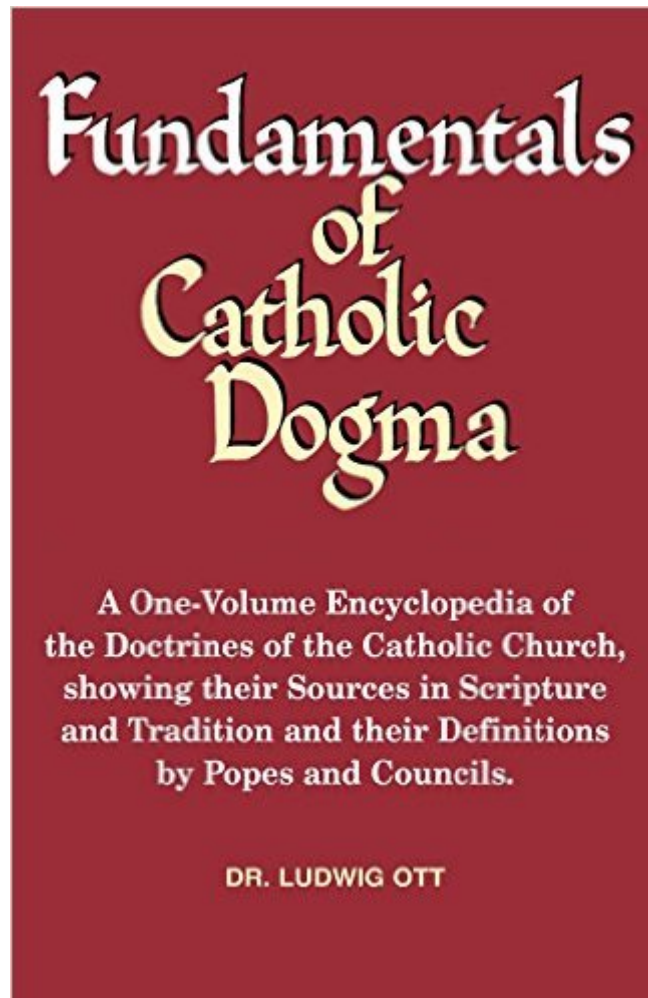


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# Fundamentals Of Catholic Dogma



## Synopsis

Ready Winter 2009 Recognized as the greatest summary of Catholic dogma ever put between two covers. A one-volume encyclopedia of Catholic doctrines. Tells exactly what the Church teaches on any particular topic. Tells when the pronouncement was made and gives the sources from Scripture, Church Councils, Papal statements and the Fathers and Doctors of the Church. Essential for priests, seminarians, parents and teachers. Easily one of our most important books. 560 pgs, PB

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

. . .the purpose for which it was written. Another reviewer correctly commented that this work is not a systematic theology. If you are looking for a Catholic systematic theology, begin with Hans Urs von Balthasar. But if you are looking for an orthodox reference book which outlines what the Church teaches, and why, and supplies you with defenses from the Scriptures, from the Church Fathers, from Sacred Tradition, and from Reason, then this is your book.As the forward indicates, this work is an excellent guide for busy parish priests who wish to refresh themselves on the reasonings and justifications for particular doctrines or themes. It is also accessible to the informed layman. The volume is also of potential value to the honest Protestant, seeking to understand the teachings of the Catholic Church.I highly recommend this book.

This book is a wonderfully precise and concise summary of the Church's dogmatic theology, and with due respect to a previous reviewer, it is not a bit out-of-date. It is not intended to be an

expanded or detailed discussion of theological problems, so of course it is recommended that people also read the works of orthodox theologians such as Hans Urs von Balthazar, Henri de Lubac, and (especially) John Paul II; and they should also examine the beautiful teachings of Vatican II. Nevertheless, the dogmas summarized in the Fundamentals are timeless. What makes this volume so valuable is its precision and clarity: one can easily look up a particular doctrine of the Church and see what status it has---that is, how formally it has been defined by the Church. Moreover, for every point of doctrine it states with exact precision which opinions are consonant with Church teaching, which are tolerated, and which are contrary. These are things that are beyond the scope of, say, the new Universal Catechism. However, all well-informed Catholics ought to know them. The Fundamentals is highly recommended, and I urge all Catholics who want to know their faith well to get the book along with the new Universal Catechism.

During my spiritual journey to find a home, I came to rely on this excellent compendium of solid catholic theology during a time when I found most clergy and laity unsure of what it was they did believe -- or believed anything they wanted, despite centuries of belief to the contrary. As a resource document, it is without parallel after the Documents of Vatican II. The documents of Vatican II are a clearer, wider, and more spiritual exposition of what the Church today believes. But sometimes, with so many mixed messages from pulpit and revisionists, the Documents of Vatican II can present difficulties to those uncertain of core beliefs. That's where this book comes in. This book is systematic theology at its best. It posits the dogmas of the Church in a clear and unequivocal manner, and then goes about supplying the historical foundations for these dogmas. These foundations include ecumenical councils as well as writings of the saints. If a certain proposition is "de fide," it is of unquestioned belief. But there are other propositions that are not "de fide," that are provided to sharpen the core deposit from speculative ideas. I refer to this book often when I come across propositions I find either doubtful or equivocal. Not only does it provide the clear and unadulterated truths of the catholic faith, but it provides the *raison d'être* for those truths, making it a wealth of clear exposition of why catholics believe what they believe.

The Truth of the Roman Catholic Church. This book will help all understand what all Roman Catholics must (no choice) believe, and why we believe. To deny any dogma is to deny all dogma. This book will help you understand what it means to be a Roman Catholic. This book will also help you understand why modernist, humanist, societist dissenters are wrong (or worse); why the Church cannot (FYI, its not a matter of will or desire) change Her position on many positions

that uniformed Catholics and non-Catholics alike would "wish" to see Her change. Unlike some other reviewers I didn't find this book dry at all. Yes, it is much to assimilate and understand, so take your time the rewards of understanding and learning are well worth the effort! I find this book fascinating, interesting and informative. I often refer to it, and it often refers me to Holy Writ and other writings. It will also help you recognize statements and positions that are truly consistent with Roman Catholic teaching on Faith and Morals and those that are not (e.g., anathema and heresy). I can't adequately describe how important this book is to me, the Teaching on Faith and Morals of the Church succinctly presented, cross-referenced and with foundation references to Holy Writ and the writings of Doctors of the Church and those of many other holy, faithful and learned figures throughout history. For Roman Catholics, this is a great start on how to inform one's conscience. This book has re-energized my efforts to understand what it means to be Roman Catholic. Credo! De fide.

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