



“Behold I come: in the volume of the book it is written of Me: I delight to do Thy will, O My God, and Thy law is in the depths of My Heart” (Ps 39:8, 9).

# Living for Holiness

“LIVING MY RELIGION SERIES” BOOK 8

CONTAINING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
FROM THE BALTIMORE CATECHISM No. 2  
OFFICIAL REVISED CONFRATERNITY EDITION  
WITH EXPLANATIONS AND BIBLE STORIES

by

*Right Rev. Msgr. William R. Kelly, LL.D.*  
FORMERLY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

*Very Rev. Msgr. Edmund J. Goebel, Ph.D.*  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

*Sister Mary Imelda, S.L., M.A.*  
INSTRUCTOR IN PRIMARY METHODS, LORETTO JUNIOR COLLEGE, NERINX, KY.

and

*Rev. Daniel M. Dougherty, M.A.*  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION, CATHEDRAL COLLEGE, ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

in association with

*Right Rev. Msgr. M. A. Schumacher, M.A., Litt.D.*  
AUTHOR OF “I TEACH CATECHISM”

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The Questions and Answers of the Revised Baltimore Catechism No. 2 which are developed in Book 8, "Living for Holiness" of the "Living My Religion" series, continue the work of the series on the Revised Baltimore Catechism No. 2.

Throughout the book the terms *Holy Ghost* and *Holy Spirit* are employed synonymously as pertaining to the third Person of the Holy Trinity. The official Revised Baltimore Catechism No. 2 uses *Holy Ghost*, but the New Testament quotations, taken from the *Confraternity of Christian Doctrine* Edition of the Challoner-Rheims version, employ the term *Holy Spirit*.

The prayers that should be known by children of this grade are given at the end of the book. A selection of indulgenced ejaculations has been added.

The usual list of difficult words giving merely the word, has been replaced by a *List of Important Words*. This *List* gives not only the pronunciation and the grammatical definition for each word but, wherever practical and suited, includes information of a doctrinal, scriptural, biographical or geographical character.

Finally, the Outline of Contents presents the Unit and topical subject-matter with page references.

#### THE AUTHORS.

## CONTENTS

UNIT	PAGE
I. Walking His Way	3
II. The First Three Commandments	21
III. A Man's Home Is His Castle	39
IV. Invitation from God	57
V. The Father Himself Loves You	75
VI. I Believe in the Holy Ghost	93
VII. The More Abundant Life	111
VIII. The Happiest Birthday	129
IX. Confirmation Conquers	147
X. To Serve and to Sacrifice	165
XI. Holiness in Marriage	183
XII. The Sacrament Most Holy	201
XIII. The Road Back to God	219
XIV. Happy Ending	237



“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word” (Luke 1:38)

## Unit I

### WALKING HIS WAY

THE children were gathered in the church for the nine o'clock Mass. It was the first day of school. The pastor was offering the Mass of the Holy Spirit to beg God's blessing on teachers and pupils.

“The church is the place to start school,” said Father, when time came for the sermon. “The Holy Spirit is our real Teacher. Our minds and hearts are His pupils. To them He gives the lessons of happiness. The school building next door is only a place to continue your learning. That's why we came first to church this morning. May the Holy Spirit make you live the faith given at your Baptism. May the work of the year consist in doing God's will, living for holiness.”

When the eighth grade had assembled after Mass in their bright and cheerful room, Fred asked: “Sister, what is the religion work going to be about this year?”

“You are an ‘eager beaver,’ aren't you?” said Sister. “The rest of you look very much alive, too. I hope you will be as anxious about learning a few days from now. But, Fred, I shall answer your question by asking you one. What were the pastor's last words in his talk this morning?”

“Something about doing God's will and living for holiness,” answered Fred. “He told us to imitate Our Lady who did God's holy will so perfectly. He told us to remember her answer to the Angel Gabriel: ‘Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to thy word.’”

“That's correct. That will be the theme of this year's eighth grade work in religion. Father Potter has planned the course. It will be interesting. It will review all you have learned in religion since the first grade.”

“Won't that be hard, Sister? Eight years' work in one,” asked Agnes.

“Oh, no. We are not going over every bit of it. We are going to emphasize some things a Catholic should never forget. You are no longer little folks. In a few short months.

people will call you 'young men' and 'young women.' So this year we must stress what will help you to lead a good Catholic life," said Sister.

"Is a good Catholic life the same as holiness, Sister?" questioned Mark, a new student.

"Yes, a good Catholic life means believing and doing what God wants us to believe and do; and if we do that, we shall become holy. But, here comes Father Potter. He will tell you more about it."

"Good morning, Father," the children chorused, as the door opened.

"Well, that's a real greeting, children. A good morning to you all, and a good new year at school. You look as though you had already started to learn something. Am I right?" asked Father.

"Yes, Father," said Marian. "Sister was telling us about holiness. She told us that the work this year will be about 'living for holiness.'"

"I hope you will like it," Father continued. "When I thought of the work during the summer, I recalled something I heard years ago. 'The eighth grade is like turning the last page of a chapter only to find the next chapter better.' So, I want this 'page-turning' year to get you ready for the next and better chapter of your lives."

"Sister said that you would go over all the religion we ever learned. Will that be hard, Father?" asked Miriam.

"No, indeed. It will be pleasant. It will be like a jig-saw puzzle where you put together all the odd-shaped pieces of wood. When you've finished, it makes a beautiful picture. But, let me ask a question. There are some words painted in the sanctuary of the Church. We can use them for a slogan or motto during the year. Can anybody recall them?"

"Would it be the three words painted up near the ceiling, Father?" asked Catherine. "They are, 'Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,' I think."

"Good for you. Can anyone tell me why they make a good slogan for a year of living for holiness?"

"Don't they mean 'Holy, Holy, Holy?'" asked James.

"Yes. Let's think of them often during the year. God is holy and His plan is that we be holy, too. 'You, therefore, are to be perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect' (*Matt. 5:48*). All men should try to do God's will on earth as it is done in heaven. Then there would arise to God the praise that is due Him. 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. The heavens and earth are full of Thy glory.'"

"Father, when I was in the country during the summer, I heard a priest say in a sermon, that there are many saints today, and many holy people," said Frank.

"Very true, Frank. Our present Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, has named forty-four persons Blessed, among them twenty-nine martyrs. He has canonized twelve saints," replied Father.

"Did they live long ago, when the Church was young?" asked Margaret.

"No, indeed. Many of them belonged to the last century. Some of them died in our own century. In fact, at the ceremonies in Rome when they were named Blessed or Saint, some of their own relatives and friends were present. Wasn't that interesting?"

"And, Father, the priest I heard this summer said that it showed that we could be very good, if we tried, and used the grace of God," added Frank.

"I'm glad you remembered the sermon so well, Frank. It fits in with our lesson on holiness. Holiness is following Christ. It is for everybody. Here's a definition that you can put in your note-book," said Father.

Father went to the board and wrote, "Holiness is doing the will of God promptly, generously, consistently, out of love." He underlined the words, 'promptly,' 'generously,' 'consistently,' 'out of love.' "They are important words, each of them," he said.

When they had finished writing, Father asked: "Do you know what it means to do God's will?"