

Nov. 21 Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Excerpt from The Baltimore Catechism #3 (1885)

AN ACT OF FAITH.

Q. 94. Say the Act of Faith.

A. O my God! I firmly believe that Thou art one God in three Divine persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; I believe that Thy Divine Son became man, and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because Thou hast revealed them, who canst neither deceive nor be deceived.

Q. 95. Give the substance of an Act of Faith.

A. The substance of an Act of Faith is: I believe all that God has revealed and the Catholic Church teaches.

Q. 96. Why do we find Acts of Faith of different lengths?

A. We find Acts of Faith of different lengths, because some state more fully than others what God has revealed and the Church teaches.

AN ACT OF HOPE.

Q. 97. Say the Act of Hope.

A. O my God! relying on Thy infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Thy grace, and life ever-lasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

Q. 98. Give the substance of an Act of Hope.

A. The substance of an Act of Hope is: I hope for heaven and the means to obtain it.

AN ACT OF LOVE.

Q. 99. Say the Act of Love.

A. O my God! I love Thee above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because Thou art all-good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of Thee. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

Q. 100. Give the substance of an Act of Love.

A. The substance of an Act of Love is: I love God above all things for His own sake, and my neighbor as myself for the love of God.

Q. 101. How do we show that we love God above all things?

A. We show that we love God above all things by keeping His commandments and by never offending Him for any person or thing.

Q. 102. What does loving your neighbor as yourself mean?

A. Loving my neighbor as myself does not mean that I must love him as much as myself; but that I must love him with the same kind of love, that is, I must never do to my neighbor what I would not wish my neighbor to do to me; but, on the contrary, do unto others as I would have others do unto me.

Q. 103. Do an "Act of Love" and an "Act of Charity" mean the same thing?

A. An "Act of Love" and "Act of Charity" do mean the same thing, because Charity means love, or it means an act of kindness that comes from love.

Q. 104. How may all persons show Charity to their neighbor?

A. All persons may show Charity to their neighbor by never injuring his character and by always speaking well of him.

Q. 105. Are we bound to make Acts of Faith, Hope and Love?

A. We are bound from time to time during our lives to make Acts of Faith, Hope and Love; otherwise we risk our salvation.

