





The Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

We Walk with Christ Youth Catechism

 $\text{Kyiv} \cdot \text{Edmonton} \cdot 2023$



Citation from Holy Scripture



Citation from liturgical texts



Citation from the works of the Church Fathers



Citation from the UGCC Catechism Christ — Our Pascha

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THE UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH Major Archbishop of Kyiv-Halych

Ref. MA 20/252

Dear Young Men and Young Women in Christ,

Youth is a special period in a person's life. This is a time when a young person learns about himself or herself, discovers in himself or herself previously unknown forces and aspirations, feelings and abilities. This is a time to personally search for the Genuine One, the True One, the Eternal One, and the Beautiful One. Being young men and young women is a vocation to know their loving God and the mystery of his pre-eternal plan for them, to personally experience his eternal love and to learn from him to love and be loved.

Youth is usually characterized by having an open, passionate heart, a flexible inquisitive mind, and a decisive character that acutely reacts to

falsehood, injustice and wrongdoing. I am overjoyed and appreciate the opportunity along with you to seek answers to the questions and needs which resonate in your hearts: how are young Christians of the twenty-first century to live in a modern world, where every day instead of the truth, you are exposed to "things that are fake," and, instead of the Genuine One, you encounter fake products and assorted replacements, where the voice of God's Word is easily "diluted" given the vicious posts on social networks without any personal responsibility for what was said or written? How can we remain Christ's friends in the context of the challenges of the current global culture? How can we become builders of God's Kingdom, while remaining faithful citizens of our country?

I invite you to discover the answers to these and other questions, becoming participants of an enthusiastic journey and pilgrimage on the eyecatching pages of the We Walk with Christ Youth Catechism. Here you will join a group of your peers-pilgrims from Ukraine and the world, who are the embodiment of a young person today, the young face of the Church. Together with a spiritual guide you will explore by deepening your faith, by growing in God's wisdom, and by growing amid life's struggles in the acquisition of Christian virtues. This will be a way marked by the most important truths of our faith, which are revealed in the Person of Jesus Christ and which our Church faithfully has preserved and passed on to future generations in a rich spiritual heritage of the great ascetics and the righteous of our people.

It is my sincere hope that, in experiencing this journey of faith and getting to know God, you would surely want to share your joyful story with others. And so, I invite you, young believers of our Church, to go into the world, into your actual real-life situations, proclaiming the Good News about what God has done for humankind in Christ, the "pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Heb 12:2). Walk through the darkness of disbelief and the "motionlessness" of indifference, through the challenges of the modern world and the difficulties of forming of your identity, through space and time, through histories and cultures — strengthened with the spiritual experience of our martyrs and confessors to strengthen and build up our Church.

Today, the world is looking for the truth of the Gospel, the truth proclaimed genuinely and enthusiastically with the mouths and entire lives

of young people, the faithful friends of Jesus of Nazareth, the incarnate Word of God. That is why we walk with Christ!

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!



Given in Kyiv

at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the day of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, September 22, 2020 A.D.

Introduction

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

Lk 24·13-14

In the Holy Scripture of the New Testament, in the Gospel of Luke, there is a description of a journey made by Jesus Christ's two disciples to Emmaus, a village near Jerusalem. These men were shocked by the events they had witnessed the day before. After all, their Master was arrested, unfairly convicted, and cruelly executed on the Cross. They experienced a shattering of their hopes and had to flee from potential persecution.

And today many young people are experiencing life crises and dreading the next day. They also want to understand how they, as Christians of the twenty-first century, can put into practice the values of the Gospel in their lives, and how they are to be the bearers of God's love and mercy.

With this Catechism, the Ukrainian Catholic Church invites young people to learn about their faith by making a pilgrimage to our holy sites. During this trip everyone can be reminded of the most important truths of our faith revealed to humankind in the Person of Jesus of Nazareth. He is "the pioneer and perfecter of the faith" (Heb 12:2), "the image of the invisible God" (Col 1:15), our guide on the way of life, our Pascha! By engaging with Father Andrii — the priest and spiritual guide of this pilgrimage — we will find the sought-after answers.