

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

FOR PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS GRADES 9-12

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

Developed by the
Office of Lifelong Faith Formation
Roger Cadotte, Director

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*May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of glory, grant you a spirit
of wisdom and insight to know Him clearly.
May He enlighten your innermost vision
that you may know the great hope
to which He has called you, the wealth
of His glorious heritage to be distributed
among the members of the church,
and the immeasurable scope of His power
in us who believe.
Ephesians 1:17ff*

Dear Catechetical Leaders:

I am pleased to provide you, with **Curriculum Guidelines for Parish High School Religious Education Programs**. The guidelines were written for grades 9-12 in an effort to provide parishes with a list of criteria that could be achieved in a parish program which meets for approximately 24 sessions per year. Most major textbook publishers deal with the identified topics. However, no textbook series follows the curriculum precisely. Therefore, to provide consistency and continuity in scope and sequence, it is best to use a single textbook series with related support materials. The Curriculum Guidelines are also cross-referenced with the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) and the General Directory for Catechesis (GDC).

Also it is important to note that the textbook is not the sole source of catechesis. When a child is baptized, *he/she* enters a relationship with Jesus and becomes a member of the church community. At the same time, parents/guardians and the parish community including catechists assume the responsibility to nurture the child's growth in faith. This shared responsibility continues until the youth enters fully into the Church's life and mission at Confirmation and continues the lifelong responsibility of personal faith development.

The guidelines are divided into five segments, **1) the goal, 2) youth will learn to, 3) youth will understand that, 4) have the opportunity to and 5) parents/guardians are asked to**. The guidelines were printed in a way that will allow you to photocopy individual grade levels to share with catechists, parents or guardians.

Peggy Schoenfuss, Director
Office of Catholic Formation

Note: All children and youth have the right to be a part of a safe and caring environment. Please see *“Protecting God’s Children in the Diocese of Superior Safe Environment Resource Binder* for the safe environment curriculum for specific grade levels.

Grade Nine

GOAL: That the youth grow in their understanding of Jesus as the Jesus of history and as Lord of faith. (GDC #87, 98)

The youth will learn to:

- Recognize the presence of the Risen Lord in the persons and events encountered in daily life {GDC # 16, 116, 117} [CCC: 533, 542, 947, 953, 2790-2792, 2820]
- Name and describe the following main qualities and virtues of Jesus as revealed by His words and actions recorded in the gospels {GDC #98, 140} [CCC: 561]
 - His total obedience to the Father's will for him {GDC #99, 100, 123} [CCC: 566, 569, 606, 609-612, 615]
 - His friendship, love and fidelity to his disciples {GDC #137} [CCC: 551-552, 9983, 1506]
 - His humility and meekness, compassion and mercy {GDC #86} [CCC: 565, 1503-1509]
 - His availability, concern and sensitivity for the needs of the poor, the sick, the oppressed, and the sinner {GDC #102, 103, 104} [CCC: 1503-1509]
 - His courage and self-sacrifice as revealed in the way he approached his passion and death [CCC: 478, 607, 616]
- Give a simple explanation of the creedal statement that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine {GDC #99} [CCC: 423, 426, 469, 469-470]
- Give a simple explanation of Jesus' relation to the Father as God's Son and God's Eternal Word {GDC #99} [CCC: 65, 456-460]
- Apply the example of Jesus to their own efforts to be more responsive to the needs of those around them {GDC #80, 108, 109} [CCC: 2443-2449]
- Explain the petitions of the Lord's Prayer {GDC #115} [CCC: 2857-2865]
- Pray using various forms of prayer: journaling, meditation, scripture, silence, mantra, etc. {GDC #85} [CCC: 2663-2679]

The youth will understand:

- The nature of faith as a personal relationship of friendship with God the Father, with Jesus, The Risen Lord and with the Holy Spirit (Trinity) {GDC# 55} [CCC: 142, 154, 160]
- That their baptism has established them as disciples of Jesus {GDC# 65} [CCC: 520, 1213, 1227, 1276, 1279]
- The nature of discipleship and the responsibilities to walk, learn, and work with Jesus {GDC# 34, 41, 85} [CCC: 794, 1506-1507, 1691- 1698]
- The nature of the Church as a community of disciples of Jesus {GDC# 80, 253} [CCC: 781-782]
- The meaning contained in the following title of Jesus: Messiah/Christ; Rabbi/Prophet; High Priest; Lamb of God; Son of Man [CCC: 430-455, 464]
- Assume the responsibility of stewardship and hospitality within the parish {GDC# 86} [CCC: 1309]
- The nature and goals of the Church's ecumenical efforts {GDC# 86, 197, 200} [CCC: 820-821]
- The relationship of the Roman Catholic Church to the other Christian and non-Christian traditions {GDC#86} [CCC: 820-821]

Youth will have the opportunity to:

- Plan and carry out peer ministry, with the guidance of adults
- Assume various roles in the parish liturgy: servers, readers, ushers, hospitality, music, planning the environment
- Participate in a retreat or evening of recollection with the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Parents/Guardians are asked to:

- Encourage your son/daughter to assume various roles in the parish liturgy; servers, readers, ushers, music, hospitality and planning the environment
- Participate in the celebration of the Eucharist with your son/daughter on weekends and holy days of obligation
- Participate with your son/daughter in a parish Reconciliation Service
- Identify ways you and your son/daughter can fulfill the obligation to be good stewards in the parish and in society

Grade Ten

GOAL: That the youth understand and integrate Jesus' moral vision into their lives as his disciples

The youth will learn how to:

- Examine personal decisions and behavior in the light of the moral norms taught by Jesus and the Church GDC #85} [CCC: 1454]
- Apply the parable of the Prodigal Son to their own lives and relationship to God [CCC: 1439]
- Enter into the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a more mature way and identify personal practices of penance [CCC: 1450-1460]
- Explain the Beatitudes and their key moral implications (Matthew 5:3-10) (Luke 6:20-26) {GDC #103} [CCC: 1726-1729]
- Evaluate and form the personal choices faced in daily life according to the moral norms taught by Jesus and the Church {GDC #104} [CC: 1804-1809]
- Identify forms of injustice, oppression and violence in today's society and take practical steps to address them {GDC #104} [CCC: 1965-1974]
- Promote forgiveness and healing in one's family and among peers [CCC: 1430, 1435]
- Name and explain the following traditional penitential practices and devotions of the Church: Fasting, Abstinence, Stations of the Cross, Almsgiving [CCC: 1434-1439, 1969, 2669]
- Take a more active role in the parish's efforts to care for the poor, the sick, the needy {GDC # 183} [CCC: 1965-1974]
- Exercise and promote a greater spirit of hospitality in the parish, especially to those who are often ignored, discriminated against or marginalized in our society today {GDC # 183} [CCC: 1971]
- Participate in the Church's celebrations of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil (Triduum) [CCC: 619-623, 1323]
- Continue to develop various forms of prayer {GDC # 85} [CCC: 2686-2690]

The youth will understand:

- The dignity of the human person [CCC: 1, 219, 458, 1934]
- The nature and need for ongoing conversion {GDC #53-57} [CCC: 1428, 1432, 1439]
- The nature and role of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the life of the disciple and relationship to ongoing conversion [CCC: 1425-1460]
- The moral implications of the passages from the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5:13-16 [CCC: 782]; Matthew 5:21-24 [CCC: 2262, 2302-2303]; Matthew 5:27-30 [CCC: 2336, 2380, 2382]; Matthew 5:38-42 [CCC: 2443-2449]; Matthew 5:43-48 [CCC: 1933, 2053-2055]; Matthew 6:19-21 [CCC: 2729]; Matthew 6:24-34 [CCC: 2113, 2547, 2830-2831]; Matthew 7:1-5 [CCC: 678]
- The moral implications contained in the story of the Last Judgment found in Matthew 25:31-46 [CCC: 544, 1033, 1470, 2447-2449, 2843]
- The nature of personal or social or collective sin in the light of the moral teaching of Jesus and the Church {GDC #85} [CCC: 386-387, 408, 598, 953, 1869, 1886-1889]
- The moral examples of the saints and contemporary people of faith {GDC #109} [CCC: 828, 945, 2030]
- The meaning and purpose of human sexuality as revealed in scripture and Church teaching [CCC: 2331-2336, 2360-2367]
- That aspect of the Church's mission which promotes God's reign through works of justice and peace {GDC # 85} [CCC: 849-858, 1805-1809, 2044-2046, 2419-2425]
- The meaning, value and traditional symbols of the Lenten season as a time set aside by the Church for personal and communal conversion [CCC: 1163, 1169]

Youth will have the opportunity to:

- Participate with adult mentors of the parish in various social and service projects
- Participate in a youth retreat
- Experience various forms of the celebration of reconciliation, personal and communal
- Continue to assume various roles on the parish liturgy: servers, readers, ushers, hospitality, music, planning the environment
- Address social injustices in society such as poverty, sexism, racism, and unfair labor practices

Parents/Guardians are asked to:

- Participate with your son/daughter in the Church's celebrations of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil
- Participate in the celebration of the Eucharist with your son/daughter on weekends and holy days of obligation
- Participate with your son/daughter in a parish reconciliation service
- Encourage participation in individual and family Lenten practices

Grade Eleven/Twelve

GOAL: That the youth prepare to be confirmed as a disciple of Jesus and are equipped to assume the responsibilities that flow from their Confirmation

Youth will learn to:

- Name and describe the key elements of the Paschal Mystery as first revealed in the Hebrew Scripture and as fully revealed in the events of the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Pentecost {GDC#91, 98} [CCC: 122, 124, 128-130, 571- 573, 638, 731, 1067, 1164, 1169]
- Relate the key elements of the Paschal Mystery to the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist {GDC#66, 85} [CCC: 1213, 1225, 1227, 1288, 1303, 1322-1327]
- Explain the meaning that the Sacraments of Initiation have for them personally in becoming and growing as disciples {GDC# 183} [CCC: 1285-1321]
- Identify both the gifts and baptismal responsibilities they possess for participating in the Church's service ministries {GDC# 183} [CCC: 1266-69, 1830-1832, 1965-1972]
- Recognize and challenge injustice and violence in today's society, personally and with others {GDC# 183} [CC: 2407-2449, 2536, 2820, 2831]
- Name the four forms of vocation within the Church and describe the special contribution each make to the overall life of the Church: Marriage, Holy Orders, Religious Life, Single Life {GDC # 194, 224} [CCC: 871-873, 917, 925-927, 934, 940-945, 1590-1600, 1660, 2253]
- Do peer ministry {GDC#86, 231} [CCC: 871-873, 925-927, 1590-1600, 1618-1620, 1659-1666, 2204-2206]
- Take a more active role in the celebration of the Eucharist [CCC: 1140-1144]

The youth will understand:

- What it means to be a friend and disciple of Jesus [CCC: 222-227, 520, 618, 738, 2087]
- The nature of the Sacrament of Confirmation and the role it plays in the life of the disciple {GDC #231} [CCC: 1286-1289, 1302-1305]
- The nature and meaning of the Sacrament of Marriage and its importance for the Church [CCC: 1612-1617]
- The importance of marriage and the domestic church as a ministerial vocation [CCC: 1655-1658]
- The meaning of the realities of evil, suffering and death in human existence in light of the Paschal Mystery [CCC: 571-573]
- The nature of service ministry in the Church {GDC #55} [CCC: 1534, 1886, 1889, 1905-1912, 1913-1917, 2443-2449]
- The nature and purpose of evangelization {GDC # 46-49} [CCC: 425-429, 849-856]
- The basic responsibilities as members of the community of disciples: participation in the community's worship, hospitality, fellowship, stewardship and ministry {GDC # 55} [CCC: 782, 897-913]

Youth will have the opportunity to:

- Participate in a youth retreat
- Work with his/her sponsor in preparing for Confirmation
- Participate with members of the parish in various social and service projects
- Celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Assume the various roles in the parish liturgy: servers, readers, ushers, hospitality, music and planning the environment
- Participate in parish structures such as councils and committees

Parents/Guardians are asked to:

- Participate in the celebration of Eucharist with you son/daughter on weekends and holy days of obligation
- Participate in the parent sessions associated with Confirmation preparation
- Assist your son/daughter in selecting a Confirmation sponsor
- Encourage and support your son/daughter in the Confirmation project(s) he/she undertakes as part of Confirmation preparation
- Discern with your son/daughter the decision to be confirmed