translate the Catechism of the Catholic Church into the language of young people? Should we not bring its great riches into the world of today's youth? Of course, there are many differences even among the youth of today's world. And so now, under the capable direction of the Archbishop of Vienna, Christoph Cardinal Schoenborn, YOUCHAT has been produced for young people. I hope that many young people will let themselves be fascinated by this book. Many people say to me: The youth of today are not interested in this. I disagree, and I am certain that I am right. The youth of today are not as superficial as some think. They want to know what life is all about.... This book is exciting because it speaks of our own destiny and so deeply engages every one of us. So I invite you: Study this Catechism! That is my heartfelt desire. This catechism was not written to please you. It will not make life easy for you, because it demands of you a new life. It places before you the Gospel message as the "pearl of great value" (Mt 13:45) for which you must give everything. So I beg you: Study this Catechism with passion and perseverance. Make a sacrifice of your time for it! Study it in the quiet of your room; read it with a friend; form study groups and networks; share with each other on the Internet. By all means continue to talk with each other about your faith...."

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

"YOUCAT combines sound catechesis and faith formation, based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, with a youthful, dynamic and graphically appealing presentation. I hope that this book and related resources will become tools to assist you and your pastoral collaborators in promoting the New Evangelization and a deepened catechesis among young people." ---Archbishop José Ángel Méndez, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles"Compiled in an easy-to-use, intuitive format yet unashamedly bold in its proclamation of Truth, the new YOUCAT is a must-have for young and old alike. There has never been a Catechism quite like this one. It is perfect for anyone seeking to understand and explain the richness of our Catholic faith to today's modern culture!" ---Jimmy Mitchell, President, Mysterium Records

Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, the Archbishop of Vienna, is a highly respected spiritual teacher and writer, and a former student of Pope Benedict XVI. He has written numerous books including Jesus, the Divine Physician, Chance or Purpose?, Behold, God's Son, and Living the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

YouCat is a great catechetical tool; no doubt about it, and I'm excited to be using it for my Confirmation Students this year. As I read through the text, especially the commentary, I do notice some "weakness" of expression. For example, when referring to the possibility of salvation for those who, through no fault of their own, have never heard the Truth of the Gospel, yet live a good life sincerely seeking God according to their understanding, the YouCat says that these "also find salvation," as though it is certain. Yet, the cross references in the CCC (and to/from there in the Compendium, and in the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults) ALL say "these also 'may' find salvation." There are other such "gloss overs" which 'could' present a deficient understanding if the

cross references in the CCC (Catechism of the Catholic Church) are not employed WITH the YouCat. Other than this one flaw, I do recommend YouCat as a great tool for Youth in learning more about the Catholic Faith.

Every Catholic of every age should have a copy of this book. If you want to know what the Church believes, why, and how you can explain it to others, then this book is perfect for you. It is not "simplistic", but it is easy reading. Unlike the full Catechism, it does not follow the strict Article/Paragraph annotation, but instead is more topical. I have found this book invaluable!

YOUCAT met my expectations and was an excellent religious publication for teenagers. It is a wonderful youth Catholic Catechism. It is meant for teenagers in high school who have had a modicum of Catholic Religious Education. It is not designed to be read as a normal book but used as you would read the bible. Pick a topic and read and discuss.

It has done something that almost no other book I've found has done: it has made the teachings of the faith accessible to people who have a marginal interest and a low reading level. Mind you, the big green Catechism is great. (I still haven't made my way completely through it, but I've read most of it at one time or another.) However, it's scary-looking and huge and intimidating. The Youcat, though, with its yellow cover and Q&A format, is pretty low-key. It transmits important information easily, painlessly. I've been using it during our parish's Confirmation Boot Camp and in any class I teach since it's been released. You might say I'm a shameless fangirl. You'd be correct. It's as important (and as easy) for parents to read as it is for the youth for whom it's written. Over the years, I've noticed a mantra that seems to come around and around and around, coupled with the "you're a convert so of COURSE you're a better Catholic" myth that seems so prevalent. It's the "I can't POSSIBLY teach my child! I don't KNOW enough." I'm a catechist. I want to help. But what I do isn't primary catechesis (except with my own kids). What I do is similar to what all the farmers around me do: I plant. I might even cultivate. The growing, though, is the work of the Holy Spirit. Much of my job as a catechist (and as a writer of things catechetical in places like this) is to encourage and equip parents. YOU CAN DO IT. And here's a tool that will help. As I told my Confirmation students this week: it's okay to ask questions. It's okay to doubt. It's okay to stomp and scream and shake your fist (unless you're my two-year-old, and then we have a different set of standards). God can take it. It's NOT okay to walk away, to give up, to toss in your hat and chalk it up to "the Church needs to get with the times." Obedience, the bad word of our times. It's also

something we don't appreciate enough. I can ask and ask and ask (and I do, just ask my priest). Seeking knowledge isn't bad. And here's part of the arsenal you need to be ready for that part of the job.

As I go down the path of finding my way back to Jesus, I have found this book very informative. I will definitely be referencing it again and again.

In a time when the media and even other believers misconstrue the tiniest details about the Catholic faith, It's important that younger people have a go-to text to affirm their Catholic beliefs. The Youcat, a condensed & cool catechism is that spiritual weapon. Written by youth and young adults ages 15-25, this book interprets the Catechism of the Catholic faith for a younger audience with a shorter attention span via an easy-to-read Q&A format. You can literally flip to any random page and learn something important or use the subject index in the back of the book to find what questions relate to your subject in question. I consistently refer to it when planning my curriculum for youth ministry and have even learned a few things myself. This book makes you want to dive into a deeper relationship with Christ. Even though this has been marketed to young people, do not be discouraged if you are rediscovering your Catholic faith and just so happen to be not-so-young. It's a great learning tool for any age!

This book is a great reference not only to the youth but I would also recommend it for adults as well. I really liked the quotes from the bible, saints, and secular people about the teachings of the church to further reinforce the lessons learned after reading this book. This is a book you can just open and start reading from anywhere. I'm really satisfied with the book and just as Pope Benedict XVI said in the book "Study this Catechism! ... You need to be more deeply rooted in the faith than the generation of your parents..."

I am familiar with this. Just needed extra copy to rebuild my library since I moved to a new place

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Youcat

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