

DIOCESE OF BAKER



Catechetical Guidelines and Norms

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SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism, Confession, Eucharist, and Confirmation

Offices of Evangelization and Catechesis and Youth Ministry

August 15, 2014 on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



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Fellow Teachers of the Faith,

Jesus sent his Apostles to teach all nations the saving truth that comes from God. Off they went to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Two thousand years later we who hand on the Faith in Eastern Oregon carry on the same mission Our Lord gave them.

Twenty centuries ago those teachings took the Mediterranean world by surprise; ancient Roman paganism could not resist the “Good News” that swiftly swept over it. But in 2014 we throw the net of the Gospel into far different seas. To the affluent, technologically sophisticated 21st century, the Gospel seems to be old news that needs no repeating. The hard-blowing winds of secularism and relativism make it hard for us to get a hearing. All too many Catholics shut their ears to Christ’s teachings and cease to walk the saving path of sacramental life.

That is why here in the Diocese of Baker we confidently take up our part in the worldwide task of the New Evangelization. We hope to equip those who desire to spread the Faith with varied and readily accessible resources to invite and deepen lifelong conversion to Jesus Christ in his Church.

All these recommendations and norms aim at achieving that turning point of salvation. May we implement them as the Lord shows us how, to the praise of his glory.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liam Cary".

Most Reverend Liam Cary
Bishop of Baker

ABBREVIATIONS

CCC	<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>
CIC	<i>Code of Canon Law</i>
CT	<i>On Catechesis in Our Time (Catechesi Tradendae)</i>
EA	<i>The Church in America (Ecclesia in America)</i>
EN	<i>On Evangelization in the Modern World (Evangelii Nuntiandi)</i>
FC	<i>On the Family (Familiaris Consortio)</i>
GDC	<i>General Directory for Catechesis</i>
GS	<i>Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)</i>
LG	<i>Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium)</i>
NDC	<i>National Directory for Catechesis</i>
PG	<i>Diocese of Baker Pastoral Guidelines, Sanctification and Sacramental Preparation</i>
SC	<i>Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium)</i>
SCC	<i>Sacramental Catechesis, Committee on Evangelization & Catechesis, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2012.</i>

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INTRODUCTION

This resource is provided to help pastors, and catechetical leaders who assist them, in the development of parish catechetical and sacramental preparation programs that are integral and doctrinally sound. This resource has in mind several goals and key principles:

- Promoting family-centered catechesis aimed at *life in Christ*
- Integrating *religious education* and *sacramental catechesis*
- Enhancing the parish community celebration of the *liturgy* and *sacramental life*
- Incorporating the *New Evangelization* appropriate for our time & culture
- Emphasizing our Catholic faith as a lifelong journey or *Continuum of Faith*

This resource serves to establish diocesan *norms* to ensure that the faithful are well prepared to fully participate in sacramental life. This resource is not a complete catechetical synthesis of the Catholic faith. This resource incorporates the following as norms for the Diocese of Baker:

1. *Faith and Life*, by Ignatius Press, is the standard religious education curriculum for all parishes and schools (grades 1 – 8).
2. Baptism is received primarily as an infant, or prior to the age of use of reason (age 7).
3. First Confession and first Eucharist are received by the end of 2nd grade.
4. Confirmation is received by the end of 6th grade.
5. Parents are the primary educators of their children and should actively promote their child's faith development.
6. A child's sacramental preparation is the primary responsibility of the parents with the support and cooperation of the pastor, parish catechetical staff, and the Catholic school personnel (where applicable).

This resource operates congruently with the “Diocese of Baker *Pastoral Guidelines, Sanctification and Sacramental Preparation*” and “Diocese of Baker *Sacramental Workshop Guidelines*.”

WHAT IS THE “SACRAMENTAL LIFE?”

This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church
(Ephesians 5:32).

The Church was made manifest to the world on the day of Pentecost by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In this age of the Church Christ now lives and acts in and with his Church in a new way appropriate to this new age. He acts through the sacraments in the “dispensation” of the fruits of Christ’s Paschal mystery in the celebration of the Church’s “sacramental” liturgy (cf. CCC, 1076; Acts 2; Eph 3:9-12).

The sacramental life is the new life of Christ: the divine blessing of the Father fully revealed; fulfilled in the Son through the Paschal mystery; made present by the Holy Spirit. The sacramental life is fully manifest in the whole liturgical life of the Church which revolves around the Eucharistic sacrifice and the seven sacraments instituted by Christ (cf. CCC, 1082, 1085, 1092, 1113, 1420; Eph 1:3-6).

“The Sacraments were instituted by Christ and are an encounter with Christ. They are actions of the Holy Spirit at work in his Body, the Church. Through this encounter, God’s sacramental grace – the grace of the Holy Spirit given by Christ and proper to each sacrament – is communicated to those properly disposed to receive it.”
(SCC, Intro., referencing CCC, 1114-16)

The Seven Sacraments are properly ordered according to three designations:

The **Sacraments of Initiation** – *Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist* – are intimately bound together and form a single initiation process by which a person enters into the *life of faith* (life in Christ) and fully realizes his/her *inheritance* (eternal life with God) and *mission* (evangelization) (cf. CCC, 1122; Mt 28:19; Acts 19:5-6).

The **Sacraments of Healing** – *Confession and Anointing of the Sick* – continues the ongoing works in the life of faith. “The Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies ... has willed that his Church continue his work of healing and salvation”
(CCC, 1421; cf. 2 Cor 5:17-20; Mk 6:12-13).

The **Sacraments of Service** – *holy orders and matrimony* – are directed towards the salvation of others by serving towards the particular mission in the Church to build up the People of God. (cf. CCC, 1534; Acts 14:22; Eph 5:22-32)

In sum, the sacramental life is the eternal life of God, an unmerited gift, made possible through the loving works of the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit. The fullness of this inheritance is present in the seven sacraments instituted by Christ as a visible sign of the reality of Christ’s work in the Church as the “universal sacrament of salvation” (CCC, 776).

CATECHETICAL GUIDELINES FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven....Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. (Mt 18:3, 5-6)

... the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity” (CT, 5).

Catechesis means to teach by word of mouth; the Greek root (*katekhein*) means to “resound” or “echo down.” In regards to religious education it is understood as *echoing the Word of God down through the generations*. The Word of God is Jesus Christ (Jn 1:1). The object of all catechesis is communion with Jesus Christ. “At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth” (CT, 5).

PARENTS ARE THE PRIMARY EDUCATORS OF THEIR CHILDREN

By virtue of their ministry of educating, parents are, through the witness of their lives, the first heralds of the Gospel for their children.

Furthermore, by praying with their children, by reading the word of God with them and by introducing them through Christian initiation into the Body of Christ - both the Eucharistic and the ecclesial Body - they become fully parents ... of bodily life [and] of the life that through the Spirit's renewal flows from the Cross and Resurrection of Christ (FC, 39).

The journey of faith, for most Catholics, begins as an infant; the role of the parent is integral. The Church consistently upholds the privileged role and responsibility of parents as the primary educators of their children.

It is important that catechetical programs respect the role, the responsibility, and the rights of parents to be involved in their child's sacramental preparations. To this end, parish and school programs should be sensitive, respectful, and supportive of the role of the parent. Accomplishing this goal often requires attention on the part of the parish, the school, and the catechist to achieve the necessary balance of education in the faith between the home and the parish (cf. CIC, 777; GDC, 226, 255).

SACRAMENTAL CATECHESIS INVOLVES THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

The preparation of children for reception of the sacraments presents a **great catechetical moment** not only for the child but also for parents, godparents, sponsors, and the entire parish community.

Today's Catholics face significant challenges in living an active sacramental life due to the influences of secularism, relativism, a faulty anthropology, and a weakened sacramental worldview. A vibrant and doctrinally sound sacramental catechesis is needed to address confusion about the sacraments and promote an active sacramental life (SCC, part 2, para. 2).

Some are inclined to view sacraments as mere ritualizations of significant moments in the life journey rather than encounters with the Risen Lord in which he offers the grace unique to each sacrament (SCC, part 1, para. 6).

Sacramental celebrations are neither private nor individual family celebrations. The preparatory catechesis for the reception of the sacraments should always be promoted as a public reality towards building up the entire Christian community. Substantial attempts should be made to involve both the family and the parish community in this catechesis.

At the heart of all sacramental celebrations, and the preparation that leads to them, is the awareness that God is acting in a powerful way in the life of the individual, the family, and the entire Christian community, through Christ's Paschal mystery (cf. GDC, 220).

Since the advent of Vatican II the Church speaks of the urgent need for a "new" evangelization. During his 1979 pastoral visit to Poland, St. John Paul II spoke with deep hope of "a new evangelization that has begun." This new evangelization would be "new in its ardor, method, and expression." Throughout his pontificate St. John Paul II encouraged renewed efforts in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all who seek the truth. The "new evangelization" seeks to share anew the basic Gospel message of salvation and faith in Jesus Christ to people of today.

Pope Benedict XVI made the new evangelization a central theme of his papacy, inviting all the faithful to take their part in an evangelization that re-proposes the basic Gospel message to the world. The *National Directory for Catechesis* (paragraph 17, A) provides a clear definition of the *New Evangelization*, why it is important in our times, and guidelines on how to incorporate into our parish catechetical endeavors.

What is the *New Evangelization*?

- It is the clear and unequivocal proclamation of the person of Jesus Christ;
 - ✓ his name, his teaching, his life, his promises,
 - ✓ and the Kingdom which he has gained for us through his Paschal mystery.
- It involves active participation of every Christian in proclamation and demonstration.

Who is the audience for the *New Evangelization*?

- It is directed to the Church herself:
 - ✓ to the baptized who were never effectively evangelized,
 - ✓ to those who have never made a personal commitment to Christ and the Gospel
 - ✓ to those formed by the values of the secularized culture,
 - ✓ to those who have lost a sense of faith,
 - ✓ and to those who are alienated.
- It is also directed to all human cultures so that they might be open to the Gospel and live in harmony with Christian values.

What is the goal of the *New Evangelization*?

- To bring about faith and conversion to Christ, which entails:
 - ✓ a profound change of mind and heart, and
 - ✓ a change of life, a “*metanoia*” (EN, 10).

Such a change [of faith and conversion] can only arise from deep within the interior of one’s being, where one faces the truly important questions about human life. Such a change, engendered by the action of the Holy Spirit, shows itself in the transformation of one’s life.

One begins to live “in Christ” and is able to confess with St. Paul,

“Yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me”

(NDC, #17, A; Gal 2:20).

How is the goal realized?

- It begins with a personal transformation through the development of a personal relationship with God, which entails:
 - ✓ participation in sacramental worship,
 - ✓ development of a mature ethical and social conscience,
 - ✓ ongoing catechesis,
 - ✓ and a deepening integration of faith into all areas of life.

In sum, the whole of Christian life is meant to be permeated and marked by the liturgy (*public* worship) and the sacraments (*visible signs* of Christ) as an “action of the whole Christ.” This means quite literally that we are meant to live each and every day in a public and visible way the totality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Truly, all of our catechetical efforts in religious education and sacramental preparation are meant to produce living icons of Christ to a world in desperate need of the hope, faith, and love found only in Christ, the “savior of the world” (CCC, 1136; 1 Jn 4:14).

THE NORM FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Catechesis is intrinsically linked with the whole of liturgical and sacramental activity
(CCC, 1074 quoting CT, 23).

Religious education and sacramental preparation are integral in their catechetical nature but distinct from each other as activities.

Religious education is an education in the faith which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of life in Christ. This education in the faith begins as a child and necessarily continues for a lifetime through the natural stages of human maturation (cf. CCC, 5; CT, 18).

Sacramental preparation aims to initiate people into the mystery of Christ and cannot be content with the mere teaching about the sacrament. The goal of sacramental preparation must be to invite and lead Christians into the living works of Christ, the liturgy of the Church.

As the work of Christ, liturgy is also an action of his Church. It makes the Church present and manifests her as the visible sign of the communion in Christ between God and men
(CCC, 1071).

*The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed;
it is the font from which all her power flows...* (CCC, 1074 quoting SC, 10).

In partnership with parents the pastor and catechetical leaders who assist them aids parents and children with suitable catechetical instruction in support of the lifelong journey of faith. The Diocese of Baker aptly names this journey “Continuum of Faith.”

CONTINUUM OF FAITH: A FAMILIAL PARTNERSHIP

The Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realization of ecclesial communion...; it can and should be called "the domestic Church" (FC, 21 quoting LG, 11).

The *Continuum of Faith* is a sacred partnership between the family ("the domestic Church") and the greater universal Church. The parents serve as the natural introduction for the children to the familial and liturgical nature of the whole Church both in the sense of preparing for it and of extending it into personal, family and social life (cf. FC, 21, 61).

The Church celebrates with all parents the "new birth in the Holy Spirit" when their children enter into the family of God through Baptism; when they experience the "greatness of God's love" in Confession; when they join in "an intimate union with Christ Jesus" in the Eucharist; and when they receive "a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit" in Confirmation (CCC, 1262, 1267, 1302, 1391, 1432).

The *Continuum of Faith* begins with baptism and continues for a lifetime. "Thus the little domestic Church, like the greater Church, needs to be constantly and intensely evangelized: hence its duty regarding permanent education in the faith." (FC, 51)

In partnership with the parents, the Church aids parents and children with suitable catechetical instruction to support the lifelong journey of faith. Regarding the reception of first Confession, first Communion and Confirmation the Diocese of Baker recommends the following catechetical plan as a norm.

Sacramental Catechesis Norms

In addition to the stated norms above, the following are recommended catechetical norms for the Diocese of Baker.

- The elapsed time between first Confession and first Communion should be no more than 2 - 4 months, both happening prior to beginning 3rd grade.
- For all sacramental preparation, the Church asks for a commitment to the *Continuum of Faith* from the parent(s) and child (refer to "Candidate Commitment: Confession & Eucharist" and "Candidate Commitment: Confirmation" below).

Continuum of Faith

1. Preschool and/or Kindergarten Religious Education: depending on the nature of the parish, an optional religious education may be provided for children prior to 1st grade.¹

¹ Refer to "Recommended Resources" for preschool/kindergarten curriculum recommendations.

2. First Grade Religious Education: *Faith and Life*, level 1
(minimum 36 hours of catechesis required for first Confession/first Communion).
3. Second Grade Religious Education: *Faith and Life*, Level 2
(minimum 36 hours of catechesis required for first Confession/first Communion).
In addition, preparation for first Confession and first Communion should comprise:
 - a. First Confession
 - i. Parents information meeting (facilitated by the DRE and Pastor)
 - ii. Six hours of parents/child workshops utilizing a resource other than *Faith and Life*.²
 - b. First Communion
 - i. Parents information meeting (facilitated by the DRE and Pastor)
 - ii. Six hours of parents/child workshops utilizing a resource other than *Faith and Life*.³
4. Third Grade Religious Education: *Faith and Life*, Level 3
(minimum 36 hours of catechesis).
5. Fourth Grade Religious Education: *Faith and Life*, Level 4
(minimum 36 hours of catechesis).
6. Fifth Grade Religious Education: *Faith and Life*, Level 5
(minimum 36 hours of catechesis required for Confirmation).
7. Sixth Grade Religious Education: *Faith and Life*, Level 6
(minimum 36 hours of catechesis required for Confirmation).
In addition, preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation should comprise:
 - a. Parents and youth information meeting at the beginning of the ministry year
(facilitated by the Pastor and DRE/Youth Minister)
 - b. Four youth workshops (six hours total) with sponsors (or designated adult if sponsor lives out of town), utilizing a resource other than *Faith and Life*.⁴
 - c. An all-day retreat, utilizing a resource other than *Faith and Life*.⁵
 - d. Meaningful participation in service of the parish and wider community.
8. Participation in Youth Ministry 6th through the 12th grade.

² Refer to “Diocese of Baker Sacramental Workshop Guidelines” at http://www.dioceseofbaker.org/re_sacramental_prep.htm.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: NEW BIRTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The sacrament of Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to *life in the Spirit*; the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as heirs of God; we become members of Christ's body, are incorporated into the Church, and made sharers in her mission (CCC, 1213).

Objective

Pastors ensure that a catechetical program of instruction for parents and godparents precedes the baptism of all children. The pastor, as the primary catechist of the parish, may choose to instruct the parents himself or designate a competent lay catechist.

The primary goal of the Baptism catechetical program is to ensure that parents and godparents are properly prepared to support and raise their child "in the practice of the faith" (Rite of Baptism).

Objectives for parent and godparent catechesis include:

- ✓ understanding and ability to explain the basic meaning and effects of the sacrament of Baptism;
- ✓ understanding and ability to explain why they are asking for Baptism;
- ✓ understanding and acceptance of their responsibility as the primary educators of the child's faith life;
- ✓ understanding and ability to explain the "practice of faith."

Catechetical Recommendations

1. Clearly communicate what parents and godparents are asking for and what they are committing to do.

Celebrant: "What do you ask of God's Church for your children?"

Parents and Godparents: "Baptism"

Celebrant: "You have asked to have your children baptized. **In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor.** Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

Parents: "We do"

2. The necessity of baptism in context to the Gospel Story.

- Proclaim the *Gospel Story* in brief (refer to “A: The Gospel Story in Brief”)
- Incorporate Scripture (Salvation History).
 - ✓ Prefiguration (CCC, 1217 – 1222)
 - ✓ Creation – Flood (Genesis 1, 2, 7)
 - ✓ Red Sea and River Jordan (Ex 14, Jos 3)
 - ✓ Fulfillment and Inheritance (CCC, 1223 – 1225)
 - ✓ Baptism of Christ opens the way to heaven (Matthew 3: 13-17)
 - ✓ Baptism exists for the Eucharist – through Christ’s Passion
- Effects of baptism (CCC, 1262 – 1274)
 - ✓ Forgiveness of sin
 - ✓ A new spirit (John 3: 3-5)
 - ✓ Incorporation into the Church
 - ✓ Adoption as sons and daughters of God
 - ✓ Indelible mark on the soul

3. The practice of the faith.

- The characteristics of faith (CCC 153 – 165)
 - ✓ Grace
 - ✓ Human act
 - ✓ Understanding
 - ✓ Freedom
 - ✓ Necessity
 - ✓ Perseverance
 - ✓ Beginning of eternal life
- The Corporal Works of Mercy (Matthew 25:34-40)
 - ✓ To feed the hungry
 - ✓ To give drink to the thirsty
 - ✓ To cloth the naked
 - ✓ To shelter the homeless
 - ✓ To visit the sick
 - ✓ To visit the imprisoned
 - ✓ To bury the dead (Tobit 1:16)
- The Spiritual Works of Mercy (CCC, 2447)
 - ✓ To instruct the ignorant
 - ✓ To counsel the doubtful
 - ✓ To admonish sinners
 - ✓ To bear wrongs patiently
 - ✓ To forgive offences willingly
 - ✓ To comfort the afflicted
 - ✓ To pray for the living and the dead

Note: though ideally applicable for all faithful, not everyone is obligated to perform the first three spiritual works of mercy if they do not have proper knowledge or canonical training to do so. The last four works are considered obligatory for all the faithful to practice unconditionally.

- Precepts of the Church (CCC 2041 – 2043)
 - ✓ Attendance at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and avoid activities that impede the sanctification of the day
 - ✓ Sacramental Confession at least once per year
 - ✓ Reception of Holy Communion at least once during Easter season
 - ✓ Observing the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church
 - Fast: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
 - Abstinence (from meat): Fridays of Lent
 - ✓ Provide for the material needs of the Church

4. Life in Christ (CCC, 1691 – 1696)

- Life in Christ is life of freedom and happiness
 - ✓ Freedom (CCC 1730 – 1742)
 - ✓ Happiness (CCC 1716 – 1724)
- The Beatitudes fulfill the natural desire for happiness
- The Ten Commandments (also known as the moral law) are written on hearts of all people
- The two Great Commandments: love of God and love of neighbor
- Forming the human conscience with the grace of God in the light of Christ
- The virtuous life is both human and divine
 - ✓ Human – Cardinal Virtues (CCC, 1803 – 1811)
 - ✓ Divine – Theological Virtues (CCC, 1812 – 1829)

Understanding the moral issues of our time and the Church’s teaching
(in the proper context of being made in the “image and likeness” of God)

- Respect for Life (CCC, 2270 – 2279)
 - ✓ Abortion
 - ✓ Euthanasia
- Chastity (CCC, 2337 – 2359)
 - ✓ Integrity of the person
 - ✓ All baptized are called to the freedom of chastity
 - ✓ Chastity and homosexuality
- Sanctity of Marriage (CCC, 1602-05, 2360-63)
 - ✓ Marriage in God’s plan
 - ✓ The sanctifying love of husband and wife

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION: GREATNESS OF GOD'S LOVE

The sacrament of Confession is a response to the continual call of conversion to Christ. It is a profound experience of the greatness of God's love.

This endeavor of conversion is not just a human work. It is the movement of a "contrite heart," drawn and moved by grace to respond to the merciful love of God who loved us first (CCC, 1428; Ps 51:17; cf. Jn 6:44, 12:32; 1 Jn 4:10).

Objective

Pastors ensure that a catechetical program of instruction for parents and children precedes the reception of first Confession. The pastor, as the primary catechist of the parish, may choose to instruct the parents himself or designate a competent lay catechist.

The primary goal of sacramental catechesis is to ensure that the parents and child are properly prepared to encounter the abounding grace of God's abiding love and mercy through Christ our Lord.

Objectives for parents and the child include:

- ✓ to understand and explain the basic meaning and effects of the sacrament of Confession;
- ✓ to understand and explain why they are asking for the sacrament of Confession.

Catechetical Requirements

Catechetical requirements of children preparing for first Confession include:

1. A full year of weekly religious education the year prior to preparing for the sacrament of Confession. Typical enrollment and attendance is September – May and is equal to a minimum 36 hours of formal catechesis (*Faith and Life*, Level 1).
2. Enrollment in and attendance at weekly religious education during the year of preparation for the sacrament (*Faith and Life*, Level 2, for a minimum of 30 hours).
3. Parent and child commitment to continue participation in ongoing religious education for subsequent years.
(Refer to "Candidate Commitment: Confession & Eucharist.")
4. Parent attendance at an informational meeting on the preparation for the sacrament of Confession.
5. Parent and child participation in six hours of sacramental preparation separate from the religious education core curriculum.
(Refer to "Diocese of Baker Sacramental Workshop Guidelines.")

Catechetical Recommendations

1. Ensure a basic understanding of the Gospel Story in the context of God's abounding grace, abiding love and mercy, through Christ our Lord.

- Proclaim the *Gospel Story* in brief (refer to "A: The Gospel Story in Brief").
 - ✓ Proclaim the *Gospel Story* in brief (refer to "A: The Gospel Story in Brief").
 - ✓ Encourage children to be able to recite portions of the Gospel Story in their own, but similar, words.
 - ✓ Encourage parents to do the same.
- Emphasis throughout on the pertinent and persistent themes of "relationship" and "freedom" in Christ throughout.

2. Demonstrate working knowledge of the *Rite of Penance.**

- ✓ Words and form
- ✓ Act of contrition

3. Demonstrate understanding of how to do an age appropriate *examination of conscience.**

4. A pastoral meeting between the pastor (or designated catechist) and the child prior to reception of the sacrament.

This meeting is not a formal Q&A; rather, it is a pastoral assessment of the overall readiness of the child. It also provides the child an opportunity to ask questions and/or to express any concerns.

This meeting may also serve to highlight areas where the child may require further instruction to better ready him/her self to receive the sacrament.

5. Adherence to the "Doctrinal Framework" of *Faith and Life*, Level 2.

Refer to "B: Doctrinal Framework: Confession & Eucharist."

* Rite of Penance and examination of conscience are available online at the Diocese of Baker website: http://www.dioceseofbaker.org/re_sacramental_prep.htm.

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST: INTIMATE UNION WITH CHRIST JESUS

For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth (Eph 1:9-10).

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life” (LG, 11). The other sacraments, indeed all ecclesiastical ministries, are bound up with the Eucharist and oriented toward it (Cf. CCC, 1324).

The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being. It is the culmination both of God’s action sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship men offer to Christ and through him to the Father in the Holy Spirit (CCC, 1325).

Objective

Pastors ensure that a catechetical program of instruction for parents and children precedes the reception of First Holy Communion. The pastor, as the primary catechist of the parish, may choose to instruct the parents himself or designate a competent lay catechist.

The primary goal of sacramental catechesis is to ensure that the parents and child are properly prepared for an intimate union with Christ fully present (Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity) in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Objectives for parents and the child include:

- ✓ To understand and explain the basic meaning and effects of the sacrament of the Eucharist;
- ✓ To understand and explain why they are asking for the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Catechetical Requirements

Catechetical requirements for children preparing for first Eucharist include:

1. Satisfaction of the first Confession catechetical requirements (above).
2. Parent attendance at an informational meeting on the preparation for the sacrament of the Eucharist.
3. Parent and child participation in six hours of sacramental preparation separate from the religious education core curriculum.

(Refer to “Diocese of Baker Sacramental Workshops Guidelines.”)

Catechetical Recommendations

1. 1. Ensure a basic understanding of the Gospel Story in the context of God's abounding grace, abiding love and mercy, through Christ our Lord.

- ✓ Proclaim the *Gospel Story* in brief (refer to "A: The Gospel Story in Brief").
- ✓ Encourage children to be able to recite portions of the Gospel Story in their own, but similar, words.
- ✓ Encourage parents to do the same.
- Emphasis throughout on the pertinent and persistent themes of "relationship" and "freedom" in Christ throughout.

2. Demonstrate working knowledge of the liturgy of Holy Mass*.

- ✓ Liturgy of the Word
- ✓ Liturgy of the Eucharist

3. Demonstrate understanding of how to receive Holy Communion*.

- ✓ Reverent bow of the head
- ✓ Proper reception on hand or tongue
- ✓ Saying "Amen" prior to receiving

4. A pastoral meeting between the pastor (or designated catechist) and the child prior to reception of the sacrament.

This meeting is not a formal Q&A; rather, it is a pastoral assessment of the overall readiness of the child. It also provides the child an opportunity to ask questions and/or to express any concerns.

This meeting may also serve to highlight areas where the child may require further instruction to better ready him/her self to receive the sacrament.

5. Adherence to the "Doctrinal Framework" of *Faith and Life*, Level 2.

Refer to "B: Doctrinal Framework: Confession & Eucharist."

* Liturgy of the Holy Mass and reception of Holy Communion resources are available online at the Diocese of Baker website:

http://www.dioceseofbaker.org/re_sacramental_prep.htm.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: SPECIAL OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Confirmation “is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace;” and confers a “special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost” (CCC, 1285, 1302).

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit
(Acts 8:14-17).

For “by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed”
(CCC, 1285; LG, 11).

Objective

Pastors ensure that a catechetical program of instruction for parents and children precedes the reception of Confirmation. The pastor, as the primary catechist of the parish, may choose to instruct the parents himself or designate a competent lay catechist.

The primary goal of sacramental catechesis is to ensure that the parents, sponsors, and child are properly prepared to live as true witnesses of Christ, always ready to defend the faith by word and deed.

Objectives for parents, sponsor, and the child include:

- ✓ to understand and explain the meaning and effects of the sacrament of Confirmation;
- ✓ to understand and explain why they are asking for the sacrament of Confirmation

Catechetical Requirements

Catechetical requirements for children preparing for Confirmation include:

1. A full year of weekly religious education the year prior to preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. Typical enrollment and attendance is September – May and is equal to a minimum 36 hours of formal catechesis (*Faith and Life*, Level 5).
2. Enrollment in and attendance at weekly religious education during the year of preparation for the sacrament (*Faith and Life*, Level 6, for a minimum of 30 hours)
3. Parent and child commitment to continue participation in ongoing religious education for subsequent years. (Refer to “Commitment: Confirmation.”)

4. Parent and child attendance at an informational meeting on the preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation.
5. Sponsor (or designated adult) and child participation in 6 hours of sacramental preparation separate from the religious education core curriculum. (Refer to “Diocese of Baker Sacramental Workshop Guidelines.”)
6. An all-day Confirmation retreat, utilizing a resource other than *Faith and Life*. (Refer to “Diocese of Baker Sacramental Workshop Guidelines.”)
7. Meaningful participation in service to the parish and the wider community.

Catechetical Recommendations

1. Ensure a working knowledge of the Gospel Story and its application in living our Catholic faith.

- Proclaim the *Gospel Story* in brief (refer to “A: The Gospel Story in Brief”).
 - ✓ Encourage children to be able to share the Gospel Story in their own words.
 - ✓ Encourage parents and sponsor to do the same.
- Emphasis throughout on the pertinent and persistent themes of “salvation,” “existence,” “relationship” and “freedom” in Christ.

2. Demonstrated working knowledge of the Holy Spirit.

- ✓ Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Holy Spirit in the Old & New Testament
- ✓ Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation

3. Demonstrate understanding of the obligation to spread and defend the faith by word and deed by virtue of the sacrament of Confirmation.

4. A pastoral meeting between the pastor (or designated catechists) and the candidate prior to reception of the sacrament,

This meeting is not a formal Q&A; rather, it is a pastoral assessment of the overall readiness of the candidate. It also provides the candidate an opportunity to ask questions and to express concerns.

This meeting may also serve to highlight areas where the child may require further instruction to better ready him/her self to receive the sacrament.

5. Adherence to the “Doctrinal Framework” of *Faith and Life*, Level 6.

Refer to “Doctrinal Framework: Confirmation.”

A: THE GOSPEL STORY IN BRIEF

For the benefit of the catechist, a longer more detailed explanation of the Gospel Story is available on the Diocese of Baker, Evangelization and Catechesis: Sacramental Preparation webpage: http://www.dioceseofbaker.org/re_sacramental_prep.htm.

Audience: Adult and older Youth (6th Grade and above)

Preface to the Gospel Story (Cf. CCC, 27)

- We believe that life has purpose – a meaning. We exist for a reason and we are meant for something for someone. When we discover this, we find true happiness
 - We believe that we are made by God, are meant to receive Him and have Him living in us, which happens, in the most direct way, in the Catholic Church through the sacramental life.
1. **God and Creation:** who is God and why does he create? (Genesis 1:26; CCC, 1, 233-34).
 - God is eternal; he is one God and yet a Trinity of Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - Out of his own sheer goodness, God, perfectly happy in Himself, created Man, male and female, in His own image and likeness, to reveal His glory and to freely share in His blessed life
 2. **Man:** God comes to meet man, in the beginning (Genesis 1:26; CCC 1, 311, 396).
 - Because God is love, personal love, He desires to share His love and life, which is why He created Man, male and female. His creative act shares, expresses, and reflects His love in creation.
 - Because God is love, He made man free, because it is only in freedom that real love can be returned and real relationship entered into – which is what God wants.
 3. **The Fall:** freedom abused (Genesis 3; CCC, 397).
 - Man, created free, was tempted by the Devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart and, abusing his freedom (God’s supreme gift) disobeyed God’s command and fell into sin.
 - As a result, Man lost the inner life of God. The result: loneliness, disorder, and physical death.
 4. **The Plan:** God foresaw what man would do and had a plan of rescue (Genesis 3:15; Ephesians 1:9-10; CCC 410).
 - Before creation came to be, God foresaw what man would do with his freedom, and allowed it as the cost of real freedom, real love.
 - God’s plan remained the same; His love is unchanged. Even before the Fall God had a plan, and throughout history is bringing about his goal: Man’s union with God, shared life with God, who is love (Genesis 3:15; Ephesians 1:9-10; CCC, 410).

5. **Jesus Christ:** God enters his creation to restore life (CCC 457; 1 John 4:10, 4:14, 3:5).
 - God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to restore us to life with God.
 - The Son became flesh for us in order to save us by reconciling us with the Father, who *loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins: the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.*
6. **The Church:** the means of restoring God's life in us (Rom 12:2; Eph 3:9-12; CCC, 751).
 - Coming to faith in Christ, we are called out of the world, and into God's family, to His kingdom.
 - The Church is the means by which we access God's life through the sacraments – it gives us the means to continue to be drawn into God's divine life. It helps us on our journey to share in God's blessed life forever.
7. **The Kingdom of God:** the New Creation now and to come (2 Cor 5:17; Rev 21:1).
 - The Church is the kingdom of God, living and growing on earth and in heaven, the beginning of the New Creation.
 - At the end of time this physical creation will be renewed and those who have chosen life with God in this short temporal life will live forever with God in happiness.

Audience: Children (2nd Grade)

Preface to the Gospel Story (CCC, 27)

- All people are God's children; God created you, he loves you, and he wants you to be happy.
- God loves all of his children and he wants all of us to know how much he loves us.
- The sacraments help us to know God and his love for us.

1. God and Creation: who is God and why does he create? (Genesis 1:26; CCC, 1, 233-34).

- God is eternal: there was never a time when God did not exist; God has always existed.
- God is the Father of us all and his Son has always been with him.
- The Holy Spirit has also always existed because the Holy Spirit is the love between The Father and the Son.
- God is one God, but three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God created everything on earth and in the entire universe for us so that we can know how great he is and how much he loves us.

2. Man: God comes to meet man, in the beginning (Genesis 1:26; CCC 1, 311, 396).

- God created Adam and Eve, who are the first parents of all people, and Adam and Eve lived with God in paradise where God shared everything with them
- God told Adam and Eve that everything was created for them and ask them to trust him and choose to live with him forever

3. The Fall: *freedom abused.* (Genesis 3; CCC, 397)

- Satan (the devil), who God created as an angel, became angry with God because he did not want to share God with humans.
- Satan decided to fight against God; God threw Satan out of heaven because of his disobedience.
- Satan, who cannot hurt God, decided to trick Adam and Eve to not love God telling them they could not trust God. This made God sad. But because God does not force anyone to do anything, He allowed Adam and Eve to disobey him.
- God respected their decision, and left Adam and Eve alone. This made Adam and Eve very sad as they realized they made a mistake, but they could not change the consequences of their mistake.
- The disobedience of Adam and Eve is called "original sin" because it was the first sin ever committed.
- Because we all are descendants of Adam and Eve we are all born with original sin, which separates us from God.

4. **The Plan:** God foresaw what man would do and had a plan to rescue us (Genesis 3:15; Ephesians 1:9-10; CCC 410).
 - God, who knows everything even before it happens, knew that Adam and Eve would disobey him.
 - Because God loves us, he had a plan that would help all the children of Adam and Eve (all humans) to be able to return to God.
5. **Jesus Christ:** *God enters his creation to restore life* (CCC 457; 1 John 4:10, 4:14, 3:5).
 - God sent His Son, to provide a way back to life with God.
 - The Son became a man, Jesus Christ, who shows us the way back to God.
 - Because of original sin, Adam and Eve died. But we are not meant to die forever; we are created to be with God forever.
 - As a sign of God's love for us, he freely offered his Son Jesus Christ to die for us and our sin.
 - Just as God asked Adam and Eve to believe and trust him, so God asks us to believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ.
 - Just as Adam and Eve had a choice, we also have a choice.
6. **The Church:** the means of restoring God's life in us (Romans 12:2; CCC 751).
 - Jesus Christ gave us the Church as a way to be with him while we are on earth.
 - The Church is the family of God on earth.
 - When we are baptized, we become official members of Jesus Christ's Church.
 - Baptism leads us to other sacraments where we receive additional grace and love from God.
 - As members of his Church, Jesus helps us to be what we are meant to be, God's children. The sacraments are God's gift for us to have a relationship with Jesus, to believe in Jesus, and to help others know God's love.
7. **The Kingdom of God:** the New Creation now and to come (2 Cor 5:17; Rev 21:1).
 - The Church on earth is part of the Church in heaven, which is God's kingdom. Jesus is the King of earth and heaven.
 - Someday – only God knows when – Jesus will return; and the earth and heaven will be one place. All things in creation will be new, and we will all live with God forever as God has always desired - as in the Garden of Eden, only better!

B: DOCTRINAL FRAMEWORK: CONFESSION & EUCHARIST

These guidelines are for the pastor, catechetical leaders, and catechists; they are not meant for use as a “Q&A” with the candidates. For an aide on the pastoral assessment of candidates’ readiness for reception of First Confession and First Eucharist, please refer to “Candidate Assessment: Confession and Eucharist.”

The purpose of these doctrinal guidelines is to help ensure a consistent level of doctrinal catechesis across the Diocese of Baker that is in alignment with the recently published “Sacramental Catechesis” by the USCCB *Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis*. In this work, eight principles for doctrinally sound catechesis are identified:

1. The Church: mission and tradition.
2. Sacred Scripture: salvation history.
3. The centrality of the Person Jesus Christ.
4. The Paschal Mystery.
5. The Liturgical and Sacramental Life.
6. The Moral Life.
7. Discipleship.
8. Life of Prayer.

These guidelines provide a summary of the scope of catechesis for the *Continuum of Faith* (normal weekly religious education) during the year(s) that a candidate is preparing for the reception of a sacrament(s). These guidelines serve to provide the foundational catechesis working congruently with the parent/child sacramental preparation workshops.

These guidelines are taken from the *Faith and Life Level 2* curriculum and are ordered in alignment to the four pillars of the Catholic faith according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: What we Believe, What we Celebrate, Life in Christ, and Christian Prayer.

DOCTRINAL FRAMEWORK: CONFESSION AND EUCHARIST

PILLAR I: WHAT WE BELIEVE

CREED | SALVATION HISTORY

F&L Chapter	Topics	Proclamations
(1-5)	<p>GOD THE FATHER BLESSED TRINITY CREATION HEAVEN ANGELS IMAGE & LIKENESS OF GOD SOULS ADAM AND EVE THE FALL ORIGINAL SIN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is one God who has always existed ➤ The Blessed Trinity is a relationship of perfect love between the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit ➤ God created everything from nothing ➤ God created the angels in heaven before he created Adam and Eve ➤ Some of the angels, led by Lucifer (Satan), rebelled against God and were cast of heaven ➤ God created us so that we could be one with him in heaven ➤ God gave us a human soul so that we could love as he loves ➤ Adam and Eve are the parents to all people ➤ Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were no longer able to be with God – this is “original sin” ➤ God promised Adam and Eve that he would send a Savior so that we can all return to God in heaven
(7-8)	<p>NOAH - FLOOD ABRAHAM, DAVID, AND MOSES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ While waiting for the Savior many people sinned, but God was faithful to his promise and through Noah, Abraham, and David he prepared the world for a Savior ➤ God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to show his people how to love him, each other, and how to be happy
(11)	<p>JESUS’ BIRTH AND YOUTH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, is born to give us hope and bring us good news ➤ He was born in poverty, worshipped as a king, and was entrusted to the care and protection of Mary and Joseph
(12)	<p>THE HOLY FAMILY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Holy Family is a model for all Christian families
(13)	<p>GOOD NEWS PARABLES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus’ public ministry began at his Baptism ➤ Through parables (stories) Jesus teaches us that we can experience some of the Kingdom of God here on earth – the Kingdom is fully experienced in heaven

(16)	MIRACLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus shows he is God through his miracles ➤ Jesus strengthened faith and hope through his miracles
(21)	JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus loves and cares for us like a shepherd cares for his flock ➤ Jesus gave up his life for us in the Crucifixion so that we can go to heaven
(23)	CRUCIFIXION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus died for our sins so that we can enjoy eternal life with God in heaven
(24)	RESURRECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life ➤ His Resurrection enables us to live forever with him in heaven
(29)	ASCENSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus ascended to the Father to send the Holy Spirit who would teach us all truth and help us do the Father's will
(30)	THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Holy Trinity and he comes to us to teach, guide, and protect us
(31)	THE CHURCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Church is Christ's Body. ➤ Just as a body is made up of many parts, so the Church consists of many members: the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and the laity
(32)	THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus gave Mary to us to be our mother, and she always leads us to her Son
(34)	HEAVEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are called to keep our eyes on Christ and to love as he loves so that we can be in heaven with him forever

DOCTRINAL FRAMEWORK: CONFESSION AND EUCHARIST

PILLAR II: WHAT WE CELEBRATE

LITURGY | SACRAMENTAL LIFE

F&L Chapter	Topic	Proclamations
(6)	BAPTISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Baptism washes away original sin and makes us children of God and members of his family, the Church ➤ As baptized Christians we must strive to keep our souls free from sin
(17-20)	<p>SIN</p> <p>ASKING FORGIVENESS</p> <p>SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION</p> <p>OUR OFFENSES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sin is turning away from (disobeying) God ➤ If we sin, we should be sorry and sincerely turn back to God because his mercy (love & forgiveness) is endless ➤ In the Sacrament of Confession the priest acts in the person of Christ (<i>persona Christi</i>) ➤ We should prepare ourselves to talk to Jesus and listen to him in love and faith ➤ Jesus forgives and heals us in the Sacrament of Confession ➤ Because of his mercy we will not want to sin again and we will want to make up for our offenses (Penance)
(22, 25)	<p>THE LAST SUPPER</p> <p>THE HOLY MASS</p> <p>PARTS OF THE MASS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus celebrated the Passover at the Last Supper ➤ The Last Supper is when Jesus established the Eucharist ➤ Jesus gave himself to the apostles at the Last Supper and gives himself to us at every Holy Mass ➤ We join the angels and saints in heaven when we go to Holy Mass ➤ We praise and worship God for who he is and in thanksgiving for all he has done for us (Sacrifice) ➤ There are two main parts of the Mass: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist - Jesus is present to us in both parts
(27)	HOLY COMMUNION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By the power of the Holy Spirit and through the actions and words of the priest, the bread and wine become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ during the prayer of Consecration by the priest
(28)	PREPARING TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Because the Eucharist is Jesus, we must prepare ourselves to receive him in the Eucharist
(33)	JESUS IS ALWAYS PRESENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus is with us and will remain with us always ➤ Jesus is present to us through the gift of his Church, especially in the Holy Eucharist

DOCTRINAL FRAMEWORK: CONFESSION AND EUCHARIST

PILLAR III: WHAT WE LIVE

LIFE IN CHRIST | BEATITUDE & COMMANDMENTS | VIRTUES | MORALITY | SOCIAL DOCTRINE

F&L Chapter	Topic	Proclamations
(8)	MOSES AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to show us how to love God, love other people, and how we can be happy ➤ We respond in love through prayer and living a life of virtue as taught by the Ten Commandments
(9)	LOVING GOD AND NEIGHBOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Greatest Commandment is the commandment of love—to love God and our neighbor
(10)	PREPARATION FOR JESUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God kept his promise to send a Savior ➤ After preparing his people, he sent his own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ – Jesus Christ gave us the Church and the Sacraments so that we can know, love, and serve him ➤ Jesus gives us hope for eternal life
(14)	THE GOOD SAMARITAN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus taught us that when we love our neighbor, we love God ➤ Jesus taught us ways that we can care for the physical needs of others ➤ These ways are the corporal works of mercy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To feed the hungry ▪ To give drink to the thirsty ▪ To cloth the naked ▪ To shelter the homeless ▪ To visit the sick ▪ To visit the imprisoned ▪ To bury the dead

DOCTRINAL FRAMEWORK: CONFESSION AND EUCHARIST

PILLAR IV: WHAT WE PRAY

WHAT AND WHY WE PRAY

F&L Chapter	Topic	Proclamations
(15)	ON PRAYER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus taught us to pray the <i>Our Father</i> ➤ Anytime we talk to God we are praying ➤ We can pray always and everywhere ➤ God hears and answers all prayers
(4)	GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER	<i>Angel of God, my guardian dear To whom God's love commits me her...</i>
(5)	ST. MICHAEL PRAYER	<i>Saint Michael the Archangel, Defend us in the day of battle...</i>
(6)	HAIL MARY	<i>Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with thee...</i>
(9)	ACT OF CONTRITION	<i>O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You. I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments...</i>
(16)	APOSTLES CREED	<i>I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth...</i>
(21)	ROSARY	<i>Apostles Creed, Our Father, Hail Marys, Glory be ... Hail Holy Queen</i>

C: DOCTRINAL FRAMEWORK: CONFIRMATION

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These guidelines provide a summary of the scope of catechesis for the *Continuum of Faith* (normal weekly religious education) during the year(s) that a candidate is preparing for the reception of a sacrament(s). These guidelines serve to provide the foundational catechesis working congruently with the parent/child and sponsor/child sacramental preparation workshops and confirmation retreat.

These guidelines are taken from the *Faith and Life Level 5 and 6* curriculums and are ordered in alignment to the four pillars of the Catholic faith according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: What we Believe, What we Celebrate, Life in Christ, and Christian Prayer.

DOCTRINAL FRAMEWORK: CONFIRMATION

PILLAR I: WHAT WE BELIEVE

CREED | SALVATION HISTORY

F&L Chapter	Topic	Proclamations
L-5 (1)	FAITH AND CREED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God gives us the grace to believe the truth he reveals to us, especially in the revelation of his Son, Jesus Christ ➤ The Creed is a summary of the 12 doctrines revealed to us by Jesus Christ through his apostles
L-5 (2-6)	<p>CREATOR</p> <p>THE TRINITY</p> <p>ANGELS</p> <p>IMAGE OF GOD</p> <p>THE FALL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God is eternal and is one Nature in three divine Persons ➤ The one God created everything out of nothing ➤ The beauty and design of creation bears witness to God ➤ Our perfect happiness is total union with God in heaven ➤ Angels are pure spirits, intelligent, and God’s messengers ➤ The angels were tested and some, led by Lucifer (Satan), rebelled against God and are called demons ➤ God gives everyone a guardian angel to protect us and guide us toward God ➤ Out of love, God created man in his image and likeness ➤ Our intellect and will enables us to love and serve God and to share in his life ➤ Through the sin of Adam and Eve all men lost the gift of grace (life with God), but God promised to send a Savior
L-5 (7-8)	<p>ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB & ESAU, JOSEPH</p> <p>MOSES & EXODUS</p> <p>TEN COMMANDMENTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Abraham was tested by God and becomes the “father of faith” because of his willingness to listen, believe, and obey God – we are called by Jesus to do the same ➤ Through Moses, God freed his Chosen People from slavery and false gods in Egypt so that they might worship God ➤ God formed a covenant with his people and gave them the Ten Commandments (Natural Law) ➤ The “Old” Testament prefigures the “New” Testament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moses ~ Jesus ▪ Exodus ~ journey from sin (death) to eternal life ▪ Passover ~ Eucharist ▪ Old Covenant ~ New Covenant ▪ Ten Commandments ~ Beatitudes
	KINGS (DAVID & SAMUEL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God continued to form and care for his people through the kings who were to lead them as a nation to worship the

<p>L-5 (9-11)</p>	<p>PROPHETS (ISAIAH & JERIMIAH)</p> <p>JOHN THE BAPTIST</p>	<p>one true God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God sent the prophets to speak God’s word to the people, to call them to repentance, and give them hope by announcing God’s plan of salvation ➤ Elizabeth and Zechariah were blessed in their old age with a child, the last of the prophets; John the Baptist would prepare the Israelites for Jesus!
<p>L-5 (11-22)</p> <p>L-6 (21)</p>	<p>BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</p> <p>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</p> <p>INCARNATION TRUE GOD TRUE MAN</p> <p>HOLY FAMILY</p> <p>BAPTISM OF JESUS</p> <p>12 APOSTLES</p> <p>PARABLES & MIRACLES</p> <p>TRANSFIGURATION</p> <p>ACCEPTING AND FOLLOWING JESUS</p> <p>THE FATHER’S WILL</p> <p>FORGIVENESS</p> <p>CRUCIFIXION</p> <p>RESURRECTION</p> <p>GREAT COMMISSION</p> <p>ASCENSION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mary was conceived without original sin; her soul was filled with grace as a special gift from God from the moment of her conception (Immaculate Conception) ➤ God, the Son, became man and was born of the Virgin Mary (Incarnation) ➤ Jesus is fully God (divine) and fully man (human) so that we might share in his glory ➤ The Holy Family is the model for all families – Joseph and Mary loved, and were obedient to, God; the child Jesus loved, and was obedient, to Joseph and Mary ➤ The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus when he was baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist; God the Father revealed that Jesus was his beloved Son ➤ During his public ministry, Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God fulfilling the will of his Father as the Messiah ➤ Only God can forgive sins; Jesus forgives sins because he is God; the many miracles of Jesus shows that he is God ➤ If we reject Christ and do not follow him, it destroys the life of grace (life of God) in us ➤ Jesus willingly died on the cross for all mankind – his Sacrifice opened the gates of heaven and redeemed all people; we have to choose to accept Jesus Christ into our lives by faith to receive God’s gift ➤ We participate in Jesus’ Sacrifice, offered once and for all, when we participate in Holy Mass ➤ After the Resurrection Jesus gave his authority to his apostles commanding them to continue his work through the power of the Holy Spirit ➤ Jesus ascended into heaven but is truly present to us in the sacraments of his Church ➤ The apostles passed on the authority of Jesus to bishops who, with the assistance of ordained priests, administer the sacraments and continue to lead Jesus’ Church today!

<p>L-5 (23-27, 29-30)</p>	<p>HOLY SPIRIT PENTECOST</p> <p>CHURCH IS BODY OF CHRIST</p> <p>COMMUNION OF SAINTS</p> <p>CATHOLIC CHURCH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God the Holy Spirit is the love between the Father and the Son, and the gift of the Father and the Son to the Church on Pentecost; we receive him and his gifts in Baptism and Confirmation ➤ The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ. Jesus is the head and the Holy Spirit is the soul; we are baptized into Christ's body as his members ➤ Saints are those who are united with God forever in heaven; we are in communion with all of the saints as members of the Body of Christ ➤ We are called to become saints on earth ➤ The Catholic Church was founded by Jesus Christ to save souls and to teach all people the truth of God's plan of salvation
<p>L-6 (4, 10, 21, 29, 30, 31)</p>	<p>CHURCH HIERARCHY</p> <p>CHURCH MAGISTERIUM</p> <p>BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MOTHER OF CHURCH</p> <p>CHURCH MISSION EVANGELIZATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The apostles and their successors (bishops) were given the authority to govern the Church, which they do to this day; priests assist the bishops ➤ The Pope is the visible head of the entire Catholic (universal) Church ➤ The Holy Spirit protects the Church from error, guides her to truth, and inspires the members of the Church to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to all ➤ The Magisterium (the Pope and the bishops in union with him) is the teaching office of the Church, which interprets and safeguards the Word of God in Scripture and Tradition
	<p>DEATH LAST FOUR THINGS PARTICULAR JUDGMENT</p> <p>CHRIST'S SECOND COMING GENERAL JUDGMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Catholics must believe the teachings of the Pope and the bishops in union with him on faith and morals ➤ Mary, by the fact that she is the mother of God, is our mother and model; she always leads us to her Son ➤ Each of us will die and will be immediately judged by our Lord resulting in our soul being in one of three places: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Heaven (in the direct presence of God) ▪ Purgatory (which leads to heaven) ▪ Hell (forever separated from God's presence) ➤ Jesus has given us hope for eternal life in heaven ➤ At the end of time (Christ's Second Coming), everyone's body will be resurrected and reunited with their soul to either eternal happiness with God or eternal sadness without God

DOCTRINAL FRAMEWORK: CONFIRMATION

PILLAR II: WHAT WE CELEBRATE

LITURGY | SACRAMENTAL LIFE

F&L Chapter	Topic	Proclamation
L-5 (28)	<p>GRACE AND THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS</p> <p>THE LAST SUPPER</p> <p>THE LIVING SACRIFICE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Church has the mission to sanctify her members through the seven sacraments ➤ Jesus gave the Church the seven sacraments as a sure way to receive his grace ➤ The sacraments are outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace (the life of God in us) ➤ Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper, which was a celebration of the Jewish Passover meal ➤ Jesus saved mankind with his Sacrifice and merited grace for us through the Paschal Mystery (Passion, Resurrection from the dead, and glorious Ascension) ➤ His Sacrifice, accomplished once and for all, is made present (re-presented) at every Holy Mass ➤ The first part of Mass is the Introductory Rites which prepare us for the Liturgy of the Word
L-6 (17-20, 22-28)	<p>THE MASS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - INTRODUCTORY RITES - LITURGY OF THE WORD - EUCHARIST - COMMUNION RITE - HOLY COMMUNION - FEAST OF GOD - RECEIVING JESUS - TRUE PRESENCE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ During the Liturgy of the Word, we listen to God’s Word, the priest’s homily, and respond in faith with prayers and thanksgiving ➤ The Liturgy of the Eucharist is when the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ become truly present; with the priest we offer praise and thanksgiving with humble and contrite hearts, and we ask for God’s blessing and our own purification ➤ In Holy Communion we receive the life of Jesus and offer ourselves, in union with Christ, to the Father ➤ We should always be ready to receive this great gift from God worthily because the Eucharist is Christ truly and wholly present ➤ Jesus abides with us in the Blessed Sacrament, which is reserved in the tabernacles of our churches ➤ The Church encourages Eucharistic devotions including adoration and benediction

DOCTRINAL FRAMEWORK: CONFIRMATION

PILLAR III: WHAT WE LIVE

LIFE IN CHRIST | BEATITUDE & COMMANDMENTS | VIRTUES | MORALITY | SOCIAL DOCTRINE

F&L Chapter	Topic	Proclamation
L-6 (1-2, 5-6, 8, 9, 11, 13-16)	<p style="text-align: center;">GOD’S LAW AND CONSCIENCE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AUTHORITY AND OBEDIENCE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE TEN COMMANDMENTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God established divine and natural laws to govern his creation; following these laws will make us truly happy ➤ God gave us a conscience, to determine whether something is good or evil; however, for our conscience to work rightly, we need to be informed (knowledgeable on matters of faith and morals) ➤ Through natural law and the teachings of the Church God has provided the means for us to know him and to form our consciences rightly ➤ The state has authority to make just laws for its citizens, who have an obligation to obey these laws; as members of God’s family we also have an obligation to actively participate in helping to ensure that state laws uphold God’s natural law and also help the poor and the weak ➤ 1st Commandment: teaches that there is one true God, who alone is to be worshipped ➤ 2nd Commandment: forbids disrespect to and lack of reverence for God’s name or for anything holy ➤ 3rd Commandment: requires we attend Church every week by setting aside the Lord’s Day for worship & rest ➤ 4th Commandment: teaches that we have obligations to our parents and families ➤ 5th Commandment: forbids taking innocent life or causing harm to another – this includes abortion ➤ 6th and 9th Commandment: All men are made in the image and likeness of God; all men are loved by God; reproductive powers are a blessing from God that are meant to be fruitful according to God’s design – this includes chastity (living a pure life as single and married) ➤ 7th and 10th Commandment: God gave man material goods to use, enjoy, appreciate, and share freely with one another in justice and charity ➤ 8th Commandment: requires that we speak the truth; keep our promises; not to speak in ways that harms others

<p>L-6 (7,12, 16)</p>	<p>SELF-DENIAL</p> <p>CHARITY FORGIVENESS SCANDAL</p> <p>BEATITUDES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Self-denial means sacrificing our own will, or something we desire, for the sake of the Kingdom of God ➤ The Cross is the greatest act of self-giving love ➤ By uniting ourselves to Christ's Sacrifice we live in God's will, come to a deeper self-knowledge, and find true joy ➤ We must forgive others as Jesus did and offer our sufferings in union with Christ for the salvation of souls ➤ Scandal is conscious and deliberate encouragement of others to sin ➤ True happiness is to be found by living out the Beatitudes in close union with Jesus ➤ The Beatitudes tell us of the eternal blessings that come from following Jesus ➤ To live as Jesus exhorts us in the Beatitudes we must follow the Ten Commandments, receive sacramental grace, and pray ➤ Living out the Beatitudes requires dependence on God and acts of self-giving love
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DOCTRINAL FRAMEWORK: CONFIRMATION

PILLAR IV: WHAT WE PRAY

WHAT AND WHY WE PRAY

F&L Chapter	Topic	Proclamation
L-5 (8, 15-17)	<p>ON PRAYER</p> <p>PRAYER FOR UNITY OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS</p> <p>ANIMA CHRISTI AND ANGELUS</p> <p>HAIL, HOLY QUEEN</p> <p>PRAYER FOR LIFE</p> <p>PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS</p> <p>ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE</p> <p>PRAY</p>	<p>➤ Prayer is a conversation, the lifting of the heart and mind to God</p> <p>➤ Praying and leading a good spiritual life are key factors in truly loving God</p> <p>➤ God hears all of our prayers and answers them in his wisdom and love for us</p> <p><i>Soul of Christ, make me holy. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, fill me with love...</i></p> <p><i>The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit...</i></p> <p><i>Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope...</i></p> <p><i>O God, our Creator, all life is in your hands from conception until death. Help us to cherish our children and to reverence the awesome privilege of our share in creation...</i></p> <p><i>Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love...</i></p>
L-6 (3, 6, 8, 10-15, 17, 22)	<p>THE BEATITUDES</p> <p>PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES</p> <p>PRAYER OF ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA</p> <p>THE CONFITEOR</p> <p>LITANY OF LORETO</p>	<p><i>I arise today</i></p> <p><i>Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity...</i></p> <p><i>Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life; rather look to them with full hope as they arise...</i></p> <p><i>I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned...</i></p> <p><i>God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.</i></p> <p><i>God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.</i></p> <p><i>God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.</i></p> <p><i>Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us...</i></p>

CANDIDATE COMMITMENT: CONFESSION & EUCHARIST

*Jesus said, "Let the children come to me ...
for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."
And he laid his hands on them. — Matthew 19:14*

As a baptized Catholic, I am preparing for reception of the sacraments of First Confession and First Eucharist by which I will be able to fully participate in Holy Mass. By receiving these holy sacraments, I will be able to experience God's love for me and be in a more perfect relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church.

As a candidate for the sacraments of Confession and Eucharist, I promise the following:

- ✓ To learn as much as I can about who God is, his love for me, and how I can grow in my relationship with Jesus and participate more fully in Holy Mass
- ✓ I will attend and will fully participate in all sacramental preparation and religious education sessions and activities
- ✓ I will be respectful of the leaders and facilitators of the program and show appreciation for their time and effort
- ✓ I will show respect to those in my class who are on the journey with me
- ✓ I will attend Mass every Sunday and on all holy days of obligation
- ✓ I will receive the sacrament of Confession before receiving Eucharist
- ✓ I will accept more responsibility in my family and parish by helping others
- ✓ I will commit to daily prayer, praying especially for growth in faith, hope, and love

As I make these promises, I ask God to give me the grace to be open to his plans for my life—plans he reveals to me in prayer, in my talents, and in the encouragement of those who know and love me.

I place myself in the loving embrace of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in asking for help in fulfilling this commitment.

Name of Candidate (Print)

Signature of Candidate

Date

Witnessed
by: _____

Signature(s) of Candidate's Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s)

CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT: CONFESSION & EUCHARIST

Name of Candidate (Print)

Date

Name of
assessor:

Pastoral Assessment Questions and Comments (page-1)

1. What have you learned about God and his Church during these months of preparation for the sacrament of Confession/Eucharist?
2. Has your relationship with God changed? In what ways?
3. If you were to meet someone who had never heard of Jesus, who would you say he is?
4. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?
5. What are some things you like about being Catholic?
6. What is prayer? How do you pray?
7. What is the Bible? How do you use the Bible in your life?
8. What is sin? What are some things you can do to avoid it?

Name of Candidate (Print)

Date

Name of
assessor:

Pastoral Assessment Questions and Comments (page-2)

9. Can you name the sacraments? How do the sacraments help you live out your faith?

10. What is Confession? Why do you want to receive this sacrament?

11. What is the Eucharist? Has your understanding of and participation in the Mass changed in any way?

12. What are some things you can do to continue to grow in your faith?

13. If someone asked you how to get to heaven, what would you say?

14. Do you have any questions before receiving Confession / Eucharist?

Pastoral Assessment Overall Comments

CANDIDATE COMMITMENT: CONFIRMATION

*For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for welfare and not for evil,
to give you a future and a hope. — Jeremiah 29:11*

As a baptized Catholic, I am preparing for reception of the sacrament of Confirmation, by which I will be more perfectly bound to the Catholic Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith as a witness of Christ.

As a candidate for Confirmation, I promise the following:

- ✓ I will approach my Confirmation journey with an open mind and an open heart
- ✓ I will attend and will fully participate in all confirmation and religious education sessions and activities
- ✓ I will be respectful of the leaders and facilitators of the program and show appreciation for their time and effort
- ✓ I will show respect to those in my class who are on the journey with me
- ✓ I will attend Mass every Sunday and on all holy days of obligation
- ✓ I will receive the sacrament of Confession before my Confirmation
- ✓ I will accept more responsibility in my family, parish, and community by putting my talents and gifts at the service of others
- ✓ I will commit to daily prayer, praying especially for growth in faith, hope, and love

As I make these promises, I ask God to give me the grace to be open to his plans for my life—plans he reveals to me in prayer, in my talents and aspirations, and in the encouragement of those who know and love me.

I place myself in the loving embrace of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in asking for help in fulfilling this commitment.

Name of Candidate (Print)

Signature of Candidate

Date

Witnessed
by: _____

Signature(s) of Candidate's Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s)

CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT: CONFIRMATION

Name of Candidate (Print)

Date

Name of
assessor:

Pastoral Assessment Questions and Comments (page-1)

1. How have you grown during these months of preparation?
2. Has your relationship with God changed? In what ways?
3. If you were to meet someone who had never heard of Jesus, who would you say he is? How would you describe your relationship with him?
4. What are some things you like about being Catholic? Are there things about the Church that you find challenging or difficult? Are there things you find inspiring?
5. What is prayer? How do you pray?
6. What is the Bible? What role does Scripture play in your life?
7. What is sin? What are some things you can do to avoid it?
8. Can you name the sacraments? How do the sacraments help you live out your faith?
9. What is the Eucharist? Has your understanding of and participation in the Mass changed in any way?
10. What is Confirmation? Why do you want to receive this sacrament?

Name of Candidate (Print)

Date

Name of
assessor:

Pastoral Assessment Questions and Comments (page-2)

11. How will you live out your faith as a confirmed Catholic in the Church? What talents or gifts has God given you that will help you build his kingdom?
12. What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit? Can you name the Fruits of the Holy Spirit? How are they related? Why are they important?
13. What saint name did you choose? Why?
14. Who is your Confirmation sponsor? Why did you choose him or her?
15. What are some ways you can discern God's will for your life?
16. What are some things you can do to continue to grow in your faith?
17. If someone asked you how to get to heaven, what would you say?
18. Do you have any questions before receiving Confirmation?

Pastoral Assessment Overall Comments

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The recommended resources listed here are considered normative for all catechetical leaders serving in the Diocese of Baker. Additional catechetical and training resource recommendations are available online at the Diocese of Baker, Evangelization and Catechesis webpage: http://www.dioceseofbaker.org/reled_evan_cate.htm.

Normative Catechetical Resources

Catechism of the Catholic Church. 2nd ed.

Washington: United States Catholic Conference, 1997.

General Directory for Catechesis.

Washington: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1998.

National Directory for Catechesis.

Washington: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005.

Ratzinger, Joseph. *Gospel, Catechesis, Catechism: Sidelights on the Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Ignatius Press, 1997.

The Holy Bible, Catholic Edition: New American Bible or Revised Standard Version.

Youcat: youth catechism of the Catholic Church. Ignatius Press, 2011.

Catechetical Curriculum for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade

Recommended Curriculum: preschool and kindergarten

For pre-kindergarten, there is no diocesan mandated curriculum. Following are two recommendations that are primarily used in the Diocese of Baker; each is found to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* by the USCCB.

***Image of God*, Ignatius Press. (English only)**

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

- *Pre-school: Who AM I?* (children 3 and 4 years of age)
- *Kindergarten: God Loves Me* (kindergarten)

Founded on two unifying key truths: God and creation. The content stresses the dignity of each child made in God's image in terms and activities children understand.

***Pflaum Gospel Weeklies*. (English and Spanish)**

<http://www.pflaum.com/preview/#resources>

- *Pre-school: Seeds* (children 3 and 4 years of age)
- *Kindergarten: Promise* (kindergarten)

The content emphasizes the themes of the weekly Gospel readings with stories and activities children understand.

Standard curriculum for grades one through eight

The standard catechetical curriculum for all schools and parishes in the Diocese of Baker is:

Faith and Life, Ignatius Press, Third Edition, 2012-2013; or *Revised Edition*, 2009-2011.
(English and Spanish)

- *Activity Book*
The activity book provides the student an opportunity to reflect on what they are learning each week; designed to be used in class and at home. They offer the teacher a variety of reinforcement tools, in a text separate from the student text book.
- *Family Guide*
The new Family Guide (Vol. A – Grades 1-4; Vol. B – Grades 5-8) engages parents weekly in the faith formation of their children; providing parents with the information and format they need to spend time sharing their faith with their children. This is accomplished through prayer, study, and life application of the main points of the week's lessons in the *Faith and Life* catechetical series.
- *Student Text*
Provides an emphasis on the scriptural basis of our Faith in accord with Sacred Tradition; includes beautiful artwork, questions and answers, words to know, and common Catholic prayers.
- *Teachers Manual*
Provides a comprehensive teachers guide to include important references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and Sacred Scripture that support the chapter's lessons; provided for the teacher's own preparation, research, and reflection. To assist Parish and CCD Programs, "once-a-week lesson plans" have been formulated and are available online at www.faithandlifefseries.com. These lesson plans cover the essential material and doctrines of each chapter in a one-hour format.

Catechetical Recommendations and Resources for Children and Youth with Disability

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (USCCB) | www.usccb.org

- *Pastoral Statement of United States Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities* (1978/1989): A landmark document that set forth the vision for ministry with persons with disabilities in our country.
- *Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities* (1995).

Catechetical Guidelines and Norms for Sacramental Preparation of Children | Diocese of Baker

- *Welcome and Justice for People with Disabilities* (1998).
- *Welcome and Justice for People with Disabilities: A Parish Resource Guide* (2003). This excellent document helps a parish evaluate how welcoming and inclusive it is for persons with disabilities. Includes ideas for liturgists, homilists, religious education/youth ministry programs, Catholic schools and more.

Awakening Spiritual Dimensions: Prayer Services with Persons with Severe Disabilities by Father Bill Gillum, OFM Cap., M. Ed., Author House. Offering a series of prayer services which use a sensory-based model allowing symbols, sight, sounds, aroma, touch, and people to bring about a sense of the sacred to all who have gathered for prayer. Order from Author House at 888-519-5121 or www.authorhouse.com.

Catechists for All Children by Dr. Joseph White and Ana Arista White, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 2002. Offers insights and methods for accommodating unique emotional and behavioral needs in the classroom. Available from Our Sunday Visitor, 800-348-2440, www.osv.com.

The Child with Autism Learns the Faith by Kathy Labosh, Labosh Publishing, 2007, www.laboshpublishing.com. Offers ready-to-go lesson plans for teaching the faith to children with Autism. Includes Bible lessons from the Garden of Eden to the Parting of the Red Sea.

Kennedy Curriculum (the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities). Available in English or Spanish from Silver Burdett Ginn Religion (877) 275-4725 or www.RCLBenziger.com. The curriculum is listed in their catalog, but is not currently on their website.

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities provides excellent information on various types of disabilities including fact sheets and teaching ideas. www.nichcy.org

Opening Doors to People with Disabilities, Volume I: Pastoral Manual (1995), Volume II: Resource File (1997). Volume II, Chapter 3, Section A includes many practical articles and forms published by the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, Washington D.C. (202) 529-2933; (202) 529-2934 (tty) or www.ncpd.org.

DIOCESE OF BAKER



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