

***A Catechism of the Strange* by W. Tyler Allen - Talking Points and Sample Questions**

Talking Points:

- Catholicism is often experienced most deeply through beauty, mystery, and awe, not just through ideas or arguments.
- Miracles, mystics, relics, and other supernatural experiences help reveal who Christ is and what a life of faith can become.
- The Christian life is meant to transform us — not only in what we believe, but in how we live, love, and become more like Christ.
- The stranger parts of Catholicism, like stigmata or miracles, are not meant to be odd curiosities but signs pointing toward deeper spiritual truths.
- Many people today are searching for meaning, mystery, and a sense of transcendence in a world that often feels spiritually empty.
- The saints show that holiness is not just about being “good,” but about becoming more fully united to Christ.
- Catholicism teaches that God works through physical realities like the body, suffering, beauty, relics, and the sacraments.
- Rather than trying to sensationalize mystical phenomena, this book explores what these experiences can teach us about faith and transformation.
- *A Catechism of the Strange* invites spiritually curious, disenchanted, or weary readers to rediscover wonder and a deeper relationship with Christ.

Sample Interview Questions:

- Why did you write the book?
- What first attracted you to the mystical / strange side of Catholicism?
- Why do you think modern people remain fascinated by the supernatural?
- Why do you believe that Catholicism is most deeply encountered through beauty and mystery?
- Why are saints often associated with strange or supernatural experiences?
- What do the saints show us about what human beings are capable of becoming?

- How should Catholics approach stories of visions, relics, and miracles?
- What is the difference between mysticism and superstition?
- What would you say to someone intrigued by the supernatural but skeptical of religion?
- What do you hope readers experience while reading this book / take away after reading this book?