



Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Office of the Bishop

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Dear Pastors and Catechetical Personnel:

During the past year the Pastoral Offices for Catechesis and Education have worked on developing a new Diocesan Religion Curriculum for Pre-School through Grade 8. This catechetical curriculum represents a total Diocesan effort and is in line with the teaching mission of the Church. The curriculum will enhance the catechetical efforts of our teachers and catechists and make their task of echoing the Word of God more effective.

It is important for us to remember what Blessed John Paul II said when speaking of the goal of catechesis. "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 love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity." (Catechesi Tradendae, #5) The new Religion Curriculum is designed to help our students develop a relationship with Jesus.

I urge you to use the new curriculum in your parishes and schools. As your Bishop my role is to work collaboratively with you to hand on our Catholic faith. The New Evangelization called for by Pope Benedict XVI is rooted authentically in the gospel. Our new Diocesan Curriculum takes this into account and is supported by Sacred Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the National Directory for Catechesis.

A special thanks is due to the dedicated catechists who diligently and tirelessly gave their energies to writing the new Diocesan Religion Curriculum. This group of faith-filled people listened to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and wrote a curriculum for both our parish schools and religious education programs. Our Diocese is indebted to these men and women for their outstanding contribution in developing a curriculum that facilitates the handing on of our Catholic faith to our young people. With heartfelt gratitude we recognize their dedication and contributions.

Every parish and school will receive copies of the new Religion Curriculum and it is available on the Diocesan website. The Pastoral Offices for Catechesis and Education are available to assist you if you have any questions or need additional information. Please contact them to arrange for any training that would be helpful for you and your catechetical staff.

Thank you for the efforts you make to support catechesis in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you in this important endeavor.

In Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy L. Doherty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend Timothy L. Doherty
Bishop of Lafayette-in-Indiana