



Section II. Catechesis Policy

The specific aim of catechesis is to develop, with God's help, an as yet initial faith, and to advance in fullness and to nourish day by day the Christian life of the faithful, young and old. It is in fact a matter of giving growth, at the level of knowledge and in life, to the seed of faith sown by the Holy Spirit with the initial proclamation and effectively transmitted by Baptism.

(Pope John Paul II, *On Catechesis In Our Time*, 20)

What is This Called?

For most people, the terms we use with regards to passing on the Faith probably are not all that important. Still, a brief study reveals that “catechesis” and catechist” are the terms that the Church uses most often because these terms most accurately name what we are doing.

The root “cate” comes from the greek verb “katekhein” and is translated “to echo or resound.” One imagines shouting “hello” in a deep canyon or dropping a rock into a puddle – the shout and the touch goes out until it has become a part of the surroundings. Likewise, the work of catechesis and the catechist involves the resounding or echoing of Jesus, the one Teacher, and all that He revealed about Himself and the Plan for our salvation and sanctification.

To catechize is not simply to teach something about Jesus, rather, when one catechizes they live what they teach. A catechist is a witness and teacher.

Catechist or Teacher?

The preferred term with regards to those who assist in the evangelizing and catechizing mission of the Church is “catechist”. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) uses the term “catechist.” The term “teacher” is used almost exclusively in regards to Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church and the bishops. (cf. catechist 12, 22 1672, 2220, 2663; teacher 12, 169, 888, 891, 1091, 1248, 1548, 1558, 1585, 2034, 2050, 2052, 2607, 2681). The one exception is paragraph 24.

Similarly, in *On Catechesis in Our Time* (CT) and *General Directory of Catechesis* (GDC), the term “catechist” is used. The term “teacher” is again used almost exclusively in reference to Jesus, occasionally to the Holy Spirit and the Church. The one exception is GDC 240.

These documents reflect what is written in Sacred Scripture, namely that Jesus is the Teacher. (cf. Mt 8:19, 9:11, 10:24-25, 12:38, 17:24, 19:16, 22:16, 24, 36, 23:8, 26:18, Mk 4:38, 5:35, 9:17, 38, 10:17, 20, 35, 12:14, 19, 32, 13:1, 14:14, Lk 3:12, 6:40, 7:40, 8:49, 9:38, 10:25, 11:45, 12:13, 18:18, 19:39, 20:21, 28, 39, 21:7, 23:11).

CCD?

The letters CCD are an abbreviation for *Confraternity of Christian Doctrine* which, under the old *Code of Canon Law* (CIC) was established in every parish as a way of formally organizing schools of Christian Doctrine. When first developed, there was a great need for this structure due to the lack of Catholic schools or other forms of catechesis. Many such Societies were canonically established in parishes and diocesan structures. Currently, no parish is an officially chartered Confraternity in this diocese.

General Parish Catechesis Policy

The following is the policy for the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota, pertaining to parish catechesis programs in general:

1. *Prayer*: In large part, the success of a catechetical program rests upon the prayer life of the parish. For this reason every parish should pray for the success of their catechetical programs, specifically,
 - a. prayers should be included in the weekly petitions for students and catechists
 - b. intercessors should be assigned to each class
 - c. special times of eucharistic adoration and other liturgical celebrations for this intention should also be planned

2. *DOC or DRE*: The success of a catechetical program in part depends on its organization and implementation. For this reason, every pastor should have a parish director. In the past, this person has been called a director of religious education (DRE). More accurately, parishes may call this person a director of catechesis (DOC). In most instances, **the responsibilities of such a position are so important and time consuming that this person should be employed by the parish. Rural parishes (less than 200 families) are asked to be creative, not exempt. Possibly, diocesan aligned parish clusters might hire one person to work for the entire cluster. Possibly, smaller parishes might include coordination of additional responsibilities e.g. evangelization, RCIA, apostolic works, nursing home programs, bookkeeping, etc. Finally, smaller parishes might compensate these people in ways other than salaries, e.g. providing a place to live, etc.** Failure to provide an adequate and living wage often creates several negative consequences:
 - a. parishes will not be able to get the most capable person for the position;
 - b. the person's commitment and availability both for the position and their own formation and training will lag if they are working in another position;
 - c. the pastor and the staff will not be able to unify their efforts; and
 - d. perpetuation of the notion that catechesis is not important, i.e. if one isn't willing to pay, it must not be worth it.

Section V provides further guidance in this area.

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3. *Catechists*: Catechists should be fully initiated in and be in full communion with the Catholic Church. In collaboration with the diocese, parishes are to provide for the formation of catechists. Section V provides further guidance in this area.
4. *Catechumenal Model*: Like the catechumenal process or RCIA, catechetical programs must be catechetical, pastoral and liturgical (sacramental). Both RCIA and catechesis are the responsibility of the parish as a whole.
5. *Adult Catechesis*. Catechesis should be first directed towards adults. For most parishes, this effort will entail a dramatic change in priority. There is no easy way to begin this change.
6. *Child Catechesis*. Parishes must also provide catechesis for children. These programs are needed to assist parents. Putting adult catechesis first does not mean discontinuing catechesis for children.
7. *All People*: Parish catechetical programs must seek to accommodate not only different age groups, but also various cultures, educational abilities, physical needs, and schedules.

ADULT Parish Catechesis Is Primary

The Church has asked that an emphasis be placed on adult catechesis in our parishes (cf. GDC 171-176). Catechesis of adults is the principal (first) form of catechesis because it is “addressed to the persons who have the greatest responsibility and the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form” (CT 43). Adults govern the world that youth live in. Adults must be witnesses. Catechesis is gravely insufficient if it is stopped in the adolescent years. (cf. CT 43) “Catechesis proves no less necessary for adults” (CT 43).

In light of the Church’s wisdom, every parish is to begin or continue to establish adult catechesis as the primary focus. This catechesis must not be limited to liturgy and homilies, but a systematic effort to grow in understanding of the entire Deposit of the Faith. There should be regular classes/periods of instruction provided, study and discussion groups, prayer groups, and retreats for adults. Every adult should naturally assume that they will make efforts to grow spiritually just as they make efforts to progress in their respective careers, hobbies, and other interests.

Making adult catechesis the primary focus is a new endeavor for many parishes and many adults. The current age has little experience in adult catechesis. The methodologies are still being tested. There are limited resources available including texts, catechists and finances. Guidelines are few. The success stories are rare. Mistakes will be made. Yet, the effort must begin.

One way to begin is for the pastor along with a few adult parishioners to work towards this goal of establishing adult catechesis through a committee. This committee should:

1. pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit
2. assess their parish situation.
3. read and study *Adult Catechesis in the Christian Community* (found in the appendix)
4. create and implement a plan for their parish.

Catholic Schools Are Preferable

The Catholic school affords a particularly favorable setting for catechesis with its daily opportunity for proclaiming and living the Gospel message, for learning and appreciating the doctrines of our Church, for building community, for prayer, and for Christian service. In addition, Catholic schools strive to relate all of the sciences to salvation and sanctification. Students are shown how Jesus illumines all of life – science, math, history, business, biology, etc. Parish catechetical programs cannot compete with the amount of time and resources Catholic schools are able to dedicate to the mission of evangelization and catechesis of young people. A one hour a week parish program cannot accomplish the same progress as a forty hour Catholic school week.

For many attending a Catholic school is not a reasonable option because of finances, location or individual needs of the student. There are, however, a great many in the diocese for whom attendance at a Catholic school is a real opportunity. Those who have the viable option of attending Catholic schools should carefully consider this choice as the preferred option for raising children in the Faith.

In our diocese, students may attend any Catholic school even if they are from another school district. Catholic schools are located in Belcourt, Devils Lake, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Langdon, Rugby, Valley City and Wahpeton.

Parish Catechesis for Children

Often times, in our current situation, families are unable to send their children to a Catholic school. In these situations, parents have the responsibility of ensuring that their children, from kindergarten through twelfth grade participate in catechetical programs offered at the local parish. Pastors are to ensure that a vital program exists in their parish or parish cluster for these students. The following is the policy for the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota, pertaining to parish catechetical programs for children, and, in part, to the diocesan Catholic schools.

1. *Program:* Every parish in the Diocese of Fargo must offer catechesis for children in grades K-12 (pre-school is optional) who are not attending a Catholic school, by utilizing their own resources or running a joint program with a neighboring parish or parishes. Parish clusters are to have a common program.
2. *Catechumenal Model:* The catechumenate or RCIA is the model for all catechesis. Thus, catechesis is the responsibility of the entire parish and is to be liturgical, catechetical and pastoral (cf. GDC 59, 90, CT 5, 20). In the case of children who have been baptized as infants, the model operates with the knowledge that these children have received all the graces of Baptism.
3. *Number of Sessions:* There should be at least 30 weekly catechetical sessions in the calendar year. This is easily accomplished by aligning the catechetical program with the academic year, i.e. September through May. For the most part, the liturgical and pastoral aspects would be carried out in addition to these catechetical sessions.
4. *Length of Sessions:* The length and time of each session is contingent on the student's age, parent's schedule and the facility. The recommendation is for each catechetical session to be at least 1 hour for elementary students and 1 ½ hours for older students.
5. *Curriculum and Texts:* All the Catholic schools and parish catechetical programs in the Diocese of Fargo are to use the *Curriculum Guidelines* mandated by the Bishop. Schools and parishes are to use only the textbooks approved by the Diocese of Fargo.
6. *Summer Programs:* Whenever possible, parishes should offer catechetical opportunities during the summer months. Be creative. Students' schedules are typically more flexible during these months.
7. *Parents:* Parental involvement in the parish catechetical program supports parents in their responsibility as first educators in the Faith. Inasmuch as it is the responsibility of the parish to provide catechetical opportunities for all parishioners, parents have a corresponding responsibility to see that their children participate each year. Parents choosing to homeschool their children may do so, but in collaboration with the local parish, especially for sacramental preparation.

Homeschool Guidelines

What Is Home schooling?

The term "home schooling" describes the work of parents who have undertaken, to any degree and for any length of time, the formal religious or academic formation of their children -- work which has most recently been carried out in institutional classrooms. The number of families who home school is growing in the Diocese of Fargo. Estimates vary and growth continues at such a pace that it is impossible to say how many local parents have discerned this call. The Diocese of Fargo recognizes this movement as a gift to the Church. The popes of this century have called on parents to be primary educators of their children. Home schooling parents have responded to this in a most comprehensive way, often making great sacrifices for the sake of their children's care. In doing this, they are exercising a right that comes from God; they are fulfilling a religious duty in a beautiful and sometimes heroic way. In their love for their children, their generosity, and their willingness to make great sacrifices for the sake of education, they offer an outstanding and exemplary witness in our parish communities.

Understanding Home schooling

Because of the newness of the movement, home schooling is often not well known or understood in a community. This is sometimes the case in our parishes, where some home schooling families feel as if they don't "fit" into parish life -- they are neither typical Catholic school households nor typical parish catechetical program households. As a result, some feel reluctant to approach their pastor or director for catechesis for assistance in catechetical formation.

Some pastors, on the other hand, are unaware of the home schooling phenomenon or are subject to misconceptions about it. Some, perhaps, see home schooling as a movement of "protest" against their own efforts, though, for most home schooling families, that is not the case. Many parents who choose home education do so because they have discerned it as a calling from God, because they enjoy the company of their children, and because they want to assist more directly in their child's academic advances.

Home school Families, Catechesis and Sacramental Preparation

Within parishes, pastors and home schooling families should have clear lines of communication, particularly in areas that are essential to the children's growth in the Faith. Parents who wish to home school their children in catechesis should schedule a meeting with a parish priest to discuss their plans for catechesis. Parishes, for their part, should make available to home schooling parents any resources, such as the curriculum, textbooks and support materials that the parish uses in catechesis. Home schooling families can elect to use these materials or other suitable materials of their own choosing. Home schooled children are expected to meet the same standards as other students (the curricula) and to receive the initiation sacraments at the usual age. When service projects or other works are required, parents may be entrusted to oversee the work.

In preparation for the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist, however, the expectations change. Parents, pastors and parishes must work more closely together. The sacraments are not simply personal but also communal. In the sacraments, we are inserted not only more fully into Jesus Christ, but also into His Family, the Church. For this reason, parents and children should attend all parent meetings, retreats, interviews and rehearsals as required by the parish. All materials that parents choose for home catechesis should be sound in Catholic doctrine and in conformity with diocesan guidelines. Parents should review their educational materials with their pastor or his designated representative. Pastors consulting with parents should determine the child's readiness to receive the sacraments. In the Diocese of Fargo, the usual time is:

- a. Baptism as an infant.
- b. First Reconciliation in Second Grade.
- c. Confirmation and First Eucharist in Third Grade, in the stated order at the same ceremony with the bishop.

Resources Available

The Diocese of Fargo invites homeschoolers to visit/use its Video and Catechetical Resource Library in Fargo. There, parents can review the full range of catechetical materials available to them from various Catholic publishers - books, posters, videotapes, and other materials useful for passing on the Faith. For more information contact your local parish.

Home schooling parents are encouraged to enrich their knowledge of Catholic doctrine and catechetical methods by availing themselves of the various programs and courses offered through the Department for Catholic Education and Formation. For further information, call (701) 356-7900.

Sacramental Preparation

Pastors have the responsibility for sacramental preparation and all catechesis, so that the Faith becomes living, explicit and productive through formation in doctrine and the experience of Christian living (Can 843 §2: 773; 777). All sacramental programs must follow the criteria set by the Bishop in conformity with general laws established by the Church.

Section IV of this manual covers sacramental preparation in greater detail, providing a small handbook for Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Family Life and Chastity Education Guidelines

Formation in family life and chastity implies the work first and foremost of parents. Others, such as the parish and school, assist in this task. All family life and chastity education programs must follow the criteria set by the Bishop. Please read [A Parent's Guide to Chastity Education](#) promulgated by Bishop Samuel Aquila, December 08, 2002 and included in the appendix.

Catechumenate is the Model for All Catechesis

The *General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) explains that the catechumenate or RCIA process (what we do to bring those who have reached the age of reason into the Church) is the model of all catechesis (cf. GDC 59, 90).

DISTINCTION: BAPTISM

First, catechists must keep in mind that catechesis is substantially distinct from the catechumenate in its starting point. Catechesis, outside of the catechumenate, begins with a person who is baptized, thus the catechist can assume the potentiality of the baptismal graces while catechizing. (cf. CCC 1262-1274) Their status differs from catechumens. By their Baptism, they are already members of the Church and children of God. The basis of their conversion is Baptism whose power they must develop. (cf. RCIA 9, 400, GDC 90)

ELEMENTS OF INSPIRATION

After noting this substantial difference, we are now ready to consider those elements of the catechumenate that should inspire our other forms of catechesis.

- the catechumenate constantly reminds the whole Church of the fundamental and vital importance of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist and thus to all other catechesis.
- the catechumenate is the responsibility of all the baptized and thus all other catechesis.
- the catechumenate is also completely permeated by the mystery of Jesus' life, suffering, death, resurrection and ascension and thus all other catechesis.
- the catechumenate is open to all people and thus all other catechesis.
- the catechumenate is a process of formation that simultaneously involves liturgical, catechetical and pastoral aspects and thus all other catechesis.

Catechetical Models

Catechetical models refer to the way by which the content, time, space and audience is structured for catechesis. Regardless of the catechetical model that is chosen, in order for the program to be complete, it must be inspired by the applicable catechumenal elements while keeping in mind the baptismal graces to be developed. Below is a brief description of possible catechetical models.

Classroom Model Catechesis

In the Diocese of Fargo, most parishes use a classroom model for catechesis, easily likened to what occurs in our Catholic and public school systems – one catechist, with a helper catechizing a class consisting of one grade or in smaller parishes two or three grades using a textbook and creative tools for explaining and applying the Faith. This model does allow for a systematic presentation of the Faith, most textbooks assume this model, and is most familiar.

A variation of the classroom model is to conduct sessions based on topics that are presented during one session or a series of sessions, e.g. the Gospel of John, Living the Faith at Work, How to Pray, etc, or sessions might be based on the questions asked by the particular group or age level. This classroom variation is most effective with high school and adult students.

Discussion Groups

This model requires students to read a text and reflect upon the text prior to the session. The session consists of discussing the text in light of Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium. This model differs from the classroom model: 1) the catechist serves as a facilitator directing the groups' questions and discussion in such a manner as to lead them to understand the doctrines of the Faith rather than lecturing; and 2) the group sits in a way that enables discussion, e.g. a circle of chairs, around a table, a living room, etc.

Family or Intergenerational Catechesis

In this model catechetical sessions are presented to all age levels – elderly, adults, teens, children. Typically, there is a presentation by a catechist and then the intergenerational group using various tools for explanation and application studies the lesson. A variation of this model is to have several (three to five) families gather in one of their homes on a regular basis for catechetical sessions. Usually one of the parents is the catechist for these family groups.

Youth Group Catechesis

The term “youth group” is defined here as a catechetical model that includes catechizing on doctrine, liturgical life (sacraments), morals, prayer, outreach and social activity by a group of adults who are available to them not only during youth group time but also in the other areas of their life. Parishes utilizing this model should create groups for both junior and senior high.

All Girls/All Boys

Research strongly supports the advantage of having all girls or all boys together. Why? In short, boys and girls, men and women are different not only physically, but spiritually, emotionally and intellectually. Any of the previous models could be implemented with this variation. This model would be particularly useful in discussions pertaining to the moral life.

Video and/or Internet Catechesis

Pastors and catechists are **discouraged** from basing catechesis *largely* upon videos, DVD's, internet, IVAN, radio, CD's or any other medium that entails "watching" or "hearing" an inaccessible person. The aim of catechesis is intimacy with a real person, Jesus Christ and the Church, His Family. While the teachings presented on these mediums may be orthodox, they cannot replace a relationship with a real catechist who loves Jesus Christ, who loves them, and who the student can see, hear and touch. This need for a living witness of the Faith is for both adults and children especially in our modern age where an inordinate amount of time is spent with the inanimate thus limiting the opportunities for true and human relationships.

Lectionary-Based Catechesis

Pastors and catechists are **discouraged** from the *exclusive* use of lectionary-based catechesis for grades Kindergarten through 12. These materials can and should be used to supplement the curricula and regularly to prepare for Sunday Eucharist. The lectionary is not intended to present the Faith systematically.

Closing Comments

In *On Catechesis In Our Time* (CT), Pope John Paul II reminds us that "the parish community must continue to be the prime mover and pre-eminent place for catechesis" (CT 67). Good catechesis must proceed from and call all who are catechized to fuller and deeper participation in the life of the parish. Regardless of the model chosen for catechesis, the effectiveness of that model must be measured in relation to its support of the participation in the life of the parish.

The parish "must rediscover its vocation, which is to be a fraternal and welcoming family home, where those who have been baptized and confirmed become aware of forming the Family of God, the People of God. In that home, the bread of good doctrine and the Eucharistic Bread are broken for them in abundance, in the setting of the one act of worship; from that home they are sent out day by day to their apostolic mission in all the centers of activity of the life of the world" (CT 67).

Elements of the Catechetical Effort

As has been reiterated by Vatican Council II, the purpose of catechesis is to insert the learner into the fullness of the Person of Christ by providing a complete exposition of the doctrinal and moral teaching of His Church. A successful catechetical effort includes:

1. A lived faith within the family setting including personal and family prayer.
2. Regular participation in the sacramental life of the Church (especially weekly Sunday Mass and monthly Reconciliation) and other aspects of parish life.
3. Faithful attendance in the catechetical instruction of the Catholic school or parish catechetical program.
4. Enthusiastic and well-informed catechists who actively live the Faith.
5. Textbooks and other resources that present the Faith.

The Purpose of the Textbook

The catechist is the most effective aspect in the parish catechetical setting. Books, resources, videos, room setups, times, places, activities, etc. are all secondary to the catechist. Holy catechists bring people to Jesus Christ and His Family, the Church not textbooks and other catechetical material.

Textbooks do play a role within the scope of any catechetical program. Effective textbooks provide catechists with abundant background, thorough explanation of Church doctrine, methodology suggestions and resources. They provide the learner with a clear, accurate and comprehensive exposition of the Catholic Faith. A good textbook serves as a tool to articulate, illustrate and reinforce the living witness and explanations of the catechist. For some, a textbook may actually open the heart through the gateway of the intellect to know, love and serve Jesus Christ. These textbooks are considered “doctrinally sound” or “faithful” or “orthodox.”

In *On Catechesis In Our Time*, Pope John Paul II writes,

One major feature of the catechetical renewal today is the rewriting and multiplication of catechetical books taking place in many parts of the Church. Numerous very successful works have been produced and are a real treasure in the service of catechesis. But it must be humbly, honestly recognized that this rich flowering has brought with it articles and publications which are ambiguous and harmful to young people and the Church’s life.

In certain places, the desire to find the best forms of expression or to keep up with fashions in pedagogical methods has often enough resulted in certain catechetical works which bewilder the young and even adults, either by deliberately or unconsciously omitting elements essential to the Church's faith, or by attributing excessive importance to certain themes at the expense of others, or, chiefly, by a rather horizontalist over-all view [not in] keeping with the teaching of the Church's Magisterium. Therefore, it is not enough to multiply catechetical works. In order that these works may correspond with their aim, several conditions are essential:

- a) they must be linked with the real life of the generation to which they are addressed, showing close acquaintance with its anxieties and questionings, struggles and hopes;
 - b) they must try to speak a language comprehensible to the generation in question;
 - c) they must make a point of giving the whole message of Christ and his Church, without neglecting or distorting anything, and in expounding it they will follow a line and structure that highlights what is essential;
 - d) they must really aim to give to those who use them a better knowledge of the mysteries of Christ, aimed at true conversion and a life more in conformity with God's will.
- (CT49)

These four conditions serve to guide the evaluation of catechetical series and textbooks.

Who Needs a Textbook? Why?

Three groups of people need a textbook series or textbooks consistent with a curriculum of their particular purpose.

1. Parish leaders (the pastor, the DOC OR DRE, the school principal, etc.) need the tools of a catechetical textbook series if their catechesis is organized into graded, separate groups or focus topics:
 - a. to provide for an orderly and systematic study of Catholicism;
 - b. to give an overview of the curriculum;
 - c. to insure steady progress from year to year;
 - d. to provide a concrete direction and focused aids to the catechists.

2. Catechists, whether experienced or inexperienced, need the tool of the manual/textbook:
 - a. to assure that Catholic doctrine and practice is consonant with Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium, most recently presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)*;
 - b. to provide a sense of direction for the current lessons and a sense of continuity with previously covered materials as well as give an indication of future materials;
 - c. to give an overview of the work for the entire year;
 - d. to aid in developing lesson plans that are community oriented, liturgically and theologically sound, and oriented toward service;
 - e. to suggest a variety of methodologies and resources;
 - f. to provide specific cultural understanding and subsequent needs of the student.

3. Students need the tool of the textbook:
 - a. to have a reliable guide to the doctrines of the Catholic Church;
 - b. to work in and from;
 - c. to provide stimulus and focus;
 - d. to allow for independent use;
 - e. to refer to within the family setting.

Diocesan Textbook and Catechetical Materials Evaluation

The work of evaluation textbooks is ongoing and time consuming. We rely heavily on the input of the Bishop's Ad Hoc Committee on the Catechism and the pastors and catechetical leaders of our diocese. The goal in recommending textbooks is:

1. To identify those textbooks and catechetical series which clearly and completely embody the doctrines of the Church.
2. To identify resource materials which most closely reflect our own *Curriculum Guidelines*.

The consideration of textbooks can evolve very quickly into an unproductive dialogue of "textbook wars." There is a real temptation to put too much emphasis on the choice of textbooks instead of other more important factors such as the catechist and their training. **Educational research never lists the effectiveness of the textbook above 20%.**

The approach employed in these pages is meant to encourage thoughtful decisions that can benefit the catechetical program of the parish. The following recommendations represent a work in progress. The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis welcomes the advice and experience of those who work at the parish level to help make textbook selections in the diocese.

Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches the above stated two-fold goal. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

Textbook and Catechetical Materials Evaluation Terminology

The textbook series listed on the following pages have been evaluated and received one of the following ratings:

1. RECOMMENDED
2. WITH SUPPLEMENTATION
3. NOT RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED materials are most near our diocesan curriculum guidelines.

Catholic Schools

The materials which are designated as RECOMMENDED are to be the primary materials used in the diocese for Catholic schools.

Parish Programs

In addition to the materials designated as RECOMMENDED, certain situations such as class size, finances, catechetical models, etc. in parish settings might warrant using materials with the rating WITH SUPPLEMENTATION. Materials in both categories could be means to good catechesis.

Materials designated as NOT RECOMMENDED are not to be used for catechesis. Additional information on these NOT RECOMMENDED materials may be obtained by contacting the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis.

Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches the needs of your catechetical program. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

As series and catechetical materials are created or altered, new recommendations will be issued.

Most catechetical materials are published with an “imprimatur.” An “imprimatur” signifies that the material is free of doctrinal error. It does not designate, however, that the material is doctrinally complete, systematically presented or pedagogically appropriate.

Additionally, an official declaration that texts are in doctrinal conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) by the USCCB’s Ad Hoc Committee on the Catechism does not address methodological or pedagogical matters. In other words, a positive finding by the Ad Hoc Committee does not necessarily constitute a recommendation of the material.

Process for Selecting Textbooks

It is recognized that first the Bishop for the diocese and then the pastor for the parish have the canonical responsibility for catechetical instruction. The pastor should participate in a substantive way in the selection of catechetical resources, including the reviewing and approval of the catechetical books and materials to be used in their respective school and/or parish programs. A process which includes diocesan recommendations, the pastor's own research and the involvement of parents is ideal.

General Evaluation Overview

The process for evaluating textbooks and supplementary materials is conducted at two levels: diocesan and parish.

Diocesan Level

The Office for Catholic Education and Formation and theologians approved by the Bishop, evaluate catechetical series and textbooks for the Diocese. Reviewed materials are rated as RECOMMENDED, WITH SUPPLEMENTATION AND NOT RECOMMENDED. Should a local parish or school program wish to consider textbooks not recommended and/or not evaluated, they must submit the material in question for evaluation to the Office for Catholic Education and Formation, along with a written statement of why the material fits their particular situation. The resources are **not** to be used until the evaluation has been completed. Due regard to the length of time needed for such an evaluation must be taken into account by those submitting the texts.

Parish Level

The choice of a particular text is the task of the pastor, who is the prime catechist of his parish. **The pastor may not simply delegate this task to others.** If necessary, the pastor may create a committee to assist him in choosing a textbook. The pastor, with the committee's assistance, then proceeds to decide upon a series or textbook that will be used in the program. Choices are limited to the materials already recommended by the Office for Catholic Education and Formation.

When a parish and Catholic school program are in the same parish, each is expected to use similar materials.

Particular Parish Evaluation

The following process is recommended to local parishes and schools considering a new religion textbook series or other materials:

1. Notify the Office for Catholic Education and Formation for parish programs and for school programs that you are considering a change in your present series or textbooks. We will provide the most current list of approved textbooks and catechetical series. We may also be able to provide review copies.
2. The pastor may review the materials himself or create a committee including the DOC or DRE, principal, curriculum coordinator and/or catechists from each level. Parents and other interested, knowledgeable people could also participate in the committee.
3. The pastor and the committee should read the *Diocesan Curriculum Guidelines* pertaining to the age level and the section entitled *Purpose of Textbooks* provided in this manual.
4. Discuss the positive and negative qualities in the current series in light of #3.
5. Consult the list of diocesan recommended texts, paying particular attention to whether they are in the parish or Catholic school edition. The primary material used in Catholic schools is limited to those materials listed as *recommended*. Parishes might also use the materials listed as *with supplementation*.
6. Be sure to look at all the components which comprise the series---the student text, the catechist's guide, and the other support materials to be used with the textbook.
7. Secure samples from the publishers or the Office for Catholic Education and Formation of all the religion materials the committee wishes to examine. These samples should be given to all committee members for comparison and study. Each committee member should be particularly sensitive to how the series fulfills the criteria they have already identified. Sometimes publishers will provide workshops free of charge to introduce a catechist to their materials, if a parish or school purchases the series. Find out what services are available from publishers directly.
8. Arrive at a consensus recommendation about the series or textbook a catechist hopes to adopt. The pastor makes the final selection of materials. If there is a committee, this decision is made in light of the recommendations of those who have reviewed the materials.
9. When a change in the local catechetical curriculum involves a significant change in teaching style and materials, catechists should participate in appropriate in-services prior to implementation. Make arrangements for a catechist in-service on the new materials before beginning the school year or parish program.

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

Pre-K through Kindergarten

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is currently incomplete. PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 16-19 FOR MORE INFORMATION. Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches your catechetical needs. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

RECOMMENDED (in alphabetical order by publisher)

Ignatius Press
P.O. Box 1339, Fort Collins, CO 80522

Tel: 1-800-360-1714
<http://www.ignatius.com/>

Image of God ©1986 – 1993

textbook series

Pre-K-8

Loyola Press
3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60657

Tel: 1-800-621-1008
http://www.loyolaeducationgroup.org/index_cate.asp

Christ Our Life, School/Parish © 1997, 2002

textbook series

Grades K-8

Pre-K/ K WITH SUPPLEMENTATION
(in alphabetical order by publisher)

The catechetical materials which are designated as WITH SUPPLEMENTATION may be used in the diocese for catechetical programs. They could be means to effective catechesis, depending on the particular catechetical situation. However, RECOMMENDED materials(those listed on the previous page) are most near our diocesan curriculum. The Following materials may be used with SUPPLEMENTATION.

Benziger, Tim Downs, Sales Rep, Macmillan/McGraw Hill 220 E. Danieldale Rd, Desoto TX 75115		Tel: 1-800-334-7344 http://www.mhschool.com/benziger/
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Christ Jesus, The Way, School/Parish, 2003	textbook series	Grades K-6
Come Follow Me, School/Parish ©1998	textbook series	Grades K-8
Share the Joy ©1997	textbook series	Grades K-6

Harcourt Religion Publishers 6277 Sea Harbor Dr., Orlando, FL 32887		Tel: 1-800-922-7696 http://www.harcourtreligion.com/
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Walking By Faith, School/Parish © 1999	textbook series	Grades K-6
Call to Faith © 2005	textbook series	Grades K-6

Neumann Press 21892 County 11, Long Prairie, MN 56347		Tel: 1-800-746-2521 http://www.neumannpress.com/index.html
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Our Holy Faith Series	textbook series	Grades K-8
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RCL Resources for Christian Living, Anne Campbell; Regional Manager 200 E. Bethany Dr., Allen, TX 75002		Tel: 1-877-275-4725 ex t6412 http://www.rclweb.com/
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Faith First ©2000, 2001	textbook series	Grades K-6
Faith First/ Legacy Edition ©2006	textbook series	Grades K-6

Sadlier 9 Pine St. New York, NY 10005-1002		Tel: 1-800-221-5175 http://www.sadlier.com/
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Coming to Faith, School © 1998 & Parish © 1999	textbook series	Grades K-6
We Believe Program	textbook series	Grades K-6

Seton Publishing 1350 Progress Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630		Tel: 1-540-636-9990 http://www.setonhome.org
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Jesus and I by Fr. Aloysius Hoeg, SJ	parent addition	Grades K-1
Kindergarten Catechism	Q & A, prayers	Grade K
My Jesus and I	picture prayer book	Grade K

Silver Burdett Ginn Religion 299 Jefferson Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054		Tel: 1-800-338-2150 http://www.sbgreligion.com/
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This is Our Faith, School © 1998	textbook series	Grade K-8
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Pre-K/ K NOT RECOMMENDED
(in alphabetical order by publisher)

August 2005

Currently, no material has been reviewed that fits this classification that is on the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for the Catechism's list.

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

First Grade through Sixth Grade

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is currently incomplete. PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 16-19 FOR MORE INFORMATION. Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches your catechetical needs. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

GRADES 1-6 RECOMMENDED (in alphabetical order by publisher)

Ignatius Press
P.O. Box 1339, Fort Collins, CO 80522

Tel: 1-800-360-1714
<http://www.ignatius.com/>

Faith and Life © 2002, 2004 (NEWLY REVISED)
Faith and Life © 1984 – 1987
Image of God © 1986 – 1993

textbook series
textbook series
textbook series

Grades 1-8
Grades 1-8
Pre-K-8

Loyola Press
3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60657

Tel: 1-800-621-1008
http://www.loyolaeducationgroup.org/index_cate.asp

Christ Our Life, School/Parish © 1997, 1999, 2002
Knowing Our Catholic Faith: Beliefs & Traditions 2000

textbook series
Student workbooks

Grades K-8
Grades 1-8

GRADES 1-6 WITH SUPPLEMENTATION
(in alphabetical order by publisher)

The catechetical materials which are designated as WITH SUPPLEMENTATION may be used in the diocese for catechetical programs. They could be means to effective catechesis, depending on the particular catechetical situation. However, RECOMMENDED materials(those listed on the previous page) are most near our diocesan curriculum. The Following materials may be used with SUPPLEMENTATION.

Apostolate for Family Consecration Catholic Family Land, 3375 County Rd. 36, Bloomingdale, OH 43910	Tel: 1-800-FOR-MARY http://www.familyland.org/Home.htm
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Consecration in Truth@2001	ST, doctrinal content of TMs	Grades 1-8
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Benziger, Tim Downs, Sales Rep, Macmillan/McGraw Hill 220 E. Danieldale Rd, Desoto TX 75115	Tel: 1-800-334-7344 http://www.mhschool.com/benziger/
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Christ Jesus, The Way!, School/Parish 2003	textbook series	Grades K-6
Come Follow Me, School/Parish ©1998	textbook series	Grades K-8
Share the Joy ©1997	textbook series	Grades K-6

Catholic book Publishing 77 West End Rd, Totowa, NJ 07512	Tel: 1-973-890-2400 http://www.catholicbkpub.com/default.asp
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New St. Joseph first Communion Catechism by Bennet Kelly	Q & A illustrated before 1963	Grades 1-2
St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism (No 1)	Q & A July 1999 2 nd edition	Grades 3-5
St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism (No 2)	Q & A July 1999 2 nd edition	Grades 6-8

Circle Press/ Legionaries of Christ P.O. Box 5425, Hamden, CT 06518	Tel: 1-888-881-0729 http://www.catholictextbooks.org/
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The Treasure of My Catholic Faith © 2003	textbook series	Grades 1-6
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Harcourt Religion Publishers 6277 Sea Harbor Dr., Orlando, FL 32887	Tel: 1-800-922-7696 http://www.harcourtreligion.com/
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Walking By Faith, School/Parish © 1999	textbook series	Grades K-6
Call to Faith © 2005	textbook series	Grades K-6

Loyola Press 3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60657	Tel: 1-800-621-1008 http://www.loyolaeducationgroup.org/index_cate.asp
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Knowing Our Catholic Faith: Beliefs and Traditions © 2000	textbook series	Grades 1-8
Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts (1-6) © 2005	textbook series	Grades 1-6

Neumann Press
21892 County 11, Long Prairie, MN 56347

Tel: 1-800-746-2521
<http://www.neumannpress.com/index.html>

Our Holy Faith Series

textbook series

Grades K-8

RCL Resources for Christian Living, Anne Campbell; Regional Manager
200 E. Bethany Dr., Allen, TX 75002

Tel: 1-877-275-4725 ex t6412
<http://www.rclweb.com/>

Faith First ©2000, 2001 (TM, 3rd printing)
Faith First Legacy Edition © 2006
Nuestra Identidad Catolica© 1998
Our Catholic Identity © 1998

textbook series
textbook series
student workbooks
student workbooks

Grades K-8
Grades K-8
Grades 1-8
Grades 1-8

Sadlier
9 Pine St. New York, NY 10005-1002

Tel: 1-800-221-5175
<http://www.sadlier.com/>

Coming to Faith/ Keystone Edition, School © 1998 & Parish © 1999
We Believe Program © 2004

textbook series
textbook series

Grades K-6
Grades K-6

Seton Publishing
1350 Progress Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630

Tel: 1-540-636-9990
<http://www.setonhome.org>

First Communion Catechism
Jesus and I by Fr. Aloysius Hoeg, SJ
Religion for Young Catholics

Q & A elementary summary
parent addition
textbook series

Grades 1-3
Grade K-1
Grades 1-7

Silver Burdett Ginn Religion
299 Jefferson Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Tel: 1-800-338-2150
<http://www.sbgreligion.com/>

Blest Are We ©2002, 2003
This is Our Faith, School © 1998

textbook series
textbook series

Grades 1-8
Grade K-8

GRADES 1-6 NOT RECOMMENDED
(in alphabetical order by publisher)

August 2005

Currently, no material has been reviewed that fits this classification that is on the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for the Catechism's list.

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is currently incomplete. PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 16-19 FOR MORE INFORMATION. Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches your catechetical needs. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

GRADES 7-8 RECOMMENDED (in alphabetical order by publisher)

Ignatius Press
P.O. Box 1339, Fort Collins, CO 80522

Tel: 1-877-320-9276
<http://www.ignatius.com/>

Faith and Life © 2002, 2004 (NEWLY REVISED)	textbook series	Grades 1-8
Faith and Life © 1984 – 1987	textbook series	Grades 1-8
Image of God © 1986 – 1993	textbook series	Pre-K-8
<i>Issues of Faith and Morals</i> © 1997, Archbishop George Pell	<i>16 chapters on moral issues</i>	<i>Jr/High School</i>

Loyola Press
3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60657

Tel: 1-800-621-1008
http://www.loyolaeducationgroup.org/index_cate.asp

Christ Our Life, School/Parish © 1997, 1999, 2002	textbook series	Grades K-8
<i>Knowing Our Catholic Faith: Beliefs & Traditions</i> © 2000	<i>student workbooks</i>	<i>Grades 1-8</i>

*italicized material is recommended, but since it presents only a portion of the curriculum, this material is supplemental

GRADES 7-8 WITH SUPPLEMENTATION
(in alphabetical order by publisher)

The catechetical materials which are designated as WITH SUPPLEMENTATION may be used in the diocese for catechetical programs. They could be means to effective catechesis, depending on the particular catechetical situation. However, RECOMMENDED materials(those listed on the previous page) are most near our diocesan curriculum. The Following materials may be used with SUPPLEMENTATION.

Apostolate for Family Consecration Catholic Family Land, 3375 County Rd. 36, Bloomingdale, OH 43910	Tel: 1-800-FOR-MARY http://www.familyland.org/Home.htm
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Consecration in [Truth@2001](#) Book & Video Family Catechesis Grades 1-8

Benziger, Tim Downs, Sales Rep, Macmillan/McGraw Hill 220 E. Daniieldale Rd, Desoto TX 75115	Tel: 1-800-334-7344 http://www.mhschool.com/benziger/
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Come Follow Me, School/Parish ©1998 textbook series Grades K-8

Catholic book Publishing 77 West End Rd, Totowa, NJ 07512	Tel: 1-973-890-2400 http://www.catholicbkpub.com/default.asp
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St Josph Baltimore Catechism © July 1999 2nd edition Q & A Grades 6-8

Neumann Press 21892 County 11, Long Prairie, MN 56347	Tel: 1-800-746-2521 http://www.neumannpress.com/index.html
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Our Holy Faith Series © 1961 textbook series Grades K-8

Ocean East Publishing 1655 – 71 st Court, Vero Beach, FL 32966	Tel: 1-772-563-9457 http://www.oepub.com/
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Scorpion Files: Lies Satan Tells to Young Catholics 18 reinforcement home lessons Jr/High School

Our Sunday Visitor 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750	Tel: 1-800-348-2440 http://www.osv.com/
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<i>Prove It! Church</i> © 2001 (Amy Wellborn)	<i>answers to questions about being Catholic</i>	Jr/High School
<i>Prove It! God</i> © 2001 (Amy Wellborn)	<i>answers to questions about God</i>	Jr/High School
<i>Prove It! Jesus</i> © 2001 (Amy Wellborn)	<i>answers to questions about Jesus</i>	Jr/High School
<i>Prove It! Prayer</i> © 2001 (Amy Wellborn)	<i>answers to questions about Prayer</i>	Jr/High School
<i>Prove It! Here and Now</i> © 2005 (Amy Wellborn)	<i>answers to questions about Faith</i>	Jr/High School
<i>U Got 2 Believe</i> © 2001	<i>7 chapters, presents foundational truths</i>	Jr/High School

RCL Resources for Christian Living, Anne Campbell; Regional Manager 200 E. Bethany Dr., Allen, TX 75002	Tel: 1-877-275-4725 ex t6412 http://www.rclweb.com/
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Faith First Junior High ©2001
Our Catholic Identity © 1998

textbook series
student workbooks

junior high
Grades 1-8

Sadlier
9 Pine St. New York, NY 10005-1002

Tel: 1-800-221-5175
<http://www.sadlier.com/>

Faith and Witness Program, School/Parish© 1998-1999
One Faith, One Lord ©2002

textbook series
textbook series

junior high
junior high

Seton Publishing
1350 Progress Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630

Tel: 1-540-636-9990
<http://www.setonhome.org>

Religion for Young Catholics

textbook series

Grades 1-7

Silver Burdett Ginn Religion
299 Jefferson Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Tel: 1-800-338-2150
<http://www.sbgreligion.com/>

Blest Are We ©2002, 2003
This is Our Faith © 1998

textbook series
textbook series

Grades 1-8
Grade K-8

*italicized material is recommended, but since it presents only a portion of the curriculum, this material is supplemental

GRADES 7-8 NOT RECOMMENDED
(in alphabetical order by publisher)

August 2005

Currently, no material has been reviewed that fits this classification that is on the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for the Catechism's list.

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

Ninth Grade through Twelfth Grade

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is currently incomplete. PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 16-19 FOR MORE INFORMATION. Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches your catechetical needs. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

GRADES 9-12 RECOMMENDED (in alphabetical order by publisher)

Midwest Theological Forum
712 S. Loomis St., Chicago, IL 60607
Catholic Formation Materials
15750 S Bell Rd, Suite 1C, Homer Glen, IL 60441

Tel: 1-312-421-8135
<http://www.mwtf.org>

Tel: 1-866-478-3987

Introduction to Catholicism © 2003 (Didache Series)
Our Moral Life in Christ ©2003 (Didache Series)
Understanding Scripture © 2004 (Didache Series)

27 lesson textbook
27 lesson textbook
27 lesson textbook

High School
High School
High School

WINTER 2005-2006, THIS SERIES WILL BE CONTINUED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

History of the Church © 2004 (Didache Series)

27 lesson textbook

High School

United States Catholic Conference of Bishops
3211 Fourth St. NE, Washington DC 20017

Tel: 1-800-235-8722
<http://www.usccb.org/>

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

7-12/Adult

Catholic Books and Gifts
7346 W. Greenfield Ave, West Allis, WI 53214

Tel: 1-800-228-4542
<http://www.catholicbooksandgifts.com>

The Truth Will Set You Free © 1999 (Michael J. Mazza)

22 lessons w/teacher guide

High School

Circle Press/ Legionaries of Christ
P.O. Box 5425, Hamden, CT 06518

Tel: 1-888-881-0729
<http://www.catholictextbooks.org/>

Friends of Jesus (Not out for Public sale as of summer 05)
Witness to Christ (Not out for Public sale as of summer 05)

Grade 9
Grade 10-12

Harcourt Religion Publishers
6277 Sea Harbor Dr., Orlando, FL 32887

Tel: 1-800-922-7696
<http://www.harcourtreligion.com/>

Journey Through the Old Testament 2002, 2006
Journey Through the New Testament 2006
The Light of Faith 2005
Morality: Or Response to God's Love 2005

High School
High School
High School
High School

Ignatius Press
P.O. Box 1339, Fort Collins, CO 80522

Tel: 1-877-320-9276
<http://www.ignatius.com/>

The Drive Factor: Getting your life in Gear...
Issues of Faith and Morals by Archbishop Pell 1997
Life Work: Finding your Purpose in Life by Rick Sarkisian
Snakebite Letters, Peter Kreeft

Book/video
16 chapters
book/video on vocation
15 letters on Evil/Sin

High School
High School
High School
High School

Ocean East Publishing
1655 – 71st Court, Vero Beach, FL 32966

Tel: 1-772-563-9457
<http://www.oepub.com/>

Scorpion Files: Lies Satan Tells to Young Catholics

18 reinforcement home lessons

Jr/High School

Our Sunday Visitor
200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750

Tel: 1-800-348-2440
<http://www.osv.com/>

Teen Catechism © 1995 (Fr. Alred McBride, O.Praem)
Prove It! Church by Amy Wellborn 2001
Prove It! God by Amy Wellborn 2001
Prove It! Jesus by Amy Wellborn 2001
Prove It! Prayer by Amy Wellborn 2001
Prove It! Catholic Teen Bible by Amy Wellborn
U Got 2 Believe by Fr. Stan Fortuna 2001
Here- Now: A Catholic Guide to the Good Life by Amy Wellborn 2005

36 lessons w/teacher guide

Bible with answers applied to life
Foundational Truths

High School
Jr/High School
Jr/High School
Jr/High School
Jr/High School
High School
Jr/High School
Jr./High School

*italicized material is recommended, but since it presents only a portion of the curriculum, this material is supplemental; to date there is not a complete high school series

Priory Press
7200 W. Division St., River Forest, IL 60305

Tel: 1-773-478-3033

<http://www.op.org/DomCentral/library/priopres.htm>

Dominican Series © 2000

4 Volume Series

High School

RCL Resources for Christian Living, Anne Campbell; Regional Manager
200 E. Bethany Dr., Allen, TX 75002

Tel: 1-877-275-4725 ex t6412

<http://www.rclweb.com/>

Understanding the Catechism © 1999

10 lessons on each pillar of CCC

High School

St. Joseph Communications, International Headquarters
PO Box 1911 Ste 83, Tehachapi, CA 93581

Tel: 1-800-526-2151

<http://www.saintjoe.com/contact.html>

Adventures in Matthew Part 2 in the Great Adventure Series
The Great Adventure © 1996 (Jeff Cavins)
Our Father's Plan © 1996 (Scott Hahn)

Bible timeline, video, study guide
Bible study, video, study guide

High School/Adult
High School/Adult
High School/Adult

St. Mary's Press
702 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987-1318

Tel: 1-800-533-8095

<http://www.smp.org/contactus.cfm>

The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth ©2003
Living Justice and Peace ©2002
Written on Our Hearts ©2002

textbook
textbook on social justice
Old Testament

High School
High School
High School

San Juan Catholic Seminars
PO Box 5253, Farmington, NM 87499

Tel: 1-877-327-5343

<http://www.catholicapologetics.com/>

Beginning Apologetics 1: How to Explain & Defend the Catholic Faith (Chacon & Burnham) *Older High School/Adult*
Beginning Apologetics 2: How to Answer Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons (Chacon & Burnham) *Older High School/Adult*
Beginning Apologetics 2.5: Yes! You Should Believe in the Trinity (Chacon & Burnham) *Older High School/Adult*
Beginning Apologetics 3: How to Explain/Defend the Real Presence of Christ (Chacon & Burnham) *Older High School/Adult*
Beginning Apologetics 4: How to Answer Atheists and New Agers (Chacon & Burnham) *Older High School/Adult*
Beginning Apologetics 5: How to Answer the Tough Moral Questions (Chacon & Burnham) *Older High School/Adult*
Beginning Apologetics 6: How to Explain & Defend Marian Doctrines (Chacon & Burnham) *Older High School/Adult*
Beginning Apologetics 7: How to Read the Bible (Chacon & Burnham) *Older High School/Adult*

*italicized material is recommended, but since it presents only a portion of the curriculum, this material is supplemental; to date there is not a complete high school series

GRADES 9-12 NOT RECOMMENDED
(in alphabetical order by publisher)

August 2005

Currently, no material has been reviewed that fits this classification that is on the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for the Catechism's list.

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

Church History for Adults/High School

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is currently incomplete. PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 16-19 FOR MORE INFORMATION. Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches your catechetical needs. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

Ave Maria Press
P.O. Box 428, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Tel: 1-800-282-1865 x1
<http://avemariapress.com/>

The Church: Our Story 1999

Adult/ High School

CHC
P.O. Box 125, Twain Harte, CA 95383

Tel: 1-800-490-7713
<http://www.chcweb.com>

Celebrating 2000 years of Christian History 43 page booklet \$4.95 or Foldout book \$34.95 High School/Adult

Ignatius Press
P.O. Box 1339, Fort Collins, CO 80522

Tel: 1-800-360-1714
<http://www.ignatius.com/>

Christ With Us Now and Always (8-9), History of the Church

Part of Image of God Series High School

Midwest Theological Forum
712 S. Loomis St., Chicago, IL 60607

Tel: 1-312-421-8135
<http://www.mwtf.org>

Didache Series: History of the Church (ready in 2005-2006)

Adult/High School

United States Catholic Conference of Bishops
3211 Fourth St. NE, Washington DC 20017

Tel: 1-800-235-8722
<http://www.usccb.org/>

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Grade 7-Adult

(Continued on next page)

St. Anthony Messenger Press
28 W. Liberty St., Cincinnati, OH 45202-6498

Tel: 1-800-488-0488
<http://catalog.americancatholic.org/>

The Compact History of the Catholic Church by Alan Schreck
The Story of the Church: Peak Moments from Pentecost to 2000

Adult/High School
Adult/High School

Tan Books & Publishers
P.O. Box 424, Rockford, IL

Tel: 1-800-437-5876
<http://www.tanbooks.com/>

Christ and the Americas by Dr. Anne Carroll 1996
Christ and the Americas Workbook by Belinda T. Mooney
Christ the King – Lord of History: A Catholic World History 1994 by Dr. Anne Carroll
Christ the King – Lord of History: Workbook by Carroll Mooney

Adult/High School
Adult/High School
Adult/High School
Adult/High School

The Diocese of Fargo
5201 Bishops Blvd, Fargo, ND 58104

Tel: 1-701-356-7909
<http://www.fargodiocese.org>

Beyond the Red River: The Diocese of Fargo – One Hundred Years 1988

Adult/High School

*Resources on Scripture are included in the next section

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

Scripture Study For Adults/High School

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is currently incomplete. PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 16-19 FOR MORE INFORMATION. Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches your catechetical needs. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

(in alphabetical order by publisher)

Ascension Press
W5180 Jefferson St., Necedah, WI 54646

Tel: 1-800-376-0520
<http://www.ascensionpress.com/shop/Scripts/default.asp>

The Great Adventure 24-Week Course 12 Videos (Jeff Cavins)	24 session bible timeline	Adult/High School
Adventures in Matthew Part 2 in the Great Adventure Series		Adult/High School
Then and Now Bible Maps		High School

Emmaus Road Publishing
827 N. Fourth St., Steubenville, OH 43952

Tel: 1-800-398-5470
<http://www.emmausroad.org>

Boys to Men: the Transforming Power of Virtue	Adult/High School
Courageous Love: A Bible Study on Holiness for Women	Adult/High School
Courageous Virtue: A Bible Study on Moral Excellence for Women	Adult/High School
Courageous Women: A Study on the Heroines of Biblical History	Adult/High School
Family Matters: A Bible Study on Marriage and Family	Adult/High School
Woman of Grace	Adult/High School

Ignatius Press
P.O. Box 1339, Fort Collins, CO 80522

Tel: 1-800-360-1714
<http://www.ignatius.com/>

Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Gospel of Matthew	Adult/High School
Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Gospel of Mark	Adult/High School
Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Gospel of Luke	Adult/High School
Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Gospel of John	Adult/High School
Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Acts of the Apostles	Adult/High School
Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Letter of St. Paul to the Romans	Adult/High School
Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: The First and Second Letters of St. Paul to the Corinthians	Adult/High School
Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Galatians	Adult/High School

(Continued on next page)

Midwest Theological Forum
712 S. Loomis St., Chicago, IL 60607

Tel: 1-312-421-8135
<http://www.mwtf.org>

Didache Series: Understanding Scripture 2004

Adult/High School

St. Joseph Communications, International Headquarters
PO Box 1911 Ste 83, Tehachapi, CA 93581

Tel: 1-800-526-2151
<http://www.saintjoe.com/contact.html>

The Great Adventure © 1996 (Jeff Cavins) shorter version
Our Father's Plan © 1996 (Scott Hahn)

Bible timeline, video, study guide
Bible study, video, study guide

High School/Adult
High School/Adult

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

Computer/ Web Site Resources

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is currently incomplete. PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 16-19 FOR MORE INFORMATION. Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches your catechetical needs. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

Catechism Class.com

<http://www.catechismclass.com>

Internet classroom of Catechesis- Print out materials

K-Adult

Catholic World Missions

Tel: 1-203-287-6314

33 Rossotto Dr. Hamden, CT 06514

<http://www.catholicworldmission.org/site/pp.asp?c=9dJHJLPwB&b=2494> (under Gifts)

Glory Stories Radio dramas Christ & Various Saints

Grades K-6

Tercium Entertainment

Tel: 1-805-777-4812

2899 Agoura Rd, Suite 717, Westlake Village, CA 91361

<http://www.tercium.com/>

The Living Gospel: An Interactive Storybook

Elementary

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

Education for Chastity

The Diocese of Fargo Respect Life Office offers both print and video resources to assist parents and parishes in providing an appropriate teaching on human sexuality to their children. To receive these materials or for more information contact the Respect Life Office. The following list of materials are **RECOMMENDED** for the Classroom for Education for Chastity.

Ignatius Press P.O. Box 1339, Fort Collins, CO 80522	Tel: 1-800-360-1714 http://www.ignatius.com/
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Issues of Faith and Morals by Archbishop George Pell	Grades 9-12
Love and Life	Grades 7-9

Our Sunday Visitor 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750	Tel: 1-800-348-2440 http://www.osv.com/
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The Catholic Vision of Love 1996	Grades 5-8
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Sadlier 9 Pine St. New York, NY 10005-1002	Tel: 1-800-221-5175 http://www.sadlier.com/
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God's Own Making: Catholic Values of Human Sexuality	Grades 4-8
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Foundation for the Family P.O. Box 111184, Cincinnati, OH 45211-1184	Tel: 1-800-745-8252 or (513) 471-2000 website unknown
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New Corinthians Curriculum 1996	Grades K-8
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Leaflet Missal Company 976 W. Minnehaha Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104	Tel: 1-800-328-9582 http://www.leafletmissal.org/
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Project Genesis	Grades K-8
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The Diocese of Fargo, Respect Life Office 5201 Bishops Blvd., Fargo, 58104	Tel: 1-701-356-7900 http://www.fargodiocese.org
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Outlines for Mother/Daughter, Father/Son Workshops	Parents & Teens
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The Following Material is **NOT RECOMMENDED** for the Diocese of Fargo, even though it is on the USCCB Ad Hoc Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>
Benziger Family Life (K-8) 2001	Benziger
Growing in Love 2001	Harcourt

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is currently incomplete. PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 16-19 FOR MORE INFORMATION. Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches your catechetical needs. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104. .

Loyola Press
3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60657

Tel: 1-800-621-1008

http://www.loyolaeducationgroup.org/index_cate.asp

Infant Baptism: A sourcebook for Parishes

3 ring binder for parish coordinators

Our Sunday Visitor
200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750

Tel: 1-800-348-2440

<http://www.osv.com/>

Catholic Parent Know-How: Preparing for Your Child's Baptism

For parents

Parent Letters: Spiritual Growth of your Child

7 Mailings from Birth to older Elementary, For Parents

Preparing for Baptism with Bishop Wuerl

22 minute video

For Parents

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

FIRST RECONCILIATION PREPARATION

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is currently incomplete. PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 16-19 FOR MORE INFORMATION. Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches your catechetical needs. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

Benziger, Tim Downs, Sales Rep,
Macmillan/McGraw Hill 220 E. Danieldale Rd, Desoto TX 75115

Tel: 1-800-334-7344
<http://www.mhschool.com/benziger/>

Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace 2006
Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace 2006

Primary
Intermediate

Diocese of Fargo
5201 Bishop's Blvd

Tel: 1-701-356-7900

Reconciliation: A Handbook for Parents 2002

For Parents

Harcourt Religion Publishers
6277 Sea Harbor Dr., Orlando, FL 32887

Tel: 1-800-922-7696
<http://www.harcourtreligion.com/>

Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation and Eucharist 2000
Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation and Eucharist 2004

Grades 2nd & 3rd
Grades 4th – 6th

Our Sunday Visitor
200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750

Tel: 1-800-348-2440
<http://www.osv.com/>

Catholic Parent know-How: First Reconciliation 2004

for parents

Pflaum Publishing
2621 Dryden Rd, Suite 300, Dayton OH 45439

Tel: 1-800-543-4383
<http://www.pflaum.com/>

Together in Jesus – Reconciliation 2004

Grades 2nd -3rd

RCL Resources for Christian Living, Anne Campbell; Regional Manager
200 E. Bethany Dr., Allen, TX 75002

Tel: 1-877-275-4725 ex t6412
<http://www.rclweb.com/>

Reconciliation 2003

Grades 2nd – 3rd

Sadlier
9 Pine St. New York, NY 10005-1002

Tel: 1-800-221-5175
<http://www.sadlier.com/>

First Reconciliation 2000

Grades 2nd – 3rd

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is currently incomplete. PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 16-19 FOR MORE INFORMATION. Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches your catechetical needs. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

Our Sunday Visitor
200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750

Tel: 1-800-348-2440
<http://www.osv.com/>

Opening Gifts by Sherry Geiser 2002

Parent/Child Workbook

Grade 3rd

Diocese of Fargo
5201 Bishop's Blvd

Tel: 1-701-356-7900

Confirmation: A Handbook for Parents 2002

Parent/Child Workbook

For Parents of 3rd

Ave Maria Press
P.O. Box 428, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Tel: 1-800-282-1865 x1
<http://avemariapress.com/>

Send out Your Spirit 2003

High School

Harcourt Religion Publishers
6277 Sea Harbor Dr., Orlando, FL 32887

Tel: 1-800-922-7696
<http://www.harcourtreligion.com/>

Celebrating Our Faith: Confirmation 2000

Grades 6-8

Ignatius Press
P.O. Box 1339, Fort Collins, CO 80522

Tel: 1-800-360-1714
<http://www.ignatius.com/>

Image of God (Mass books & Confirmation) 1986-1993

Grades 6-8

Loyola Press
3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60657

Tel: 1-800-621-1008
http://www.loyolaeducationgroup.org/index_cate.asp

Christ Our Life: Confirmed in the Spirit 1997

Grades 6-8

Pauline Books and Media
50th Pauls Ave, Boston, MA

Tel: 1-800-836-9723
<http://www.pauline.org/store/index.html>

Be Sealed Confirmation 1998

High School

Sadlier
9 Pine St. New York, NY 10005-1002

Tel: 1-800-221-5175
<http://www.sadlier.com/>

The Spirit Sets us Free 2000

Grades 6-8

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is currently incomplete. PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 16-19 FOR MORE INFORMATION. Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches your catechetical needs. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

Diocese of Fargo
5201 Bishop's Blvd

Tel: 1-701-356-7900

Eucharist: A Parent Handbook 2002

For Parents

Harcourt Religion Publishers
6277 Sea Harbor Dr., Orlando, FL 32887

Tel: 1-800-922-7696
<http://www.harcourtreligion.com/>

Parents Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation and Eucharist 2000
Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation and Eucharist 2002

Grades 2-3
Grades 2-3

Pauline Books and Media
50th Pauls Ave, Boston, MA

Tel: 1-800-836-9723
<http://www.pauline.org/store/index.html>

Jesus Brings Us Life 1996

Grades 2-3

Pflaum Publishing
2621 Dryden Rd, Suite 300, Dayton OH 45439

Tel: 1-800-543-4383
<http://www.pflaum.com/>

Together in Jesus – Eucharist 2004

Grades 2-3

RCL Resources for Christian Living, Anne Campbell; Regional Manager
200 E. Bethany Dr., Allen, TX 75002

Tel: 1-877-275-4725 ex t6412
<http://www.rclweb.com/>

Eucharist 2003

Grades 2-3

Sadlier
9 Pine St. New York, NY 10005-1002

Tel: 1-800-221-5175
<http://www.sadlier.com/>

First Eucharist 2000

Grades 2-3

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is currently incomplete. PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 16-19 FOR MORE INFORMATION. Materials which have not been reviewed are not listed. Unlisted catechetical materials that you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review along with a letter describing how the material reaches your catechetical needs. Submissions should be sent to: Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 5201 Bishops Boulevard, Fargo, ND 58104.

Diocese of Fargo
5201 Bishop's Blvd

Tel: 1-701-356-7900

Confirmation: A Parent Handbook 2002
Eucharist: A Parent Handbook 2002
Reconciliation: A Parent Handbook 2002

Grade 3
Grade 3
Grade 2

Our Sunday Visitor
200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750

Tel: 1-800-348-2440
<http://www.osv.com/>

Catholic Parent Know How Series
Baptism
First Reconciliation
Confirmation (grade 6-8)
First Communion

8 page magazine format – all grades

Discover the Rules: Lent
Discover the Riches: Advent
Faith Filled Summer Activities

Forming Your Child's Faith: Fundamentals
Forming Your Child's Faith: Church
Forming Your Child's Faith: Morality
Forming Your Child's Faith: Sacraments
Forming Your Child's Faith: Scripture
Forming Your Child's Faith: Living Faith
Forming Your Child's Faith: Church History

Parent Letters: Spiritual Growth of your Child

7 Different Mailings from Birth to Older Elementary