

Review of: "Catholicity in thirteen words"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Hello Fr. Blanco:

Thank you for sharing your article with us – it offers a helpful overview of the Catholic faith through a concise list of key terms. It is written in an approachable, engaging manner, and I can see how it would be quite helpful in summarizing our core beliefs for students. Respectfully, I just have a few questions and suggestions for improvement.

First: why 13 words, exactly? You sort of acknowledge the arbitrariness of this number in your intro / abstract, but don't really offer a justification for sticking with it. Since this is supposed to be a brief overview (one directed, moreover, at undergraduates), wouldn't a nice, round number like 10 or 12 be ideal? Alternatively, perhaps you could try to expand a little on why you prefer the baker's dozen ...

word #1 ("Creation"): The final sentence could use a little clarification. Following the preceding one "Creation is a Big Bang also ..." "There is also ..." seems to imply something about God's role in creating evil, too, though I'm sure you did not mean to suggest that. I would try to begin this in a more forceful manner: "Creation is good, but the world also contains much evil, which was not made by God, but arises ..."

#2: I like the phrase "choral, symphonic way."

#5: I have a few concerns about this word ("Person"). First, the emphasis here is mainly on the Trinity, which I think should be the term highlighted here. Also, this sentence is confusing: "Of course, because otherwise we would be monotheists just like the Jews or the Muslims." Is Catholicism not a monotheistic faith, Fr.? Do you mean, perhaps, "we would be unitarians just like the Jews or the Muslims" ? Or, can you clarify how our monotheism differs from theirs?

#13: The sentence beginning: "We can fulfill the commandments in their fullness ..." The aside here ("and this is redundant") is oddly placed – I'm not sure *what* is supposed to be redundant, exactly. How true is it, by the way, that the commandments can be fulfilled (as you suggest) through prayer? I don't dispute this point, just curious as to how they are supposed to do that.

Overall, a well-written, thought-provoking read. I appreciate the invitation to review it, Fr., and hope you find my comments at least a bit helpful.