**The Catholic Church has a new Catechism for children**

Pope Francis is giving “YOUCAT for Kids” as a gift to all families at the World Meeting of Families in Dublin

At the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August 2018, the new YOUCAT for Kids is given as a gift to the present families by Pope Francis. It’s becoming a worldwide project: apart from the three language versions presented in Dublin (English, German and Spanish), another 20 translations are in progress until now.

The bigger brother of the book, the YOUCAT, is an international bestseller of which until now more than 5 million books have been printed and the YOUCAT for Kids is the long-awaited book for the younger children. For almost five years, a team under the patronage of Cardinal Schönborn from Vienna has created a catechism for children aged 8 to 12 years and their parents. The aim is to transfer the faith of the Church into a simplified language, the children should enjoy the colorful and informative book and parents should get tools to pass on the faith to their children. The catechism contains everything children and parents should know if they want to be convinced and convincing Christians. 159 questions and answers translated into the children’s concept deal with the most essential questions of the faith. In his foreword Pope Francis addresses the parents directly: *“I entrust you with YOUCAT for KIDS. Do not get tired of questions or of sharing your faith. Do not remain silent when your children have pressing questions, but always have the strength to hand on the faith, which you too received from your parents. Be a living chain, so that from generation to generation, the gospel may always be present in our families, our communities and in the Church.”*

The YOUCAT for Kids surprises by its imagery. Children love funny cartoons because there’s something to laugh about and to ask questions. Lily and Bob are the two lovely characters in the book with whom the children can explore the world of faith. In the making of YOUCAT for Kids priests and lay persons from Germany, Austria and Slovakia were involved. The book, called “YfK”, was tested beforehand by children. The approval by the Austrian Bishops’ Conference was given in spring of 2018, afterwards by the Pontifical Congregation of Faith and then by the Pontifical Council for Promotion the New Evangelisation which is responsible for catechesis.

YOUCAT for Kids focuses on the elementary conversation about faith between parents and children and offers a content-based guideline that is also useful for pastoral workers. Co-author Michaela von Heereman is convinced that the YOUCAT for Kids is not only becoming the favorite book of children and parents, but also delivers a missing pastoral element: “Successful catechesis requires not only playful, emotional and community forming moments, but also the imparting of the knowledge of faith beyond the existing questions of children in the whole context of God’s history with us human beings.”

Barta, von Heereman, Meuser, Scharf, Steber, Weiss

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<https://www.youcat.org/youcat-for-kids/>