



The Very Beginnings:

Two Saints, a Servant of
God, and a Cardinal

The Marian Catechist Apostolate

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Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa of Calcutta:

- Pope John Paul II asked Mother Teresa of Calcutta to not only take care of the poorest of the poor but to also catechize them.
- He introduced Mother Teresa to Cardinal Ratzinger who then introduced Mother to Fr. John Hardon who from that time forward became very close friends. Through these retreats offered to the Sisters of Charity by Fr. John,
- Mother Teresa soon discovered the rich gift of Fr. John Hardon's as a teacher and catechist.
- Pope John Paul II also recognized this gift and asked Fr. John to help him re-evangelize the world through his teaching and writings for the next thousand years. Pope John Paul was a “watchmen” of his time.



Saint Mother Teresa and Fr. John Hardon:

After their meeting in Rome, Father Hardon began

- Teaching the Missionaries of Charity
- Holding yearly retreats to the motherhouse in Calcutta.

Together they formed the Marian Catechist Material

Fr. John Anthony Hardon, S.J., Master Catechist

- Fr. John Hardon continued catechizing Mother Teresa's Sister's of Charity - with the Marian Catechist Studies
- His work was carried out with every ounce of his energy and at every moment of his life.
- Fr. John began numerous apostolates and associations all of which catechized and evangelized the faithful of the world in a clear systematic way to fight against the fallacies and mis-teachings of the 70's and 80's.





The Holy Rosary, School of the Marian Catechist Apostolate:

- With our Holy Father, our beloved founder, Father Hardon, S.J. understood that, if our world is to be saved, which is indeed the mission of the Church, the faith must be taught and lived with the enthusiasm and the energy of the first Christians.
- Archbishop Burke had also recognized the need for solid catechesis and because of this, saw the many fruits of Fr. John Hardon's work.
- They became close friends.
- Before Fr. John Hardon's death on December 30th, 2000, he asked then Archbishop Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke to watch over his works within the many apostolates and associations Fr. John had begun.

Not Another New Program

1. The new evangelization of America, depends completely on seeking God's grace

- Receive grace through prayer and worship.

Pope John Paul cautions us:

There is a temptation which perennially besets every spiritual journey and pastoral work: that of thinking that the results depend on our ability to act and to plan. God of course asks us really to cooperate with his grace, and therefore invites us to invest all our resources of intelligence and energy in serving the cause of the Kingdom. But it is fatal to forget that "without Christ we can do nothing." (cf. Jn 15:5) (NMI, no. 38a) Novo Millenio Inuente JPII 2001

- In carrying out the mission of Christ in our day, we first renew our life of prayer and sacred worship.



Not Another New Program



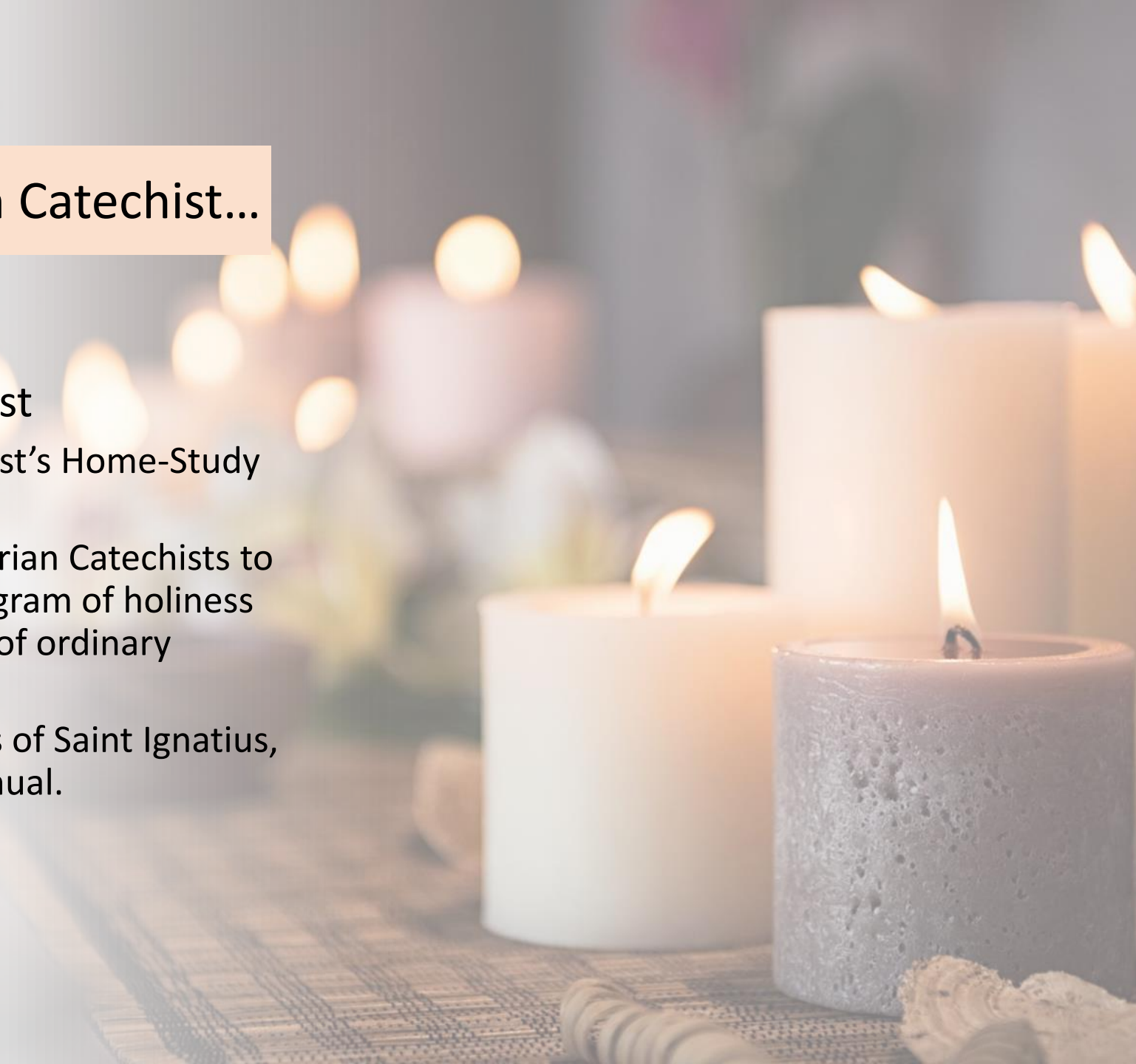
2. Nourishing ourselves with the **Word of God**, handed on to us in the Sacred Scriptures and the Church's teaching

- Be 'servants of the Word' in the work of evangelization." (NMI, no. 40a) Novo Millennio Inuente JP11 2001
- This is a priority in a society which has been de-christianized and thoroughly secularized.
- In the face of the challenges of our time, the Holy Father issued again the mandate of the new evangelization...

What it means to join the Marian Catechist...

The Practices of a Marian Catechist

- Begins with the Basic Catholic Catechist's Home-Study Course, authored by Father Hardon,
- The daily spiritual practices of the Marian Catechists to respond fully to the Holy Father's program of holiness of life, of meeting the "high standard of ordinary Christian living."
- Privately makes the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, following Father Hardon's retreat manual.



As you grow and advance...

According to the stages of formation, Marian Catechists participate in:

- Daily Holy Mass, if possible.
- They pray five decades of the Rosary daily and recite the Angelus at least twice a day.
- They are to have recourse to the Sacrament of Penance twice monthly, if possible.
- They participate in the Apostleship of Prayer by making the *Morning Offering*.
- Each evening, they make an examination of conscience and pray the *Act of Contrition* before retiring.
- Ten minutes in spiritual reading
- Ten minutes in meditation daily.

*The meditation is often based on the spiritual reading. Eventually, too, the Marian Catechists are to make the *Way of the Cross* each day.



In the ongoing formation, or lifelong formation, as Father Hardon called it, four qualities are sought:

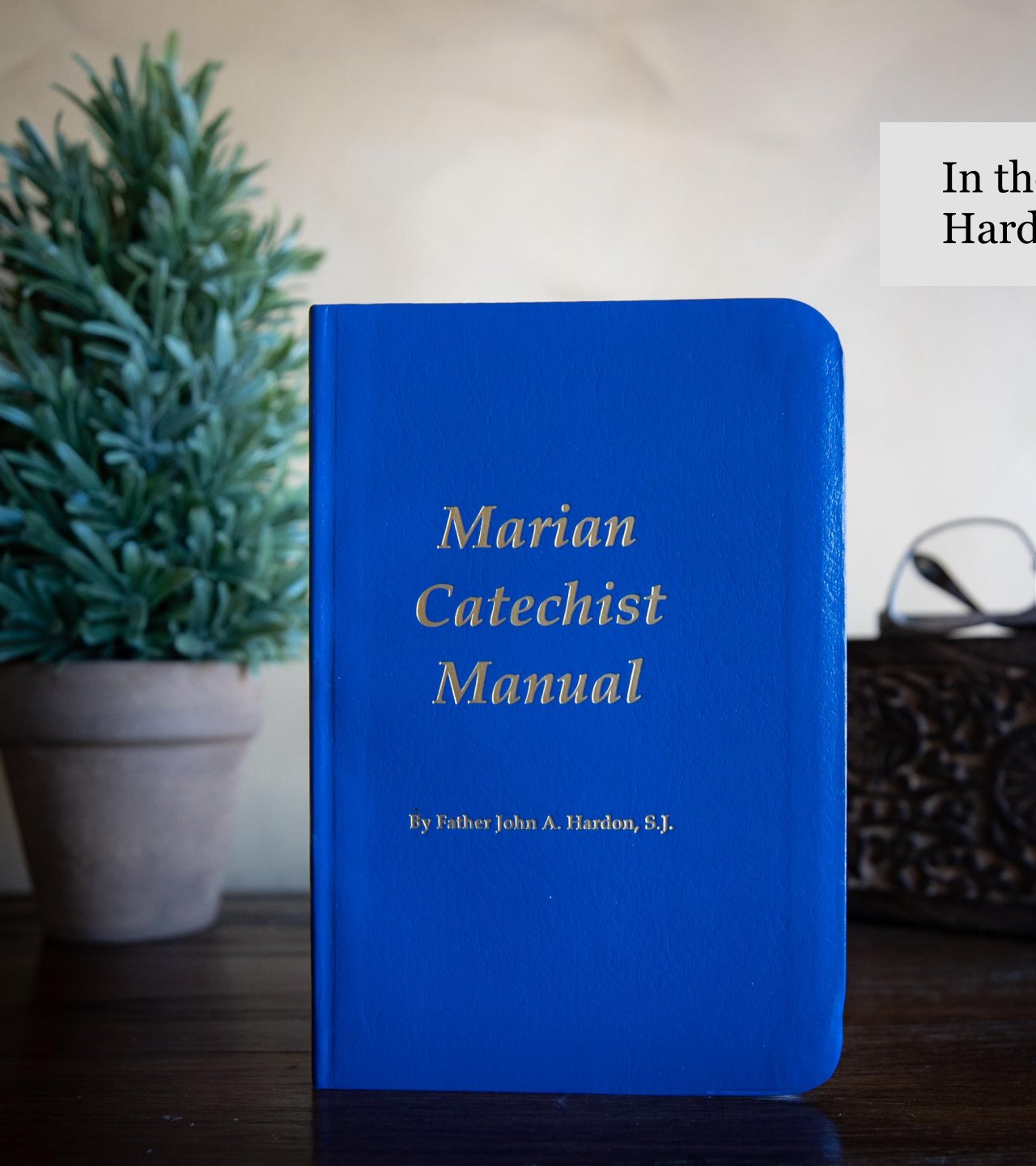
- 1) Study of the Word of God;
- 2) Familiarity with God;
- 3) Spirit of Prayer; and
- 4) Self-Detachment.

Referring to the General Directory for Catechesis, Father Hardon reminds us:

*Anyone can begin the Marian Catechist Coursework

~Our spiritual life is the principal textbook from which we are to instruct others in the Catholic faith. (MCM, p. 46)

The Marian Catechist Manual gives a description of the four spiritual qualities which the Marian Catechists seek.



*Marian
Catechist
Manual*

By Father John A. Hardon, S.J.



Marian Catechists

The Vision of Father Hardon

1. Marian Catechist Associate
2. Active Marian Catechist in Formation
3. Contemplative Marian Catechist in Formation
4. Consecrated Marian Catechist

Marian Catechists Associates



Associates support with

1. Daily Prayer
2. Volunteer Work
3. Financial assistance

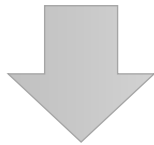
The apostolate is of such importance and faces such challenges, that it needs the cooperation of many to fulfill its purpose. Associates' members **DO NOT** have to participate in any course work or be in formation.

Road to Marian Consecration

Begin Formation (Courses, Spiritual Practices, In-home 30-day Ignatius Retreat)



Commit to Consecration & Complete General Directory of Catechesis & Request Consecration by Cardinal Burke



Become Consecrated!

Decide between active or contemplative ongoing formation.

Grow in Prayer

Complete Masters of the Spiritual Life Study



Renew Promises

A large, light brown circular arrow graphic is positioned on the right side of the image, overlapping the stone path. The text "Renew Promises" is written in a black serif font across the center of the arrow's loop.

Active AND Contemplative Marian Catechists in Formation

Father Hardon made provision for both active and contemplative Marian Catechists.

In fact, there may be many who receive the formation of the Marian Catechist and follow the spiritual practices who, for one reason or another, may not be active catechists.

As Father Hardon points out, all the members help each other:



Consecrated Active and Contemplative Marian Catechists

Those who discern they would like to be consecrated, need to complete the following items:

- Basic Catechism Course. 16 chapter,
- Advance Catechism Course. 36 chapter,
- Participate in the daily spiritual practices,
- Complete the 30-day Ignatius in-home retreat,
- Complete the General Directory of Catechesis by Cardinal Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke.



The Marian Catechist Apostolate



But the Blessed Virgin is not only a pattern; she is the perfect model of what every catechist in the Catholic Church should be. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2030)

Our Blessed Mother is the one who most perfectly communicates Christ to the world by her vocation and mission of Mother of God. Her obedience to the will of God, and her complete and faithful discipleship of her Son, God the Son Incarnate, make her the model and the chief intercessor of those who consecrate themselves as Marian Catechists. Father Hardon identifies three qualities of Mary which make her the model of catechists:

- Mary's clear and unquestioning faith
- Mary's union of prayer with the Heart of her Son
- Mary's plain and courageous living out of the will of God in her life. (MCM, p. 32)

It is these qualities, which must be the foundation of anyone who undertakes the apostolate of catechesis, that the Marian Catechists aspire to imitate. The motto of the Marian Catechists is the words which our Blessed Mother spoke to the wine stewards at the Wedding Feast of Cana: "Do whatever He tells you." (*Jn* 2:5) (cf. MCM, p. 1) Every Marian Catechist prays to do all that Christ asks and to lead those catechized to do the same.



The Marian Catechist Apostolate

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