

6th Sunday of Easter (A)

May 10, 2026

“Apologetics”

Can Muslims be saved without Christ? Why can't women be ordained priests? Does a carrot have a soul? What are nine ways we can sin? How do you gain an indulgence? Why do Catholic Bibles have seven more books than Protestant Bibles?

These questions can only be answered by study of the Church's rich teachings. The best answer to the question, “Why are you still Catholic?” is found in the Baltimore Catechism, which says, “the reason why I am a Catholic is that I have studied the Catholic religion well and am thoroughly convinced of its truth” (*Baltimore Catechism* No. 2, p. 236).

We are brought into the Church in Baptism, but we stay in the Church through grace, faith, obedience, and study.

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope,” Saint Peter advises his readers in talking about Christian suffering (1 Pt. 3:15).

But he doesn't stop there; he adds three qualities that underscore Christian teaching, or apologetics.

*“But do it with **gentleness** and **reverence**, keeping your **conscience** clear.”*

Gentleness is more easily received than harshness; reverence is a witness to the sacred nature of apologetics, and a clear conscience marks the integrity of the person teaching; you have to bear witness to the truths you present.

Despite the massive amount of information about Christ and his Church, there remains massive ignorance about basic elements of our faith: what we believe, how we live, how we celebrate, and how we pray.

People have questions about the Catholic faith, and it is our job, yours and mine, to answer them, clearly, concisely, and correctly.

One of the four values of the Journey in Faith process is “lifelong learning,” or study. We need to study our faith in order to share our faith and save souls in the process.

How confident are you in your ability to “give an explanation to anyone who asks you a reason for your hope?”

The Catholic Church’s teachings are like a gold mine, with countless veins of valuable truth waiting to be discovered and exchanged for obedient faith.

That makes us spiritual miners, who have to crawl through thickets and into shafts that seem scary in order to do the work of knowledge.

The Holy Spirit, given in Confirmation, equips us with *wisdom* to know God’s will, *knowledge* of creation, *understanding* of God’s plan, and *counsel* to help others in their struggle of faith.

We have all the tools necessary to share the faith, including Internet libraries, Catholic web sites [like the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops and the Vatican], Kindle and hard cover books, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, call phone apps like “Hallow,” and so many remarkable tools.

Having said all this, be careful about Artificial Intelligence apps like Chat GTP because they can mislead and misinform. Cross-check other sources when using this remarkable resource.

We need the *desire* to learn, the *discipline* to discover, and the *direction* the Church provides in this process.

May we *trust* in God to *transform* our lives, so that *together* with our brothers and sisters, we will advance along the way of the Kingdom.

Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us on the way.

God bless you.