

CALLED, FORMED & SENT

JANUARY 2019

FROM THE
OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS
BRYAN REISING

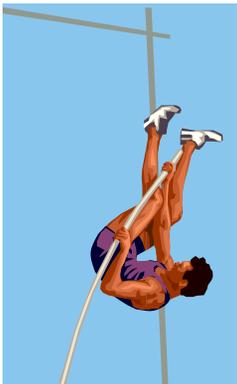
DIRECTOR, EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS
BREISING@DIOCESEOFBMT.ORG
409-924-4323

A Blessed and Happy Epiphany to Each of You!



We continue our series: Those We Catechize.

Raising the Bar: Adolescent Catechesis for Grades 9 and 10 by Bryan Reising



In 2008, the US Bishops raised the bar on adolescent catechesis by providing “Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age,” which is intended for publishers of curriculum for Catholic high schools. In 2010, in response to catechetical leaders around the country, the US Bishops published the “Adaption of Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age for Use in Parish and Youth Ministry Programs.”

These frameworks raise the bar for publishers to create curriculum for both Catholic high schools and parish catechetical programs to make sure that high school students have opportunities to encounter Christ, to form their faith in a community centered in Christ, and to learn sufficient knowledge of the faith with room to grow into adulthood.

Framework

What is in the adapted version of the framework?

First, the framework is based on Divine Pedagogy, which is the way God reveals and teaches the truths of our faith. Therefore, it is based on Divine Revelation, received through Sacred Scripture and Tradition.

A basic outline is as follows:

- I. The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture
 - A. The Thirst and Desire for God
 - B. God Revealed in Many Ways
- II. Who Is Jesus Christ?
 - A. Revelation is God’s Gift of Himself
 - B. The Response to Revelation on the Part of the Human Person is Faith
 - C. Jesus Christ’s Revelation about God
 - D. Jesus Christ Teaches Us about Ourselves
- III. The Mission of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery)
 - A. The Creation of the World and of Our First Parents
 - B. The Fall from Grace: Original Sin
 - C. God Promises to Send a Savior in the *Proto-Evangelium*
- IV. Jesus Christ’s Mission Continues in the Church
 - A. The Origin, Foundation, and Manifestation of the Church
 - B. The Church as a Sign and Instrument of Communion with God and Unity of the Human Race
- V. Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ

- A. Sacrament is an Efficacious Sign of Grace, Instituted by Christ and Entrusted to the Church, by which the Divine Life of Grace is Dispensed to Us through the Work of the Holy Spirit
 - B. Redemption is Mediated through the Seven Sacraments
 - C. The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist
 - D. The Sacraments of Healing are Penance-Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick
 - E. The Sacraments at the Service of Communion are Holy Orders and Matrimony
- VI. Life in Jesus Christ
- A. Life in Christ
 - B. God Teaches Us How to Live This New Life

For further detail on this framework, go to <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/upload/high-school-curriculum-framework-adaptation-of-preamble-2.pdf>

This is the framework that has guided publishers as they create new materials for students of high school age in parish programs.

The US Bishops also have a curriculum that has been found in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The following link is the current listing (see high school texts and series): <http://www.usccb.org/about/evangelization-and-catechesis/subcommittee-on-catechism/upload/Current-Conformity-List.pdf>

Many of the texts listed are only geared for Catholic high schools, but some of the publishers do have alternative lesson plans for the once a week (or even once every other week or once a month – depending upon the structure) catechesis in a parish setting. These publishers include Ave Maria Press (alternative lesson plans on their Web site) and Saint Mary’s Press. As publishers create new curriculum, hopefully more publishers will recognize the importance of including parish-based catechesis and create adapted versions of their curriculum.

There are also alternative programs, such as LifeTeen. Rather than having a text per se, they have catechist’s manuals that guide their parish activities. They have included the elements within the framework and have designed their instruction to include the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. There is an emphasis on adolescent evangelization within their program.

Confirmation Preparation

In the Diocese of Beaumont, Confirmation is normally done in high school (9th and 10th). Most parishes choose the 10th grade. Children and adults who are in the RCIA or children or adults who were baptized in another Christian tradition desiring to become Catholic are the exception. The Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) are honored in these circumstances. For the majority of youth, very often, preparation can start as early as 8th grade or as late as 10th grade depending upon when

the youth are confirmed and what is the Confirmation date for a particular parish. The Framework can help. In the Sacraments of Initiation section, the Sacrament of Confirmation can be expanded to include preparation for this sacrament. Then after the celebration of this sacrament, catechesis can continue with the Eucharist, the Sacraments



of Healing, the Sacraments of Service of Communion, and then the section on the Life in Jesus Christ.

Involvement with the Church and in the World

For 9th and 10th graders, there are wonderful opportunities to share their talents. Within the Church, there are many liturgical and catechetical roles to play. Regarding liturgy, they can consider being a cantor, choir member, accompanist, altar server, lector, usher, greeter, or even work creatively with the environment during the liturgical year. Regarding catechesis, they can serve as catechist aides or even work with the parish’s Vacation Bible School during the summer.

Involvement in society can take youth to many places locally or beyond. Locally, perhaps there is a food shelf or soup kitchen, perhaps they can help clean up the environment of their local neighborhood or with an adopt a highway program, perhaps they can help an elderly or disabled neighbor with yard work, or perhaps they can help tutor a student who is falling behind. Regarding beyond the community, some parishes do mission trips to help persons who are poor. There are many opportunities in places close by in Texas and Louisiana

As you can see, as students reach high school age, we can and should raise the bar, raise expectations so that they can be wonderful followers of Christ throughout their lives!

Celebrating Epiphany



Traditionally, Epiphany has been a time to bless the home. Have your family bless the home, perhaps have a small exchange of gifts, and have a special meal. To find out

more about the blessing of your home, go to:
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/sacramentals-blessings/objects/blessing-of-the-home-and-household-on-epiphany.cfm>.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PCL Gatherings

Thursday, January 3 sponsored by Loyola Press at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Beaumont. Lunch during this gathering will be soup and salad.

Other Upcoming PCL Gatherings: 2019: February 21, March 21, April 25, May 16

Vocation Awareness Day

Saturday, January 12, 2019

Save the Date!

St. Jude Thaddeus

Called, Formed, & Sent Day – Save the Date!

Saturday, January 26 at St. Mary Church in Fannett; Keynotes include Dr. Vanessa White in English and Gustavo Rodriguez of the Diocese of Austin in Spanish; Theme: Witnesses for Jesus Christ.

- Advertising "Called, Formed, & Sent Day 2019" in your parish bulletin using your name and contact information to register them. We have already emailed a script for bulletins.
- Then please give Anna the names of your catechists and others who have registered with you. Her email is: astone@dioceseofbmt.org.
- If after initially registering your names, there are more that want to be registered, send in those names to Anna.
- The initial deadline for registration is: Friday, January 18, 2019. If you have more that register after that point, send them in by Tuesday, January 22. Thank you! This helps us to order food and set-up.

Parish Visits

Bryan has been on the road for some parish visits. He can visit on the day of your Faith Formation. He can also do visits with pastors and catechetical leaders. Please arrange a time that you can invite him to your parish by contacting him via email: breising@dioceseofbmt.org or calling his office at 409-924-4323. He will not get to all places during the catechetical year, but he would like to get to all regions of the diocese. In addition, Twyla (North, West Vicariates), Sr. Misty (East, South, and Central Vicariates), and Paul are available for parish visits as well.

What will happen with these visits? The following are some possibilities: an observation of your faith formation during the time of instruction, perhaps an in-service with your catechists, or even a catechetical presentation – guest catechist for adults, youth, or children.

Heart of Faith

These are 2 hour learning sessions that can be presented right in your parish. Contact our office to arrange this opportunity. Topics include Evangelization, Home Visitation Training, Christian Morality, the Sacraments, Catholic Social Teaching, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Sacred Scripture.

University of Dayton's (VLCFF)



**Virtual
Learning
Community
For Faith Formation**

Cycle 1, 2019: January 20 - February 23, 2019
(Registration: Opens Oct 24, 2018; Closes Jan 16)

- [A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry](#)
- [Administration in Ministry](#)
- [Advanced Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [Autism in Faith Formation \(SN 4\)](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education](#)
- [Christology](#)
- [Church History 1](#)
- [Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview \(SN 1\)](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)

- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Foundations and Vision for Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 1\)](#)
- [Foundations for Liturgy](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Christian Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Paul's Life and Letters](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Leadership Roles and Skills for Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 5\)](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Community](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Mary, Holy Possibility](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning](#)
- [Pastoral Letter: Blessed are the Merciful](#)
- [Planning Youth Ministry Events](#)
- [RCIA](#)
- [Sacrament of Marriage: A Holy Calling](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Study of The Joy of the Gospel \(Evangelii Gaudium\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [Vocation to Ministry](#)
- [Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists](#)

Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation

Word on Fire: Bishop Robert Barron adult faith formation series - <https://www.wordonfire.org/>

And check out this resource from Word on Fire Engage: <https://engage.wordonfire.org/about>

Formed.org is a subscription service by parish that includes adult faith formation offerings, movies, and podcasts, and eBooks: <https://formed.org/>

JustFaith is a small group process to learn about Catholic Social Teaching: <https://justfaith.org/>

RENEW International has a host of resources for renewal and adult catechetical formation:

<http://www.renewintl.org/>

SINE (Systematic Integral New Evangelization) is a plan for the new evangelization for parishes that offer renewal experiences, small Christian communities, neighborhood based ministries, and home visitation: <https://sinecentral.org/>

Paulist Evangelization Ministries offers many resources for small groups, parish renewal, and outreach: <https://www.pemdc.org/>

Catholic Returning Home is a process for returning Catholics: <http://www.catholicsreturninghome.org/>



Adoration • Community • Theology • Service

To find out about upcoming ACTS Retreat and Activities: <https://beaumontacts.org/>

Interested in a Bachelors or Masters in Theology



St. Thomas University in Houston:

<https://www.stthom.edu/Academics/School-of-Arts-and-Sciences/Undergraduate/Theology/Index.aqf>

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Membership



All PCLs are now members of NCCL! Check out the Web site: www.nccl.org. Contact our office to learn how you can be a member of NCCL compliments of the Diocese of Beaumont if you are not a member yet! For information on the national conference (Orange County, CA: May 19-May 23, 2019), go to www.nccl.org

Safe Environment Compliance Reminders



Any PCL, youth minister, catechist, adults helping with youth ministry, or anyone who may be in a ministry with minors is required to be in total compliance with safe environment requirements.

To be in compliance, one must have attended in person a Protecting God's Children (PGC) session. After 5 years from the initial training participation, a recertification is required. This can be done either through the diocesan website online module, or by attending another in person PGC session.

If you have any questions regarding Safe Environment Training, you may contact the diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator through the following information:

Paul J Thomas
pthomas@dioceseofbmt.org
 409-924-4315

Upcoming Protecting God's Children sessions

Date	Time	Location	Facilitator	Contact
Mon. January 7, 2019	6:00 pm	Lamar University, Catholic Student Center, Beaumont	Kelly de la Rosa	Kelly: 409-924-4360
Mon. January 14, 2019	6:00 pm	St. Francis, Orange	Jonnie Broussard	Jackie: 409-882-4453
Tue. February 5, 2019	6:00 pm	Catholic Pastoral Center, Assembly Hall, Beaumont	Paul Thomas	Joseph: 409-924-4309
Thur. February 21, 2019	6:00 pm	St. Mark, Silsbee	Kathy Watson	Kathy: 409-781-7356

Remember to abide by all the deadlines for Safe Environment. Thank you!



In the Spirit of Epiphany, feel free to use these questions that were written by Anne Osdieck to reflect on the epiphany experiences in your own life. May God’s providence guide you as we come to the end of the Christmas Season, carrying the light of Christ into the lives of all that we encounter.

Christmas blessings,
Sr. Misty

First Reading
Isaiah 60:1-6

1. The First Reading says that light and glory had come to Jerusalem, even though darkness covered the earth. Are you always aware of God's light and glory? What about God's actions in your life?

2. Did Jerusalem have light of her own? Were nations coming to her or to the light? What do you think draws people to the Church today? How is Pope Francis’ statement below like the “star” of the first Epiphany?

“I would like to tell all those who feel far from God and the church—and I say this respectfully to those who are afraid or indifferent: The Lord calls you and wants you to be part of his people and does so with great respect and love! The Lord doesn’t proselytize, he gives love and this love looks for you, waits for you—for you who don’t believe or have drifted away. This is the love of God.”-Pope Francis

St. Peter’s Square, Epiphany, January 6, 2014

Second Reading
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

1. Just what was this mystery that brightened the whole world? Why was a star an integral part of the story?

2. A revelation was given to Paul by the Spirit, he says. It told him that Christ's life was too great to be limited to its starting place. Not only the Jews but the Gentiles as well are "coheirs, members of the same body." Have Christians always treated the Jewish peoples in the way Paul describes?

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

1. God sent the Magi a message that caused them to ride camels half way across the known world. What would motivate you to put in this kind of effort? What made it worthwhile for them? These wise men were responsive to revelations from God and their openness brought them to Bethlehem. They were not disappointed. Is there a lesson here?

2. What is the main contrast between Jerusalem and Bethlehem? Between Herod and the Magi. What does this tell you about the places and people God chooses?

Written by Anne Osdieck

Copyright © 2014, Anne M. Osdieck.

All rights reserved.

Permission is hereby granted to reproduce for personal or parish use.