

Getting Started with Magisterium AI

Overview

<https://www.magisterium.com/overview>

Magisterium AI is the world's leading Catholic AI. It's free and easy to use, offering instant, trustworthy answers rooted in Catholic tradition. Designed for believers and seekers alike, it's your companion for exploring faith with clarity and depth — sign up and start asking today.

Why Choose Magisterium AI for Exploring the Catholic Faith?

<https://www.magisterium.com/about/why-magisterium-ai>

Who Benefits Most from Magisterium AI?

<https://www.magisterium.com/about/whos-this-for>

Magisterium AI is a research assistant focused on Catholic teaching and the Church's intellectual tradition. You can ask questions in ordinary language; it searches its Catholic library and gives answers with citations so you can check the original documents. It is useful for getting oriented, finding relevant sources, and preparing a first draft of research — not as a substitute for reading the sources or exercising pastoral and theological judgment.

1. Open it and ask a real question

Go to [Magisterium AI](<https://www.magisterium.com/>) in a browser. You can also install the web app on a phone or computer by following the [app instructions](<https://www.magisterium.com/about/download>).

Start with a question you actually need to answer. For example:

- “What does the Catechism teach about conscience? Give the relevant paragraph numbers and explain them.”
- “What are the main themes in this Sunday's readings, and how are they connected?”
- “What does the Church teach about the dignity of work? Distinguish official teaching from theological reflection.”
- “Summarize this Church document and identify the passages most relevant to parish ministry.”

You do not need special technical language. For a more useful answer, say what you're trying to do, who the answer is for, and how detailed it should be — for example, “Explain this for a parish adult-education class” or “Give me a brief answer with primary-source citations.”

2. Choose the right mode

There are two main modes:

Automatic Mode draws on official Church teaching as well as trusted Catholic theological and philosophical works. It is a good starting point for most questions.

Magisterial Mode limits the query to official teaching of the Church's ordinary or extraordinary Magisterium. Use it when you specifically want to know what the Church has formally taught, rather than also hearing theological interpretation.

You can read more about the distinction on the [Prompt Modes page](<https://www.magisterium.com/about/modes>). If you are unsure, start in Automatic Mode and then ask a follow-up in Magisterial Mode to focus on official teaching.

3. Treat citations as an invitation to check the text

Read the answer, then open its citations and inspect the original passage — especially for a point you plan to preach, teach, publish, or use in pastoral guidance. A helpful follow-up is: “Show me the exact source passage supporting that point,” or “Is that a formal Church teaching, a theological interpretation, or a historical claim?”

You can also check whether a particular document is in the library using the [Source Library](<https://www.magisterium.com/about/documents>). Citations make it easier to verify and continue researching; they don't remove the need to check context and make your own judgment.

4. Use follow-up questions to refine the answer

You can work through a topic conversationally. For example:

1. “Explain the Church's teaching on the sacrament of reconciliation.”
2. “What are the key Catechism paragraphs?”
3. “How does that teaching relate to the Fathers of the Church?”
4. “What are common misunderstandings of this teaching?”
5. “Give me a concise explanation suitable for a parish handout, with citations.”

For canon-law questions, identify the code and the question clearly — for example: “Under the current 1983 Latin Code of Canon Law, what does canon ____ provide?” Then check the cited canon and any relevant authoritative sources before relying on the answer.

5. A few practical details

The free plan includes 90 prompts per week. Pro adds unlimited prompts and features such as file uploads, Thinking Mode, and Learn Mode; current plan details are on the [plans page](<https://www.magisterium.com/plan>).

Logged-in users can attach PDFs, images, and other files, up to 8 MB per file. Chat history is available under Chat Activity; saved answers can be found under Saved Responses. See the [history instructions](<https://www.magisterium.com/history>).

Magisterium AI can answer in a number of languages, though it is currently optimized for English. It cannot generate images or videos, and it cannot crawl a web page just because you paste in its URL.

The simplest habit: ask a specific question, request citations, and open the cited source before passing the answer along. Magisterium is most helpful as a fast way into the Church's sources — not as a replacement for those sources, the sacraments, or consultation with qualified people.