



Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Standards

Parish Catechetical Edition

Grade 1-8

2011

Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis
Archdiocese of Hartford
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"How beautiful are the footsteps of those who bring good news."

Romans 10: 15-17



Prelude

Catholic schools and parish catechetical programs are vital to the Church's mission of evangelization and catechesis. They exist in order to educate the whole person: mind, body, and soul. They present the totality of the Catholic faith. The primary premise of the Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Standards (ARCS) is to seek to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, engage them in their role as active participants in the Church, and to foster their growth spiritually, academically, personally and morally.

It is critical for those parishes with Catholic schools, that a total parish catechetical plan be developed that includes catechesis within the parish catechetical programs and within the Catholic school setting. "As one of the components of the total catechetical effort of the parish, the parochial school should be in harmony with and complement the other catechetical programs offered by the parish. Similarly regional, diocesan, and private Catholic schools not affiliated with a specific parish should work in close collaboration with neighboring parishes".¹

A Catholic school is an integral part of the total parish catechetical plan. It is an evangelizing community within the larger evangelizing community that is the parish. A Catholic school depends on the parish of which it is a part to provide the ecclesial vision for its particular participation in the Church's mission. As one of the components of the total catechetical effort of the parish, the Catholic school should be in harmony with and complement the other catechetical programs offered by the parish.

In the Archdiocese of Hartford, the purpose of this catechetical curriculum is to engage young people in discussion, cooperative work, and independent reflection to examine their relationship with Christ, to deepen their knowledge of his life and Church, and to make choices that manifest personal sanctification and social transformation in Christian truths and values. "The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ."² The diversity of methodology presented and published (Parish Catechetical Edition, Catholic School Edition) does not detract from its primary objective, "evangelization and conversion to Jesus Christ" – nor does it dilute the unity of faith. Content and methodology interact and harmonize in the communication of the faith.³ "Perfect fidelity to Catholic doctrine is compatible with a rich diversity of presentation."⁴

¹ NDC, no. 61, 4b.

² GDC, no. 80

³ *National Directory for Catechesis*, p.96)

⁴ GDC, no. 122

The evangelization of culture is the common, central mission that drives our catechetical program be it in a parish setting or Catholic school setting. “Evangelization is so central to the life of the Church that, should she neglect her sacred responsibility of bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to all humanity, she would be faithful neither to her mission entrusted to her by her Lord nor to her identity as mother and teacher.”⁵ The Archdiocese of Hartford fully supports the harmonious collaboration of aligning these religion curriculum standards with instruction in Catholic schools as well as parish religious education/faith formation programs. Indeed, the hope of humanity lies in preparing young people to be active Christian witnesses and to serve others as they have been served within our common mission and ministry.

It is the responsibility of all adults who are called to be teachers of catechesis for young people, whether in diocesan Catholic schools or parish catechetical programs, to proclaim Christ’s mission. Jesus calls every man and woman from every nation and every race to join in proclaiming the Good News, “announcing the coming of God’s kingdom of love, justice, and peace with clarity, enthusiasm, and resolve.”⁶ These truths must be taught, shared, instilled, and celebrated in every assembly where young people are gathered to learn about the divine mission. To this end, great hope lies in the future of our global community, the whole Church. Catholic schools and parish catechetical programs must strive to teach within the experience of the whole Christian community, and prepare individuals for effective Christian witness and service to others, within an atmosphere conducive to holiness and personal relationship with Christ.⁷

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Rev. James G. Fanelli; Msgr. Michael J. Motta; Rev. William R. Metzler; Rev. Joseph V. DiSciaccia

“Then Jesus approached and said to them, ‘All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of age.’”

Matthew 28: 18-20

“Recognizing our vision that we build community, serve others, and bridge the crossroads of faith and knowledge for our students.”

Archbishop Henry J. Mansell, Common Threads, 2008

⁵ NDC, p. 67

⁶ NDC

⁷ *To Teach as Jesus Did*, no. 82

ARCHDIOCESAN RELIGION CURRICULUM STANDARDS (ARCS)

The work in developing the Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Standards (ARCS) that embodies both parish catechetical programs and Catholic schools, is the work of great commitment and dedication to the mission of the Catholic Church of the Archdioceses of Hartford to witness and teach the Good News of Jesus Christ as articulated in the scriptures and in the teachings of the Church. More than any other subject in the curriculum, Catholic religious teaching defines the nature of the Catholic school and parish catechetical programs. Through the study of religion, the students will progress beyond knowledge of precepts of the Faith to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Spirit of the Living God dwelling in each and every person. From that awareness comes a deep respect for the dignity integral to every human being and an acceptance of the Christian's role as disciple in the building of the Kingdom.

The information in this document is based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) and the National Directory for Catechesis (NDC). References throughout the document are made from To Teach as Jesus Did as well as Pope Benedict XVI's address, "Christ Our Hope" from his Apostolic Journey to the United States in April 2008. It is a working document that evolved from the Archdiocese of Hartford Religion Guidelines, designed to be annotated by the teachers who use it.

At every grade level, the religion curriculum standards are structured in **strands** that represent the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Profession of Faith (Creed), Celebration of the Christian Mystery (Sacraments and the Mass), Life in Christ (The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes), and Christian Prayer(The Prayer of the Believer).

Achievement Standards are the primary instructional targets that outline essential topics that students should know, be able to do, and fully comprehend by the end of each child's journey in their parish catechetical program.

Student Objectives are the primary tasks students should be able to successfully accomplish as a result of effective instruction to bring the students to mastery of the Archdiocesan Achievement Standard. Student objectives must be continually assessed to assure a progression toward mastery is achieved by all students. Each objective is correlated with one or more of the six tasks of catechesis.

Instruction/Textbooks - It is not our intent to advocate for one program over another, or endorse one particular text, since all of these programs have valid and important material to present. Each catechetical program whether taught in a Catholic school setting or religious education/faith formation program may select those programs that are approved by the USCCB and that best suit their needs and the needs of the students, provided it conforms to the USCCB approved textbook list found at the end of this document. It is incumbent upon each parish program to insure that the points presented here serve as a reference in the selection and implementation of materials/textbooks in each grade level religion program. The chart format of this curriculum enables each catechist to determine the best sequence of instruction for each objective and document when it is taught and/or assessed. This will enable a faith formation program to be tailored to meet the needs of each catechetical program while maintaining the integrity of the content and standards.

*"For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth" (Jn 18:37)
His teaching mission endures in those whom he sends.*

CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTION

The General Directory for Catechesis (GDC) states that “The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ’ (#80). Catechesis is accomplished by varied, interconnected tasks that are inspired by Jesus’ example in forming his disciples. To be an effective instructor in parish catechetical programs or Catholic schools, the following **tasks of catechesis** are essential catechetical instruction. The six tasks of catechesis “constitutes a unified whole by which catechesis seeks to achieve its objective: the formation of disciples of Jesus Christ.” (NDC, pp. 61-63) The six tasks are embedded in all strands and achievement standards throughout the curriculum and are identified preceding each objective.

The **six tasks of catechesis** as outlined in the National Directory for catechesis (NDC) are:

1. **Catechesis promotes knowledge of faith.**
2. **Catechesis promotes a knowledge and meaning of the liturgy and the Sacraments.**
3. **Catechesis promotes moral formation in Jesus Christ.**
4. **Catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ.**
5. **Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.**
6. **Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society.**

Throughout the curriculum, each objective is preceded by the corresponding related task of catechesis. These tasks are imparted through individual relationships, the community of faith, liturgy, instruction, experiential learning, ritual, prayer and outreach to the global community. “Continuing education in the faith is a question which concerns the whole community; catechesis, therefore, is an educational activity which arises from the particular responsibilities of every member of the community, in a rich context of relationships (GDC #220).

The following **Archdiocesan Standards** form the foundation of the curriculum, shaping its direction. As with other types of achievement standards, they are learned and integrated over time. They set a standard that invites the learner to understand the meaning of discipleship and respond to the call of discipleship through full participation in the life of the Church.

“The sacred duty and the joy of each succeeding generation of Christian believers has been to hand on the deposit of faith that was first entrusted to the apostles by Christ himself. We have received this gift, the deposit of faith – we have not conceived it. It is the heritage of the whole Church. It is our privilege and our responsibility to preserve the memory of Christ’s words and the words themselves and to teach future generations of believers to carry out all that Christ commanded his apostles.” (NDC p.87)

Archdiocesan Religion *Strands* and Achievement Standards

Profession of Faith (Creed)

I. CHURCH

The students will understand that the Church is “the people of God” on earth and the sign of God’s presence in the world today.

II. DOCTRINE (TEACHING)

The students will acquire knowledge of the doctrines of the Church in an age appropriate manner.

Celebration of the Christian Mystery (Sacraments and the Mass)

III. LITURGY/SACRAMENTS

The students will develop an appreciation of and participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the church.

Life in Christ (The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes)

IV. SCRIPTURE

The students will develop an appreciation of the Scriptures as God’s inspired word.

V. MORALITY/FAMILY LIFE

The students will form their conscience according to the teachings of Scripture, Jesus, and the Church, so that they can make correct moral decisions.

The students will cultivate a reverence for all of life and develop an understanding and respect for the physical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of sexuality.

VI. CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The students will become aware of the fact that they are members of a global community and share a responsibility for each other’s well being.

VII. SERVICE/CHRISTIAN WITNESS

The students will realize an understanding that as Catholic Christians, students have a responsibility to become actively involved in the mission of the Church as servant to the world.

Christian PRAYER (The Prayer of the Believer)

VIII. PRAYER

The students will cultivate a prayer life; learn various forms of praying; be provided with experiences for various forms of prayer.



GRADE 1

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 1: *CHURCH*

THE STUDENTS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE CHURCH IS “THE PEOPLE OF GOD” ON EARTH AND THE SIGN OF GOD’S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD TODAY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
5	To understand about God’s family and his/her role in it
5	To describe how the church is a special and sacred place

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 2: *DOCTRINE*

THE STUDENTS WILL ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH IN AN AGE APPROPRIATE MANNER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1,2	To know God as a loving Father
1, 2, 3	To know God as Creator
1	To retell the stories of the creation of man and woman
1, 3	To know Jesus as the Son of God
1, 3	To come to see Jesus as Gift of the Father
1, 3	To read and comprehend stories of the life of Jesus
1, 3, 5	To recognize that the Holy Spirit can help us make good choices so we can live together in peace
1, 4, 5	To recognize Mary as the Mother of Jesus and as our Mother
1	To identify the Holy Family

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 3: LITURGY/SACRAMENTS

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
2	To understand and display reverence for events celebrated during the liturgical year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, Holy Days
2	To explain that the sacraments are celebrations and signs of Jesus' love
2, 4	To explain that we become members of God's family and receive new life through the sacrament of baptism
2	To bring to mind that Jesus shares Himself with us in a special meal

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 4: SCRIPTURE

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF THE SCRIPTURES AS GOD'S INSPIRED WORD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1	To understand that the Bible contains God's words for His people
1	To introduce Gospel stories: birth and childhood of Jesus, Jesus as healer, Jesus working miracles, Jesus and the Last Supper, Jesus' death and Resurrection, Jesus after the Resurrection

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 5: MORALITY/FAMILY LIFE

THE STUDENTS WILL FORM THEIR CONSCIENCE ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF SCRIPTURE, JESUS, AND THE CHURCH, SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE CORRECT MORAL DECISIONS.

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A REVERENCE FOR ALL OF LIFE AND DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR THE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF SEXUALITY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
3	To recognize that creation is a gift from God
3	To show how we love our family
3	To demonstrate how we make good choices with the help of the Holy Spirit

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 6: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

THE STUDENTS WILL BECOME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY AND SHARE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR EACH OTHER'S WELL BEING

TASK	OBJECTIVE
5, 6	To recognize that we care for and celebrate people of different cultures and races
5, 6	To demonstrate how we show concern for the disadvantaged

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 7: SERVICE/CHRISTIAN WITNESS

THE STUDENTS WILL REALIZE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT AS CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS, STUDENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH AS SERVANT TO THE WORLD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
5, 6	To describe ways we can be helpful and loving to our family, teachers, and friends
5, 6	To interpret how Jesus shows us how to live

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 8: PRAYER

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A PRAYER LIFE; LEARN VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYING; BE PROVIDED WITH EXPERIENCES FOR VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
4	To understand that prayer is listening to and talking with God
4	To show how Jesus teaches us how to pray
4	To make and pray the Sign of the Cross, and pray the Lord's prayer, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, and prayers before and after meals
4	To discuss why morning, mealtime, and night prayers are important

NOTES/COMMENTS:

GRADE 2

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 1: *CHURCH*

THE STUDENTS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE CHURCH IS “THE PEOPLE OF GOD” ON EARTH AND THE SIGN OF GOD’S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD TODAY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1, 4	To recognize that we belong to a parish family
2	To explain the parts of the Mass
1, 3	To know that the church helps us to love God and others as Jesus did
4, 6	To explain that the church teaches us to imitate saints who show their love of God by the witness of their lives

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 2: *DOCTRINE*

THE STUDENTS WILL ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH IN AN AGE APPROPRIATE MANNER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1	A. To articulate that Jesus is the Son of God and came to bring the Good News to the world
1	B. To explore the mystery of the Holy Trinity: God our Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit
1	C. To recognize that the Holy Spirit can help us make good choices so we can live together in peace
1, 3	D. To explain that God loves us even when we hurt others
1, 3	E. To express that Jesus brings us God’s forgiveness.

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 3: *LITURGY/SACRAMENTS*

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
2	To specify that the Catholic Church celebrates its faith through the Sacraments
2	To celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, and the Sacrament of the Eucharist

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 4: *SCRIPTURE*

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF THE SCRIPTURES AS GOD'S INSPIRED WORD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1	To indicate that the Bible is made up of the Old Testament and the New Testament
1	To be able to understand the Bible as Holy Scripture and the Word of the Lord

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 5: *MORALITY/FAMILY LIFE*

THE STUDENTS WILL FORM THEIR CONSCIENCE ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF SCRIPTURE, JESUS, AND THE CHURCH, SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE CORRECT MORAL DECISIONS.

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A REVERENCE FOR ALL OF LIFE AND DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR THE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF SEXUALITY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
3, 5, 6	To point out that we should treat others the way Jesus did
3	To point out that we have a choice to do good
3	To explain that we sin when we choose not to do good

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 6: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

THE STUDENTS WILL BECOME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY AND SHARE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR EACH OTHER'S WELL BEING

TASK	OBJECTIVE
5, 6	To demonstrate that we love others as gifts from God; God calls us to love everyone
5, 6	To indicate that we are called to share what we have with others

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 7: SERVICE/CHRISTIAN WITNESS

THE STUDENTS WILL REALIZE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT AS CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS, STUDENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH AS SERVANT TO THE WORLD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
5, 6	To recall that the Eucharist is a sacrament of love and service; at Mass, we pray for all those who need our help
5, 6	To specify how we cooperate in school, church, and community projects

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 8: PRAYER

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A PRAYER LIFE; LEARN VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYING; BE PROVIDED WITH EXPERIENCES FOR VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
4	To explain that at the Mass we pray and/or sing the responses
2, 4	To relate what happens at the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist
4	To pray an Act of Contrition and thanksgiving

NOTES/COMMENTS:

GRADE 3

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 1: *CHURCH*

THE STUDENTS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE CHURCH IS “THE PEOPLE OF GOD” ON EARTH AND THE SIGN OF GOD’S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD TODAY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1	To indicate that Jesus began His Church on earth and chose twelve apostles to help Him
2, 4	To illustrate that the season of Advent prepares us for Christmas
2, 4	To illustrate that Lent is a special time for praying, sacrificing, and sharing
2, 4	To point out that Christians celebrate Jesus’ rising from the dead
1, 3	To explain the marks of the Catholic Church

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 2: *DOCTRINE*

THE STUDENTS WILL ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH IN AN AGE APPROPRIATE MANNER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1	To show how God loves us like a parent
1, 4	To realize that the Holy Spirit is with us to help us to pray
1	To identify God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
1, 3	To explain that Jesus is a person who lived historically and is alive now

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 3: *LITURGY/SACRAMENTS*

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
2	To explain that Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are Sacraments of Initiation
2	To identify the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, and the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick as Sacraments of Healing
2	To identify that Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders are Sacraments of Service

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 4: *SCRIPTURE*

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF THE SCRIPTURES AS GOD'S INSPIRED WORD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1	To locate passages in the Bible according to books, chapters, and verses
1	To demonstrate how we come to know Jesus in the Bible

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 5: *MORALITY/FAMILY LIFE*

THE STUDENTS WILL FORM THEIR CONSCIENCE ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF SCRIPTURE, JESUS, AND THE CHURCH, SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE CORRECT MORAL DECISIONS.

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A REVERENCE FOR ALL OF LIFE AND DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR THE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF SEXUALITY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
3	To emphasize that all of life is a gift from God and must be respected
1, 3	To recall that Jesus teaches us to love one another through parables
1, 3	To emphasize that the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes help us to live good lives
1, 3	To recall that Jesus sums up the ten commandments in his Law of Love

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 6: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

THE STUDENTS WILL BECOME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY AND SHARE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR EACH OTHER'S WELL BEING

TASK	OBJECTIVE
5, 6	To apply respect for all humanity to concrete situations
1, 5, 6	To memorize and understand when Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (MT 25:40)
5, 6	To explain that we share in Jesus' mission to bring the message of love, justice, and hope to the poor and victims of injustice

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 7: SERVICE/CHRISTIAN WITNESS

THE STUDENTS WILL REALIZE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT AS CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS, STUDENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH AS SERVANT TO THE WORLD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
6	To provide opportunities where we demonstrate how we share in Jesus' ministry by loving and serving others

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 8: PRAYER

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A PRAYER LIFE; LEARN VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYING; BE PROVIDED WITH EXPERIENCES FOR VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
4	To observe that God hears our prayers
4	To show the difference between spontaneous prayer and liturgical prayer

NOTES/COMMENTS:

GRADE 4

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 1: *CHURCH*

THE STUDENTS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE CHURCH IS “THE PEOPLE OF GOD” ON EARTH AND THE SIGN OF GOD’S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD TODAY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1, 2	To recognize that the Church is the people of God; the Body of Christ; the Communion of Saints on earth; a light to the world
1	To acknowledge that bishops are leaders of the Church with and are under the Pope who is Vicar of Christ
1	To identify the parish, deanery, archdiocesan and universal Church as one community
1, 2	To understand that the Church welcomes members through baptism of infants and through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 2: *DOCTRINE*

THE STUDENTS WILL ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH IN AN AGE APPROPRIATE MANNER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1, 2	To show God’s mercy and forgiveness as offered through Jesus
1, 2, 4	To encourage development of an informed conscience through the understanding of: original sin, actual sin, mortal sin, and venial sin
1, 2, 3	To recall that the Holy Spirit guides us to choose good over evil
1, 2	To identify that we live our faith by celebrating the Eucharist, living according to the Law of Love, and proclaiming the “Good News”
1	To recognize that God is always with us

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 3: *LITURGY/SACRAMENTS*

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1, 2	To recall that the Holy Thursday is the Eucharistic celebration of the Last Supper
1, 2, 3	To participate in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, a journey of conversion
2	To provide opportunities to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist frequently
1, 2	To tell how Baptism calls us to new life, cleanses our sins, and joins us to the Christian community

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 4: *SCRIPTURE*

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF THE SCRIPTURES AS GOD'S INSPIRED WORD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1, 2, 3	To present stories from the Old Testament: Creation, Exodus, Covenant
1, 2, 3	To continue to present stories from the New Testament: Nativity, Beatitudes, Parables, Miracles
1, 3, 6	To demonstrate making life choices consistent with Biblical teachings

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 5: MORALITY/FAMILY LIFE

THE STUDENTS WILL FORM THEIR CONSCIENCE ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF SCRIPTURE, JESUS, AND THE CHURCH, SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE CORRECT MORAL DECISIONS.

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A REVERENCE FOR ALL OF LIFE AND DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR THE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF SEXUALITY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
3, 5, 6	To strengthen formation of a right conscience through: ten commandments, beatitudes, spiritual works of mercy, and corporal works of mercy
3, 4	To examine the greatest commandment: to love God with our whole heart and others as ourselves
3, 4, 5	To recognize that authority is necessary for human community
3,4, 5, 6	To understand that God cares deeply about how we treat others
3, 5, 6	To strengthen formation of a right conscience through: ten commandments, beatitudes, spiritual works of mercy, corporal works of mercy

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 6: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

THE STUDENTS WILL BECOME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY AND SHARE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR EACH OTHER'S WELL BEING

TASK	OBJECTIVE
5, 6	To recognize that differences in race, nationalities, and gender are good for the whole human family
3, 4	To illustrate how the beatitudes show us to trust God, forgive, and have mercy for others
5, 6	To demonstrate that God wants us to work for justice; make peace in our lives, homes, communities, and world; respect each person's dignity

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 7: SERVICE/CHRISTIAN WITNESS

THE STUDENTS WILL REALIZE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT AS CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS, STUDENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH AS SERVANT TO THE WORLD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
5, 6	To demonstrate our love for God by helping those in need
5, 6	To recall that the corporal and spiritual works of mercy show our love for Jesus
1, 2, 5, 6	To illustrate that through baptism, Jesus calls us to a life of service
3, 5	To propose good Christian lifestyles by using examples of Jesus, Mary, and the saints

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 8: PRAYER

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A PRAYER LIFE; LEARN VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYING; BE PROVIDED WITH EXPERIENCES FOR VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
4	To fully understand: Nicene Creed, Mass responses, Mysteries of the Rosary: joyful, luminous, sorrowful, glorious
4	To write spontaneous prayer
4	To experience prayer through the arts: music, art, drama

NOTES/COMMENTS:

GRADE 5

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 1: *CHURCH*

THE STUDENTS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE CHURCH IS “THE PEOPLE OF GOD” ON EARTH AND THE SIGN OF GOD’S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD TODAY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1, 2	To reflect on the Church-- one, holy, catholic, apostolic – as the People of God, called together by the Holy Spirit
2	To explain how the Church is the sacrament of Christ in the world
1, 2	To discuss that Mary is the Mother of the Church
5, 6	To participate in the Church as a celebrating community
2	To list the feasts and liturgical seasons of the Church

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 2: *DOCTRINE*

THE STUDENTS WILL ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH IN AN AGE APPROPRIATE MANNER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1, 3	To recall that God came into our world to save us
1, 3	To recognize that Jesus is a visible sign of God’s love
4	To fully appreciate and understand that the Creed is the declaration of our Catholic beliefs: One God (Trinity), redemption, sanctification, Mary – Mother of God, Communion of Saints.

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 3: *LITURGY/SACRAMENTS*

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
2	To relate that the Church was born on the feast of Pentecost
2	To recognize the grace of God through the special gifts and symbolic actions of the sacraments
2, 4	To prepare and celebrate paraliturgical prayer services, stations of the cross, adoration, rosary
2, 4	To examine calls to vowed religious life

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 4: *SCRIPTURE*

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF THE SCRIPTURES AS GOD'S INSPIRED WORD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1, 3	To recall that the promise of love and partnership God made with Moses and the Hebrew people is a covenant
1, 3	To research the life of Jesus as both divine and human, as told in the Gospels

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 5: MORALITY/FAMILY LIFE

THE STUDENTS WILL FORM THEIR CONSCIENCE ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF SCRIPTURE, JESUS, AND THE CHURCH, SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE CORRECT MORAL DECISIONS.

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A REVERENCE FOR ALL OF LIFE AND DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR THE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF SEXUALITY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
3, 5	To identify that the two Great Commandments are the basis of Catholic morality
2, 3, 5	To comprehend that the Ten Commandments are the laws by which we form a right conscience
1, 3	To comprehend that the Beatitudes are the fulfillment and perfection of the Ten Commandments
1, 3	To indicate that we are capable of intimacy and trust of others
1, 3	To affirm that life is precious, especially the human body of oneself and others
3	To demonstrate the steps in making responsible, moral decisions
3	To illustrate how our conscience helps us to know what is right and do what we believe is right

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 6: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

THE STUDENTS WILL BECOME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY AND SHARE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR EACH OTHER'S WELL BEING

TASK	OBJECTIVE
3, 5, 6	To identify that God created all persons of different races and cultures but all are one
5, 6	To exhibit an appreciation and celebration of racial and ethnic differences
5, 6	To examine ways of working for a more just and fair world

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 7: SERVICE/CHRISTIAN WITNESS

THE STUDENTS WILL REALIZE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT AS CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS, STUDENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH AS SERVANT TO THE WORLD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
5, 6	To explain that the Church teaches us to reach out to others, especially the poor and the needy
5, 6	To demonstrate how Christian living involves imitating Christ, who “Came not to be served, but to serve”
5, 6	To recall that everyone receives a vocation through the Holy Spirit
1, 3	To personally explain that our vocation is a response to the call, in the light of the Holy Spirit’s gifts

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 8: PRAYER

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A PRAYER LIFE; LEARN VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYING; BE PROVIDED WITH EXPERIENCES FOR VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
4	To review all previously learned prayers of the Mass: Gloria, Creed, Confiteor
4	To instill the practice to pray daily as a way to talk to God and listen to God’s will
4	To recognize sacramental ritual prayers
4	To recite the Rosary with an awareness of the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, and Glorious mysteries
4	To know how to pray the Stations of the Cross

NOTES/COMMENTS:

GRADE 6

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 1: *CHURCH*

THE STUDENTS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE CHURCH IS “THE PEOPLE OF GOD” ON EARTH AND THE SIGN OF GOD’S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD TODAY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1	To understand that the Church today is rooted in Old Testament
1, 3	To identify God within the Church, the Body of Christ
1, 3	To recognize the Pope as the leader of the Catholic Church throughout the world

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 2: *DOCTRINE*

THE STUDENTS WILL ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH IN AN AGE APPROPRIATE MANNER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1	To understand that Old Testament Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit
1, 3	To understand the role of free will in living
1, 3	To introduce the concept of original sin
1, 3	To know sanctifying grace is God’s presence in us
1, 3	To recognize our relationship to God as Creator; Discuss how God creates out of love
1, 3	To identify that the authors in the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit
1, 3	To emphasize that the Holy Spirit is always present and active in our life

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 3: LITURGY/SACRAMENTS

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
2	To understand that many of our celebrations are rooted in Jewish rituals
2	To recall and emphasize that Penance and Reconciliation celebrates God's healing and forgiveness
2	To examine how the sacred is experienced in the liturgical year, sacramental symbols and rituals

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 4: SCRIPTURE

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF THE SCRIPTURES AS GOD'S INSPIRED WORD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1	To appreciate the meaning of oral tradition
1	To identify types of Old Testament literature
1	To understand the personal relationship between God and His people in the Old Testament
1	To recognize the 46 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament
1	To trace how the Old Testament, which contain the roots of our faith, are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 5: MORALITY/FAMILY LIFE

THE STUDENTS WILL FORM THEIR CONSCIENCE ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF SCRIPTURE, JESUS, AND THE CHURCH, SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE CORRECT MORAL DECISIONS.

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A REVERENCE FOR ALL OF LIFE AND DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR THE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF SEXUALITY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
3	To review and understand the Ten Commandments and how they apply and enrich their own lives
3	To recognize sins of commission and omission
1, 3	To analyze the Scriptures as a guide in moral pathways to the reign of God
1, 3	To defend human sexuality as a precious gift
3	To recognize that we are called to live a chaste life

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 6: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

THE STUDENTS WILL BECOME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY AND SHARE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR EACH OTHER'S WELL BEING

TASK	OBJECTIVE
5, 6	To recognize their role as prophets
5, 6	To examine the prophets regarding the mysteries of life: suffering, injustice, and death
1	To demonstrate how our God is a God of freedom
1, 3	To recognize that through our relationship with Christ, we are animated to live a life of peace and justice

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 7: SERVICE/CHRISTIAN WITNESS

THE STUDENTS WILL REALIZE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT AS CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS, STUDENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH AS SERVANT TO THE WORLD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
5, 6	To recognize Jesus as the center of God's plan for the world
5, 6	To highlight that we are called to discipleship
5, 6	To consider how Christians are to be missionaries bringing Good News globally

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 8: PRAYER

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A PRAYER LIFE; LEARN VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYING; BE PROVIDED WITH EXPERIENCES FOR VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
4	To affirm that worship belongs to God alone
4	To examine the deepening awareness of the covenant relationship between God and His people
4	To identify and reflect on the elements of formal prayer

NOTES/COMMENTS:

GRADE 7/8

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 1: *CHURCH*

THE STUDENTS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE CHURCH IS “THE PEOPLE OF GOD” ON EARTH AND THE SIGN OF GOD’S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD TODAY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
2	To deepen understanding and appreciation of the mystery of the Church and the role of the Holy Spirit
1, 2	To recognize the resurrection of Christ as the central event of the Church
4	To explore the ministries of word, worship, community building, and service as the continuation of Jesus’ mission and ministry today
1, 2	To recall that the Feast of Pentecost is the birth of the Church
1	To emphasize and retell that Catholic beliefs are sound and rooted in the tradition of the Church
1, 2	To understand how the Church celebrates the whole mystery of Christ and honors Mary and the Saints
5, 6	To recall our involvement in the life, mission and work of the parish community and family

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 2: *DOCTRINE*

THE STUDENTS WILL ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH IN AN AGE APPROPRIATE MANNER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
4	To recall and explain the Nicene Creed
1, 4	To show how Mary is recognized and honored by Catholics as the Mother of God
1	To examine and discuss ways we can let the Holy Spirit guide our lives
1	To illustrate the Holy Trinity as one God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

1	To examine and discuss ways God comes into our world to save us
2	To recognize Pentecost as a celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples
1	To study the Infancy Narratives of the New Testament
1	To illustrate through Scripture that humankind was created in the Triune God's image and likeness
1	To identify and demonstrate ways in which Jesus is both God and human
1, 2	To understand the Church began with God's chosen people and include all the living and dead who responded to God's love
3	To appreciate the contributions of the Fathers of the Church and Ecumenical Councils
3	To realize what it means to live a Christian life

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 3: *LITURGY/SACRAMENTS*

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
2	To identify the four major parts of the Mass/Eucharist: Introductory Rite, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Concluding/Dismissal Rite
2	To describe how sacraments signify and make present God's grace
2	To compare and contrast the Eucharistic celebration to the Last Supper
1, 2	To explain the concept of transubstantiation

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 4: *SCRIPTURE*

THE STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF THE SCRIPTURES AS GOD’S INSPIRED WORD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
1	To understand that the Bible is the inspired word of God, which reveals God, gives knowledge of our faith and contains a personal message for each person
1	To illustrate that Scripture teaches us about the person of Jesus and what following Jesus and living the Good News mean
1, 3, 5, 6	To examine the teachings of Jesus about God, prayer, justice and peace, service and moral life
1	To be empowered by Christ to “do everything God asks.”

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 5: *MORALITY/FAMILY LIFE*

THE STUDENTS WILL FORM THEIR CONSCIENCE ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF SCRIPTURE, JESUS, AND THE CHURCH, SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE CORRECT MORAL DECISIONS.

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A REVERENCE FOR ALL OF LIFE AND DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR THE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF SEXUALITY.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
3	To recognize that the foundation of Catholic morality is based upon Christ’s humanity
3	To identify moral values in the teachings of Jesus
1, 3	To identify the theological virtues: faith, hope, love
3	To become more aware that Christian moral living is a response to their covenant with God
3	To recognize that our human sexuality is a gift from God
1	To demonstrate the call to be faithful to God’s love
3	To identify moral values in the teachings of Christ

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 6: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

THE STUDENTS WILL BECOME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY AND SHARE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR EACH OTHER'S WELL BEING

TASK	OBJECTIVE
5, 6	To see action for justice and peace as an essential characteristic of Christianity
5, 6	To show how the scriptural vision of life encompasses justice, peace, equality and stewardship
5, 6	To respond to the challenge of world hunger, poverty, war/peace, inequality, discrimination, and anti-life issues
1, 3	To recognize life as sacred from conception to natural death
5, 6	To analyze how discrimination and prejudice lead to injustice
5, 6	To explore and discuss diverse cultural expressions that enrich our Church
3, 5, 6	To fully comprehend the dignity of the human person

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 7: SERVICE/CHRISTIAN WITNESS

THE STUDENTS WILL REALIZE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT AS CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS, STUDENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH AS SERVANT TO THE WORLD.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
3	To identify Christian vocations that reflect our baptismal call to discipleship
3	To identify the uniqueness of the priesthood
3	To examine the role of the laity in the Church
3	To examine the role of the consecrated life in the Church
3	To imitate Christ and a desire to imitate the saints' faith and actions
5, 6	To realize their call to contribute to the growth of the life of the Church
5, 6	To realize that Christian witness is expressed in loving concern for the poor

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD 8: *PRAYER*

THE STUDENTS WILL CULTIVATE A PRAYER LIFE; LEARN VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYING; BE PROVIDED WITH EXPERIENCES FOR VARIOUS FORMS OF PRAYER.

TASK	OBJECTIVE
4	To examine our relationship with God through personal prayer
3	To identify how the Gospel affirms and challenges our thoughts and actions
4	To understand the importance of prayer its purposes and various types of prayer
2, 3, 4	To experience full participation in the Eucharist

NOTES/COMMENTS:



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Preparing a child for First Penance-Reconciliation:

- Parents and the parish catechetical leaders, together with the pastor, are responsible for determining when children are ready to receive First Penance-Reconciliation.
- Readiness for reception of this sacrament includes knowledge of the person of Jesus and the Gospel message of forgiveness, knowledge of sin and its effect, and understanding and experiencing of sorrow, forgiveness, and conversion.
- Children must receive the Sacrament of Penance-Reconciliation for the first time prior to their first reception of the Eucharist.⁸
- Catechesis for the Sacrament of Penance-Reconciliation is to precede First Holy Communion and be kept distinct by a clear and unhurried separation in order to identify each Sacrament clearly.
- Before receiving First Holy Communion, the child must be familiar with the revised Rite of Reconciliation and must be at ease with the reception of the sacrament.⁹
- Catechesis for children receiving this sacrament must always respect their natural disposition, ability, age, and circumstances.
- Since the family is intimately involved with the formation of a child's moral conscience and ordinarily integrates the child into the wider ecclesial communities, parents should be involved in the preparation of their children to affirm and reinforce participation in the sacraments. They orient the child toward God and encourage continual growth in the understanding of God's mercy and love.¹⁰

⁸ Cf. *General Catechetical Directory*, Addendum, no. 5.

⁹ *National Catechetical Directory*, no. 126.

¹⁰ *National Directory for Catechesis*, p. 135

Catechetical Instruction for First Reconciliation – Penance



Catholic schools and parish catechetical programs must provide effective instruction to help children:

- Recognize God’s unconditional love for self and people.
- Turn to Christ and the Church for sacramental forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Recognize the presence of good and evil in the world.
- Recognize his/her capacity for both good and evil.
- Understand the meaning of symbols, gestures, prayers, and Scriptures that are part of the Rite of Reconciliation.
- Understand how to celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation.
- Understand that “sacramental confession is a means offered children of the Church to obtain pardon for sin.”¹¹
- Understand that sacramental confession is necessary if one has committed a serious sin.¹²



¹¹ *General Catechetical Directory*, Addendum, no.3.

¹² *National Directory of Catechesis*, pg. 136.

Preparing to Celebrate First Reconciliation -Penance

GENERAL CONCEPTS	
Learns that God loves us even when we sin and that He invites us to forgiveness, especially through His words in the Bible	
Appreciates that God's forgiveness brings peace and joy	
Realizes the importance of admitting faults and expressing sorrow	
Becomes aware of the need of Jesus' forgiveness	
Understands that sin is choosing to disobey God's law of love	
Knows the difference between temptation, accidents, mistakes and sin	
Realizes that sin brings unhappiness to others and ourselves	
Begins to appreciate the meaning and value of the Sacrament of Reconciliation-Penance	
Realizes that God's love is shown through forgiveness	
Understands that sin hurts our relationships with God, others and the community and that Reconciliation reunites us with God, others and the community	
Knows how to make a simple examination of conscience	
Demonstrates an understanding of elements within the Rite of Reconciliation	
Appreciates the reasons for the penance given by the priest and accepts the responsibility for its fulfillment	

Draw a happy face in the box when your students fully understand each general concept.



Some Scripture to Read Together:

On Baptism
Luke 2:22 and Mark 1:9-11

The Prodigal Son
Luke 15: 11-24

The Good Shepherd
Luke 15: 4-6

The Story of Zacchaeus
Luke 19: 1-10

Ten Commandments
Exodus 20: 1-21

We Must Love One Another
1John 4: 7-11, 16

Jesus Gives Us the Holy Spirit
John 15:16, Acts 2

The Beatitudes
Luke 6: 17-19, Matthew 5: 3-12



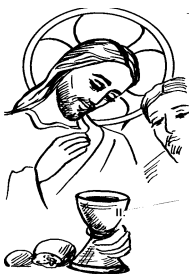
Celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation with joy	
Appreciates how the Sacrament of Reconciliation helps us grow in God's love	
Desires to meet Jesus in the Sacrament often and receive His peace	
Shares God's love and peace by caring for and forgiving others	

Vocabulary Words for Your Students to Identify, Understand and Put In Their Own Words			
Absolution	Act of Contrition	Baptism	Grace = God's Life in Me
Confess(ion)	Holiness	Peace	Sorrow
Pardon	Penance	Reconciliation	Sin
Sacraments	Eucharist	Repent	Examination of Conscience
Mercy	Holy Spirit	Disciples	Forgiveness
Ten Commandments	Greatest Commandment		



Preparing a Child for First Eucharist/Holy Communion:

- Preparation for the first reception of the Eucharist begins in the home and within the family; family has the most important role in communicating the Christian and human values that form a child's understanding of Eucharist
- Families are expected to participate in the Mass in order to understand more fully its value for one's life and to experience the liturgical prayer of the assembly.
- Together with the pastor, parents, catechists, and catechetical leaders determine when children have reached the age of reason and are ready to receive Communion for the first time.
- It is the pastor's responsibility to determine the readiness of each child to receive First Holy Communion.
- Parents have the right and duty to be involved in the preparation of their child for First Holy Communion.
- *Directory for Masses with Children* sets the framework for catechizing children for Eucharistic celebration.¹³
- Catechesis on the Mass is an indispensable part of preparation of children for reception of Communion.
- Catechists should help and encourage children and their families to participate actively and consciously in the Mass.



¹³ *National Directory for Catechesis*, no. 135



Catechetical Instruction for First Eucharist/Holy Communion:

Catholic schools and parish catechetical programs must provide effective instruction to help children:

- Understand that the Eucharist is the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice for the salvation of all and it commemorates Jesus' last meal with his disciples.
- Understand the truths of faith regarding the Eucharist.
- See that they can now take part actively with God's people in the Eucharist, sharing with the people at the Lord's table.
- See the need to be baptized and be prepared to receive First Reconciliation-Penance before First Holy Communion.
- Understand the love of God, the sacrifice of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Understand that "the Holy Eucharist is the real body and blood of Christ" and that bread and wine are his living body (Real Presence).
- See the difference between Eucharistic bread and ordinary bread.
- Understand the meaning of receiving both the bread and wine and sees value of participating actively and consciously in the Mass.
- Receive Christ's Body and Blood in an informed and reverent manner.¹⁴

¹⁴ Adapted from the *National Directory for Catechesis*, pg. 126-128.

Preparing to Celebrate First Eucharist/Holy Communion

GENERAL CONCEPTS	
Appreciates Christ's love as expressed at the Last Supper	
Understands how Jesus prepared the people for the gift of the Eucharist through the miraculous multiplication of the loaves	
Knows that Jesus promised the Holy Eucharist as an assurance that we could be with Him now and for all eternity (John 6)	
Understands that upon receiving the Eucharist, we receive Jesus and express our love for God and His family, the Church	
Expresses a desire to receive the Eucharist for the first time	
Appreciates the significance of bread in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist and can distinguish between ordinary bread and Eucharistic bread	
Understands that the Eucharistic Celebration, like the family meal, is a time to show love, joy, sharing, conversation, listening and friendship as an aspect of the celebration	
Is encouraged to receive the Eucharist frequently as a means of becoming more Christ like	

Draw a happy face in the box when your students fully understand each general concept.



Some Scripture to Read Together:

Loaves and Fishes
John 6:1-14

Breaking of the Bread
Acts 2: 42-44

The Last Supper
Matthew 26: 26-28

I Am the Vine
John 15:1-15

Rocky Ground
Mark 4:1-9

Living in Love
Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-10

Jesus Calls His Disciples
Matthew 4: 18-22

Go and Make Disciples
Matthew 28: 16-20



Knows that just as Jesus gave Himself as food at the Last Supper, He gives Himself as food to all who receive Him in the Eucharist	
Understands that to receive the Eucharist means to receive a share in Christ's life and His self-giving love	
Understands that the Eucharistic Celebration, like the family meal, is a time to show love, joy, sharing, conversation, listening and friendship as an aspect of the celebration	
Gains an appreciation for the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist	
Desires to receive Jesus, the Bread of Life, and to share His love with all people	
Prepares for receiving Jesus by loving and helping others	

Vocabulary Words for Your Students to Identify, Understand and Put In Their Own Words

Creed	Eucharist	Easter
Service	communion	baptism
God's life in me = grace		holiness
Peace	Apostles	Gospel
Holy Spirit		Kingdom of God
Body of Christ		sacraments
Liturgy of the Word		homily
Liturgy of the Eucharist		disciples

APPENDIX I

Seven Key Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we wish to highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and assisted suicide. The value of human life is being threatened by increasing use of the death penalty. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society in economics and politics, in law and policy directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. The family is the central social institution that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe that people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, the basic rights of workers must be respected: the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world.

Care for God's Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

This summary should only be a starting point for those interested in Catholic social teaching. A full understanding can only be achieved by reading papal, conciliar, and Episcopal documents that make up this rich tradition.

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I thank my brother bishops, priest and deacons, men and women religious, parents, teachers and catechists ... (for) your own fidelity in handing on the treasure of our Catholic faith."

– Pope Benedict XVI

James Fowler's Six Stages of Faith: A Summary

James Fowler proposes six stages of faith that relate closely to Kohlberg's moral developmental stages and that include, as well, "cognitive, affective and behavioral elements of religious development at different life stages" (Kelly, 1995, p. 71).

In the first three stages of faith development, individuals in one way or another rely on some authority outside themselves for spiritual beliefs.

Young children, during the **first stage of faith** (*intuitive-projective*), follow the beliefs of their parents. They tend to imagine or fantasize angels or other religious figures in stories as characters in fairy tales.

In the **second stage of faith** (*mythical-literal*), children tend to respond to religious stories and rituals literally, rather than symbolically. As individuals move through adolescence to young adulthood, their beliefs continue to be based on authority focused outside themselves.

In this **third stage of faith** (*synthetic-conventional*), individuals tend to have conformist acceptance of a belief with little self-reflection on examination of these beliefs. Most people remain at this level (Fowler, 1981; Kelly, 1995).

Those individuals who move to the **fourth stage of faith** (*individuative-reflective*) begin a radical shift from dependence on others' spiritual beliefs to development of their own. Fowler (1981) says, "For a genuine move to stage 4 to occur there must be an interruption of reliance on external sources of authority ... There must be ... a relocation of authority within the self" (p. 179). Individuals are no longer defined by the groups to which they belong. Instead, they choose beliefs, values, and relationships important to their self-fulfillment.

In the **fifth stage of faith** (*conjunctive*), persons still rely on their own views but move from self preoccupation or from dependence on fixed truths to acceptance of others' points of view they tend to be more tolerant and begin to consider serving others.

Individuals who move to the **sixth and last stage of faith** (*universalizing*) are rare. As older adults, they begin to search for universal values, such as unconditional love and justice. Self-preservation becomes irrelevant. Mother Theresa and Mahatma Gandhi are examples of people in this form of spiritual development (Fowler, 1981).

Primary Source: http://www.gendertree.com/Stages_of_Faith.htm

Traditional Prayers

Sign of the Cross

(Students should learn that this is a prayer of words and actions.)

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary full of grace:
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now
and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Morning Prayer

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings,
All that this day might bring, be they good or bad:
For the love of God, for the conversion of sinners,
And in reparation for all the sins committed against
The Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of
Mary.
Amen.

Night Prayer

Dear God, before I sleep
I want to thank you for this day
so full of your kindness and your joy.
I close my eyes to rest
safe in your loving care.
Amen.

Glory Be/Doxology

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

Prayer Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord,
and these, your gifts,
which we are about to receive
from your bounty,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer After Meals

We give you thanks, almighty God,
for these and all your blessings
You live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

Angel of God

Angel of God
my Guardian dear,
To whom God's love
Entrusts me here,
Ever this day be at my side
To light and guard,
To rule and guide.
Amen.

Act of Contrition

O 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 the help of your grace,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Amen.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day, he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the Communion of Saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

Act of Faith

O my God,
I firmly believe all the sacred truths which
The Holy Catholic Church believes and teaches,
Because you have revealed them
Who neither can deceive nor be deceived.
Amen.

Act of Hope

O my God,
Relying on Your infinite goodness and Your promises,
I hope to obtain the pardon of my sins,
The assistance of Your grace and life everlasting,
Through the merits of Jesus Christ my Lord and
Redeemer.
Amen.

Act of Love

O my God,
I love you with my whole heart above all things
Because You are infinitely good
And worthy of all my love;
And for love of You, I love my neighbor as myself.
Amen.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from
Light,
True God from True God,
begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from
heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died and was buried.
On the third day, he rose again, in fulfillment of the
Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Stations of the Cross

Following is a list of the Stations of the Cross. There are
many good settings of the Stations for children. We
encourage you to make use of them, especially during Lent.

1. Jesus is condemned to death.
2. Jesus carries up his cross.
3. Jesus falls the first time.
4. Jesus meets his mother.
5. Simon helps Jesus carry his cross.
6. Jesus falls for the second time.
7. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.
9. Jesus falls a third time.
10. Jesus is stripped of his clothing. Jesus is nailed to the cross.
11. Jesus dies on the cross.
12. Jesus' body is taken from the cross.
13. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Memorare

Remember, O most compassionate Virgin Mary,
That never was it known
That anyone who fled to your protection,
Implored your help, or sought your intercession
Was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence,
We fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, Our Mother.
To you we come, before you
we kneel, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
Do not despise our petitions,
But in your mercy, hear and answer them.
Amen.

Angelus

Leader: The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary.
Response: And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.
Leader: Hail Mary...
Response: Holy Mary, Mother of God...
Leader: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Response: Be it done to me according to your word.
Leader: Hail Mary...
Response: Holy Mary, Mother of God...
Leader: And the Word became Flesh...
Response: And dwelt among us.
(pause or genuflect)
Leader: Hail Mary...
Response: Holy Mary, Mother of God...
Leader: Pour forth, we beg you O Lord,
Your grace into our hearts. That we to whom the
Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the
message of an angel, may by his
passion and cross be brought to the glory of his
resurrection through the same, Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

Hail Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Our life, our sweetness, and our hope!
To you do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve;
to you do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy towards us,
and after this our exile,
show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
Amen.

Mysteries of the Rosary

*In 2002, our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II added a fourth set of mysteries called the **Luminous Mysteries or Mysteries of Light**.*

The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation
The Visitation
The Nativity
The Presentation
Finding the Child Jesus
in the Temple
The Luminous

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the Garden
The Scourging
The Crowning with Thorns
The Crucifixion
Jesus Dies

The Luminous Mysteries

The Baptism of the Lord
The Wedding at Cana
The Proclamation of the Kingdom
The Transfiguration
The Institution of the Eucharist

The Glorious Mysteries

Jesus' Resurrection
Jesus' Ascension
The Descent of the Spirit
Mary's Assumption
Mary's Coronation

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Confiteor

I confess to almighty God,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned through my own fault
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done,
and in what I have failed to do;
and I ask blessed Mary ever virgin,
all the angels and saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord, our God.
Amen.

Prayer for Vocations

Dear God,
You have a great and loving plan
for our world and for me.
I wish to share in that plan fully,
faithfully, and joyfully.
Help me to understand what it is
you wish me to do with my life.
Help me to be attentive to the signs
that you give me about preparing for the future.
Help me to learn to be a sign
of the kingdom or reign of God
whether I'm called
to the priesthood or religious life,
the single or married life.
And once I have heard and understood your call,
give me the strength
and the grace
to follow it with generosity and love.
Amen.

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen