

How to grow your own spiritual life towards interior peace and joy in the middle of a busy world and a hostile culture, and how the Catechetical Institute can help.

1. What is the *chief pillar* of any successful spiritual life?

- What primarily went wrong between me and God? – Eden’s sin was more than anything a failure to *trust*, absent understanding.
- How then must my spiritual life begin and grow? – Christianity is about personal fidelity, in a *family* way.
- **Bottom-line:** Knowing God’s fathering ways is vital to all else.
- CI workshops that would help: The Father: Origin & Desire of All / Christ: His Person & Works / Holy Spirit, Converter of Hearts

2. What is *God’s primary goal* in what He allows and wills in my daily life?

- How does trust grow in my soul? – Knowing deeply that your beloved will *sacrifice* for your good, your peace, your joy.
- What then must be the focus of God’s individual fathering of me? – Growing a child that *learns* and *yearns* to trust daddy.
- **Bottom-line:** A trust-led life must become the normal expectation of God’s fatherly care.
- CI workshops that would help: Pedagogy of Revelation and the Response of Faith / The Human Person in God’s Loving Plan / The Human Person / Personal Spirituality and the Call to Holiness

3. What is *satan’s primary goal* in what he seeks to foster in my daily experiences?

- When does my life witness become useful to satan? – Discouragement and indifference whittle away the dramatic *risk* of trust.
- When does my life ending become useful to satan? – Reaching spiritual *despair* or obstinate *dismissal*.
- **Bottom-line:** Discouragement and despair are demons’ desired victories in ruining a soul.
- CI workshops that would help: Prayer: Introduction to the Spiritual Life of the Catechist / Spiritual Combat / Crisis and Conflict / Freedom and Conscience

4. What does it feel like to become holy; how do I *know* if I am progressing?

- What does Christian maturity look like in *receiving* God and others? – Learning to *lean*, in wise reliance as a son or daughter.
- What does Christian maturity look like in *giving* God to others? – Learning to *live for others*, in generous fathering or mothering.
- **Bottom-line:** The spiritual fruits (inward signs) of Galatians 5 and the spiritual gifts (outward signs) of Isaiah 11 are the measures of being confirmed in Dad’s missioning for you.
- CI workshops that would help: The Universal Call to Holiness / Being Guided and Guiding Souls / Vocational Spirituality / Teaching Catechesis for Conversion / Our Life in Christ: The Basics of Catholic Morality

5. What other helpful resources does Franciscan have to offer to help our parish or school succeed in our mission?

- Our resources section on the site: www.FranciscanAtHome.com/resources.
- Our annual [St. John Bosco Conference](#) and all Franciscan University’s [other](#) summer conferences.
- Our ministry formation magazine – [The Catechetical Review](#).
- Our [events](#) regularly held for dioceses, local and on-line, and our [tutorials and webinar series](#).
- Our University’s online and on-ground [degrees](#) and [School of Spiritual Direction](#).
- Our intentional priority on formation for pastoral accompaniment, with workshops on our platform that help build you in that specific skill set, and the option to join the [Franciscan International Guild of Catechists and Leaders](#)