FROM THE BALTIMORE CATECHISM

Study Lesson Number: 16

THE INCARNATION

"I believe --- in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was <u>conceived</u> by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary......."

Did God abandon man after Adam fell into sin?
God did not abandon man after Adam fell into sin, but promised to send into the world a Savior to free man from his sins and to REOPEN to him the gates of heaven.

Who is the Savior of all men?
The Savior of all men is Jesus Christ.

What is the chief teaching of the Catholic Church about Jesus Christ?
The chief teaching of the Catholic Church about Jesus Christ is that He is God made Man.

Why is Jesus Christ God?
Jesus Christ is God because He is the only Son of God, having the same divine nature as His Father.

Why is Jesus Christ man?
Jesus Christ is man because He is the Son of the Blessed Virgin Mary and has a body and soul like ours.

Mary is like the garden in which grew the flower, which is Christ.

Is Jesus Christ more than one Person?
No, Jesus Christ is only one Person; and that Person is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

How many natures has Jesus Christ?
Jesus Christ has two natures: the nature of God and the nature of man.

A NATURE IS WHAT SOME ONE IS

A PERSON IS WHO SOMEONE IS.

Was the Son of God always man?
The Son of God was not always man, but became man <u>at the time of the incarnation</u>.

What is meant by the Incarnation?
By the Incarnation is meant that the Son of God, retaining His divine nature, took to Himself a human nature, that is, a body and soul like ours.

Briefly, the Incarnation means THE SON OF GOD BECAME MAN. Sacred Scripture says: "The Word (that is, the Son of God) was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1-14). Jesus Christ is true God and true man, one with the Father and Holy Spirit and one with us.

How was the Son of God made man?
The Son of God was conceived and made man by the POWER of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

When was the Son of God conceived and made man?
The Son of God was conceived and made man on Annunciation Day, the day on which the Angel Gabriel ANNOUNCED to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she was to be the Mother of God.

St. Thomas tells us that in sending His Son into the world, God wanted to contract a a certain spiritual marriage between Him and human nature. Therefore, He sent the angel to ask Mary's consent in place of the whole human race. This is brought out in the prayer: The Angelus.

Discussion Questions:
1. Jesus Christ always existed as God but not as man.
2. When Christ became man He did not lose His divine nature.