

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth
Department of Catechesis
General Catechetical Guidelines

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 the truth of Christ might be transmitted through the ages (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #75-85). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* outlines this teaching 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 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).

CCD?

The letters CCD are an abbreviation for Confraternity of Christian Doctrine which, under the 1917 Code of Canon Law (*CIC* 711.2), 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. **If lacking a degree in Theology, a related discipline, or diocesan certification, one should be actively pursuing one.**

In collaboration with the Diocese of Fort Worth, parishes are to provide for the formation of catechists. **See: The St. Francis de Sales (SFDS) Catechist Formation Program and the St. Junipero Serra Institute (SJSI) 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/Parent Catechesis:** Catechesis should be *primarily* directed towards adults/parents. 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/Parent Catechesis Is Primary

The Church has asked for an emphasis on adult catechesis in our parishes (cf. GDC 171-176). Catechesis of adults/parents 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 youth live in. Adults must be witnesses to the faith. Sadly, many adults ceased their catechetical formation when they were adolescents. This is gravely insufficient to the purpose of leading the young to Christ. As such, catechesis “proves no less necessary for adults” (CT 43).

Considering the Church’s wisdom, ***every* parish is to begin or continue to establish adult/parent catechesis *as the primary focus***. This catechesis must **not** be limited to liturgy and homilies, but **a systematic effort** to grow in understanding the entire Deposit of Faith.

There should be regular classes/periods of instruction provided, study and discussion groups, prayer groups, and retreats for adults/parents. **Every adult/parent should naturally assume 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* [**the USCCB Pastoral Plan**]
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 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 12th grade.

1. **Program:** Every parish in the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth **must offer religious education for children 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 **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 uniform amounts 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.

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.

1. 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.

2. 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: 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 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 parishes desiring 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 the form of the family model executed at any parish in the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth would be 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.

3. 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 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 from God and are fulfilling their religious duty in a beautiful and heroic way. Through the love expressed 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, etc. While the teachings presented on these mediums may be orthodox, they cannot replace a relationship with a personal catechist.

Lectionary-Based Catechesis

Pastors and catechists are **discouraged** from the exclusive use of lectionary-based catechesis. Such materials can 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 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 of 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 (cf. *Canons 773, 777, 843.2*).

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: the **St. Francis De Sales (SFDS)** Catechist Formation Program which offers **monthly** classes on the basics of the faith as well as proper catechetical methodology and the **St. Junipero Serra Institute (SJSI)** which offers **weekly** classes building upon the basics to a more advanced curriculum.

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 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 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.

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 or his delegate (such as Pastoral Administrator or DRE) shall have the responsibility of ensuring 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 First Penance and 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.
2. Children may only be confirmed prior to the age of 15 in extraordinary circumstances after a careful catechetical assessment and with permission from the appropriate ecclesiastical authority.
3. 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.
4. Parishes should make available to homeschooling parents any resource which 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.
5. **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.
6. "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*).
7. **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 (*CIC* 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*.)

NOTE: There should be a minimum of eight (8) sacramental preparation sessions offered by the parish for First Penance and a minimum of eight (8) sacramental preparation sessions offered by the parish for First Holy Communion.

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 ensure 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 ensure the Catholic doctrine and practice presented 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 diocesan 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 which you would like to use in your programs should be submitted for review 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 as SUPPLEMENT
3. NOT RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED materials are most near our diocesan guidelines.

RECOMMENDED as SUPPLEMENT materials are those which do not in themselves offer a complete catechetical program but are nevertheless quite fruitful (and often necessary) to bring out the fully intended impact of RECOMMENDED materials. Depending upon a parish's situation (financial, etc.), a decision may need to be made wherein two or more SUPPLEMENT materials are chosen in lieu of a RECOMMENDED resource to exercise the catechetical mission accordingly. This is perfectly legitimate.

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 which you would like to use in your program should be submitted for review 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 indicating 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, RECOMMENDED as SUPPLEMENT, and NOT RECOMMENDED.

Should a local parish wish to consider textbooks which are not yet 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 primary 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 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. Consult the list of diocesan recommended texts.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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 publishers continuously revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is always being updated. **Materials not reviewed are not listed.** **Unlisted catechetical materials which 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)

Augustine Institute

Word of Life

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

Ignatius Press

Image of God

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

Grades: Pre-K & K

Word of Life (**Bilingual**—parish edition)

www.wordofliferies.org

Loyola Press

Christ Our Life, School/Parish

www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation

Grade: K

Finding God (**Bilingual**)

Grades: Pre-K & K

God Made Everything (**Bilingual**)

Grade: Pre-K

Our Sunday Visitor

Allelu! (**Bilingual**)

www.osv.com

Grades: Pre-K & K

Sadlier

Christ in Us (**Bilingual**)

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

Grade: K

Seton Publishing

Religion Pre-K

Religion K

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

Sophia Institute Press

Spirit of Truth

His Little Way

<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/spiritoftruth>

Grade: K

<https://discover.sophiainstitute.com/hislittleway/>

Grade: Pre-K

Pre-K/ K: RECOMMENDED as SUPPLEMENT (in alphabetical order by publisher)

Catechetical materials designated as RECOMMENDED as SUPPLEMENT may be used in the diocese for catechetical programs. RECOMMENDED materials (those listed on the previous page) are most near our diocesan curriculum. The following materials may be used to supplement.

Catholic Book Publishing
New Catholic Picture Bible

<https://catholicbookpublishing.com/products/new-catholic-picture-bible-illustrated>

TAN Books
My Catholic Children's Bible

<https://tanbooks.com/products/books/my-catholic-childrens-bible/>

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

First Grade through Sixth Grade

NOTE: Due to publishers continuously revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is always being updated. **Materials not reviewed are not listed.** **Unlisted catechetical materials which 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)

Augustine Institute

Word of Life

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

Ignatius Press

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

Faith and Life (Spanish Student Books)

Grades 1-6

Image of God

Grades 1-6

Word of Life (Bilingual—parish edition)

Grades 1-6

Loyola Press

Christ our Life

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

Finding God

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

Our Sunday Visitor

Alive in Christ (Bilingual)

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

Faith Fusion (Bilingual)

<https://osvcurriculum.com/faithfusion>

Sadlier

Christ in Us (Bilingual)

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

Grades 1-6

Seton Publishing

Religion 1-6

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

Grades 1-6

Sophia Institute Press

Spirit of Truth

<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/spiritoftruth>

Grades 1-6

TAN Books

Our Holy Faith Series

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

Grades 1-6

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

Catechetical materials designated as RECOMMENDED as SUPPLEMENT may be used in the diocese for catechetical programs. RECOMMENDED materials (those listed on the previous page) are most near our diocesan curriculum. The following materials may be used to supplement.

Ascension Press

GPS: God's Plan in Scripture <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/gps-gods-plan-in-scripture>
-Beginner (2nd Grade)
-Intermediate (3rd-5th)
-Advanced (6th Grade)

Apostolate for Family Consecration

Consecration in Truth Catechetical Series (**Bilingual**) <https://afc.org/afc-products>
Grades 1-6

Catholic Book Publishing

<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 (***Bilingual**) Grades 1-2
The New St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism (No. 1) Grades 3-5
The New St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism (No. 2) Grades 6-8

CBP: *Bilingual <https://www.comcenter.com/product/CATH-34004S/Baltimore-Catechism-El-Nuevo-San-Jose-Catecismo-de-Primera-Comunion-Spanish/>

St. Joseph Catechism for Young Catholics (No. 1) Grades 1-2
St. Joseph Catechism for Young Catholics (No. 2) Grades 3-5
St. Joseph Catechism for Young Catholics (No. 3) Grades 6-8

Ignatius Press

YouCat for Kids <https://www.comcenter.com/product/IGNP-642855/YOUCAT-YOUCAT-for-Kids-English/>
<https://www.comcenter.com/product/MEVD-734377/YOUCAT-YOUCAT-para-la-infancia-Spanish/>
Grades 3-7
(Ages 8-12)

Leaflet Missal Company

A Pictorial Catechism <https://www.leafletonline.com/a-pictorial-catechism>
The Bible in Pictures <https://www.leafletonline.com/the-bible-in-pictures-35610>
Picture Book of the Saints <https://www.leafletonline.com/picture-book-of-saints-by-fr-lovasik-01324>

TAN Books

Baltimore Catechism (No.1—grades 3-5) <https://tanbooks.com/products/books/baltimore-catechism-one/>
Child's Bible History <https://tanbooks.com/catholic-kids-books/?page=3>
My Catholic Children's Bible <https://tanbooks.com/products/books/my-catholic-childrens-bible/>
My First Communion Bible <https://tanbooks.com/products/books/my-first-communion-bible-burgundy/>
Pray Always <https://tanbooks.com/products/books/pray-always-a-catholic-childs-first-prayer-book/>

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade

NOTE: Due to publishers continuously revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is always being updated. *Materials not reviewed are not listed.* **Unlisted catechetical materials which 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)

Augustine Institute

Word of Life

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

Ignatius Press

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

Faith and Life (**Spanish Student Books**)
Image of God

Grades 7-8
Grades 7-8

Loyola Press

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

Christ Our Life, School/Parish
Finding God (**Bilingual**)

Grades 7-8
Grades 7-8

Our Sunday Visitor

Alive in Christ (**Bilingual**)
Faith Fusion (**Bilingual**)

<http://aliveinchrist.osv.com/>
<https://osvcurriculum.com/faithfusion>

Seton Publishing

Religion 7-8

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

Sophia Institute Press

Spirit of Truth

<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/spiritoftruth>

Grades 7-8

TAN Books

Our Holy Faith Series

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

Grades 7-8

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

Catechetical materials designated as RECOMMENDED as SUPPLEMENT may be used in the diocese for catechetical programs. RECOMMENDED materials (those listed on the previous page) are most near our diocesan curriculum. The following materials may be used to supplement.

Ascension Press

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

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

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

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

Tel: 1-973-890-2400

The New St Joseph Baltimore Catechism (No. 2)

Grades 6-8

St. Joseph Catechism for Young Catholics

Grades 6-8

Our Sunday Visitor

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

Prove It! Church © 2001 (Amy Wellborn)

Grades 7-8

Prove It! God © 2001 (Amy Wellborn)

Grades 7-8

Prove It! Jesus © 2001 (Amy Wellborn)

Grades 7-8

Prove It! Prayer © 2001 (Amy Wellborn)

Grades 7-8

Prove It! Here and Now © 2005 (Amy Wellborn)

Grades 7-8

U Got 2 Believe © 2001

Grades 7-8

Sadlier

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

One Faith, One Lord

Grades 7-8

Sophia Institute

Know Thyself: The Game of Temperaments

<https://sophiainstitute.com/product/know-thyself/>

St. Mary's Press

702 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987

800-533-8095

Live It! (Pre-Confirmation)

www.smp.org

Grades 7-8

TAN Books

Baltimore Catechism (No.2—grades 6-8)

<https://tanbooks.com/products/books/baltimore-catechism-two/>

Bible History

<https://tanbooks.com/products/books/bible-history-of-the-old-and-new-testaments/>

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

High School

NOTE: Due to publishers continuously revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is always being updated. ***Materials not reviewed are not listed.*** **Unlisted catechetical materials which 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.**

GRADES 9-12 RECOMMENDED (alphabetical by publisher)

Ascension Press

Chosen: This is Your Catholic Faith

<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/chosen-this-is-your-catholic-faith>

Augustine Institute

Why Believe

<https://www.augustineinstitute.org/program-and-resources/why-believe>

C.R. Publications

www.crpublishations.com

Catholicism Series:

Life

Ethics

Society

Reason

Scripture

Ignatius Press

Issues of Faith and Morals

<https://ignatius.com/issues-of-faith-and-morals-ifmp/>

Midwest Theological Forum

https://www.theologicalforum.org/What_Is_Didache_Series

Didache Series:

Complete Course

https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/106/The_Didache_Complete_Course_Series

Semester Edition

https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/110/The_Didache_Semester_Series

Parish Edition (**Bilingual**)

https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/111/The_Didache_Parish_Series

https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/103/Books_in_Spanish

Tan Books

Formed in Christ Series:

<https://tanbooks.com/tan-academy/shop-by-product-line/formed-in-christ/>

The Word of Truth: An Introduction to Sacred Scripture

Evidence of Things Unseen: An Introduction to Fundamental Theology

The Word Became Flesh: An Introduction to Christology

I Will Build My Church: An Introduction to Ecclesiology

Do This in Remembrance of Me: An Introduction to the Sacraments

Christ Alive in Us: An Introduction to Moral Theology

To Do Justice and Love Mercy: An Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching

I Have Called You: An Introduction to Vocations

GRADES 9-12: RECOMMENDED as SUPPLEMENT

Catechetical materials designated as RECOMMENDED as SUPPLEMENT may be used in the diocese for catechetical programs. RECOMMENDED materials (those listed on the previous page) are most near our diocesan curriculum. The following materials may be used to supplement.

Ascension Press

T3: The Teen Timeline (Grades 9-12) <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/t3-the-teen-timeline>
Venture: The Bible Timeline for High School
Connected: Catholic Social Teaching for this Generation
Altaration: The Mystery of the Mass Revealed

Apostolate for Family Consecration

The Apostolate's Family Catechism <https://afc.org/afc-products/> Grades 9-12

Catholic Book Publishing

St. Joseph Catechism for Young Catholics (No. 4) Grades 9-12

Fraternity Publications

My Catholic Faith <https://fraternitypublications.com/product/my-catholic-faith/>

Leaflet Missal

Outlines of the Catholic Faith <https://www.leafletonline.com/outlines-of-the-catholic-faith-02572>
Fundamentos De La Fe Católica <https://www.leafletonline.com/fundamentos-de-la-fe-catolica-02572s>

Seton Press

<https://setonbooks.com/religion/1246-baltimore-catechism-no-3-grade-9.html>
Baltimore Catechism (No. 3)—The New Revised Confraternity Edition Grades 9-12

Tan Books

<https://tanbooks.com/products/books/baltimore-catechism-three/>
Baltimore Catechism (No. 3) Grades 9-12

Recommended Textbooks and Catechetical Materials

Family Model

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

<https://www.sophiainstitute.com/products/item/saving-the-family>

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

A Family of Faith

Grades K-8

[***If used in accordance with diocesan guidelines***]

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

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

Augustine Institute www.formed.org

Catechism Class <https://www.catechismclass.com/>

Enroute books and media <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 <https://educationinvirtue.com/>

Disciples of Christ/ Education in Virtue

Education on Christian Living

My Catholic Faith Delivered www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com

Our Sunday Visitor <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

Education for Chastity & REMOTE Vocational Discernment

***While supplemental by nature, the following list of materials are RECOMMENDED and should be infused into the parish's overall curriculum.

Ignatius Press

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

www.ignatius.com

Grades 9-12
Grades 7-9

Leaflet Missal Company

Project Genesis

www.leafletmissal.org

Grades K-8

Sadlier

God's Own Making: Catholic Values of Human Sexuality

www.sadlier.com

Grades 4-8

Tan Books

Clean Love in Courtship

<https://tanbooks.com/products/books/clean-love-in-courtship/>

Grade 9-12

The Diocese of Fort Worth

Marriage and Family Life Office

Chastity: A Guide for Teens and Young Adults

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

NOTE: Due to publishers continuously revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is always being updated. ***Materials not reviewed are not listed.*** **Unlisted catechetical materials which 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

Tel: 1-800-360-1714

<https://ignatius.com/preparing-for-your-childs-baptism-9pa20p/>

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

3 ring binder for parish coordinators

Sadlier

We Believe and Celebrate: Baptism (**Bilingual**)

<https://www.sadlier.com/religion/sacrament-preparation/catholic-infant-baptism>

Our Sunday Visitor

Call to Celebrate: Baptism (**Bilingual**)

Catholic Parent Know-How

<https://osvcurriculum.com/baptism/index.html>

<https://www.orderosv.com/product/catholic-parent-know-how-baptism-revised>

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

FIRST P E N A N C E P R E P A R A T I O N

NOTE: Due to publishers continuously revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is always being updated. ***Materials not reviewed are not listed.*** **Unlisted catechetical materials which 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:

Ascension Press

Renewed: Your Journey to First Reconciliation (**Bilingual**)

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/renewed-and-received>

Augustine Institute

Signs of Grace: You are Forgiven (**Bilingual**)

<https://thesignsofgrace.org/spanish/>

Our Sunday Visitor

Encounter with Christ (**Bilingual**)

<https://sacraments.osv.com/reconciliation>

<https://sacramentos.osv.com/>

Sadlier

We believe and celebrate: First Penance (**Bilingual**)

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

Seton Publishing

Religion 2

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

Sophia Institute Press

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

(**Bilingual**)

<https://sophiateachers.org/spanish-sacramental-preparation/>

TAN Books

Our Holy Faith Series

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

2nd Grade

RECOMMENDED as SUPPLEMENT:

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 (**Bilingual**)

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

<https://www.comcenter.com/product/CATH-34004S/Baltimore-Catechism-El-Nuevo-San-Jose-Catecismo-de-Primera-Comunion-Spanish/>

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION

NOTE: Due to publishers continuously revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is always being updated. *Materials not reviewed are not listed.* **Unlisted catechetical materials which 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:

Ascension Press

Received: Your Journey to First Communion (**Bilingual**)

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/renewed-and-received>

Augustine Institute

Signs of Grace: You are Loved (**Bilingual**)

<https://thesignsofgrace.org/spanish/>

Loyola Press

God's Gift: Eucharist (**Bilingual**)

<https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/sacramental-preparation/gods-gift-2016/>

Midwest Theological Forum

Didache Series: First Holy Communion

https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/0/Product/592/The_Sacrament_of_First_Holy_Communion_Presenter_s_Guide

Our Sunday Visitor

Call to Celebrate: Eucharist (**Bilingual**)

Encounter with Christ

<https://www.osv.com/parish-diocese/curriculum-programs/sacrament-preparation/>

Seton Publishing

Religion 2

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

Sophia Institute Press

Spirit of Truth: Holy Communion

(**Bilingual**)

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

<https://sophiateachers.org/spanish-sacramental-preparation/>

TAN Books

Our Holy Faith Series

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

2nd Grade

RECOMMENDED as SUPPLEMENT:

Catholic Book Publishing

Receiving Holy Communion

The Holy Eucharist

The Mass for Children

My Picture Missal

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

New St. Joseph FHC Catechism

(**Bilingual**) <https://www.comcenter.com/product/CATH-34004S/Baltimore-Catechism-El-Nuevo-San-Jose-Catecismo-de-Primera-Comunion-Spanish/>

<https://www.comcenter.com/product/CATH-34004S/Baltimore-Catechism-El-Nuevo-San-Jose-Catecismo-de-Primera-Comunion-Spanish/>

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

NOTE: Due to publishers continuously revising or creating catechetical materials, this section is always being updated. ***Materials not reviewed are not listed.*** **Unlisted catechetical materials which 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:

Ascension Press

Chosen: Your Journey to Confirmation <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/chosen-your-journey-to-confirmation>

Diocese of Fort Worth

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

Confirmation Resource Packet

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

Life Teen

Purpose

<https://purposeconfirmation.com/>

Loyola Press

Confirmed in the Spirit (**Bilingual**)

<https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/sacramental-preparation/confirmed-in-the-spirit/>

<https://www.loyolapress.com/bilingue/confirmados-en-el-espiritu/>

Midwest Theological Form (MTF)

The Sacrament of Confirmation: A Complete Preparation Course (Bilingual)

https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/129/Product/569/The_Sacrament_of_Confirmation

https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/103/Books_in_Spanish

Seton Press

Focus on Confirmation

<https://setonbooks.com/religion/6-confirmation-preparation-for-young-catholics.html>

Study Guide

<https://setonbooks.com/religion/367-confirmation-preparation-study-guide.html>

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

O.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.**

*****MUST HAVE:**

CATHOLIC BIBLE & CATECHISM (such as YouCat for Kids)

THE OCIA TEXT (Study Edition)

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (St. Ed.) <https://ltp.org/products/details/POCIA/order-of-christian-initiation-of-adults>
OCIA (Spanish) <https://litpress.org/Products/SPSET/Order-of-Christian-Initiation-of-Adults--Study-Set>

*****STRONGLY RECOMMENDED:**

Association for Catechumenal Ministry

<https://acmrcia.org/>

Spanish Packet

RCIA Leader's Manual

RCIA Catechist's Manual

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/>

PERIOD of EVANGELIZATION:

Ascension Press

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 (2nd Grade)

-Intermediate (3rd-5th)

-Advanced (6th 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>

Venture

<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/venture-the-bible-timeline-for-high-school>

Our Sunday Visitor [for the OCIA Leader]

Forming Intentional Disciples

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

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

TAN Books

Child’s Bible History and (Junior High) Bible History

<https://tanbooks.com/products/books/childs-bible-history/>

<https://tanbooks.com/products/books/bible-history-a-textbook-of-the-old-and-new-testaments-for-catholic-schools/>

PERIOD of the CATECHUMENATE:

*****All approved materials for Grades 2-12 are approved for use in this period of OCIA*****

Catholic Book Publishing

Tel: 1-973-890-2400

77 West End Rd, Totowa, NJ 07512

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

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

The New St. Joseph First Communion Catechism

Grades 1-2

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

Grades 3-5

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

Grades 6-8

Ignatius Press

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

YOUCAT for Kids

(8-12 yrs.)

Leaflet Missal

Outlines of the Catholic Faith

<https://www.leafletonline.com/outlines-of-the-catholic-faith-02572>

Fundamentos De La Fe Catolica

<https://www.leafletonline.com/fundamentos-de-la-fe-catolica-02572s>

Loyola Press

Bridges to Faith (ages 8-11)

<https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/religion-readiness/bridges-to-faith/>

Called to be Catholic (ages 12-15)

Midwest Theological Forum

www.theologicalforum.org

[https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/103/Books in Spanish](https://www.theologicalforum.org/Category/103/Books%20in%20Spanish)

Didache Series:

Introduction to Catholicism

Grades 9-12

Faith and Revelation: Knowing God through Sacred Scripture

The Blessed Trinity

The Church

The History of the Church

Our Moral Life in Christ

Seton Press

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

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

Grades 9-12

Seton Publishing

Religion 2-8

<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

PERIOD of PURIFICATION:

Link to Liturgy

Sunday: Booklets/Lessons

<https://linktoliturgy.com/>

PERIOD of MYSTAGOGY:

Link to Liturgy

Sunday: Booklets/Lessons

<https://linktoliturgy.com/>

Our Sunday Visitor

Fruitful Discipleship

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

O.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

O.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 OCIA TEXT (Study Edition)

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (St. Ed.) <https://ltp.org/products/details/POCIA/order-of-christian-initiation-of-adults>
OCIA (Spanish) <https://litpress.org/Products/SPSET/Order-of-Christian-Initiation-of-Adults--Study-Set>

*****STRONGLY RECOMMENDED:**

Association for Catechumenal Ministry [This covers everything]

Spanish Packet
RCIA Leader's Manual
RCIA Catechist's Manual
RCIA Participant's Book
RCIA Godparent & Sponsor Handbook
RCIA Overview Chart
Book Tabs for the OCIA Text

<https://acmrcia.org/>
<https://acmrcia.org/es/>

PERIOD of EVANGELIZATION:

Ascension Press (Bilingual)

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

Our Sunday Visitor [for the OCIA Leader]

Forming Intentional Disciples <https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/author/sherry-a-weddell>
<https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/product/forming-intentional-disciples-know-and-follow-jesus-span>

PERIOD of the CATECHUMENATE:

Augustine Institute

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

Leaflet Missal

Outlines of the Catholic Faith <https://www.leafletonline.com/outlines-of-the-catholic-faith-02572>
Fundamentos De La Fe Catolica <https://www.leafletonline.com/fundamentos-de-la-fe-catolica-02572s>

Link to Liturgy

Sunday: Quick Connect [for “**Dismissal** of the Catechumens”]

<https://linktoliturgy.com/>

St. Benedict Press

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

St. Paul Center

Open Wide the Doors to Christ: Discovering Catholicism

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

TAN Books

Baltimore Catechism (No. 4) <https://tanbooks.com/tan-academy/spiritual-direction-books/baltimore-catechism-four/>
This is the Faith <https://tanbooks.com/products/books/this-is-the-faith-a-complete-explanation-of-the-catholic-faith/>

PERIOD of PURIFICATION:

Link to Liturgy

Sunday: Booklets/Lessons

<https://linktoliturgy.com/>

PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGY:

Link to Liturgy

Sunday: Booklets/Lessons

<https://linktoliturgy.com/>

Our Sunday Visitor

Fruitful Discipleship <https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/product/fruitful-discipleship-living-the-mission-of-jesus>

O.C.I.A. [Adults]—NOT RECOMMENDED

Liguori Publications

Journey of Faith-Adults

RCL Benziger

Foundations in Faith

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS AND CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

ADULT FORMATION and MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

*****USCCB PASTORAL PLAN and FRAMEWORK*****

Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us

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

Called to the Joy of Love

<https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/pastoral-framework-marriage-and-family-life-ministry>

Ascension Press

<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/the-bible-timeline-the-story-of-salvation>
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/bible-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.catolicosregesen.org/>
<https://www.catholicscomehome.org/experience-love-acceptance/>

Family Rosary

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

For Your Marriage

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

Sophia Institute

<https://sophiainstitute.com/product/the-catholic-family-handbook/>
<https://sophiainstitute.com/product/holiness-for-housewives/>
<https://sophiainstitute.com/product/gethermane/>

The Catholic Current

<https://thestationofthecross.com/programs/the-catholic-current/>
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-catholic-current/id1332020135>
<https://open.spotify.com/show/04EIXrqE2Cwvn5YML4HSOU>

The Hillbilly Thomists

<https://www.hillbillythomists.com/>

The National Catholic Bioethics Center

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

The Peyton Institute

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

The Thomistic Institute

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

ADULT FORMATION—NOT RECOMMENDED

Alpha--Catholic Context