

CONTENTS

Acknowledgment	v
Introduction	1
Glossary	8
CHAPTER ONE—FAITH AND BECOMING HUMAN TOGETHER ...	11
<i>See</i>	15
1. Questions That Have Been Asked	15
b. Contrasting Witnesses of Religious Faith	17
<i>Discern</i>	20
1. What Do We Mean by Human?	20
2. How Do We Become Human?	21
a. relating with one’s body, nature, and the cosmos .	22
b. relating with other persons	24
c. relating with a community, society, institutions, and structures	24
d. relating with culture and history	25
e. relating with my thinking and acting	26
f. relating with an ultimate	28
g. interconnectedness of the six dimensions	29
3. The Dynamics Of Commitment And Letting Go	31
4. Faith And Revelation	32
<i>Act</i>	35
1. How Can I Develop Attitudes Of Trust And Faith?	35

2. How Can I Become A Believer?	36
Glossary	38
CHAPTER TWO—FAITH AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES	41
<i>See</i>	43
Religion, Culture And Christian Faith: Facing the Question	43
<i>Discern</i>	50
1. Faith, Religion, And Culture	50
a. Faith	50
b. Religion	52
c. Culture	55
2. Folk Christianity	58
a. A Description	58
b. The Traditional Religions	59
Creed	60
Code	61
Ceremony	63
c. Expressions of Filipino Folk Christianity	63
Creed	64
Code	67
Ceremony	68
d. Going Beyond Filipino Folk Christianity	71
<i>Act</i>	72
Glossary	75
CHAPTER THREE—THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND OTHER CHRISTIAN CHURCHES	79
<i>See</i>	81
1. Christianity: From A Cathedral To A Religious Supermarket	81
2. Why Do I Remain A Catholic?	82
<i>Discern</i>	85

1. Christianity: A Tree With Many Branches	85
2. A History Of Divisions	87
3. The Ecumenical Movement	89
4. The Great Refusal: Fundamentalism	91
a. Towards a definition	92
b. Origins of Christian Fundamentalism	93
c. Christian fundamentalism in today's world	94
d. Sister, brother, are you saved?	95
e. Biblical shoot-outs	98
f. Fundamentalist attitudes among Catholics	99
5. A Flight: Sects And Cults	101
a. Are Sects and Cults “New Religious Movements”?	102
b. Some Sects and Cults in the Philippines	104
c. New Age practices and paraphernalia	107
d. A Catholic Response to sects and cults	109
<i>Act</i>	112
Glossary	120
CHAPTER FOUR—THE BIBLE: A GUIDE FOR MY LIFE	123
<i>See</i>	123
<i>Discern</i>	125
1. What Is The Bible?	125
a. The Bible as a Big Storybook not a History Textbook	126
b. The Bible as Family Album	126
c. The Bible is “Revealed”	128
d. The Bible is “Inspired”	129
2. How The Hebrew Bible Developed	130
a. Earliest Writings (2100-1050 BCE)	131
b. Monarchy (1050-931 BCE)	132
c. Divided Kingdom (931-723 BCE)	133
d. Fall of Samaria (723 BCE)	133

- e. The Exile (587 BCE) 134
- f. Restoration (538 BCE) 134
- g. Wisdom Literature 134
- 3. The Hebrew Canon 135
- 4. How The New Testament Developed 137
 - a. The Books of the New (Christian) Testament 138
 - b. The Gospel and the Gospels 140
 - c. The Acts of the Apostles 142
 - d. The Pauline Writings 143
 - e. Epistles and Revelation 143
- 5. The New Testament Canon 144
- 6. LITERARY GENRES OR FORMS AND FIGURES OF SPEECH 145
 - a. Literary Forms 145
 - b. Figures of speech 146
- 7. Reading The Bible Today 147
 - a. Pre-Text: Our Lives 147
 - b. The Text and Scientific Exegesis 148
 - c. Context: The Faith of the Church 148
- Act* 150
- Glossary 158

CHAPTER FIVE—THE BIBLICAL MESSAGE:

- GOD, OFFERING SALVATION** 163
- See* 165
 - 1. Images Of God 165
 - 2. Our Experiences Of God 166
- Discern* 168
 - 1. Some Images Of God Die 168
 - 2. Our Understanding Of God Changes 169
 - a. The Israelites' changing experiences of God 169
 - b. We can grow in our understanding of God 171

3. An Understanding Of Salvation	171
4. Consequences Of The Christian View Of God And Salvation On Our Relationships	175
a. Relating with one's body, nature and cosmos	175
b. Relating with other persons	176
c. Relating with a community, society, institutions and structures	176
d. Relating with culture and history	177
e. Relating with my thinking and acting	178
f. Relating with the ultimate	178
<i>Act</i>	180
1. What Needs To Be Transformed?	180
a. Our culture	180
b. Culture and society	181
c. Cultural attitudes and transformation	182
2. Four Elements Needed In Working For Social And Political Transformation	182
Glossary	188
ADDENDUM—CHRISTIAN FAITH AND OTHER RELIGIONS	189
<i>See</i>	191
<i>Discern</i>	196
1. The Religions Of India	196
a. Hinduism	196
Creed	196
Code	197
Ceremony	197
Contributions to Global Responsibility	198
b. Buddhism	198
Creed	199
Code	200
Ceremony	201
Contributions to Global Responsibility	201

2. The Chinese Religions	202
a. Lao Tsu	203
b. Confucius (551-479 BEC)	204
Contributions to Global Responsibility: Yin Yang.....	205
3. The Religions Of The Semitic Near East	207
a. Judaism	207
Creed	208
Code	208
Ceremony	208
Contributions to Global Responsibility.....	209
b. Christianity	209
Creed	209
Code	210
Ceremony	211
Contributions to Global Responsibility.....	211
c. Islam	212
Creed	213
Code	213
Ceremony	214
Contributions to Global Responsibility.....	214
Conclusion: Towards Interreligious Dialogue	215
<i>Act</i>	217
Glossary	221
Appendix 1—Christianity: A Tree with Many Branches	223
Appendix 2—World Religions and Global Responsibility	224
Appendix 3—A Comparison of Canons.....	225
Appendix 4—A Christian Testament Timeline	226
Bibliography	227