

“A Catholic Christian Profile”

Student Name:

Date Completed:

DIRECTIONS

Read each section slowly (pages 2 - 4.)

After you read each section, mark your answer for that section (on page 5.)

After you have marked your answers (on page 5) answer the questions in the space provided (on page 6.)

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DESCRIPTION OF THE 10 AREAS OF LIFE

1. My willingness to forgive someone who really hurts me.

** When someone hurts me, do I try to forgive them as Christ has taught me? How long do I hold on to hurts that others inflict on me? Do I allow my hurt to turn into anger, and then to revenge, and then to my inflicting hurts in return? I know that I will hold on to my hurts for a while, but do I ignore or embrace Christ's call to forgive another?

2. My acceptance of those who are different.

** What is my attitude toward those whom the majority might define as "different"? At school? When I'm walking through the mall or driving through town? When I encounter someone who would be an easy target for a good joke or cut-down, how do I choose to relate to them? And what do I say about them? How do I respond when I see others excluding, making fun of, talking about someone, or leaving them out of "the group"? This area of life includes: other students at school who just "seem different"; the poor; the handicapped; and so on.

3. My attachment to material things.

** How much emphasis do I place on material objects: electronics, my car, clothes, jewelry, and other items. How do I value and use my money? My time? How much of my interest is in "acquiring things" in life? Do I appreciate the resources in life that I do have—like those basic necessities: a home, clothes, food, health care, and so on? Do I use material and/or financial success (and economic standing) as the measuring stick for a good life? How would Christ invite me to approach the material side of life? (In answering this question, "weakest" means little or no attachment, while "strongest" means a strong attachment.

4. My willingness to say that I'm wrong.

** How comfortable am I with owning up to my own mistakes? How often do I avoid the truth—when I have made a mistake or done something that is morally wrong? If people were to describe my character, what would they say about my commitment to honesty and the ability to admit to my own faults and mistakes? Do I find myself (ever) lying in order to "cover my tracks"? Have I ever admitted to a mistake or owned up to the truth when it was especially hard for me?

5. My participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

** One of the basic parts to being a Catholic Christian is responding to God's call to heal my relationship with him and the community when it is broken or hurt due to sin. One of the beautiful ways to experience the grace of God's forgiveness is in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. How much is this sacrament a part of my life? When was the last time I went to Confession? Have I been since my First Confession? If I have some anxieties and worries about celebrating this sacrament, can I name those anxieties and worries? If I'm not coming to the sacrament, do I know why I'm not?

6. My personal prayer life.

** The basic way that I communicate with God and God with me is through prayer. How often do I pray? Do I ever pray on my own? Other than just "thinking about God" (during a given day), do I ever make the conscious effort to stop on my own to communicate with God in prayer? Do I ever read the bible? When was the last time I talked to God on my own—without being told "you ought to pray"? Do I give over what could be my personal prayer time to other things and other people? If I don't really pray enough, why not? How could my prayer life be better?

7. The good that I actually do for those who are less fortunate than me.

** I can turn on the news, go online, or pick up the newspaper any day of the week and see someone (an individual or group of people) in some type of desperate need. In my family life and at school, I will undoubtedly encounter people who need my love and support. The real question for the Christian is "how do I respond to that"? Do I ignore them in their need? Do I ridicule or make fun of them? Do I down-play their problem or dilemma? What do I do for the poor in my community? Do I pray for the poor? Assist the poor in any way? What about the elderly? Or the handicapped? Or members of my own family?

8. My general knowledge of Catholic Church teaching.

** If someone walked up to me at work, at school, or anywhere really— and asked me something about my Catholic faith: what does the Church teach about birth control, or premarital sex, or the death penalty, or homosexuality, or our call to serve the poor—how comfortable would I be with trying to answer questions such as these? I am a Catholic, and I am preparing for Confirmation. How far do I feel I've come in learning about what it means to be a Catholic?

9. My personal commitment to weekly Mass attendance.

****O.K.** This one's real simple. Scripture tells us to "keep holy the Lord's Day". In fact, it's one of the Ten Commandments. My Church asks that I worship God on Sundays by celebrating Eucharist. How often do I go to church? When I go to church, what is my attitude? Do I even try to listen and understand the scriptures and the homily? Do I sing? Do I participate in the responses at Mass? If I do not go to church every Sunday, then why not? What are my reasons? It's only one hour out of the week.

10. My personal relationship with God right now at this point in my life.

****No one's** relationship with God is perfect. Jesus Christ did not ask us to be perfect (in the sense of being "flawless"). But he did ask us to allow ourselves to "become perfected, as Your Heavenly Father is perfect." This, in a nutshell, summarizes our call to personal holiness and the deepest relationship with God possible. How is my relationship with God right now? Do I feel really close to God, sort of close, not too close? Do I sense and feel and see God in my life? How strong is my desire to be close to God? Do I really believe that God forgives me and loves me unconditionally? If I am struggling (or have struggled) with my belief in God, is there someone I can talk with about this?

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(This exercise is meant to help you take a general look at "where you're at" as a Catholic today. You are asked to rate each of the following areas of your life on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the best.)

DIRECTIONS

Slowly read through the brief reflections (attached) on the meaning of each of the 10 items listed below. Read through the descriptions slowly once before you mark an answer. To the right of each statement, circle one number from 1 to 10.

	<u>Weakest</u>	<u>Strongest</u>
1. My willingness to forgive someone who really hurts me	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2. My acceptance of those who are different.	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
3. My attachment to material things.	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
4. My willingness to say that I'm wrong.	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
5. My participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
6. My personal prayer life.	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
7. The good that I actually do for those who are less fortunate than me.	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
8. My general knowledge of Catholic Church teaching.	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
9. My personal commitment to weekly Mass attendance.	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
10. My personal relationship with God at this point in my life.	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

