

CATECHESIS WORKSHEET 22 – THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS

Catechism – Questions 334-347, pages 314-321

1. What is the Office of the Keys? (pg. 314)

2. According to these words, from whom comes the authority to forgive sins?

3. To whom does he give that authority?

4. Where is that authority exercised?

5. Upon whom is that authority rightly exercised?

6. Who is to be excluded from this forgiveness and for how long?

7. Read question and answer 334.
Who alone forgives sins?

How does God administer his forgiveness to us sinners?

8. This section of the Catechism is called the Office of the Keys.
What Bible verse is this drawn from? (Q. 335)

How is forgiving and withholding forgiveness like a key?

9. Who is to be forgiven? (Q. 336)

10. Who is not to be forgiven? (Q. 337)

11. According to question and answer 338, what two words describe those who receive the forgiveness given in the Absolution?
12. Upon what sort of person does the church carry out excommunication and the binding key?
13. **TRUE/FALSE:** The goal of excommunication is the damnation of the excommunicated person. (Q. 341)
14. How does a congregation act toward an excommunicated member who repents?
15. In your Bible, look up and read aloud John 20:22-23.
16. Write out the answer to “What do you believe according to these words? (pg. 314)
17. How does the Church publicly exercise the Office of the Keys? _____ *has instituted the _____ office through which the _____ of the _____ is exercised _____, that is, on behalf of the _____.* (Q. 343)
18. May every Christian, without a call, presume to exercise the Office of the Keys publicly? (Q. 344)
19. Where may Christians who are not pastors proclaim the forgiveness of sins?

What sorts of vocations are these for you?
20. According to your answer for question 15, who is speaking through the pastor when he exercises the Office of the Keys?