

**A COURSE OF RELIGIOUS
INSTRUCTION FOR
CATHOLIC YOUTH**

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A course of religious instruction for Catholic youth by John Gerard

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JOHN GERARD

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BY THE
REV. JOHN GERARD, S.J.

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PREFACE

THIS course of instruction was originally prepared for the boys of the upper classes at Stonyhurst, where it has now been in use for more than twenty years.

The object throughout is to impart the amount of knowledge which educated laymen should possess concerning their religion, fuller information being furnished in regard of points upon which they are more likely to be called to give an account of the faith which is in them. No attempt has therefore been made to deal with all questions on the same scale, nor has it been thought advisable to dwell at any length upon points of controversy which, however prominent they may once have been, are now practically obsolete. On the other hand, it seems to be of vital importance to indicate as clearly as possible the lines of attack upon religion—natural or supernatural—adopted by modern unbelief, and the lines of defence by which they may be met.

It would, however, have been wholly foreign to the scope and object of this compendium to attempt a

full and adequate treatment of these points or any others—such treatment as is to be found in works professedly philosophical and theological. This little book pretends to furnish notes only, containing, it is hoped, a plain statement of the Catholic position and teaching, and a sufficient *modicum* of instruction regarding them—but, beyond this, doing no more than indicate the sources whence fuller information may be obtained. In the selection of authorities for reference, it has seemed better to take those by preference which are most likely to be within the reach of ordinary readers, and therefore to mention popular manuals and digests, rather than the original authorities which they quote, always supposing that their quotations are found to be honest and accurate. Also in citations from the Fathers and other writers on behalf of Catholic doctrine, those have been chosen which, if not perhaps the most complete and adequate, are sufficiently convincing, and, being brief and pithy, are likely to be remembered, the object constantly kept in view being practical utility.

J. G.

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