

The Seed is the Word of God

CURRICULUM GUIDE
HIGH SCHOOL



School of Evangelization
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Brooklyn

310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, New York 11215

May 15, 2014

Dear Monsignor / Father, Catechetical Leader, and Catechist:

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in his address to participants during the pilgrimage of catechists on the occasion of the Year of Faith and the International Congress on Catechesis, said, “It is perhaps the best legacy we can pass on: the Faith! To educate in the Faith, to make it grow, to help children, young people, and adults to know and love the Lord more and more is one of the most exciting aspects of education. It builds up the Church!”

The School of Evangelization, formed under my direction in the fall of 2013, fosters the ongoing Faith formation and education of all involved in this most important ministry of the Church: the young and the old, the student and the catechist, the parent and the pastor.

I encourage you to promote the catechetical mission of the Church in our parish programs and academies and schools in Brooklyn and Queens by using this *The Seed is The Word of God Curriculum Guide* as your primary catechetical guide.

Please be assured that all involved in the education and formation in the Faith of our young people and their parents, so vital a part of our Church today, are remembered daily in my masses and prayers.

In a special way, I thank Mr. Theodore Musco, Executive Director of the School of Evangelization and Director of the Office of Faith Formation; Sr. Alice Michael, SUSC, Coordinator, RCIA and Children's Faith Formation; Mrs. Frances DeLuca; Miss Mary Flannery and Mr. Lawrence Rilla for their contributions to this Curriculum Guide.

Asking Christ Our Teacher to extend His choicest blessings upon you and with every best wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.
Bishop of Brooklyn



Introduction

Since 2011, *The Seed is the Word of God Resource for Catechetical Planning* has served as the primary resource for organizing our religious education programs in the parishes, schools, and academies of the Diocese of Brooklyn. It was written to provide pastors, administrators, catechetical leaders, catechists and parents the tools necessary to ensure that a well-planned and complete program of religious education is available for every student. It also provided guidance for ensuring parish programs of lifelong faith formation (Appendix One).

I am pleased to present the new *The Seed is the Word of God Curriculum Guide*. Revisions have been made to the original 2011 document based on the comments by many of you in the field. Outcomes are now organized for kindergarten through grade eight by individual grade. Standards and outcomes are presented for each of the core courses found in the *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework* (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) for young people of high school age. Vocabulary words, saints, prayers, and liturgical terms have been added to kindergarten through grade eight sections. Appendices include a Plan for Lifelong Formation, Media Resources, Parent/Adult Standards and Outcomes, Sacrament Standards, USCCB Approved Texts, and a listing of important Church documents regarding the New Evangelization and Catechesis.

The Seed is the Word of God Curriculum Guide provides the catechist with the resource for teaching the faith comprehensively to children and youth. It contains the following:

- **SIX TASKS OF CATECHESIS** found in the *National Directory for Catechesis*. These serve as the basic doctrinal building blocks for organizing our religious education programs.
- **STANDARDS** that serve as statements of what the Church teaches. The textbook you use will provide the materials and methods to communicate the Church's teaching.
- **OUTCOMES** that state what the learner will know, believe, or be expected to do at the end of the lesson and will indicate how that knowledge or skill will be demonstrated.

When planning to teach religion, a catechist will make use of the following resources in this particular order:

- **FIRST** Scope and Sequence (from your program's approved text)
- **SECOND** Catechist Manual (from your program's approved text)
- **THIRD** *The Seed is the Word of God Curriculum Guide*

The Seed of the Word of God will help the catechist determine whether progress has been made at the specific grade level. The catechist will use the document as a checklist to indicate those standards and outcomes that have been successfully completed. The catechist will make use of this guide throughout each catechetical year to determine that the required standards and outcomes are being met.

Thank you for your faithfulness and commitment to the ministry of catechesis.

Theodore J. Musco
Executive Director
School of Evangelization



HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9–12)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture

Standard One: There is a thirst for God within all people.

OUTCOME: The learners will understand that our longing for God is His way of initiating a personal relationship with each of us.

Standard Two: God is revealed to us in many ways.

OUTCOME: The learners will understand the difference between Natural Revelation and Divine Revelation, and will understand how the study of the Bible reveals Jesus Christ, the Living Word.

Standard Three: God, who inspired the Biblical writers, is the author of all Sacred Scripture.

OUTCOME: The learners will know that inspiration is the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Biblical writers, thus making the Bible a sacred text for Christians.

Standard Four: The Church is responsible for providing criteria for the authentic interpretation of Sacred Scripture, in both the literal and spiritual senses.

OUTCOME: The learners will be able to read and interpret Sacred Scripture within the tradition and teaching of the Church, taking into account the time when it was written and both the literal and spiritual sense of the content.

Standard Five: The Church teaches us how to relate truths of faith to science.

OUTCOME: The learners will understand the difference between the Catholic understanding of Sacred Scripture and that of those who interpret the Bible through ancillary approaches such as history, literature, archaeology, fundamentalism or a symbolic method.

Standard Six: The Old and New Testaments of the Bible record salvation history in God's teachings and actions prior to the coming of Jesus and in the teachings and actions of Christ Himself.

OUTCOME: The learners will know the main works that compose both the Old Testament and the New Testament and understand how the Old and New Testaments reveal salvation history by distinguishing between the original covenant God made with the Jewish people and the new covenant made by Jesus Christ.

Standard Seven: In proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Gospels occupy the central place in Sacred Scripture.

OUTCOME: The learners will be aware of the structure and role both the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke and the Gospel of John play in recording the life of Jesus Christ and His work of redemption.



Who is Jesus Christ?

Standard One: Revelation is the gift of God gradually revealing Himself. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 50-73, 230-231)

OUTCOME: The learners will:

- appreciate that God's self revelation is ultimately for our salvation and the salvation of humankind.
- realize that faith is our response to God's revelation.

Standard Two: Jesus is fully God and full man. (CCC, 461-495)

Outcome: The learners will:

- be able to describe what is meant by the Incarnation, including the unique role of Mary, the Mother of God.
- come to know the central mystery of our faith; namely, in one God there are three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Standard Three: Jesus reveals the Father and redeems us by His grace. (CCC, 356-361)

OUTCOME: The learners will:

- come to know that the example of Jesus teaches us what it means to be fully human.
- develop an awareness of the God-given dignity of every person as created in the image and likeness of God.
- come to better understand the purpose of life on earth.
- come to know that because of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, we too are destined to rise from death and be reunited with God.



The Mission of Jesus Christ

Standard One: God is the ultimate creator of all that is on earth (“in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”)

OUTCOME: The learners will:

- come to realize that the Bible and modern science address the important question of the origin of the world and of man differently.
- come to better understand why the human person is the summit of God’s creation.

Standard Two: Creation has its own goodness and proper perfection but did not spring forth complete from the Creator. Rather, the universe was created “in a state of journeying.” (CCC, 302-303)

OUTCOME: The learners will understand that the notion of “Divine Providence” means that God is present in the world and in our lives; that God guides the world by giving each person the responsibility to complete and perfect the work of His creation. God is at work in the actions of creatures.

Standard Three: The doctrine of Original Sin explains the reality of sin and evil in the world. (CCC, 396-409)

OUTCOME: Through Biblical accounts of the fall of the angels and the rebellion of Adam and Eve the learners will see that even in a world created good, evil and disunity are the result of sin.

Standard Four: Christ died for our sins. He gave his life as a ransom for many. (Matt.20:28)

OUTCOME: The learners will come to have a deeper understanding of the redemptive mission of Jesus Christ and that His mission is taught and celebrated by the Church throughout the liturgical year.

Standard Five: Everyone is called to holiness. (CCC, 2012-2013)

OUTCOME: The learners will come to know that we are called to accept and live by the grace of our redemption and that the Holy Spirit enables us to live a life of holiness, prayer and service to others.



The Mission of Christ continues in the Church

Standard One: The Church was instituted by Christ. (CCC,763-786)

OUTCOME: The learners will:

- realize that Jesus inaugurated the Church by preaching the Good News that the Reign of God was at hand and by the total self-giving of Himself for our salvation.
- be able to point to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was manifested to and poured out upon the apostles, marking the beginning of the spread of the Church.
- come to understand that the Kingdom announced by Christ is now open to all who believe in Him.
- be able to describe the “marks” of the Church which we profess in the Nicene Creed; namely, the Church of Christ is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

Standard Two: The mission of the Church is to evangelize, to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people. (Matt.28:19-20) (CCC, 813-860)

OUTCOME: The learners will:

- discover that they share in this same mission by their Christ-like witness in the everyday circumstances of their lives. Hence, membership and active participation in the life of the Church is essential.
- come to understand that when they live as faithful members of the Church, they are living as disciples of Jesus.
- come to have a better understanding of the teaching, “outside the Church there is no salvation.” Positively stated, it means that all salvation comes from Christ through the Church which is His Body in time. Christ is always present in the Church, especially in her liturgical and sacramental celebrations.

Standard Three: The Magisterium is the ultimate teaching authority in the Church.

OUTCOME: The learners will come to realize that while many are called to teach in the name of Jesus (eg. priests, parents, preachers and parish catechists) the ultimate teaching authority in the Church is entrusted to the Pope and the Bishops throughout the world in union with Him.



The Sacraments as privileged encounters with Jesus Christ.

Standard One: A sacrament is an efficacious sign and symbol of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church by which the divine life is shared with us through the workings of the Holy Spirit. (CCC, 1131-1134)

OUTCOME: The learners will:

- understand that although they are celebrated at different times and stages in our life, the purpose of the sacraments is to give worship to God, to build up the Body of Christ, and to nourish, strengthen and express our faith.
- come to better understand that just as Christ is the ever-present sacrament of God, the Church is the ever-present sacrament of Christ. We encounter Christ today in and through the sacraments.

Standard Two: The seven Sacraments of the Church can be divided into three groups. The Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist (CCC,1275); The Sacraments of Healing: Penance/Reconciliation (CCC, 986) and the Anointing of the Sick (CCC, 1499-1519); and the Sacraments of Service: Holy Orders (CCC, 1536-1538) and Matrimony (CCC, 1601-1623).

OUTCOME: The learners will:

- discover that over the centuries, the Church has discerned that among of all its prayers, rituals and liturgical celebrations, there are seven that are said to be "instituted" by the actions and instructions of Jesus.
- know what each sacrament is and how each sacrament confers the grace it signifies.

Standard Three: The three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders confer, in addition to sacramental grace, an indelible, sacramental character or seal. This character or seal signifies a positive disposition of grace and purpose for the individual in the life of the Church.

OUTCOME: The learners will come to realize that participation in the sacraments of the Church benefits both the individual and the Church.



Life in Christ

Standard One: Incorporated into Christ by Baptism, Christians participate in the life of the Risen Lord by striving to conform their thoughts, words and actions to Him, who is “the way, the truth and the life.” (Jn.14:6)

OUTCOME:

The learners will:

- come to realize that by using one’s free will, he/she is capable of directing oneself to a life that seeks what is good, true and just.
- better appreciate that personal prayer and the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit offer us the grace and strength to live a moral life for all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God (Romans 8:14).
- be challenged to explore the guidance for moral behavior that comes from various types of laws:
 - *Natural Moral Law* reflects the order and harmony of the creative world. Established with the use of reason, natural law precepts enables every person to discern what is good and what is evil. (CCC, 1954-1960)
 - The *Ten Commandments* are the privileged expression of natural law revealed by God in the Old Testament and fulfilled by Jesus in the New Covenant. (CCC, 2052-2073)
 - The *Beatitudes* in the New Testament (Matt.3:12) express the vocation of every disciple of Christ. They shed light on the actions and attitudes that are characteristic of the Christian life and the need to sustain hope and promise in the midst of tribulations. (CCC, 1716-1724)
 - The *Law of Conscience* is present in the heart of every person. It is a judgment of reason that determines the moral quality of a particular act and enables one to assess and assume responsibility for acts performed. Everyone is obliged to faithfully follow what he/she knows to be just and right. (CCC, 1776-1794)
 - *Precepts of the Church* are set in the context of obligations for spiritual formation and growth that are bound to and nourished by the liturgical life of the Church. (CCC, 2041-2043)



Standard Two: All Christians in any state of life are called to 'life in Christ' and to the perfection of charity. As followers of Jesus, all are called to holiness (CCC, 2013).

OUTCOME: The learners will come to understand that failure to live a virtuous life easily results in self-centeredness and sin. Sin is an abuse of the freedom that God has granted to every human person. The way of perfection will always involve the Way of the Cross. Spiritual progress entails renunciation and self discipline.

Standard Three: The very real consequences of sin and disobedience are recorded in Chapter 3 of the Book of Genesis. The Church, interpreting the symbolism of this biblical language in an authentic way, refers to this teaching as "Original Sin." By this sin, Adam and Eve transmitted to their descendents a wounded and weakened human nature. (CCC, 385-390)

OUTCOME: The learners will:

- come to appreciate how sin disrupted man's original state of holiness and justice, the inner harmony of the human person, the relationship of men and women to God and to each other, and to the created world.
 - review the definition of sin, the different kinds sin, the gravity of both mortal and venial sin, and the effects of sin on others and on society (CCC, 1846-1876).
 - better appreciate that we are redeemed, forgiven and never abandoned by Jesus Christ. Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more.
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Appendix One: Life-long Faith Formation Objectives Plan

Life-long Faith Formation Objectives Plan is based on the Four Pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) and on broad learning objectives for various stages of growth and development. Life-long Faith Formation Objectives Plan is to be used by parish, school, and academy leadership to plan and organize programs of life-long formation in conjunction, wherever possible, with the information found in *The Seed is the Word of God Curriculum Guide*, 2014.

STAGES OF GROWTH	Pillar 1: CREED The Profession of Faith	Pillar 2: SACRAMENTS The Celebration of the Christian Mystery	Pillar 3: MORALITY Life in Christ	Pillar 4: PRAYER Christian Prayer Community and Service
<p>Infants Age 0-3</p> <p>“God’s love is communicated to infants . . . primarily through their parents.”</p> <p>NDC,#177</p> <p><i>The role of the parent as Catechist is...</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To read Bible stories To speak about Jesus especially at Christmas and Easter time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To nourish the faith that was promised in Baptism through story telling and sharing family photos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To form and practice Christian values To encourage family life as modeled by the Holy Family To celebrate the gift of life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To teach basic children’s prayers To pray at certain times of the day To incorporate prayer into everyday life To speak normally and naturally about God
<p>Children Age 4-11</p> <p>“Catechesis for school-age children ‘is an initial catechesis but not a fragmentary one, although in an elementary way, all the principle mysteries of faith and their effects on the child’s moral and religious life.’”</p> <p>CT, #37</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To emphasize that growth in faith is gradual and incremental To develop an appreciation of the Gospel stories, especially the parables of Jesus To provide ongoing faith formation in the home as well as in the school To link the idea of family stories with Bible stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide family-centered opportunities where Liturgy and Catechesis are linked To promote an adequate preparation for the community’s celebration of the Eucharist To provide appropriate Sacramental preparation for both candidates and parents To offer regular opportunities for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To present Jesus as a model for Christian living To recognize the dignity of each individual person To encourage a respect of other cultures and religions To provide opportunities for personal and spiritual development To teach age appropriate moral truths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide experiences of communal prayer To promote private prayer as an opportunity for personal communication with God To learn more formal prayers To experience various liturgies
<p>Adolescents Age 12-17</p> <p>“The catechesis of young people ‘Prepares [them] for the important Christian commitments of adult life.’”</p> <p>CT, #39</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To emphasize a more mature understanding of belief in God To provide for the reading, study and meditation of Sacred Scripture To live one’s Baptismal commitment to evangelization To recognize Christ in the face of others: family, friends, teachers, etc. To offer various learning and teaching styles to encourage growth in the Faith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To offer thoughtful and creative preparation opportunities for the Sacrament of Confirmation To provide ways for adolescents to participate alongside adults in the celebration of Liturgies and Sacraments To provide opportunities for teens to actively plan and participate in the Sunday Liturgy To provide a basic understanding of the various “states in life” and the charisms of each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide examples of Christian living by those who are trusted and admired To be mindful of the physical, social, and psychological differences of individuals and provide for each adolescent’s needs To provide ways of understanding what religion (Christianity) has to do with life To encourage the learner to better understand and respect those of different faiths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote ways to develop a deeper prayer relationship with God To provide ways of participating in liturgical prayers with understanding To provide ways to serve the community in a prayer leadership role To integrate prayer experiences into the individual’s life



STAGES OF GROWTH	Pillar 1: CREED The Profession of Faith	Pillar 2: SACRAMENTS The Celebration of the Christian Mystery	Pillar 3: MORALITY Life in Christ	Pillar 4: PRAYER Christian Prayer Community and Service
<p>Young Adults Age 18-25</p> <p>“The inspiration for catechesis for young adults is Christ’s proposal . . . ‘come follow me.’” NDC, p. 196</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide retreat experiences for the deepening of one’s faith life To raise issues with young adults that would help them make moral decisions To offer regular, age appropriate catechetical experiences that are a way of life, not an occasional event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide various opportunities for participation in the Sacraments of the Church To encourage active consideration of one’s vocational call To provide adequate preparation for marriage To provide parent sessions in preparation for the Baptism of infants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage an acceptance of Christ’s call to “Come follow me” To provide “points of contact” for young adults To provide parish and diocesan programs of evangelization that will encourage people to meet Christ or come back to Him through a personal invitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To draw young adults into the liturgical, pastoral, and communal life of the Church To provide prayerful retreat experiences To encourage regular attendance at Sunday Liturgy
<p>Adults Age 26-65</p> <p>“ . . . Adults have a right and a duty to bring to maturity the seed of faith sown in them by God.” GDC, #173</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recognize and respect the maturity with which adults receive and convey the Teachings of the Church To emphasize the Church’s social teachings To encourage the regular reading of and reflection on the Sacred Scripture To provide opportunities for ongoing faith formation especially, but not limited to the teachings of our faith, the Creed, and the history of the Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage participation in the sacraments with family members and friends To provide regular opportunities for the reception of the Sacrament of Penance To celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage and encourage a Catholic family life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To focus on the universal call to holiness To adhere to the Church’s teachings regarding the dignity of the human person To engage in the ecumenical and interreligious dialogue and prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prioritize regular prayer time To engage in various traditions of Catholic spirituality To promote regular Mass attendance To recognize and participate in the daily prayer life of the Church
<p>Older Adults Age 66 and older</p> <p>“ . . . the church owes the elderly ‘adequate catechetical care.’” NCD, p 193</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide opportunities for the sharing of one’s faith with others To encourage age-appropriate ongoing faith formation To provide activities for connection to the larger community of faith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage a sharing of one’s sacramental experiences with those of other generations To provide opportunities for participation in the sacramental life of the Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage older people to become providers of pastoral care, not merely recipients of pastoral care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage a reflective prayer life To encourage private prayer for the needs of self, others and the Church

General Directory for Catechesis (GDC), Congregation for the Clergy, 1997
National Directory for Catechesis (NDC), United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005
The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), The Holy See, Vatican City, 1994
On Catechesis in Our Time (*Catechesi Tradendae*) (CT), Pope John Paul II, 1979



Appendix Two: Resources

CTN digital religion videos are available through LEARN360 (an interactive, media-on-demand digital delivery service) to Parishes that have an association with a Diocesan School or an Academy. Some videos have teacher resources and most videos are downloadable. There are videos available for ALL grade levels, Kindergarten through High School, focusing on the elementary levels.

This is what you will find within our 500 Catholic videos:

- Animated videos
- Short film videos produced by teens
- Sacramental videos
- Character Builder programs
- Documentaries
- Vocational videos
- Missionary videos
- Church Doctrine and Teaching programs
- Lent, Easter, Advent & Christmas programs
- Lives of Saints programs



If you're ready to integrate technology into your Religion class, opening up an account would be the next step. Contact CTN for more information. Once account is created, there are Learn360 "How To Guides" on our website, under Teacher Resources - www.ctnbq.org

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Appendix Three: Parent/Adult Standards and Outcomes

The following Standards and Outcomes are to be used when organizing sessions for parent and adults. They coordinate with what is being taught at various grade levels to students in parish, school, and academy programs of religious education.

CATECHETICAL TASK ONE: CREED

Catechesis promotes knowledge of faith.

Standard One: We believe in God the Father as our Creator.

OUTCOME: Parents continue to reflect on their understanding of married life and love so as to create a Christian environment in the home.

Standard Two: We believe in Jesus Christ as the Divine Son of God.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults see in the Person of Jesus a model of divine love and forgiveness.

Standard Three: The Bible is the revealed Word of God.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults come to a better understanding that the Word of God gives guidance and meaning to their lives.

Standard Four: Catholic teachings based on Sacred Scripture, the Creeds, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults:

- give the Bible a special place of honor in their homes and family lives.
- rely on official Church documents to form their ongoing understanding of Catholic teachings and to make important decisions in their lives.

Standard Five: We believe that men and women were created to live in union with God in this life and in Heaven forever.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults give witness that faith in God and fellowship with the Church are necessary means of salvation.



CATECHETICAL TASK TWO: SACRAMENTS

Catechesis promotes a greater participation in the Liturgy and the sacraments of the Church.

Standard One: Encourage active participation in the Mass and various other liturgical celebrations of the faith community.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults catechize others by the witness of their Christian lives and by their participation in the life of their local parish.

Standard Two: Promote a basic understanding of the Catholic Church as the People of God.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults see the Church as both human and divine, and as a sign and instrument of God's plan to unite all of God's people in Christ Jesus.

Standard Three: Catholics prepare and celebrate the Sacraments with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist.

OUTCOME: Parents:

- by word and example, assist their children in preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation.
- briefly explain the symbols, words and actions associated with each Sacrament:
 - Baptism (CCC#1234-1245)
 - Penance (CCC#1423-1424, 1480-1484)
 - Eucharist (CCC#1328-1344, 1348-1355)
 - Confirmation (CCC#1293-1301)
 - Holy Orders (CCC#1537-1538, 1541-1543, 1572-1574)
 - Matrimony (CCC#1621-1624)
 - Anointing of the Sick (CCC#1517-1519)

Standard Four: Instill a sense of priority to actively participate in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults actively participate in the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Sunday Eucharist.



CATECHETICAL TASK THREE: MORALITY

Catechesis promotes moral formation in Jesus Christ.

Standard One: Catechetical programs teach the reality of sin and evil in the world.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults counteract the presence of sin and evil in the world by practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Standard Two: Jesus is the model for Catholic/Christian living and decision making.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults:

- rely on the Person of Jesus, the moral teachings of the Church, and the movement of the Holy Spirit to grow in moral maturity.
- teach their children that one's intention and the circumstances surrounding an action can change the moral nature of the act but can never justify the commission of an objective evil.

Standard Three: A person's conscience is formed by Church teachings.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults seek to live and teach with a conscience formed and informed by the Beatitudes and Teachings of the Church.

Standard 4: Catechetical programs present and explain age appropriate moral truths concerning human life.

OUTCOME: Parents instruct their child in the spiritual, physical, and emotional dimensions of the gift of sexuality.



CATECHETICAL TASK 4: PRAYER

Catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ.

Standard One: Learners actively participate in the Mass, various forms of worship, formal prayers, and devotions.

OUTCOME: Parents teach their child:

- appropriate prayers and Bible stories.
- the true meaning of feast days like Christmas and Easter.

Standard Two: Faith Formation programs support and empower parents as the primary religious educators of their children.

OUTCOME: Parents teach prayer by being people of prayer.

Standard Three: Private prayer is a means by which we communicate with God and strengthen our relationship with Him.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults make prayer and spiritual reflection an essential part of their lives.

CATECHETICAL TASK FIVE: EVANGELIZATION

Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.

Standard One: A variety of vocational callings are a response to one's baptism in Christ.

Outcome: Parents and adults realize that like the Church, they too have a duty to proclaim Christ to others at home, in the workplace, and in society in general.

Standard Two: Engage the learner in service to the community as a response to the Gospels and as a primary way of coming to know, love, and serve God.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults demonstrate discipleship by sharing their time, talent and treasure with the poor and elderly.

Standard Three: Promote understanding and respect for different cultures and religions.

OUTCOME: Parents expose their child to the traditions of other cultures and religions, and show respect for all.

Standard Four: Support the exercise of responsible stewardship for the gift of God's creation.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults teach their child examples of stewardship for the gift of God's creation.



CATECHETICAL TASK SIX: EVANGELIZATION Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be and to give a clear Christian witness in society.

Standard One: Society, as well as the individual, must work to apply the principles of social justice and peacemaking to personal and societal situations.

OUTCOME: Parents teach their child to recognize some of the challenges to human dignity such as the right to life for all, the treatment of immigrants, and the victims of prejudice and crime.

Standard Two: Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of each human person.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults treat one another and others in ways that respect their God-given dignity.

Standard Three: The Ten Commandments and the Eight Beatitudes provide a foundation for Catholic/Christian living.

OUTCOME: Parents and adults speak of the many ways God helps us to live as disciples of Christ, such as the Ten Commandments and the Eight Beatitudes.



Appendix Four: General Standards for Sacraments

These standards apply to all catechists who are preparing candidates to receive the Sacrament of Penance, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation.

Regardless of his/her age, a candidate preparing to receive the Sacrament of Penance, Holy Eucharist, or Confirmation is expected to know and understand the following:

EUCCHARIST

In preparation to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist, the candidate must know and understand at least the following:

- The Eucharist is a living memorial of Christ's sacrifice for all mankind and a commemoration of His Last Supper.
- Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper on the night before He died for us.
- The ordinary bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Christ (transubstantiation).
- A fast of at least one hour before receiving the Eucharist is required.
- A person must be in a state of grace before receiving the Eucharist.
- The Eucharist brings us closer to God and one another.
- A person must receive the Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter season.
- The Eucharist is the "source and summit" of our life.
- The celebrant of the Eucharist is a validly ordained priest or bishop who acts in the Person of Jesus and in the name of the Church.

PENANCE

In preparation to receive the Sacrament of Penance, the candidate must know and understand at least the following:

- The Sacrament of Penance may also be known as the sacrament of Reconciliation, Forgiveness, Confession, and Conversion.
- Christ instituted the Sacrament of Penance for those who are baptized but have been separated from Him by sin.
- Penance helps us to grow in relationship with Jesus and one another (the Church).
- Penance allows us to overcome our failures and weaknesses.
- The priest is the ordinary minister of Penance but we are truly confessing to Jesus Himself.
- The priest is bound to maintain the "sacramental seal" and to never reveal what was said to him while hearing one's Confession.
- The Act of Contrition may be said in this form or any other similar form:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
 In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.
 I firmly intend, with your help,
 To do penance, to sin no more,
 And to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
 Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
 In His name, my God, have mercy.
 Amen.



- A person is required to confess mortal sin at least once a year but always before receiving Eucharist.
- A mortal sin is something that is seriously wrong, freely chosen, and breaks the relationship with God.
- A venial sin is a sin that is less serious than a mortal sin but still hurts our relationship with God.

CONFIRMATION

In preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the candidate must know and understand at least the following:

- The ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation is the Bishop.
- Confirmation is that sacrament that completes what was begun in Baptism.
- The effect of Confirmation is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit that gives us strength to witness to our Catholic faith.
- The essential rites of Confirmation include the anointing with Sacred Chrism and the laying on of hands.
- One must be in a state of grace to receive Confirmation.
- Confirmation leaves an indelible mark on one's soul.

The Confirmation candidate must prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation by assuming the role of disciple and serving the needs of the community.



Appendix Five: USCCB Conformity Listing of Texts and Series

Please refer to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series found on the Internet at <http://usccb.org/about/evangelization-and-catechesis/subcommittee-on-catechism/upload/Current-Conformity-List.pdf>



Appendix Six: Official Church Catechetical and New Evangelization Documents

[The Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)

[Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)

[The General Directory for Catechesis](#) (1997)

[Catechesi Tradendae](#) (1979) – John Paul II exhortation “On Catechesis in Our Time”

[Evangelii Nuntiandi](#) (1975) – Paul VI exhortation “On Evangelization in the Modern World”

[Guide for Catechists](#) (1993) – Document of vocational, formative and promotional orientation of Catechists, Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples

[Adult Catechesis in the Christian Community: Some Principles and Guidelines](#) (1990), International Council for Catechesis

[The General Catechetical Directory](#) (1971)

Documents of the Second Vatican Council:

[Dei Verbum](#) (1965) – Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation

[Lumen Gentium](#) (1964) – Dogmatic Constitution on the Church

[Gaudium et Spes](#) (1965) – Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World

[Gravissimum Educationis](#) (1965) – Declaration on Christian Education

[Ad Gentes](#) – Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church

[Inter Mirifica](#) (1963) – Decree on the Media of Social Communications -

The United States *National Directory for Catechesis* (2003) is available only in book form

The *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* (2006) is available only in book form

[Doctrinal Elements for a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age](#) (2008)

[Adaptation of Doctrinal Elements for Use in Parish and Youth Ministry Programs](#) (2010)

[Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living: Guidelines for Curriculum Design and Publication](#) (2008)

[Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry](#) (1997)

[Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States](#) (1992)

[Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry](#) (2005)

[Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States](#) (1999)

[Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series Special Needs Resource Directory](#) (2007)

[Sacramental Catechesis: An Online Resource for Dioceses and Eparchies](#) (2012)

[Disciples Called to Witness](#)

[The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith](#)

[Porta Fidei](#)

[Go Make Disciples](#)

[Final List of Propositions of Ordinary General Assemblies of the Synod of Bishops](#)





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