

**PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE (9/18/22): BALTIMORE CATECHISM LESSON 1**  
**THE PURPOSE OF MAN'S EXISTENCE**

- I. Petitions/Prayers (10 Minutes)
  - A. "Sign of the Cross"
  - B. "Our Father"
  - C. "Act of Faith" (pages 5-6)
  
- II. Dialogue (20 minutes, pages 9-10):
  - A. God: Eternally Good and Happy
    - 1. Creation (visible and invisible) manifests God's goodness —especially in angels and men (rational creatures)
    - 2. Why God created us:
      - a. To manifest His goodness by cooperation in completing His work: pro-creation/fruitful and flourishing dominion
      - b. To come to share His everlasting happiness in heaven
  
  - B. The Way to Heaven = Jesus (our Life):
    - 1. Truth (The Creed)
    - 2. Freedom (Sacraments/Prayer)
    - 3. Love (Commandments): Obedience to Love for Love
      - a. Choosing what God wants for me in obedience through sacrifice
      - b. Choosing what God wants for others in service
  
  - C. Knowledge of God — Head/Heart/Affections/Body
  
  - D. Love: Sacrifice that leads to Service
    - 1. We allow God by grace to complete His work in us
    - 2. We complete God's work by:
      - a. Knowing His will
      - b. Doing His will
      - c. Crown of Holy Work = Fruitfulness and Beauty
  
  - E. Love of God versus Love of Creatures:
    - 1. Self-giving poverty of the Cross versus selfish accumulation of wealth
    - 2. Sacrificing and suffering for the good versus indulging in selfish pleasure
    - 3. Humility in putting God and others before myself versus seeking attention and fame by putting myself over God and others
    - 4. Acknowledging God's power and serving in His Name versus using my own power to make a name for myself
  
- III. Table Talk/Discussion Questions (Page 11)
  
- IV. Wrap-Up/Mission/Dismissal