Abstract

I got my first library card in 1958 while I was still five years old. It was orange and, from a writer's point of view, I view it as a union card.
Throughout my life, libraries have remained an evangelizing presence in the same way the Catholic church has, though gentler, and much less judgmental. Technically a lapsed Catholic, I am not a lapsed reader.

The Book of Concord - the Confessions of the Lutheran Church. In the third place, after you have thus taught them this Short Catechism, then take up the Large Catechism, and give them also a richer and fuller knowledge. Here explain at large every commandment, petition, and part with its various works, uses, benefits, dangers, and injuries, as you find these abundantly stated in many books written about these matters. And particularly, urge that commandment or part most which suffers the greatest neglect among your people.

Definition of catechism - a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for religious instruction. 'He was an extraordinary preacher, a devoted pastor, a catechist who wrote his own catechism, a visitor of the sick, a counsellor, and one deeply concerned about missions, ecumenism, church polity, and church discipline.' 'All this was still done, though, under the aegis of clergy in the name of religion, and the central element in Pietist education remained the teaching of the Bible and of the catechism (a question-and-answer statement of Christian faith).' 'The triumph of God's suffering love, as revealed and embodied in Christ, is a theme that unifies the entire catechism.'

Catechism: Catechism, a manual of religious instruction usually arranged in the form of questions and answers used to instruct the young, to win converts, and to testify to the faith. Although many religions give instruction in the faith by means of oral questions and answers, the written catechism is. Some early handbooks of instruction were prepared by the Church Fathers (including Augustine of Hippo, John Chrysostom, and Cyril of Jerusalem), and many were prepared throughout medieval times. The term catechism, however, was evidently first used for written handbooks in the 16th century. After the invention of printing and the 16th-century Reformation, catechisms became much more important, both in Protestantism and Roman Catholicism.