

TO THE REVIEWER

Unit 1 at a Glance

What you are holding is the shallow end. Week 1 is the unit's on-ramp: one Lapide excerpt, the first and simplest writing exercise, the anteroom of the memory palace. Every strand deepens on a fixed schedule — and the two things reviewers most often ask for after Week 1, *more commentary study* and *the comparison between what the student reads and what the Church teaches*, are respectively the unit's build and its destination.

Wk	Story & history	Scripture & Lapide (DR)	Writing
1	Prologue · Ch. I — the Sibyl; Eclogue 4; 40 BC	Mt 1:1 — Lapide: the two books	Fable
2	Eliud · the Hall of Names — the first library; Actium	Ruth 1–4; Mich 5:2 · <i>Shelf Visit 1</i>	Narrative I
3	Matthan · the Book of Severing — divorce law	Deut 24; Mt 19:3–9 · Bench	Narrative II
4	The Count · Consul — the census; the Res Gestae	Luke 2:1–5; Lapide: Mt 1:17 · <i>Visit 2</i>	Chreia
5	The hinge — Jacob · Joseph; Herod the builder	Mt 1 entire with Lapide; first “differ” box (ever-virgin)	Maxim
6	Eager and Lesser · the Flood — Augustus dies	Gen 6–9; Lapide: Gen 6:9 · Bench · <i>Visit 3</i>	Refutation & Confirmation
7	The Last Number · the Cup — Sejanus; AD 30	Mt 26:14–30; Lapide: 26:26–28; second “differ” box	Comparison
8	Bread Enough · Son of David — the titulus, AD 33	Mt 21; 27 with Ps 21; Lapide: 27:37 · Bench · <i>Visit 4</i>	Encomium
9	The Descending One · the Two Books — damnatio	Mt 27:57–28:20; 1 Pet 3:18–19 — Lapide: the descent	Thesis + defense · exam

THE LAPIDE TRACK

Nine readings: one in Week 1, one in Week 4, three in Week 5, one each in Weeks 6–9 — every excerpt studied on Day 2, feeding Day 3's discussion. The content exam — a quarter of the unit grade — tests them directly.

THE DESTINATION

Every student — Catholic or not — writes the Week 9 thesis and defends it aloud for ten minutes.

THE METHOD

Comparison on a Schedule

The series' method — a nation's partial truth set beside the Catholic fullness — is taught explicitly, and on a schedule:

Weeks 5 & 7 the “Where Christians differ” boxes argue the contested points — *ever-virgin*; the Real Presence — on their merits, without retreat.

Week 7 Comparison is the writing exercise itself: the story's own instruction, “set the two side by side.”

Weeks 2–8 the Shelf's four Visits carry the bridges between Aeneid 6 and the Gospel — the student finds the Sibyl's cave, the golden bough, and the descent really there, then weighs what Virgil saw against what Matthew counted.

Week 9 every student — Catholic or not — writes the thesis and defends it aloud for ten minutes.

READING THIS PACKET

Judge Week 1 as a Foundation

The question Week 1 must answer is narrow: does the on-ramp hold a student who can read the Douay-Rheims but couldn't locate Augustus? The depth questions — commentary, comparison, assessment — are answered by the schedule overleaf, and in full by the Unit 1 Architecture document.

WHY NOT WEEK 1

Week 1 gives the student the pagan term of the comparison. The unit supplies the other term before asking anyone to weigh them.

Travels with the Reviewer Note and the Week 1 volumes. Set in EB Garamond. Scala Gentium · Unit I review copy.