

# SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS CATHEDRAL

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## What is Truth?

John 18:37-38

37 So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” 38 Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

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### Practically speaking, how does this break down?

1696 The way of Christ leads to life; a contrary way “leads to destruction.” The Gospel parable of the two ways remains ever present in the catechesis of the Church; it shows the importance of moral decisions for our salvation: **“There are *two ways*, the one of life, the other of death; but between the two, there is a great difference.”**

1697 *Catechesis* has to reveal in all clarity the joy and the demands of the way of Christ. Catechesis for the “newness of life” in him should be:

- *a catechesis of the Holy Spirit*, the interior Master of life according to Christ, a gentle guest and friend who inspires, guides, corrects, and strengthens this life;
- *a catechesis of grace*, for it is by grace that we are saved and again it is by grace that our works can bear fruit for eternal life;
- *a catechesis of the beatitudes*, for the way of Christ is summed up in the beatitudes, the only path that leads to the eternal beatitude for which the human heart longs;
- *a catechesis of sin and forgiveness*, for unless man acknowledges that he is a sinner he cannot know the truth about himself, which is a condition for acting justly; and without the offer of forgiveness he would not be able to bear this truth;
- *a catechesis of the human virtues* which causes one to grasp the beauty and attraction of right dispositions towards goodness;
- *a catechesis of the Christian virtues* of faith, hope, and charity, generously inspired by the example of the saints;
- *a catechesis of the twofold commandment of charity* set forth in the Decalogue;
- *an ecclesial catechesis*, for it is through the manifold exchanges of “spiritual goods” in the “communion of saints” that Christian life can grow, develop, and be communicated.