

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth  
Department of Catechesis  
General Catechetical Guidelines

The Ladder of Divine Ascent, Monastery of St Catherine Sinai, 12th century [Public Domain]

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## What is Catechesis?

When God revealed Himself fully through His eternally begotten Son, Jesus Christ (cf. *Hebrews* 1:1-2), our Blessed Lord unveiled Himself and His plan of salvation to His disciples. This revelation constitutes a sacred “deposit of faith” which was given to the apostles who subsequently entrusted this sacred “deposit” to the whole Church through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition so that the truth of Christ might be transmitted throughout the ages (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #75-85). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* outlines this teaching in an authentic manner and is therefore a “sure norm for teaching the faith” (*Pope John Paul II, Fidei Depositum* 3.)

As the Catechism states, catechesis is “an education in the faith for children, young people, and adults which includes...the teaching of Christian Doctrine imparted...in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life” (*CCC* 5, *CT* 18.) The word itself comes from the Greek verb meaning “to echo or resound.” Catechesis, therefore, is the resounding, reechoing, and handing on of Jesus’ teaching which was given to the apostles and transmitted to us through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

Invested with Scripture and Tradition, the Church has unhesitatingly attended to the duty given her in the Great Commission (cf. *Matthew* 28:18-20) by way of fervently communicating the message and divine Person of Christ through teaching. This is the substance of catechesis. The task of echoing Christ, however, is far more than what moderns usually associate with teaching. The type of teaching which corresponds to proper catechesis involves living what one teaches. In other words, for the purposes of communicating Christ, a catechist must be a witness to holiness as well as a teacher.

## Catechist or Teacher?

The preferred term regarding those who assist in the evangelizing and catechizing mission of the Church is “catechist.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* primarily uses the term “catechist” (cf. 12, 22, 1672, 2220, 2663). A notable exception is paragraph 24, which uses the term “teacher” while referring to the *Roman Catechism*.

## 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. **Currently, no parish is an officially chartered Confraternity in this diocese.**

## General Parish Catechesis Policy

The following is the general policy for the Diocese of Fort Worth 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. **DRE or DOC:** The success of a catechetical program in part depends on its organization and implementation. For this reason, **every pastor should have a parish Director of Religious Education (DRE) or 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. Parish clusters might hire one person to work for the entire cluster. Smaller parishes might require coordination of additional responsibilities. These smaller parishes might compensate these people in ways other than salaries such as providing a place to live. 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/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 is not willing to pay, it must not be worth it.)

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3. **Catechists:** Catechists must be fully initiated practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church and actively involved in parish life. The following are essential qualities required of a catechist in the Diocese of Fort Worth:
  - a. Knows and supports the teaching of the Catholic Church.
  - b. Maintains a positive attitude in relating to others.
  - c. Relates well to assigned age/group.
  - d. Shows a concern for ongoing personal growth in its human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral aspects.
  - e. Should hold diocesan certification or actively working toward it.

In collaboration with the Diocese of Fort Worth, parishes are to provide for the formation of catechists. See: The St. Francis De Sales Catechist Formation Program through the Department of Catechesis.

4. **Catechumenal Model:** All parish programs should be catechetical, pastoral, and liturgical/sacramental in nature with a specific end in mind: the spiritual-moral-intellectual progression of all for the purpose of inheriting the Beatific Vision.
5. **Adult Catechesis:** Catechesis should be primarily directed towards adults. For most parishes, this effort will entail a dramatic change in priority. There is no easy way to begin this change, but it is essential.
6. **Children's 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 and it “proves no less necessary for adults” (CT 43).

Considering 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 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.**

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*
4. read and study *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*
5. create and implement a plan for their parish

## Parish Religious Education for Children/Teens

**Families are often 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 religious education 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 Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, pertaining to parish religious education for Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

1. **Program:** Every parish in the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth **must offer religious education for children in grades K-12 who are not attending a Catholic school** (Pre-K is optional.) Parishes should accomplish this by utilizing their own resources or running a joint program with a neighboring parish or parishes. [Parish clusters are to have a common program. When there are parish missions that do not have the student body to have religious education at the parish level, pastors and families are asked to work with neighboring parishes to find a suitable alternative.] **Religious education is essential, for it serves as the foundation to Sacramental Preparation, comprehensive Youth Ministry, etc.**
2. **Number and Length of Sessions:** There **should be between 25-30 weekly religious education sessions at the parish per year**. This is easily accomplished by aligning the parish program with the academic year. The length and time of each session is dependent upon issues such as the student's age, facility availability, Mass times, etc. The recommendation for each religious education session is **at least 1 hour for elementary students and 1 ½ hours for older students**.
3. **Curriculum and Texts:** All parish catechetical programs ***should only use the textbooks approved by the Diocese of Fort Worth***.
4. **Summer Vacation Bible School Programs:** Parishes should make every effort to offer VBS.
5. **Registration/Waiver Forms (A/B/D):** Every child participating in religious education must have a completed and signed "Form A" on file. In addition, a separate "Form B" must be completed and signed for each child for the purpose of accompanying Form A **per each program and/or activity**. As such, every child will have one Form A per year and one Form B **for each program** in which they participate (Religious Education, Sacramental Preparation, VBS, etc.) [Form D is to be completed and signed by every adult volunteer.]
6. **Registration Costs:** Registration costs are to remain nominal for all participants and are allowed for the purpose of covering material costs. There should never be a situation wherein a parish upcharges so-called "inactive" parishioners and/or grants "discounts" for so-called "active" parishioners. While material costs will vary year to year, there must be a uniform amount paid by all parishioners of the same parish in the same year. With that said, lessening the per child cost for larger families is encouraged.

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7. **Parents:** Inasmuch as it is the responsibility of the parish to provide religious education, parents have a corresponding responsibility to see that their children participate each year if they are not in a Catholic school. Parents choosing to homeschool their children may do so, but in collaboration with the local parish, *especially for sacramental preparation.*

## Catechetical Models for Religious Education

Catechetical models refer to the way in which the content, time, space, and audience is structured for religious education. Regardless of the catechetical model chosen, it must be inspired by catechumenal elements with an eye toward maturing in baptismal grace. Below is a brief description of possible catechetical models for religious education.

### Classroom Model

In the Diocese of Fort Worth, most parishes use a classroom model for catechesis, **easily likened to what occurs in our Catholic schools** – one catechist, with a helper, catechizing a class consisting of one grade (or in smaller parishes two or three grades.) This model allows for a systematic presentation of the faith, is most familiar, and most textbooks assume this model.

### Family Model

The basic structure of the family model is one which recognizes the role of parents as primary educators. The role of the catechist in this model is to help facilitate the process of parents forming their children in the faith. **In implementing the family model, it is essential to recall the diocesan requirement that there “should be between 25-30 weekly religious education sessions at the parish per year”** (pg. 6 of this document, #2, “Number and Length of Sessions.”) This means that **every parish** (or cluster), regardless which model they use, **must offer 25-30 weekly religious education sessions per year at the parish for every child that is not attending a Catholic school** (*Ibid*, #1, “Program”).

Per these guidelines, **this would mean that the parish wanting to implement the family model may have to adapt, modify, or adjust their use of family model materials and resources to be in accord with diocesan guidelines.** Most importantly, this means that the form of the family model executed at any parish in the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth would be specifically **designed with the expectation of children being present at the parish on a weekly basis rather than once or twice a month.**

With this understanding, the practical weekly exercise of this model would look something like the following: **the first week** of religious education within any given month would consist in the Catechist mentoring and guiding the children in the catechetical lesson at the parish. Ideally, parents would be receiving instruction of their own during this time. [The role of the Catechist, in addition to leading the children in their lesson, will be to provide parents with information on the material the children just covered, instructions on how to engage their child at home on what the children just covered at the parish, and instructions on how to come into the parish classroom the next week to help lead the lesson.] **The second week** of religious education then consists in the Parents coming into the parish classroom with their children and helping the Catechist teach the children. The Catechist serves as a guide and mentor to the parents during this time. **The third week** of religious education follows the pattern of the first week and **the fourth week** of religious education follows the pattern of the second week. At the

end of the month, the parish holds a communal Family Day which consists of Mass, Adoration, Confession, meal, and communal lesson.

Within this form of the family model, **children are in the parish classroom every week while parents come into their child's parish classroom twice a month.** In this format (especially if you are using "A Family of Faith" by Sophia), two doctrines/lessons are covered per month; one doctrine/lesson is taught during weeks one and two and another doctrine/lesson is taught during weeks three and four. So, each lesson/doctrine will be split into two halves; week one will cover the first half and week two will cover the second half. This pattern is followed for weeks three and four. **The purpose of this format is to facilitate parental formation (especially during weeks one and three when they should be in their own period of formation), aid in directing parental engagement in children learning the faith (during weeks two and four), and to serve the end/intention of highlighting the importance of parents engaging their children at home (through materials sent home.)**

To be clear, the family model **is an optional model, not a mandatory one.** If it is to be exercised, it should operate with the understanding that it may not fit the needs of all families in your parish. As such, if it is employed, it may need to be utilized in conjunction with the traditional classroom model (as well as the homeschool option) to accommodate everyone in your parish.

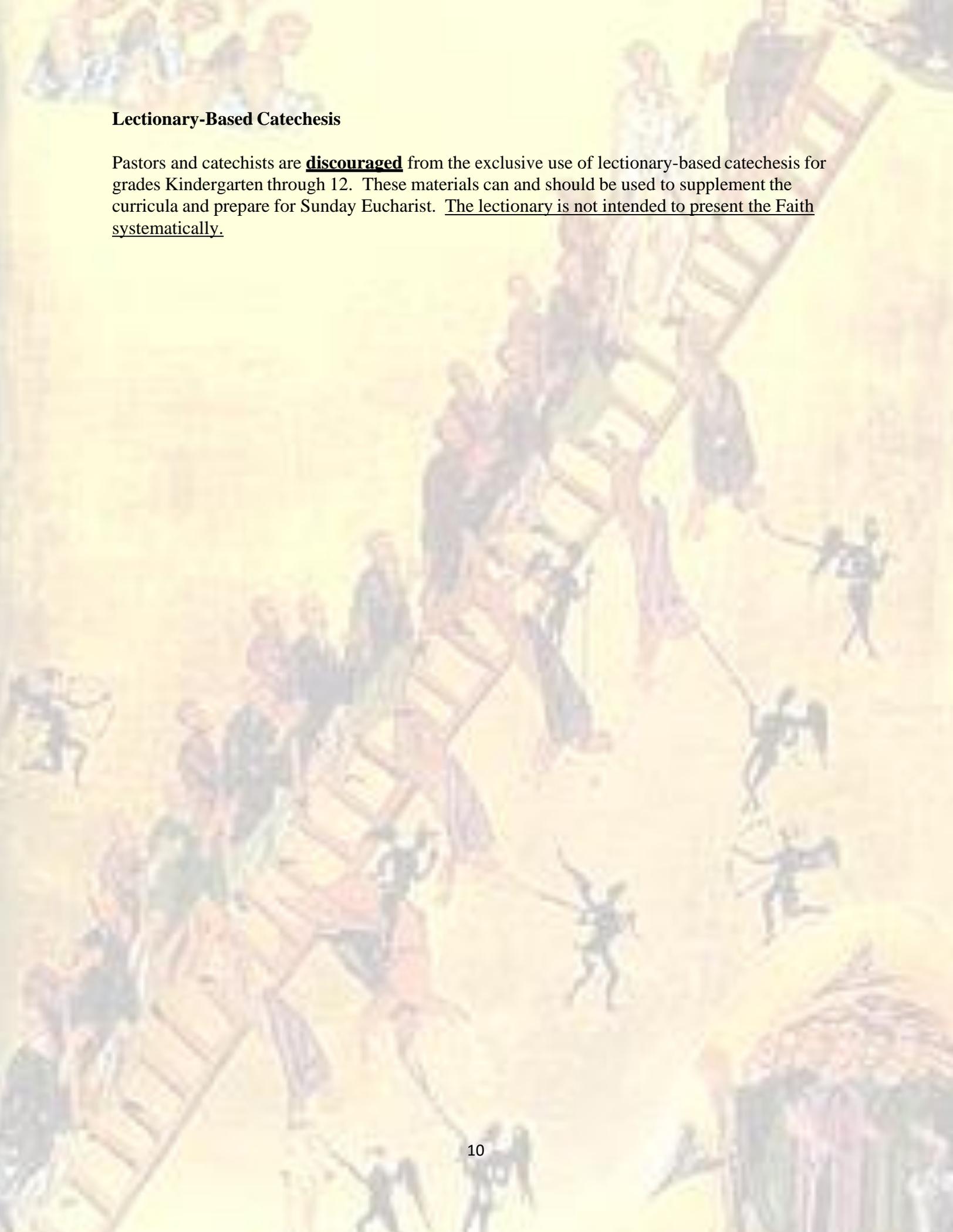
## **Homeschool Model**

The term "homeschooling" describes the work of parents who have undertaken the formal religious education of their children. The number of families who homeschool is growing in the Diocese of Fort Worth. The Diocese of Fort Worth recognizes this movement as a gift to the Church. Recent popes have called on parents to be the primary educators of their children and homeschooling parents have responded to this call, often making great sacrifices for the sake of their children's care. In doing so, they are exercising a right that comes from God and are fulfilling a religious duty in a beautiful and sometimes heroic way. In their love for their children and their willingness to make great sacrifices for the sake of their children's religious education, they offer an outstanding and exemplary witness to our parish communities.

### **\*\*\*Discouraged Methods**

#### **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 divine Person, Jesus Christ, and His Church. 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 pertains to both adults and children; especially in our modern age where an inordinate amount of time is spent with the inanimate and thus limiting the opportunities for true 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 prepare for Sunday Eucharist. The lectionary is not intended to present the Faith systematically.

## Homeschool Guidelines

[Taken from *Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth: Homeschool Catechetical Guidelines for Parish Religious Education*]

### Two Distinctions regarding Religious Education

When one speaks of homeschooling within a parish religious education context it typically refers to two models:

**I. The first model** refers to a traditional homeschool family that involves children receiving direct academic and religious instruction from their parents at home or through the assistance of an academic cooperative. The parents in this situation choose to continue their children's religious education formation at home instead of participating in the local parish religious education program.

Parents under this model would communicate with the Pastor and the parish Director of Religious Education regarding their desire to continue teaching the Catholic faith to their children at home. Considering the religious education program offered by the parish, parents would be required in good faith to provide a sample of their religious education curriculum to make sure it aligns with current Diocesan catechetical standards.

**II: The second model** refers to a homeschool family who typically sends their children to public school and chooses to homeschool their child in religious education instead of participating in the parish religious education program.

Parents under this model would communicate with the Pastor and the parish Director of Religious Education regarding their desire to continue teaching the Catholic faith to their children. Parents would be required to explain and outline the reason(s) why they want to homeschool their child/children in religious education at home instead of participating in the religious education program.

### The Role of the Teaching Church

While parents are the primary educators of their children, they are not the sole educators. The Church is Mother and Teacher. The bishop is the chief catechist in a Diocese and "it is the responsibility of the diocesan Bishop to issue norms concerning catechesis and to make provision that suitable instruments for catechesis are available" (*Canon 775, 1*). The Code of Canon Law continues to say that Pastors have the responsibility for sacramental preparation and all catechesis so that the faith of the faithful becomes living, explicit, and productive through formation in doctrine and the experience of Christian living (*Summation, Canons 843 2, 773; 777*).

The Church places a high priority on the formation of catechists for the service of catechesis. The General Directory for Catechesis states that "diocesan pastoral programs must give absolute priority to the formation of lay catechists" (234). Catechists need to be prepared and

participate in continuing education (*Canon 780*). For these reasons, the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth *invites parents to avail themselves* of various programs and courses offered through the Diocesan Department of Catechesis, especially participation in the St. Francis De Sales Catechist Formation Program which addresses formation in Catechesis, Sacred Scripture, doctrine, liturgy, methods, content and curriculum, the Catechumenate etc.

### **General Diocesan Guidelines (Homeschool)**

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth has written the following guidelines for its partnership with families who choose to home school.

1. The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth considers home schooling in religious education as a viable option *along with Catholic Schools and the parish Religious Education Program*.
2. Home school families **must be registered members of their parish** and make the Pastor aware of their intent to home school.
3. The full name, address, date of birth and current grade level of each child being home schooled must be submitted to the parish Director of Religious Education to maintain appropriate and accurate records.
4. Each child *from kindergarten through twelfth grade* is to receive appropriate religious instruction of at least one hour per week.
5. Parents may use any catechetical textbook(s) on the approved diocesan Department of Catechesis Religious Education textbook list. Parents are encouraged to use those series adopted by their parish Religious Education Program.
6. Parents homeschooling their children are encouraged but not required to attend parish Religious Education In-Service programs.
7. Parents homeschooling their children are encouraged to seek assistance from the parish D.R.E. or C.R.E. when particular questions or needs arise.
8. Children, along with their parents, are encouraged to participate when special Masses for children are scheduled.
9. Each parish should provide home school families with a list of all catechetical, liturgical, and pastoral activities available to them and their children.
10. **A Catechetical assessment will be required** of any child who is being homeschooled in religious education to gauge the students' catechetical development for the following catechetical year. This assessment typically involves use of Sacred Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the current religious education text used within the parish catechetical process. Note: examples of catechetical assessments can be obtained from the Department of Catechesis.

## **Sacramental Preparation Guidelines (Homeschool)**

One of the most important duties of the Pastor is to ensure that children are properly prepared for the reception of the Sacraments of Penance, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation by means of catechetical formation given over an appropriate period (*Canon, 777*). The Pastor, Pastoral Administrator or DRE of a parish shall have the responsibility of ensuring that the sacramental preparation of children is both adequate and in conformity with the teachings of the Catholic Church (Magisterium) and shall determine, in consultation with the parents, a child's readiness for the sacraments.

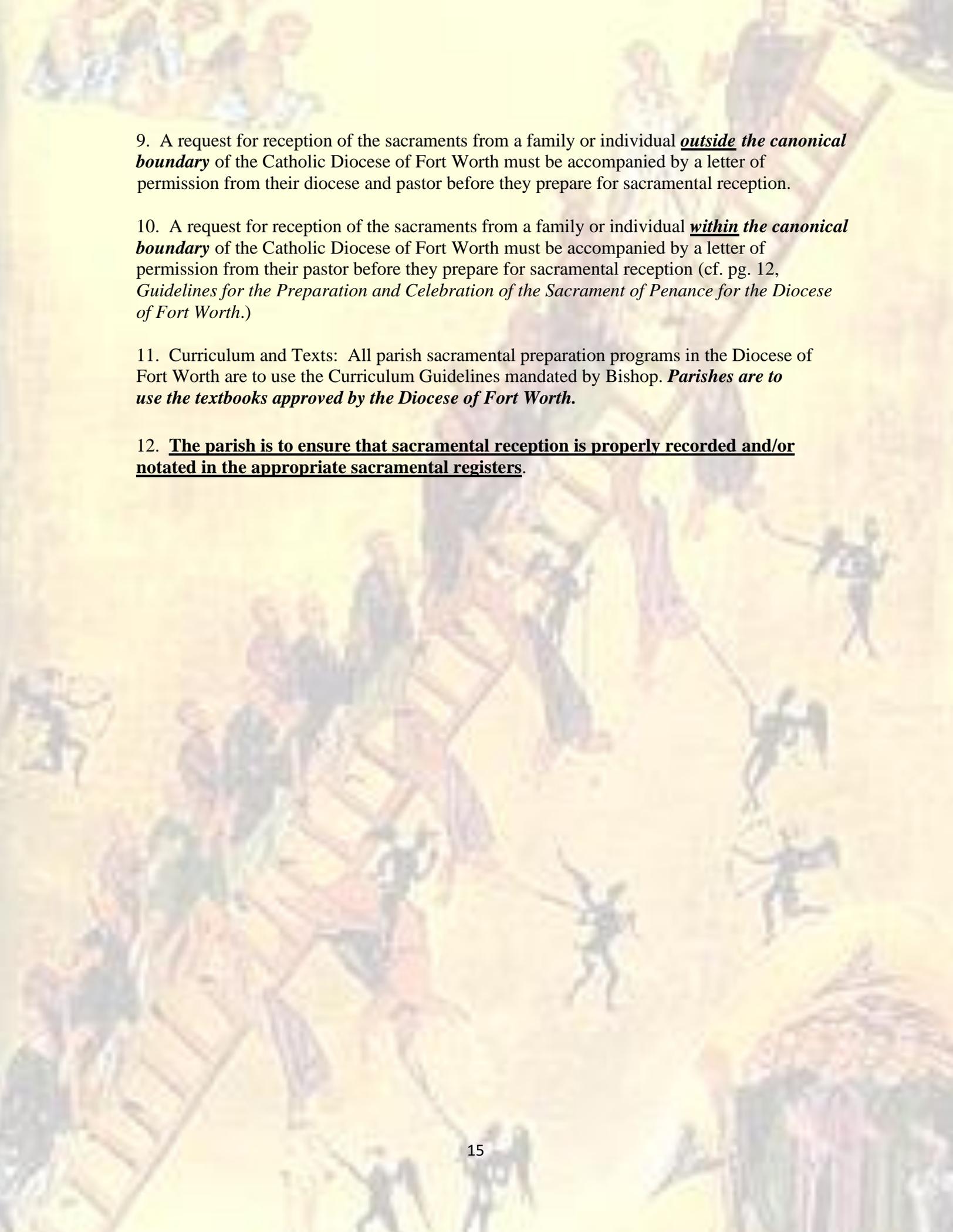
1. Children may not receive the sacraments of initiation (First Penance, First Eucharist) prior to the age of reason (7 years of age) unless given permission by the appropriate ecclesiastical authority after a careful catechetical assessment. They must also fulfill all parish and diocesan requirements before being permitted to receive these sacraments.
2. Children may be confirmed prior to the age of 15 after a careful catechetical assessment and permission from the appropriate ecclesiastical authority. They must also fulfill all parish and diocesan requirements before being permitted to receive this sacrament.
3. The parents of children receiving sacraments of initiation (First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, or Confirmation) must fulfill all parish and diocesan requirements.
4. Homeschooling families should have clear lines of communication with their pastors and DRE's. Parents who wish to home school their children should schedule a meeting with a parish priest or DRE to discuss their plans.
5. Parishes should make available to homeschooling parents any resource that the parish uses in sacramental preparation. Homeschooling families can elect to use these materials or other suitable materials approved by the diocese. Homeschooled children are expected to meet the same standards as other students and receive the sacraments of initiation at the usual age. When service projects or other works are required, parents may be entrusted to oversee the work.
6. **Parents must work closely with their parish, for 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 Church. For this reason, parents and children must attend all parent meetings, retreats, interviews, and rehearsals as required by the parish.
7. "The sacraments are 'of the Church' in the double sense that they are 'by her' and 'for her'" (*CCC 1118*.) Therefore, the actual and immediate preparation for the sacramental celebration **must be within the context of the parish sacramental program** (cf. *CCC 2179, 2226*).
8. **The parish is to ensure that sacramental reception is properly recorded in the appropriate sacramental registers.**

## Parish Sacramental Preparation

Pastors bear 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 Bishop in conformity with general laws established by the Church. [Please refer to the Sacramental Preparation Guidelines specific to each sacrament.** These can be found at <https://fwdioc.org/childrens-catechesis> ]

### General Sacramental Preparation Guidelines

1. “The sacraments are ‘of the Church’ in the double sense that they are ‘by her’ and ‘for her’” (CCC 1118.) Therefore, the actual and immediate preparation for the sacramental celebration **must be within the context of the single sacramental program of the parish** (cf. CCC 2179, 2226; pg. 13, *Guidelines for the Preparation and Celebration of the Sacrament of Eucharist for the Diocese of Fort Worth*).
2. “When circumstances allow, a sacrament preparation program that is **separate** from a religious education/school program is **recommended**” (pg. 12, *Guidelines for the Preparation and Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance for the Diocese of Fort Worth*.) A sacramental preparation program that is **separate** from a religious education/school program has important advantages such as allowing for individual readiness to determine participation in the sacrament “rather than requiring a determination based on a particular age or grade. It also encourages the involvement of additional catechists who can specialize in sacramental preparation” (pg. 12-13, *Guidelines for the Preparation and Celebration of the Sacrament of Eucharist for the Diocese of Fort Worth*.)
3. Raise as few obstacles as possible to the reception of the sacraments. Seek to balance the value of adequate preparation and proper disposition with the recognition of sacraments as free gifts from God.
4. Adapt to the needs, age, and circumstances of the candidates.
5. The Church’s desire is for candidates to celebrate the sacraments as early as possible after reaching the appropriate age (as determined by the Church.)
6. Sacramental catechesis enables the child to celebrate the sacrament and to understand why the sacrament is beneficial/essential.
7. **Any demonstrations of financial support, e.g., envelopes, may not be made a requirement for sacramental reception.**
8. Families are never to be given the impression that they are buying the sacraments. As such, costs (if any) are to remain nominal for all participants and are allowed solely for the purpose of covering material costs. There should never be a situation wherein a parish upcharges so-called “inactive” parishioners and/or grants “discounts” for so-called “active” parishioners.



9. A request for reception of the sacraments from a family or individual ***outside the canonical boundary*** of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth must be accompanied by a letter of permission from their diocese and pastor before they prepare for sacramental reception.

10. A request for reception of the sacraments from a family or individual ***within the canonical boundary*** of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth must be accompanied by a letter of permission from their pastor before they prepare for sacramental reception (cf. pg. 12, *Guidelines for the Preparation and Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance for the Diocese of Fort Worth.*)

11. Curriculum and Texts: All parish sacramental preparation programs in the Diocese of Fort Worth are to use the Curriculum Guidelines mandated by Bishop. ***Parishes are to use the textbooks approved by the Diocese of Fort Worth.***

12. **The parish is to ensure that sacramental reception is properly recorded and/or notated in the appropriate sacramental registers.**

## The Purpose of the Textbook

Textbooks play an important 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 ***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 St. 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 DRE or DOC, 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 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 as 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.**

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 Department of 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:

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, Department of Catechesis, 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108

## 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. RECOMMENDED WITH RESERVATION/SUPPLEMENTATION NEEDED
3. NOT RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED materials are most near our diocesan curriculum guidelines.

### 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 (RESERVATION) 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 Department of 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: Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Department of Catechesis 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108.

As series and catechetical materials are created or altered, new recommendations will be issued. Most catechetical materials are published with an “imprimatur.” An “imprimatur” 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.** As such, 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 the bishop of a diocese and then the pastor of 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 Department of Catechesis and theologians approved by Bishop evaluate catechetical series and textbooks for the diocese. Reviewed materials are rated as RECOMMENDED, WITH SUPPLEMENTATION AND NOT RECOMMENDED. **Should a local parish wish to consider textbooks not recommended and/or not evaluated, they must submit the material in question for evaluation to the Department of Catechesis, along with a written statement of why the material fits their 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 considered by those submitting the texts.

#### Parish Level

The choice of a text is the task of the pastor, who is the prime catechist of his parish. 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 should be limited to the materials already recommended by the Department of Catechesis.

## **Parish Evaluation**

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

1. Notify the Department of Catechesis 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.
2. The pastor may review the materials himself or create a committee including the DOC or DRE, 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 considering #3.
5. Consult the list of diocesan recommended texts.
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 publisher 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. The pastor makes the final selection of materials. If there is a committee, this decision is made considering 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. Plan 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 continuously revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is always being updated. 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: Department of Catechesis, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108.

RECOMMENDED (in alphabetical order by publisher)

#### **Ignatius Press**

P.O. Box 1339, Fort Collins, CO 80522  
Image of God ©2014

Tel: 1-800-360-1714

<http://www.ignatius.com/promotions/imageofgod/>

Grades: Pre-K & K

#### **Loyola Press**

3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60657  
Christ Our Life, School/Parish © 2009-2016

Tel: 1-800-621-1008

[www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/christ-our-life/](http://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/christ-our-life/)

Grade: K

#### **Sadlier**

Pine St. New York, NY 10005-1002  
We Believe @2011

Tel: 1-800-221-5175

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

Grade: K

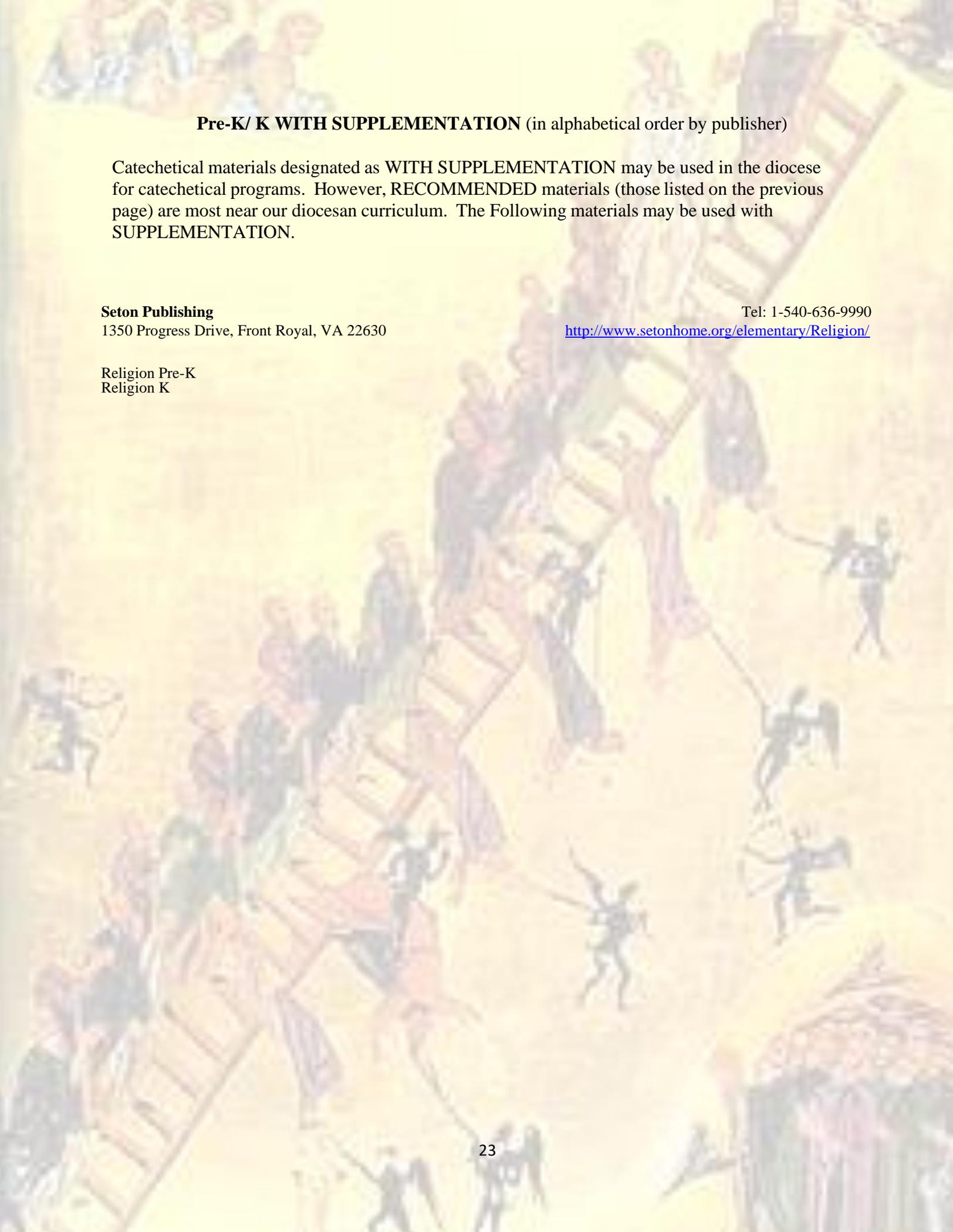
#### **Sophia Institute Press**

Box 5284, Manchester, NH 03108  
Spirit of Truth @2016, 2017

Tel: 1-800-888-9344 1-603-641-9344

<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/spiritoftruth>

Grade: K



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

Catechetical materials designated as WITH SUPPLEMENTATION may be used in the diocese for catechetical programs. However, RECOMMENDED materials (those listed on the previous page) are most near our diocesan curriculum. The Following materials may be used with SUPPLEMENTATION.

**Seton Publishing**

1350 Progress Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630

Tel: 1-540-636-9990

<http://www.setonhome.org/elementary/Religion/>

Religion Pre-K  
Religion K

## Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

### First Grade through Sixth Grade

NOTE: Due to many publishers continuously revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is in constant revision. 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: Department of Catechesis, 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108.

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

#### **Ignatius Press**

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

Faith and Life © Latest Edition

Image of God © Latest Edition

Tel: 1-800-360-1714

<https://www.ignatius.com/Catechesis-for-Children-C1007.aspx>

Grades 1-6

Grades 1-6

#### **Loyola Press**

3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL

<https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/christ-our-life/christ-our-life-2016/>

<https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/finding-god/finding-god-2013/>

Christ Our Life, School/Parish © 2009, 2016

Finding God ©2013

Tel: 1-800-621-1008

Grades 1-6

Grades 1-6

#### **Our Sunday Visitor**

200 Noll Plaza, Huntington. IN 46750

Alive in Christ @ 2014

(800) 348-2440 Ext 2173

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

Grades 1-6

#### **Sadlier**

9 Pine St. New York, NY 10005-1002

We Believe ©2011

Tel: 1-800-221-5175

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

Grades 1-6

#### **Sophia Institute Press**

Box 5284, Manchester, NH 03108

Spirit of Truth @2016, 2017

Tel: 1-800-888-9344

<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/spiritoftruth>

Grades 1-6

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

Catechetical materials designated as WITH SUPPLEMENTATION may be used in the diocese for catechetical programs. 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  
Consecration in Truth Catechetical Series

Tel: 1-800-FOR-MARY  
<https://afc.org/afc-products>

Grades 1-6

**Catholic Book Publishing**

77 West End Rd, Totowa, NJ 07512

<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/search?query=First+Communion+Catechism>

<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/search?query=Baltimore+Catechism>

<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/read/st-joseph-picture-books>

The New St. Joseph First Communion Catechism

The New St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism (No. 1)

The New St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism (No. 2)

St. Joseph Picture Books

Tel: 1-973-890-2400

Grades 1-2

Grades 3-5

Grades 6-8

**Seton Publishing**

1350 Progress Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630

Religion 1-6

Tel: 1-540-636-9990

<http://www.setonhome.org/elementary/Religion/>

Grades 1-6

**TAN Books**

Our Holy Faith Series

<https://tanbooks.com/tan-academy/shop-by-product-line/our-holy-faith/>

Grades 1-6

## Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

### Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade

NOTE: Due to many publishers continuously revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is constantly updated. **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: Department of Catechesis, 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108

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

#### **Ignatius Press**

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

Faith and Life © Latest Edition  
Image of God © Latest Edition  
Issues of Faith and Morals © 1997, Archbishop Pell

Tel: 1-877-320-9276

<https://www.ignatius.com/Catechesis-for-Children-C1007.aspx>

Grades 7-8  
Grades 7-8  
Grades 7-8

#### **Loyola Press**

3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL <https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/christ-our-life/christ-our-life-2016/>

Christ Our Life, School/Parish © 2009, 2016

Tel: 1-800-621-1008

Grades 7-8

#### **Our Sunday Visitor**

200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750  
Alive in Christ @ 2014

Toll-Free: (800) 348-2440

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

Grades 7-8

#### **Sophia Institute Press**

Box 5284, Manchester, NH 03108  
Spirit of Truth @2016, 2017

Tel: 1-800-888-9344

<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/spiritoftruth>

Grades 7-8

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

Catechetical materials designated as WITH SUPPLEMENTATION may be used in the diocese for catechetical programs. 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  
Consecration in Truth Catechetical Series

Tel: 1-800-FOR-MARY  
<https://afc.org/afc-products>  
Grades 7-8

### **Catholic Book Publishing**

77 West End Rd, Totowa, NJ 07512  
The New St Joseph Baltimore Catechism (No. 2)

<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/search?query=Baltimore+Catechism>

Tel: 1-973-890-2400

Grades 6-8

### **Our Sunday Visitor**

200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750

Tel: 1-800-348-2440

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

Prove It! Church © 2001 (Amy Wellborn)  
Prove It! God © 2001 (Amy Wellborn)  
Prove It! Jesus © 2001 (Amy Wellborn)  
Prove It! Prayer © 2001 (Amy Wellborn)  
Prove It! Here and Now © 2005 (Amy Wellborn)  
U Got 2 Believe © 2001

Grades 7-8  
Grades 7-8  
Grades 7-8  
Grades 7-8  
Grades 7-8  
Grades 7-8

Father McBride's Teen Catechism <https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/product/father-mcbride-s-teen-catechism>

### **Sadlier**

One Faith, One Lord @2009

<https://www.sadlier.com/religion/parish-school/catholic-faith-formation>

Grades 7-8

### **Seton Publishing**

1350 Progress Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630  
Religion 7-8

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

Grades 7-8

### **St. Mary's Press**

702 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987  
Live It! 2019 (Pre-Confirmation)

800-533-8095

[www.smp.org](http://www.smp.org)

Grades 7-8

### **TAN Books**

Our Holy Faith Series

<https://tanbooks.com/tan-academy/shop-by-product-line/our-holy-faith/>

Grades 7-8

## Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials Family Model

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating textbooks series and catechetical materials, this section is under constant revision. 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: Department of Catechesis, 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108

### Ignatius Press

Faith and Life Series with Family Guide

<https://www.ignatius.com/promotions/faithandlife/family-guide.htm>

Grades 1-8

### Sophia Institute Press

Box 5284, Manchester, NH 03108

Tel: 1-800-888-9344

A Family of Faith @2016

<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/shop/family-of-faith>

Grades K-8

**\*\*\*If used in accordance with diocesan guidelines\*\*\***

### **\*\*\*Abbreviated Structure of the Family Model for Religious Education in the Diocese of Fort Worth\*\*\***

The basic structure of the family model is one which recognizes the role of parents as primary educators. The role of the catechist in this model is to help facilitate the process of parents forming their children in the faith. **In implementing the family model, it is essential to recall the diocesan requirement that there “should be between 25-30 weekly religious education sessions at the parish per year”** (pg. 6 of this document, #2, “Number and Length of Sessions.”) This means that **every parish** (or cluster), regardless which model they use, **must offer 25-30 weekly religious education sessions per year at the parish for every child that is not attending a Catholic school** (*Ibid*, #1, “Program”).

Per these guidelines, **this would mean that the parish wanting to implement the family model may have to adapt, modify, or adjust their use of family model materials and resources to be in accord with diocesan guidelines**. Most importantly, this means that the form of the family model executed at any parish in the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth would be specifically **designed with the expectation of children being present at the parish on a weekly basis rather than once or twice a month**.

Within this form of the family model, **children are in the parish classroom every week while parents come into their child’s parish classroom twice a month**. In this format, two doctrines/lessons are covered per month; one doctrine/lesson is taught during weeks one and two and another doctrine/lesson is taught during weeks three and four. So, each lesson/doctrine will be split into two halves; week one will cover the first half and week two will cover the second half. This pattern is followed for weeks three and four. **The purpose of this format is to facilitate parental formation (especially during weeks one and three when they should be in their own period of formation), aid in directing parental engagement in children learning the faith (during weeks two and four), and to serve the end/intention of highlighting the importance of parents engaging their children at home (through materials sent home.)**

With this understanding, the practical weekly exercise of this model would look something like the following: **the first week** of religious education within any given month would consist in the Catechist mentoring and guiding the children in the catechetical lesson at the parish. Ideally, parents would be receiving instruction of their own during this time. [The role of the Catechist, in addition to leading the children in their lesson, will be to provide parents with information on the material the children just covered, instructions on how to engage their child at home on what the children just covered at the parish, and instructions on how to come into the parish classroom the next week to help lead the lesson.] **The second week** of religious education then consists in the Parents coming into the parish classroom with their children and helping the Catechist teach the children. The Catechist serves as a guide and mentor to the parents during this time. **The third week** of religious education follows the pattern of the first week and **the fourth week** of religious education follows the pattern of the second week. At the end of the month, the parish holds a communal Family Day which consists of Mass, Adoration, Confession, meal, and communal lesson.

To be clear, the family model **is an optional model, not a mandatory one**. If it is to be exercised, it should operate with the understanding that it may not fit the needs of all families in your parish. As such, if it is employed, it may need to be utilized in conjunction with the traditional classroom model (as well as the homeschool option) to accommodate everyone in your parish.

Lastly, **Sacramental Preparation** within the family model follows pg. 14-15 of this document and the **governing diocesan documents regarding sacramental preparation**.

## Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

### High School

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is under constant revision. 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: Department of Catechesis, 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108

#### GRADES 9-12 RECOMMENDED (alphabetical by publisher)

##### **C.R. Publications**

345 Prospect Street  
Norwood, MA 02062

1-781-727-7856

[www.crpublishations.com](http://www.crpublishations.com)

##### Catholicism Series:

Reason, 2009.

Life, 2007.

Ethics, 1997.

Society, 1997.

Scripture, 2006.

##### **Midwest Theological Forum**

4340 Cross Street, Suite 1  
Downers Grove, IL 60515-1715

1-630-541-8519

[www.theologicalforum.org](http://www.theologicalforum.org)

##### Didache Series:

The Blessed Trinity and our Christian Vocation, 2009.

Faith and Revelation: Knowing God through Sacred Scripture, 2009.

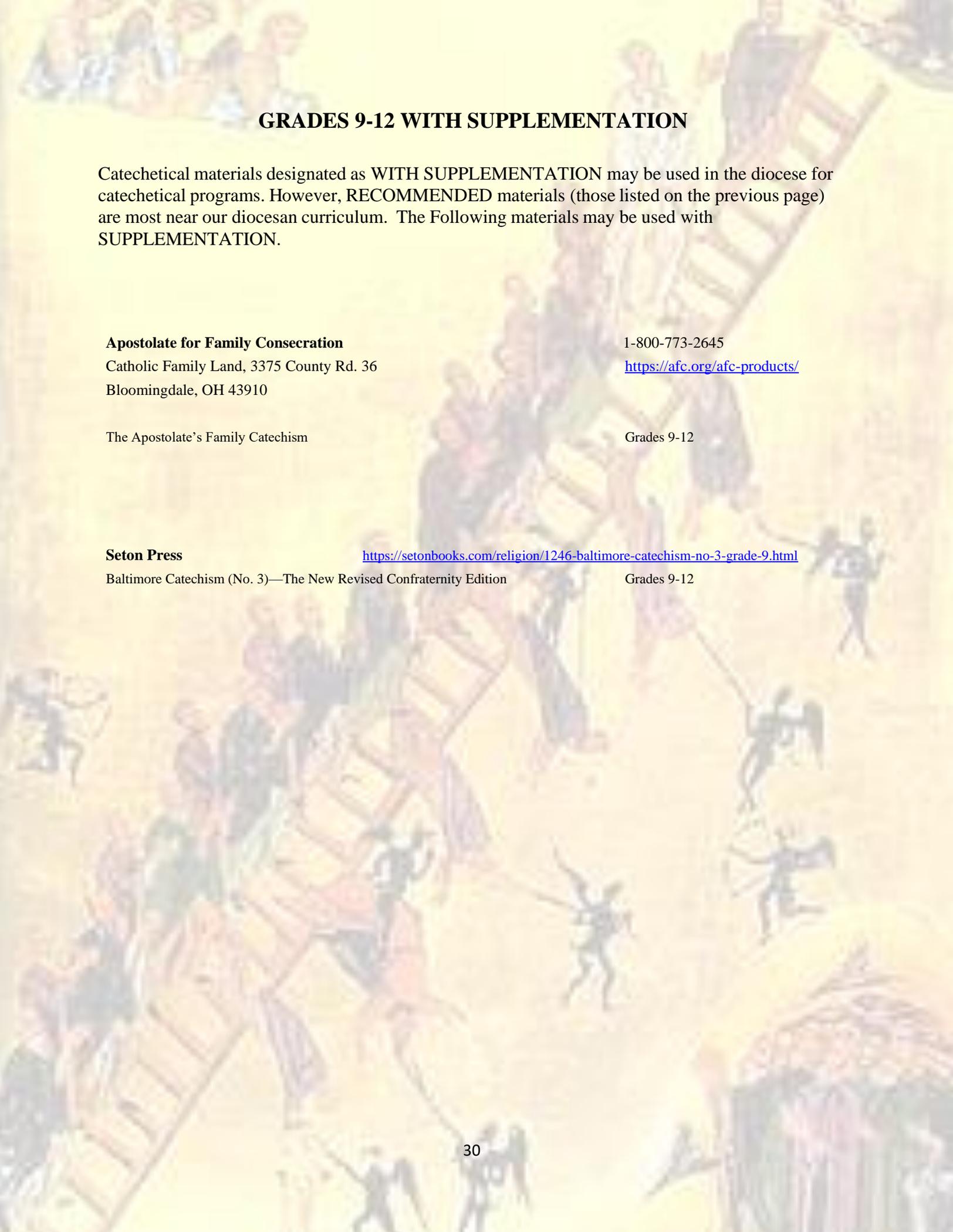
The History of the Church, 2005, 2007.

Introduction to Catholicism, 2003, 2011.

Our Moral Life in Christ, 2003.

Our Moral Life in Christ (Complete Course Edition), 2009.

Our Moral Life in Christ (Semester Edition), 2009.



## GRADES 9-12 WITH SUPPLEMENTATION

Catechetical materials designated as WITH SUPPLEMENTATION may be used in the diocese for catechetical programs. 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  
Bloomington, OH 43910

1-800-773-2645

<https://afc.org/afc-products/>

The Apostolate's Family Catechism

Grades 9-12

### **Seton Press**

Baltimore Catechism (No. 3)—The New Revised Confraternity Edition

<https://setonbooks.com/religion/1246-baltimore-catechism-no-3-grade-9.html>

Grades 9-12

# Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

## Education for Chastity

The following list of materials are RECOMMENDED

### Ascension Press

[www.ascensionpress.com](http://www.ascensionpress.com)

### Ignatius Press

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

Issues of Faith and Morals by Archbishop George Pell  
Love and Life

Tel: 1-800-360-1714

[www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com)

Grades 9-12

Grades 7-9

### Our Sunday Visitor

200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750

The Catholic Vision of Love 1996

Tel: 1-800-348-2440

[www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com)

Grades 5-8

### Sadlier

9 Pine St. New York, NY 10005-1002

God's Own Making: Catholic Values of Human Sexuality

Tel: 1-800-221-5175

[www.sadlier.com](http://www.sadlier.com)

Grades 4-8

### Foundation for the Family

P.O. Box 111184, Cincinnati, OH 45211-1184

New Corinthians Curriculum 1996

Tel: 1-800-745-8252

or (513) 471-2000 website unknown

Grades K-8

### Leaflet Missal Company

976 W. Minnehaha Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104

Project Genesis

Tel: 1-800-328-9582

[www.leafletmissal.org](http://www.leafletmissal.org)

Grades K-8

### The Diocese of Fort Worth, Marriage and Family Life Office

800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108

Outlines for Mother/Daughter, Father/Son Workshops: Diocese of Memphis

[http://www.cdom.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=FP\\_Programs#mother](http://www.cdom.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=FP_Programs#mother)

Tel: 1-871-560-3300 ext. 269

<http://www.fwdioc.org>

Parents & Teens

### The Chastity Project

[www.thechastityproject.com](http://www.thechastityproject.com)

## RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

### BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is under constant revision. 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: Department of Catechesis, 80 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108

#### **Ignatius Press**

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

Tel: 1-800-360-1714

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

#### **Loyola Press**

3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60657

Infant Baptism: A sourcebook for Parishes

Tel: 1-800-621-1008

[http://www.loyolaeducationgroup.org/index\\_cate.asp](http://www.loyolaeducationgroup.org/index_cate.asp)

3 ring binder for parish coordinators

## RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

### FIRST PENANCE PREPARATION

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is under constant revision. 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: Department of Catechesis, 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108

#### Ignatius Press

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

Faith and Life—Latest Edition

Image of God—Latest Edition

Tel: 1-800-360-1714

<https://www.ignatius.com/Catechesis-for-Children-C1007.aspx>

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

#### Our Sunday Visitor

Alive in Christ 2014

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

#### Sadlier

9 Pine St. New York, NY 10005-1002

We believe and celebrate: First Penance 2006

Tel: 1-800-221-5175

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

#### Sophia Institute Press

Spirit of Truth: First Reconciliation <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/shop/spirit-of-truth/sacramental-preparation>

Spirit of Truth 2016, 2017 <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/spiritoftruth>

Tel: 1-800-888-9344

### FIRST PENANCE with SUPPLEMENTATION

#### Augustine Institute

Signs of Grace—You are Forgiven

<http://thesignsofgrace.org/>

#### Catholic Book Publishing

Going to Confession

<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/read/st-joseph-picture-books>

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The New St. Joseph First Communion Catechism

<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/search?query=First+Communion+Catechism>

#### Our Sunday Visitor

Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750

Encounter with Christ, 2016

800-348-2440

[www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com)

#### Seton Publishing

1350 Progress Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630

Religion 2

Tel: 1-540-636-9990

<http://www.setonhome.org/elementary/Religion/>

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

#### TAN Books

Our Holy Faith Series

<https://tanbooks.com/tan-academy/shop-by-product-line/our-holy-faith/>

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

# RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

## CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is under constant revision. 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: Department of Catechesis, 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108.

### **Ascension Press**

W5169 Jefferson Street, Necedah, WI 54646  
Chosen 2014

Tel: 1-800-376-0520

<http://ascensionpress.com/>

High School

### **Diocese of Fort Worth**

800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108  
Office of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry  
Confirmation Resource Packet

Tel: 1-817-945-9350

<https://fwdioc.org/confirmation-resource-packet>

### **Ignatius Press**

P.O. Box 1339, Fort Collins, CO 80522  
Image of God (Mass books & Confirmation)1986-1993

Tel: 1-800-360-1714

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

Grades 6-8

### **Life Teen**

2222 S. Dobson #601, Mesa, AZ 852020  
*Purpose*

Tel: 800-809-3902

<https://purposeconfirmation.com/>

### **Loyola Press**

3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60657  
Confirmed in the Spirit

Tel: 1-800-621-1008

[http://www.loyolaeducationgroup.org/index\\_cate.asp](http://www.loyolaeducationgroup.org/index_cate.asp)

Grades 6-8

### **Midwest Theological Form (MTF)**

4340 Cross St. Suite 1, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Tel: 630-541-8519

[https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/129/Product/569/The\\_Sacrament\\_of\\_Confirmation](https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/129/Product/569/The_Sacrament_of_Confirmation)

*The Sacrament of Confirmation:  
A Complete Preparation Course*

### **Pauline Books and Media**

50th Pauls Ave, Boston, MA  
Be Sealed Confirmation 1998

Tel: 1-800-836-9723

<http://www.pauline.org/store/index.html>

High School

### **Sadlier**

9 Pine St. New York, NY 10005-1002  
The Spirit sets us Free 2000

Tel: 1-800-221-5175

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

Grades 6-8

## RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

### FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is under constant revision. 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: Department of Catechesis 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108

#### **Ignatius Press**

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

Faith and Life © Latest Edition  
Image of God © Latest Edition

Tel: 1-800-360-1714

<https://www.ignatius.com/Catechesis-for-Children-C1007.aspx>

2nd Grade  
2nd Grade

#### **Our Sunday Visitor**

Alive in Christ 2014

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

#### **Pauline Books and Media**

50th Paul's Ave, Boston, MA  
Jesus Brings Us Life 1996

Tel: 1-800-836-9723

<http://www.pauline.org/store/index.html>

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

#### **Sophia Institute Press**

Spirit of Truth: Holy Communion

Spirit of Truth 2016, 2017

Tel: 1-800-888-9344

<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/shop/spirit-of-truth/sacramental-preparation>

<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/spiritoftruth>

### FIRST EUCHARIST with SUPPLEMENTATION

#### **Augustine Institute**

Signs of Grace—You are Loved

<http://thesignsofgrace.org/>

#### **Catholic Book Publishing**

77 West End Rd, Totowa, NJ

Receiving Holy Communion

The Holy Eucharist

The Mass for Children

My Picture Missal

The New St. Joseph First Communion Catechism

<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/search?query=First+Communion+Catechism>

<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/read/st-joseph-picture-books>

#### **Our Sunday Visitor**

Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750

Encounter with Christ, 2016

800-348-2440

[www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com)

#### **Seton Publishing**

1350 Progress Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630

Religion 2

Tel: 1-540-636-9990

<http://www.setonhome.org/elementary/Religion/>

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

#### **TAN Books**

Our Holy Faith Series

<https://tanbooks.com/tan-academy/shop-by-product-line/our-holy-faith/>

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

# RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

## RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is under constant revision. 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: Department of Catechesis, 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108

### Ascension Press

[www.ascensionpress.com](http://www.ascensionpress.com)

### Enroute books and media

5705 Rhodes Ave, St. Louis, Mo 63109

Tel: (314) 706-1009.

<http://enroutebooksandmedia.com/childrens-books/>

Today I was Baptized

Today I made my First Communion

Today I made my First Reconciliation

Today someone I love passed away

### Lumen Ecclesia Press

4101 East Joy Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Tel: (734)-996-4245.

<https://educationinvirtue.com/>

Disciples of Christ/ Education in Virtue

Education on Christian Living

### My Catholic Faith Delivered

[www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com](http://www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com)

### Our Sunday Visitor

200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750

Tel: 1-800-348-2440

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

Catholic Parent Know How Series

8 page magazine format – all grades

Baptism

First Reconciliation Confirmation (grade 6-8)

First Communion

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

# RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

## R.C.I.A. [Adults]

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is under constant revision. 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: Department of Catechesis, 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108

\*\*\*MUST HAVE:

\*\*\*CATHOLIC BIBLE & CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

\*\*\*THE RCIA TEXT (Study Edition)

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (Study Ed.) <https://ltp.org/products/details/PRCIA/rite-of-christian-initiation-of-adults>  
<https://store.usccb.org/products/rcia-study-edition-spanish>

**Ascension Press** [for “Period of Evangelization”]

Walking with God	<a href="https://ascensionpress.com/products/walking-with-god-a-journey-through-the-bible-1">https://ascensionpress.com/products/walking-with-god-a-journey-through-the-bible-1</a>
Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible	<a href="https://ascensionpress.com/collections/unlocking-the-mystery">https://ascensionpress.com/collections/unlocking-the-mystery</a>
	<a href="https://www.comcenter.com/program/406/Abriendo-Misterio-Biblia/">https://www.comcenter.com/program/406/Abriendo-Misterio-Biblia/</a>
Bible Timeline	<a href="https://ascensionpress.com/collections/the-bible-timeline-the-story-of-salvation">https://ascensionpress.com/collections/the-bible-timeline-the-story-of-salvation</a>

**Association for Catechumenal Ministry** [This covers everything] <https://acmrcia.org/>

Spanish Packet	<a href="https://acmrcia.org/espanol">https://acmrcia.org/espanol</a>
RCIA Leader’s Manual	
RCIA Catechist’s Manual	
RCIA Participant’s Book	
RCIA Godparent & Sponsor Handbook	
RCIA Overview Chart	
Book Tabs for the RCIA Text	

**Link to Liturgy**

<https://linktoliturgy.com/>

Sunday: Quick Connect [for “Dismissal of the Catechumens”]  
Sunday: Booklets/Lessons [for “Period of Purification” & “Period of Mystagogy”]

**Our Sunday Visitor**

Forming Intentional Disciples [for the “Period of Evangelization”]  
<https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/author/sherry-a-weddell>  
<https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/product/forming-intentional-disciples-know-and-follow-jesus-span>

Fruitful Discipleship [for the “Period of Mystagogy”] <https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/author/sherry-a-weddell>

[N.B.—The Sherry Weddell texts are for the RCIA Leader.]

**St. Benedict Press** [for the “Period of the Catechumenate”]

Credo <https://www.saintbenedictpress.com/index.php/credo-an-rcia-program-dominican-friars-of-the-thomistic-institute.html>

## **R.C.I.A. [Adults] with SUPPLEMENTATION**

**Augustine Institute** [for the “Period of the Catechumenate”]

Symbolon <https://www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/store/title/symbolon-the-catholic-faith-explained-complete-dvd-set>  
<https://www.comcenter.com/program/462/Symbolon-La-Fe-Catolica-Explicada/>

**St. Paul Center**

<https://stpaulcenter.com/product/open-wide-the-doors-to-christ-discovering-catholicism/>

Open Wide the Doors to Christ: Discovering Catholicism [for the “Period of the Catechumenate”]

**TAN Books** [for the “Period of the Catechumenate”]

Baltimore Catechism (No. 4) <https://tanbooks.com/tan-academy/spiritual-direction-books/baltimore-catechism-four/>

## **R.C.I.A. [Adults]—*NOT RECOMMENDED***

**Liguori Publications**

Journey of Faith-Adults

**RCL Benziger**

Foundations in Faith

# RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

## R.C.I.A. [Adapted for Children]

NOTE: Due to many publishers currently revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is under constant revision. 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: Department of Catechesis, 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108

### \*\*\*MUST HAVE:

\*\*\***CATHOLIC BIBLE & CATECHISM** (such as YouCat for Kids or Fr. McBride's Teen Catechism)

### \*\*\*THE RCIA TEXT (Study Edition)

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults <https://ltp.org/products/details/PRCIA/rite-of-christian-initiation-of-adults>  
<https://store.usccb.org/products/rcia-study-edition-spanish>

### Ascension Press [for the "Period of Evangelization"]

Walking with God <https://ascensionpress.com/products/walking-with-god-a-journey-through-the-bible-1>

GPS: God's Plan in Scripture <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/gps-gods-plan-in-scripture>

-Beginner (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

-Intermediate (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)

-Advanced (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Encounter: Experiencing God in the Everyday (Grades 7-8)

<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/encounter-a-middle-school-bible-study>

T3: The Teen Timeline (Grades 9-12)

<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/t3-the-teen-timeline>

### Association for Catechumenal Ministry

RCIA Leader's Manual

<https://acmrcia.org/>

### Ignatius Press [for "Period of the Catechumenate"]

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

Tel: 1-800-360-1714

<https://www.ignatius.com/Catechesis-for-Children-C1007.aspx>  
<https://www.comcenter.com/program/229/Fe-y-Vida-1-8/>

Faith and Life © Latest Edition  
Image of God © Latest Edition

Grades 2-8  
Grades 2-8

### **Lumen Ecclesiae Press**

[This is for the catechist. It supports the catechist in preparing to teach any age group. The purpose of this manual is to help catechists analyze doctrine for catechesis— to identify the essential content of catechesis and to consider the various factors that will affect the arrangement of this material before they begin to plan their lessons.]

Echoing the Mystery: Unlocking the Deposit of Faith in Catechesis <https://golepress.com/product/echoing-the-mystery/>

### **Midwest Theological Forum** [for “Period of the Catechumenate”]

4340 Cross Street, Suite 1

Downers Grove, IL 60515-1715

1-630-541-8519

[www.theologicalforum.org](http://www.theologicalforum.org)

[https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/103/Books\\_in\\_Spanish](https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/103/Books_in_Spanish)

Didache Series:

The Blessed Trinity and our Christian Vocation, 2009.

Faith and Revelation: Knowing God through Sacred Scripture, 2009.

The History of the Church, 2005, 2007.

Introduction to Catholicism, 2003, 2011.

Our Moral Life in Christ, 2003.

Our Moral Life in Christ (Complete Course Edition), 2009.

Our Moral Life in Christ (Semester Edition), 2009.

Grades 9-12

### **Our Sunday Visitor**

Alive in Christ [for “Period of the Catechumenate”]

<https://aliveinchrist.osv.com/aicinfo>

<https://www.orderosv.com/product-category/spanish>

Grades 2-8

Forming Intentional Disciples [for the “Period of Evangelization”]

<https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/author/sherry-a-weddell>

<https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/product/forming-intentional-disciples-know-and-follow-jesus-span>

Fruitful Discipleship [for the “Period of Mystagogy”]

<https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/author/sherry-a-weddell>

[N.B.—The Sherry Weddell texts are for the RCIA Leader.]

### **Sophia Institute Press** [for “Period of the Catechumenate”]

Box 5284, Manchester, NH 03108

Spirit of Truth @2016, 2017

Tel: 1-800-888-9344

<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/spiritoftruth>

Grades 2-8

## R.C.I.A. [Adapted for Children] with SUPPLEMENTATION

### Catholic Book Publishing

77 West End Rd, Totowa, NJ 07512

<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/search?query=First+Communion+Catechism>

<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/search?query=Baltimore+Catechism>

Tel: 1-973-890-2400

The New St. Joseph First Communion Catechism  
The New St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism (No. 1)  
The New St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism (No. 2)

Grades 1-2  
Grades 3-5  
Grades 6-8

### Ignatius Press

YOUCAT for Kids

<https://www.ignatius.com/YOUCAT-for-Kids-P3200.aspx>

(8-12 yrs.)

### Our Sunday Visitor

Father McBride's Teen Catechism

<https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/product/father-mcbride-s-teen-catechism>

### Seton Press

Baltimore Catechism (No. 3)—The New Revised Confraternity Edition

<https://setonbooks.com/religion/1246-baltimore-catechism-no-3-grade-9.html>

Grades 9-12

### Seton Publishing

1350 Progress Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630  
Religion 2-8

Tel: 1-540-636-9990

<http://www.setonhome.org/elementary/Religion/>

Grades 2-8

### TAN Books

Our Holy Faith Series

<https://tanbooks.com/tan-academy/shop-by-product-line/our-holy-faith/>

Grades 2-8

## R.C.I.A. [Adapted for Children]—NOT RECOMMENDED

### Liguori Publications

Journey of Faith-Children  
Journey of Faith-Teens

### RCL Benziger

Our Catholic Heritage

## RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

### ADULT FORMATION

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**\*\*\*Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us—Pastoral Plan\*\*\***

<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/adult-faith-formation/our-hearts>

**Ascension Press**

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/adult-faith-formation>

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/popular-studies>

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/espanol>

**Augustine Institute**

<https://formed.org/>

<https://catholic.market/espai-ol/>

**Catechism Class**

<http://www.catechismclass.com>

**Catholics Come Home**

<https://www.catholicscomehome.org/>

<https://www.catholicscomehome.org/experience-love-acceptance/>

<https://www.catolicosregresen.org/>

**Thomistic Institute**

<https://thomisticinstitute.org/>

<https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/>

### ADULT FORMATION—**NOT RECOMMENDED**

**Alpha--Catholic Context**