

## **Doctrinal Premises USCCA Chapters 1-36**

### *Chapter 1, My Soul Longs for You, O God*

We are made by God for God. Only in God do we find our true meaning and purpose.

### *Chapter 2, God Comes to Meet Us*

Rather than remain distant from us, God has revealed Himself to us in Christ to help us grow in intimacy with Him.

### *Chapter 3, Proclaim the Gospel to Every Creature*

The revelation of God in Christ is communicated through the Scriptures, the Tradition of the Church and the magisterium (teaching authority) given to the Apostles and their successors.

### *Chapter 4, Bring about the Obedience of Faith*

Faith is a gift from God that allows us to respond with our whole being to Him. It allows us to trust Him and His message, even though we cannot see Him clearly.

### *Chapter 5, I Believe in God*

The Holy Trinity is the central mystery of all faith. At His core, God is a community of Three Divine Persons so in love that they are One God.

### *Chapter 6, Man and Woman in the Beginning*

God created man and woman in His image and likeness, but through their sin, all people are conceived in separation from Him. This condition is called Original Sin.

### *Chapter 7, The Good News: God has sent His Son*

In order to save us from sin (Original and actual), God sent His only Son Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, to share in our human life.

### *Chapter 8, The Saving Death and Resurrection of Christ*

Out of love, Jesus died for us, showing total obedience to the Father, even to the point of death. In the Resurrection, Jesus confirms all that He did and said and guarantees His power over death.

### *Chapter 9, Receive the Holy Spirit*

After ascending into Heaven, Christ sent His Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, on His disciples, transforming us into Temples of God.

### *Chapter 10, The Church, Reflecting the Light of Christ*

Christ makes the Spirit present in our lives by giving us the Church, the sign and sacrament of salvation to the world.

### *Chapter 11, The Four Marks of the Church*

The four primary characteristics of the Church are that she is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. They are inseparable reflections of the mission Christ gave the Church.

### *Chapter 12, Mary, the Church's First and Most Perfect Member*

Through a unique and singular grace, God made Mary the Mother of Jesus. Mary completely cooperated with God in that mission.

## **Doctrinal Premises USCCA Chapters 13-24**

### *Chapter 13, Our Eternal Destiny*

Christ's goal for each person is to defeat Original Sin (including actual sin, suffering and death) completely and lead us to share eternally, body and soul, in the divinenature.

### *Chapter 14, The Celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ*

Liturgy and Sacraments are God's means for us to participate in the Paschal Mystery of Christ, making us Temples of the Holy Spirit and members of the Body of Christ.

### *Chapter 15, Baptism: Becoming a Christian*

In Baptism, Christ's grace is given to us to overcome Original Sin and restore us as children of God.

### *Chapter 16, Confirmation: Consecrated for Mission*

In Confirmation, the Baptized person is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ.

### *Chapter 17, The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Christian Life*

In the Eucharist, we increase our union with the Trinity and the Body of Christ.

### *Chapter 18, Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation: God is Rich in Mercy*

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Christ absolves and heals us of sins committed after Baptism.

### *Chapter 19, The Anointing of the Sick and the Dying*

Through the Anointing of the Sick, Christ offers the sick person peace and courage to deal with serious illness or frailties of old age.

### *Chapter 20, Holy Orders*

Through Holy Orders, men are united with Christ the High Priest, the Head of the Body, for the ministries of teaching, divine worship and pastoral governance.

### *Chapter 21, The Sacrament of Matrimony*

Reflecting Christ's spousal relationship with the Church, the Sacrament of Matrimony unites a husband and wife in a permanent covenant broken only by the death of a spouse.

### *Chapter 22, Sacramentals and Popular Devotions*

Sacramentals, sacred signs that resemble the Sacraments, dispose believers to receive the chief effects of the Sacraments. Popular devotions (prayers and practices) help us grow in intimacy with God through meditation on eternal truths.

### *Chapter 23, Life in Christ - Part One*

That each person is created in God's image and likeness is the foundation for the moral life. In this we see our purpose and the source of our dignity.

### *Chapter 24, Life in Christ, Part Two*

Because God is a communion of divine relationships, morality is to be lived in relationship with others, not in a vacuum.

## **Doctrinal Premises USCCA Chapters 25-36**

### *Chapter 25: First Commandment: Believe in the True God.*

The First Commandment, to worship the Lord alone, is the foundation of all the Commandments, ordering our entire lives to God, our beginning and our end.

### *Chapter 26: Second Commandment: Reverence God's Name*

The Second Commandment calls us to order our speech and thoughts to God, always being conscious of a relationship with Him.

### *Chapter 27: Third Commandment: Love the Lord's Day*

The Third Commandment calls us to order our time to God, especially through the observance of the Lord's Day, the Sunday Eucharistic celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

### *Chapter 28: Fourth Commandment: Strengthen Your Family*

The Fourth Commandment calls us to honor our parents because they cooperated with God in bringing us into the world.

### *Chapter 29: Fifth Commandment: Promote the Culture of Life*

The Fifth Commandment calls us to recognize that God is the author of all life.

### *Chapter 30: Sixth Commandment: Marital Fidelity*

The Sixth Commandment calls us to see that marriage reflects the love of the Trinity and the love between Christ and His Church.

### *Chapter 31: Seventh Commandment: Do Not Steal—Act Justly*

The Seventh Commandment calls us to the understanding that the goods of the world are meant for the stewardship of all people. This includes the fact that each person has the right to private property, our opportunity to be co-workers with God in the building up of the world's resources.

### *Chapter 32: Eighth Commandment: Tell The Truth*

The Eighth Commandment calls us to be people of truth because God is truth (when my thought or belief corresponds to the objective reality outside of me). We are made to live in truth because we are created in God's image and likeness.

### *Chapter 33: Ninth Commandment: Practice Purity of Heart*

The Ninth Commandment calls us to look at the opposite gender with purity, not for physical gain.

### *Chapter 34: Tenth Commandment: Embrace Poverty of Spirit*

The Tenth Commandment calls us to detachment from material possessions and to abandonment to God's will.

### *Chapter 35: God Calls Us to Pray*

God calls each person to pray. We are made to pray, to be in loving dialogue with God the Father through Jesus in the Holy Spirit.

### *Chapter 36: Jesus taught us to Pray*

The Lord's Prayer (the Our Father) calls us, His children, to intimate communication with our heavenly Father.