

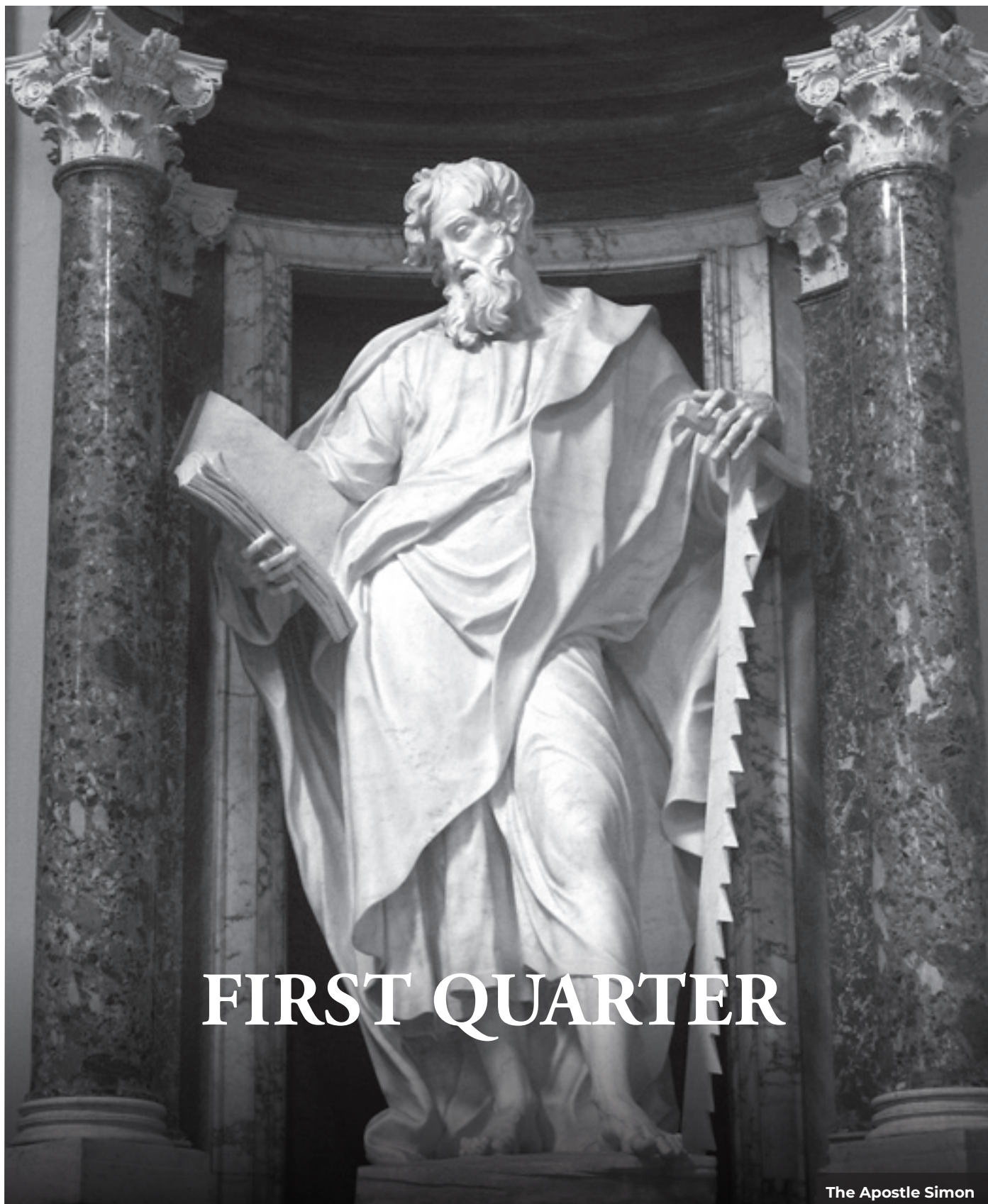
# CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS

**COURSE MANUAL**

THE403\_23A



**LESSON PLANS - TESTS - ANSWER KEYS - QUARTER REPORT FORMS**



# FIRST QUARTER

The Apostle Simon

## Week One

INTERACTIVE WEEKLY REVIEWS  
available at SetonOnline



### Before you begin

Skim through the two books. Take a half-hour on each book, looking over the covers, the title pages, the introductory pages, the Table of Contents, the glossary at the back, the index. Skim through a few chapters to see the design of each chapter, the headings and subheadings, the pictures, the questions at the end of the chapter, and so on. It is like going on a car trip for your vacation; you spend a great deal of time planning and looking ahead to where you are going. You can anticipate certain cities and roads and stopping places to eat and to tour. You will find that if you take the time before you start this course, you will have no surprises, and you will feel more comfortable knowing what is to come. If you see the big picture, the whole course and its dimensions, you will understand the purpose of the parts as you proceed.

### PARENT-TEACHER:

Please look over each week's daily assignments for this First Quarter, and determine the best method for the student for answering the weekly assignments: quiz, written exercise, or oral discussion. Most weeks, only four days are given assignments. Use the fifth day to finish up, to study supplementary materials, or use for holidays or church activities.

### Day 1

You can check off work as you complete it!



Read the Introduction to *God, Christianity, and the Church*, by Fr. John Laux (hereafter, referred to as LAUX).

**IMPORTANT:** This book is also published by TAN Books under the title *Catholic Apologetics*. If you have that edition of the book and would like to use it, we will also include page numbers for the TAN edition for all assignments.



Read pp. ix-x (TAN edition: pp. xi-xii), "A. Knowledge and the Sources of Knowledge."



Answer Questions 1-6, **SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDY AND REVIEW** (hereafter, referred to as REVIEW), p. xiii (TAN edition: p. xviii).

### Day 2



Read LAUX, pp. x-xi (TAN: pp. xii-xiv), Introduction on "B. Faith and Its Justification."



Answer Questions 7-12 in REVIEW, p. xiii (TAN: p. xviii).



Day 3

Read LAUX, p. xi-xii (TAN: pp. xiv-xvi), on "C. Nature and Division of Apologetics" and "D. The Value of Apologetics."

Answer Questions 13-17 in REVIEW, p. xiii (TAN: p. xviii).

Day 4

Read Chapter I, "Philosophy: Theology's Handmaid," in *Following Christ in the World*, by Anne Carroll (hereafter, referred to as CARROLL). Read pp. 1-2 on "The Principle of Non-Contradiction" and "Becoming and Being."

Answer the following Questions 1-6 for CHAPTER I DISCUSSION.

1. Define the principle of non-contradiction. Give three examples of it that were not given in the book.
2. Give three examples not given in the book to show how we could not function in the world if the principle of non-contradiction were not true.
3. What is the opposite of existence?
4. What did Heraclitus say about being? On what observable facts did he base his conclusions?
5. What did Parmenides say about reality?
6. What did Aristotle say about reality? Explain how his philosophy is based on common sense and observation. Show how Heraclitus and Parmenides did not rely on common sense and observation. What does this tell you about true philosophy?



Bust of Aristotle



## COMMENTARY ON CHAPTER I:

The terms and definitions in this chapter should be memorized and thoroughly understood. Knowledge of them is presumed throughout the rest of the book.

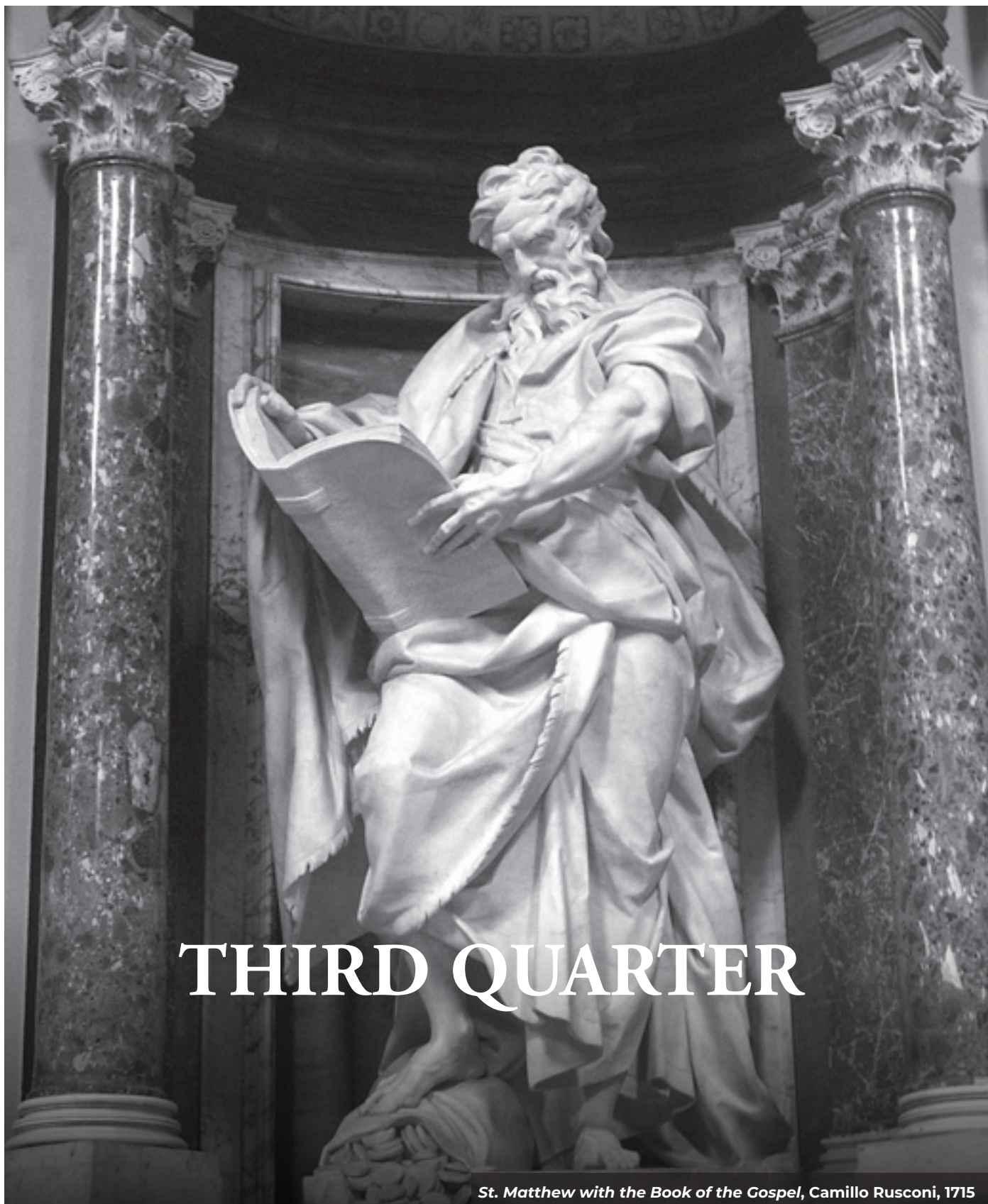
### PARENT-TEACHER:

If you have chosen to record weekly grades, please grade this week's assignments, and each week thereafter, using the answer key. Average the daily grades, and record the weekly average on the First Quarter Report Form. If you do not send Seton weekly averages, the grade will be based only upon the quarter tests.

## Day 5



Take Day 5 of each week to finish up any assignments not completed.



# THIRD QUARTER

*St. Matthew with the Book of the Gospel, Camillo Rusconi, 1715*

## Week Twenty

INTERACTIVE WEEKLY REVIEWS  
available at SetonOnline



## Day 1



Read CARROLL, Chapter VIII, "Right and Wrong," pp. 33-34, on "Elements of a Human Act," "Moral Absolutes," and "The Principle of Double Effect."



Answer Questions 1-4 for **CHAPTER VIII DISCUSSION**.

1. What are the three elements of an act that must be moral for the act to be moral?
2. What is moral relativism? Refute it.
3. What is consequentialism? Refute it.
4. What is the principle of double effect? What conditions must be met for this principle to apply?



Pope John Paul II

### COMMENTARY ON CHAPTER VIII:

Objective moral standards exist and the end result does not justify any means. One is never permitted to sin no matter what good seemingly would come from the action. If we argue in favor of a bad act for a good end, we are setting our judgment against God's.

During this week, you may read and discuss the supplement "Key Points of the Encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*," found in the Supplement Section of the Course Manual. This encyclical treats fundamental issues in morality. It was published in 1993. It is probably one of the most important encyclicals written for those trying to find truth in moral actions in the current culture which denies absolute truth, especially in the area of morality. Look on the Internet to find summaries of the encyclical. Parents should read it first.



**Day 2**



Read CARROLL, Ch. VIII, pp. 34-35 on “Two Guides” and “Conscience.”



Answer Questions 5-9 for **CHAPTER VIII DISCUSSION.**

5. What is natural law?
6. Why do we also need authority?
7. What is the role of conscience?
8. Refute this statement: Since we must follow our conscience, a couple that thinks the church is wrong on contraception may morally use contraceptives.
9. How can I “follow my conscience straight to Hell”?

**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

After reading CARROLL, Chapter VIII, you may want to read par. #1750-1802 on “The Morality of Human Acts,” “The Morality of the Passions,” and “Moral Conscience”; par. #1949-1964 and #1975-1982 on “The Moral Law”; par #2030-2051 on “The Church, Mother and Teacher”; and par. #2052-2082 on “The Ten Commandments.”

**Day 3**



Read CARROLL, Chapter IX, “Church and World,” p. 36, on “Two Errors about Social Justice” and “The Church’s Right to Speak.”



Answer Questions 1-4 for **CHAPTER IX DISCUSSION.**

1. What are some current moral issues that have a moral implication?
2. How do social issues affect individual salvation?
3. Why is the church the only institution qualified to speak on all moral issues, including social justice issues?
4. How would you answer the argument: “If Politician A votes against abortion, he will lose the election. Therefore, he won’t be able to work for the moral position on other issues. So it would be better for him to vote for abortion so he can stay in office and work on other moral issues and perhaps gradually persuade his constituents to be against abortion as well.”



**COMMENTARY ON CHAPTER IX:**

The argument that a Catholic politician should not “impose” his personal morality by voting in accord with Catholic moral principles is commonly heard today. However, you probably already realize that a Catholic should vote in accord with moral principles, but you might think that if a majority of his constituents are not in accord with his moral principles, he must vote according to what his constituents want because they elected him. However, if such a view is widely held, it can become a serious weakness in a democratic system. Every government must try to set up what is good for its people, even if the people do not know what the good is. A democracy is no exception. Those in power in a democracy should do what is best for the people they govern, whether those people know what is good or not. Even if a majority of the citizens think abortion is moral, those in power must vote for the good, which is to preserve life.

**Day 4**

Read CARROLL, Ch. IX, pp. 37-38, on “The Church’s Primary Mission,” “Vatican II on the Church and Social Justice,” and “Conclusions.”



Answer Questions 5-11 for **CHAPTER IX DISCUSSION.**

5. Why does making political reform the Church’s primary goal confuse ends and means?
6. Why should priests not make social reform their primary responsibility?
7. Which group of people is primarily responsible for social and political reform?
8. What is *Gaudium et Spes*? What did this document say on the Church’s role in social and political matters?
9. Why must God’s law be supreme over state law?
10. What are some consequences of the fact that man’s supernatural end is supreme over his natural end?
11. Give some examples from history or from current events of societies where the individual has been subordinated to the state.

**PARENT-TEACHER:**

If you have chosen to record weekly grades, please grade the daily assignments using the answer keys, average the daily grades, and record the weekly average on the Third Quarter Report.