

**WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE AND  
DO, OR, SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS  
CONCERNING THE CHURCH'S  
FAITH AND PRACTICE**

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What Catholics Believe and Do, or, Simple Instructions Concerning the Church's Faith and Practice by Arthur Ritchie

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**ARTHUR RITCHIE**

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# What Catholics Believe and Do,

OR

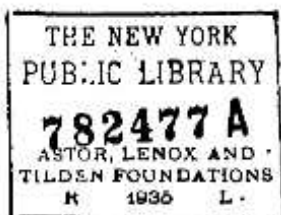
## SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE CHURCH'S FAITH AND PRACTICE,

BY THE

REV. ARTHUR <sup>S. C.</sup> RITCHIE,

Rector of St. Ignatius' Church, New York.

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## PREFACE.

This small volume has been prepared with much care, in the hope that it may meet the wants of those who desire a short account of the Church and her ways from the Catholic standpoint, and a hand-book of information not easily arrived at without consulting a number of larger works. It has all been thoroughly reviewed by three well-learned clergymen of the Church, and the author gratefully acknowledges his indebtedness to them for many most important corrections of and additions to the original manuscript. The one aim and object of the work has been to set forth in concise form the Catholic faith and practice of the Church, in loyalty to the standards of the Anglican Communion in this country. That God may bless it to His glory is the prayer of the Author.

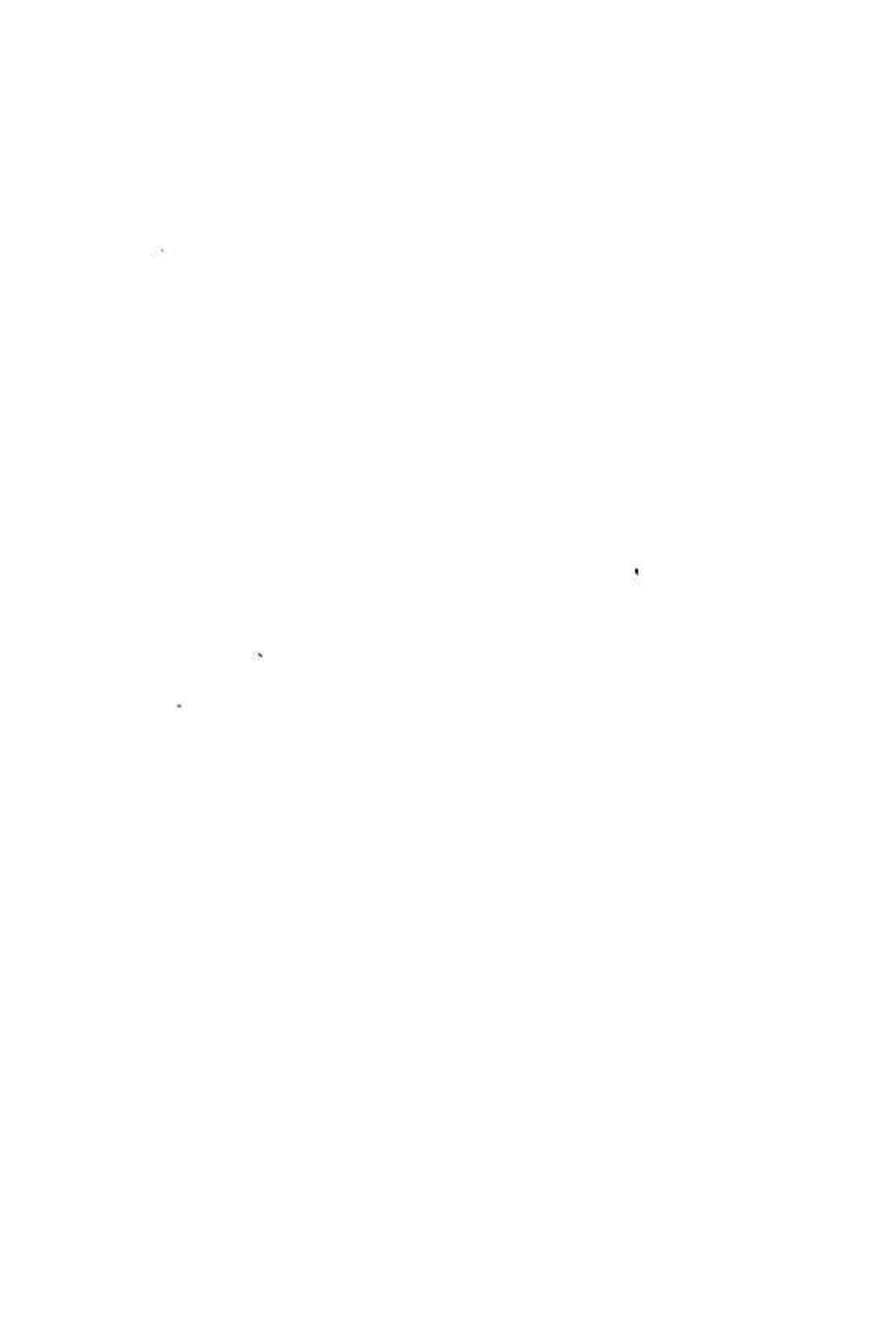
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Church's Faith and Practice.**

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CHAPTER I.  
GOD.

We easily think of God as the Father of all, the Maker and Preserver of the universe. God must therefore be *Almighty*; He is the Ruler and Upholder of all things, the Source of all power, the Centre of every force. The perfect order of the universe, the wonderful way in which everything is adapted to its own use, and the fitness of all living creatures for their own kinds of life teach us that God is *All-Wise*, as well as *Almighty*. Power without wisdom could never have created the universe with its perfect order. Again the general beauty of creation, and the evident provision that has been made for man's happiness, in spite of the many sad things in the world, teach us that God is also *Good*. Devils might exercise great power and great wisdom, but God only exercises absolute power and infinite wisdom with perfect goodness.

The Church teaches us in the Creed that God is in *Three Persons*, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. When we use the word *person* of ourselves we mean an *individual* in human nature.