Catechetical Resources

Catechism of the Catholic Church
http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/ccc_toc.htm

*This can also be found on the Vatican web site, but the link is not secure, and can be found via the USCCB site, but the format is difficult to read and navigate. The link above is the most "user-friendly" version I have found online.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church
http://www.stjohnlogan.com/images/Compendium-of-the-Catechism-of-the-Catholic-Church.pdf

Also can be found at the Vatican site, but this link is secure and user-friendly. This is a summary of the Catechism in a question-and-answer format.

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church
http://www.antoniano.org/carbajo/FST/Readings/Magisterium/EN_Compendium_CST.pdf

A good resource for a summation of general teachings on social concerns including family life, marriage (also addresses pastoral response to homosexual issues), the environment, the economic sphere, rights and dignity of workers, peace, etc.

YouCat
https://www.ignatius.com/promotions/youcat/

This is a link to the site with additional information; YouCat has to be ordered in hard copy as it isn't available (legally!) online. This is a description:

Developed with the help of young Catholics and written for high-school age people and young adults, **YOUCAT** *is an accessible, contemporary expression of the Catholic Faith. What's more,* **YOUCAT** *is keyed to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, so people can go deeper. It explains 1) What Catholics believe and why (doctrine), 2) How Catholics celebrate the mysteries of the faith (sacraments), 3) How Catholics are to live (moral life), 4) How they should pray (prayer and spirituality).*

Busted Halo (Web Site)
https://bustedhalo.com/about

This site is a ministry of the Paulist Fathers, and is a great, practical resource for helping people to understand the faith especially as it is relevant in "real life." Very good resource for young adults especially, or people just returning to the Church. This is a description from the site:

Busted Halo is a unique media resource that utilizes a relevant and accessible voice to help people understand the Catholic faith, put it into practice in their everyday lives, and share it with others. Our **vision** *is for a more joyful and meaningful experience of Catholicism that positively impacts people's lives. At Busted Halo, we aim to bring the joy of the Gospel to all people in innovative and creative ways. Through articles, video, podcasts, radio, and social media, we aspire to help Catholics embrace their faith more fully. We value the experiences and questions of people seeking to better understand their faith and offer resources to better comprehend and share the richness of the Catholic faith.*

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Web Site
http://www.usccb.org/
This contains a vast number of resources on any and all topics as they relate to the Catholic Church in the US. This is the page for catechetical resources: http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/index.cfm

Eliademy.com

A free online learning platform; it provides a template and functionality to create an online class "from scratch." Takes a little getting used to, but provides great opportunities for catechesis for families and for volunteers.

Vergel, Alfredo. "Using Technology for Ministry: Trends, Principles and Applications."
> https://theolib.atla.com/theolib/article/download/128/459/
> A short and succinct article offering advice and important basic principles and guidelines on using technology to serve our ministries.

Friend, William. "The Culture and Religion of 'Generation X' Catholics." *Pontifical Council for Culture.* 1997.
> http://www.cultura.va/content/dam/cultura/docs/pdf/events/friendgenx.pdf
> This document from Bishop Friend explores the issue of how to minister to Generation X Catholics in the Church. Friend points out that there are "many indications that this generation is spiritually hungry" and "seem ready for genuine Catholic identity, but are handicapped because in many instances they received a deconstructed view of the Church and were catechized inadequately."

Hayes, Mike. *Googling God: The Religious Landscape of People in Their 20s and 30s.* Mahwah, NJ: Busted Halo Books, 2007.
> Amazon link - http://a.co/d/cua8ZsM
> In this book, Hayes, the co-founder of BustedHalo.com, explores the issues of ministering to young adults, specifically Millenials and Generation X-ers. Hayes offers important insights, keen observations, and sound advice, while dispelling myths that keep the Church from ministering effectively to these groups. While this was written in 2007, it is still applicable to those to whom we are ministering to in our Religious Education programs today.

Prensky, Marc. "Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants." *On the Horizon.* Vol. 9, No. 5. 2001 October.
> http://www.marcprensky.com/writing/Prensky%20-%20Digital%20Natives,%20Digital%20Immigrants%20-%20Part1.pdf
> In this article, Prensky argues that the exponential growth of technology in the late twentieth century and the extent to which it has become a part of the overall culture has enacted dramatic changes which have greatly impacted education. He emphasizes the fact that "our students have changed radically," and goes on to differentiate between the needs and experiences of "digital natives" – those born into this new age of technology – and "digital immigrants" – those who were not and who have had a greater learning curve in this area.

Aetatis Novae, on Social Communications on the Twentieth Anniversary of Communio Et Progressio. 22 Feb 1992.

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/pccs/documents/rc_pc_pccs_doc_22021992_aetatis_en.html

Aetatis Novae explores the development of technology since previous documents on the subject, marveling at its progression while undertaking the task of carefully instructing the faithful in how to proceed as it continues to grow and become integral to human life. The tone of this document strikes a balance between hope and enthusiasm for the possibilities of technology and concern for its abuse and misuse. It integrates Church teaching with the current state of technological communication in different contexts to guide the faithful in the modern age in using it as God intends, "employing the full potential of the 'computer age' to serve the human and transcendent vocation of every person, and thus to give glory to the Father from whom all good things come." *(3)*

Benedict XVI. Encyclical Letter. *Caritas In Veritate. The Development of Peoples and Technology.* 29 June 2009.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate.html

Benedict XVI here explores a range of the definitions of technological advancement in our time, from social communications to questions of bioethics raised by biotechnology. Here he raises the issue of man seeing himself in a technological way, which the puts into danger our belief in the spiritual and the divine as they relate to our creation by God. This chapter takes a broad, philosophical approach to the questions and problems of technology as they challenge our recognition of the wonder and mystery of ourselves and of God. Overall, the nature of technology as Benedict discusses it here can be summarized by his assertion that "Produced through human creativity as a tool of personal freedom, technology can be understood as a manifestation of absolute freedom, the freedom that seeks to prescind from the limits inherent in things." (70)

Benedict XVI. Message of the Holy Father. *New Technologies, New Relationships. Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship.* 24 May 2009.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/messages/communications/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20090124_43rd-world-communications-day.html

In this message Pope Benedict XVI makes a poignant observation about the popularity of technology: that at its core is a desire for relationship. As he notes, "This desire for communication and friendship is rooted in our very nature as human beings and cannot be adequately understood as a response to technical innovations." As such, he explains the beauty and the dangers of different uses of technology from the standpoint of the dignity of the human being. Pope Benedict also acknowledges the modern youth who constitute "the digital generation," and implicitly refers to our need to understand their reality so that they can be effectively reached both in general and in relaying the Gospel message.

Benedict XVI. *Message for the 45th World Communications Day.* 5 June 2011.

> http://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/messages/communications/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20110124_45th-world-communications-day.html
> In his message, Pope Benedict XVI expresses his observations regarding the most current technology of that time, emphasizing the nature of social media. As in other documents, Pope Benedict touches on both the gifts of this new mode of communication and its dangers, especially those that contribute to the creation of false images of ourselves. He particularly implores the faithful to use the opportunities of this form of technology to create a Christian online presence, calling for authenticity and genuine human relationships in this presence. "Even when it is proclaimed in the virtual space of the web, the Gospel demands to be incarnated in the real world and linked to the real faces of our brothers and sisters, those with whom we share our daily lives."

Decree on the Media of Social Communications*. Inter Mirifica.* 3 Dec. 1963.

> http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19631204_inter-mirifica_en.html
> Inter Mirifica expresses the Church's understanding of the nature, value, and prudent use of technology within the context of social communication, especially as it relates to the advancement, ennobling and betterment of human beings created by God. The document balances its praises and caveats for this (then) new technology, offering instruction on morally-sound uses of its powers in a way that reflects Gospel values. Specific teaching for those utilizing it, presenting it, and partaking of it (inside and outside the Church) is included, providing guidance for all those touched by its effects, with special emphasis on young people. While this document is over 50 years old, the principles and teaching contained in it are very relevant today with regard to current technology. An example of its prescience and relevance is reflected here: "Moreover, the Synod invites all men of good will, especially those who have charge of these media, to strive to turn them solely to the good of society, whose fate depends more and more on their proper use. " (24)

John Paul II. Apostolic Letter. *The Rapid Development of the Holy Father to Those Responsible for Communications.* 24 Jan 2005.

> https://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/2005/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_20050124_il-rapido-sviluppo.html
> This document offers a view of the state and progress of technology specifically since the promulgation of Inter Mirifica; with the benefit of the intervening years of having watched technology grow and become embedded in the culture, St. John Paul II offers more specific teaching and deeper observations about this phenomenon. He also notes the urgent responsibility of the Church to utilize technology in proclaiming the Gospel, while also maintaining the importance of other forms of communication. Most interestingly, he observes that the technology as its own entity (and not just the information and interactions that flow through it) has become a part of the culture: "We are dealing with a complex problem, because the culture itself, prescinding from its content, arises from the very existence of new ways to communicate with hitherto unknown techniques and vocabulary." (3) Reflective of the complexity of this problem, he offers a thoughtful, nuanced Catholic approach to harnessing its power, using it wisely, and applying its gifts to building up the Kingdom of God.

John Paul II. Message of the Holy Father John Paul II for the 36th World Communications Day. *Internet: A New Forum for Proclaiming the Gospel.* 12 May 2002.
http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/messages/communications/documents/hf_jp-ii_mes_20020122_world-communications-day.html

This document describes the internet as yet another frontier the Church finds herself on, offering analogies to the many times, places and civilizations where evangelizers had to find new, inspired and creative ways to preach the Gospel, and encouraging the faithful to do the same. St. John Paul II finds practical applications for usage of the internet in the areas of evangelization and catechesis, while of course still warning of the pitfalls we may face in some of its problematic areas. St. John Paul II asks a profound question in this document: "How does the Church lead from the kind of contact made possible by the Internet to the deeper communication demanded by Christian proclamation?" (5)

Pontifical Council for Social Communications. *Ethics in Internet.* 22 Feb 2002.
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/pccs/documents/rc_pc_pccs_doc_20020228_ethics-internet_en.html
The foundation of this document is this: "The human person and the human community are the end and measure of the use of the media of social communication; communication should be by persons to persons for the integral development of persons." (3) Implications of internet technology for the global community are discussed here, with an emphasis on the common good. It also provides a brief historical background of the initial purpose of the internet, which helps to support a very basic description of the internet, which is a helpful clarification for a phenomenon which is so complex. Overall this document deals with the dangers and powers of a medium as it can affect societies, cultures, the individual, and the global community.