

Christian Morality

Content Standard

Students in the Diocese of Marquette will understand that God graciously created all people to give him glory and to have everlasting joy in heaven. Through his only Son Jesus, God the Father invites us to become his adopted sons and daughters. The foundations for living moral lives are the moral law, God's grace, and a well-formed conscience. (1785)

Rationale

Our moral life flows from Christ's presence within us. Because it is life in the Son of God, his example, teaching, and commandments are to be followed. The way of Christ leads to everlasting life and happiness. The contrary way leads to everlasting misery. Catechesis must reveal in all clarity the joys and demands of the way of Christ, Who is "the way, the truth and the life." (1696-1697, Jn 14:6)

The demands of the Law are written in their hearts, while their consciences also bear witness, approving those choices that are good, and denouncing those that are evil.

- Rom 2:14-16

For to me, to live is Christ...

- Phil 1:21

Rather, living the truth in charity, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ...

- Eph. 4:15

Performance Standards — Christian Morality

1. Students will know the foundations of Catholic teachings from Scripture, Tradition, and the liturgy of the Church. This is a "catechesis of grace by which we are saved, and again it is by grace that our works bear fruit for eternal life." (1697)
2. Students will understand the true dignity of the human person as being created in the image of God, called in Baptism by God to a vocation of beatitude, freedom, virtue, and mercy. This includes a "catechesis of the Christian virtues of faith, hope, and charity generously inspired by the example of the saints." (1697)
3. Students will understand and acknowledge that evil, vice, and sin, require a catechesis on grace, sin, and forgiveness, by which we know the truth about ourselves and about God, whose mercy and grace makes us whole. (1697)
4. Students will learn that conscience is a gift from God, which must be formed and aided by grace, in order to recognize the objective difference between good and evil, judging an act moral or immoral. The formation of conscience includes a catechesis on the Holy Spirit, the interior Master of Life, together with a catechesis on the virtues, which attract us to the beauty of doing good. (1697)
5. Students will understand that Life in Christ includes following the commandments, beatitudes, and precepts of the Church. This is an ecclesial catechesis by which the "Christian life can grow, develop, and be communicated through the Church." (1697)

Christian Morality Objectives — Kindergarten

By the end of kindergarten, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve him and so to enter heaven. (1721) **Note to Catechist: Heaven is everlasting joy, happiness, and glory with God. Hell is everlasting suffering, the primary pain of which is separation from God. Purgatory is a state after death in which holy souls (those who have died in a state of grace but are not yet perfectly purified) are made free from the effects of sin so as to enter heaven. It is important that the students understand that, since all of those who are in purgatory died in the state of sanctifying grace, they will all be in heaven one day. Minimize the idea of heaven as a place and indicate that it is a spiritual state of being in the presence of God.**
2. That God makes all human beings very good, in that we are made in his image and likeness. (356-361, 374)
3. That the stories Jesus told us (parables), show us that God loves us and that we are to love God and others. (546, 2055)
4. The Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” (Mt 7:12, Tobit 4:15)
5. The importance of following the Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother. (2197-2200)
6. To say, “I’m sorry,” when they have been unkind to others. (1459, 1847)

Expressions of Faith:

- Reciting the Golden Rule and spontaneously putting it into action with peers and siblings; showing love for others.
- Being respectful of parents and obedient to their direction.
- Obeying rules — at home, in school, and in church.
- Saying “I’m sorry” when they hurt or offend someone.

Vocabulary Words:

Golden Rule	justice	image	likeness
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Christian Morality Objectives — Grade One

By the end of 1st grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve him and so to enter heaven. (1721) **Note to Catechist: Heaven is everlasting joy, happiness, and glory with God. Hell is everlasting suffering, the primary pain of which is separation from God. Purgatory is a state after death in which holy souls (those who have died in a state of grace but are not yet perfectly purified) are made free from the effects of sin so as to enter heaven. It is important that the students understand that, since all of those who are in purgatory died in the state of sanctifying grace, they will all be in heaven one day. Minimize the idea of heaven as a place and indicate that it is a spiritual state of being in the presence of God.**

2. That God makes all human beings very good, in his image and likeness, and we must respect human life in all stages and forms. (356-361, 2270)
3. That God always loves us. (218-221, 604-605)
4. That sin is choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, that it displeases God and hurts us and others as well. (1849-1850, 1871-1872, Mt 25:31-46)
5. That there is a difference between a sin and a mistake. (1857-1860, 1862)
Note to Catechist: An example of a sin would be taking the Lord's Name in vain. An example of a mistake would be $2 + 2 = 5$.
6. That the Holy Spirit helps them to make good decisions in their everyday lives. (1695, 1830-1831)
7. That Jesus healed the sick and forgave sinners, and they will be familiar with at least one of the scripture passages where Jesus healed the sick, e.g., when he cured the crippled woman. (Lk 13:10-13) (1503-1505, 2616)
8. That we should ask God for forgiveness when we do wrong. (1847)
9. That when we pray the Act of Contrition, we ask for forgiveness. (Tradition)
10. That grace is a gift from God that helps us to be holy. (1999, 2021-2024)
11. That God gave Moses the Ten Commandments; these are his laws by which we are to live. (2064, Dt 5:6-21) **Note to Catechist: Offer understandable examples to the children of how they might break God's commandments, e.g., by lying, stealing, not listening to Mom and Dad, and not using Jesus' name with respect and love.**
12. That the first three commandments are about love of God and the remaining seven are about love of neighbor. (2067, Dt 5:6-21)
13. That Christ taught us the Greatest Commandment—"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and all your mind." The second is like it, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Lv 19:18, Dt 6:5, Mt 22:37-40, 2055) **Note to Catechist: The Greatest Commandment does not replace the Ten Commandments but raises them to a higher level. Bishop Baraga's motto "Unum est necessarium" — One thing is necessary — refers to this commandment.**
14. The Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Mt 7:12, Tb 4:15)
15. That they are charged to be good stewards of the earth and its resources. (2402, 2415-2418)

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking and singing about God's love and their need to love God.
- Explaining that God made everything good, that we are made in his likeness; talking about heaven.
- Asking the Holy Spirit and their patron saint(s) to help them in doing good.
- Recognizing that doing wrong displeases God and hurts others.
- Living by the Golden Rule; making good choices.
- Saying "I'm sorry" when they hurt or offend someone.
- Asking for forgiveness if they hurt others.

Vocabulary Words:

commandment	contrition	grace	Great Commandment
sin			patron saint

Christian Morality Objectives — Grade Two

By the end of 2nd grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve him and so to enter heaven. (1721) **Note to Catechist: Heaven is everlasting joy, happiness, and glory with God. Hell is everlasting suffering, the primary pain of which is separation from God. Purgatory is a state after death in which holy souls (those who have died in a state of grace but are not yet perfectly purified) are made free from the effects of sin so as to enter heaven. It is important that the students understand that, since all of those who are in purgatory died in the state of sanctifying grace, they will all be in heaven one day. Minimize the idea of heaven as a place and indicate that it is a spiritual state of being in the presence of God.**
2. That Jesus is our model of love and goodness. (520, 1694, 1698)
3. That God makes all human beings very good, in his image and likeness, and we must respect human life in all stages and forms. (356-361, 2270)
4. That grace is a free gift from God that helps us to be holy. (1999, 2021-2024) **Note to Catechist: Be sure to differentiate between “grace” and the prayer that we sometimes call Grace before Meals.**
5. That we first received the life of God in our souls when we were baptized. (1999, 1266)
6. That original sin was the first sin committed by Adam and Eve and continues to be passed on to all human beings. (397-406)
7. That the greatest gift that Adam and Eve lost as a result of the original sin was the life of God in their souls. (399)
8. That sin is choosing to do wrong and failing to do good; that sin displeases God, hurts us, and hurts others as well. (1849-1850, 1871-1872, Mt 25:31-46)
9. That God does not stop loving us, even if we have sinned, and we too should love sinners. (218-220, 277, 1850)
10. That when we sin and are sorry for our sins, we can be forgiven by asking for God’s forgiveness. With the help of God’s grace and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we can begin again to follow Jesus and do what is right. (982, 1468)
11. That no sin is too big for God to forgive. (982, 1446)
12. That while all sin displeases God, there are some sins which are less serious (venial sins) and some that are very serious (mortal sins). (1855)
13. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863)
14. That there are three conditions for a sin to be mortal: (1857)
 - a. The bad thing done must be something serious in itself. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose to do it anyway. (1859) **Note to Catechist: The above information is important to lay a foundation for a proper understanding of**

sin. It is important for the students to understand sin, but it is not necessary to dwell on this topic.

15. That when we die, we need to be in the state of grace to go to heaven. (1129, 1864)
16. That God gave Moses the Ten Commandments; these are his laws by which to live. (2056, 2064, Dt 5:6-21)
17. That the Ten Commandments are to be memorized, and the students will be able to recite them. **Note to Catechist: Use the traditional catechetical formula for the Ten Commandments; do not have the students express them in their own words. For example, the 8th Commandment is – “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (2464)**
18. That Christ taught us the Greatest Commandment—“You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and all your mind.” The second is like it, “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Lv 19:18, Dt 6:5, Mt 22:37-40, 2055)
19. That the Greatest Commandment summarizes the Ten Commandments, and that by keeping this two-fold, single commandment, we are keeping the Ten Commandments. (2055) **Note to Catechist: The Greatest Commandment does not replace the Ten Commandments but raises them to a higher level. Bishop Baraga’s motto “Unum est necessarium” — one thing is necessary — refers to this commandment.**
20. That the Ten Commandments are to be used to examine their conscience. (1776) **Note to Catechist: Your conscience is the “inner voice” that God gives you to know right from wrong. (2072) Be aware that the words “inner voice” might be incorrectly understood by the children to mean some kind of audible voice. Help them to know that the “inner voice” is not something they can hear with their ears, but only with their hearts, i.e., it is “something you know deep inside.”**

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking and singing about Jesus and how he is our model for behavior.
- Explaining that God lives in us, that his grace helps us to be holy.
- Recognizing that doing wrong displeases God and hurts others.
- Asking for forgiveness and forgiving others without being prompted by an adult.
- Asking the Holy Spirit and their patron saint(s) to help them in doing good.
- Reciting the Ten Commandments.
- Discussing and distinguishing between venial sins and more serious (mortal) sins.
- Talking about their “inner voice,” their conscience.

Vocabulary Words:

conscience	examination of conscience	saint	sin
evil			

Christian Morality Objectives — Grade Three

By the end of 3rd grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve him, and so to enter heaven. (1721)

Note to Catechist: Heaven is everlasting joy, happiness, and glory with God. Hell is everlasting suffering, the primary pain of which is separation from God. Purgatory is a state after death in which holy souls (those who have died in a state of grace but are not yet perfectly purified) are made free from the effects of sin so as to enter heaven. It is important that the students understand that, since all of those who are in purgatory died in the state of sanctifying grace, they will all be in heaven one day. Minimize the idea of heaven as a place and indicate that it is a spiritual state of being in the presence of God.

2. That Jesus is our model for how to live as God's holy children. (1694, 1698)
3. That God makes all human beings very good, in his image and likeness, and we must respect human life in all stages and forms. (356-361, 2270)
4. That grace is God's free gift that makes us his holy children. (1996)
5. That sanctifying grace is a sharing in God's divine life and friendship. (1996, 1997, 2000)
6. That actual grace is help from God that enables us to do his will. (2000)
7. That the Ten Commandments are to be memorized, and the students will be able to recite them. **Note to Catechist: Use the traditional catechetical formula for the Ten Commandments; do not have the students express them in their own words. For example, the 8th Commandment is – "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (2464)**
8. That following the Ten Commandments expresses love of God and love of neighbor, and when we break the commandments we sin. (2055, 2067, 2072-2082)
9. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law. (1849)
10. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the person, but mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863) **Note to Catechist: "Deliberate and un-repented venial sin disposes us little by little to commit mortal sin." (1863)**
11. That venial sins are forgiven by participation in the Holy Mass, the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, receiving Holy Communion, and celebrating the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. (1416, 1520) **Note to Catechist: "Without being strictly necessary, confession of everyday faults (venial sins) is nevertheless strongly recommended by the Church." (1458)**
12. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose to do it anyway. (1859) **Note to Catechist: The above information is important to lay a foundation for a proper understanding of sin. It is important for the students to understand sin, but it is not necessary to dwell on this topic.**
13. That the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is the only ordinary way to recover sanctifying grace after one commits mortal sin. (1440, 1446, 1456, 1861)
14. That God gives each of us a conscience, which is like an inner voice, telling us what is good and what is evil. (1776)
15. That the power of good and God's grace are stronger than evil. (681, 2850-2854)
16. That virtues are habits by which we do good. (1803, 1833-1834)
17. That there are three supernatural/theological (God-given) virtues, which are:
 - a. Faith: believing all that God reveals, because he can be depended on to tell the truth. (1814)

- b. Hope: trusting that God will give us all the grace we need to be holy and get to heaven. (1817)
 - c. Charity: loving God above all else and loving our neighbors as ourselves for the love of God. (1822)
18. That when we follow the Ten Commandments, we respect the dignity of each person and lead a happy and holy life with God. (2052)
 19. That they should examine their conscience in light of the Ten Commandments, the Greatest Commandment, and the Golden Rule. (2052-2055) **Note to Catechist: These can be found in the following scripture passages: Dt 5, Mt 7:12, Lv 19:18, Mt 22:37-40, and in article 2055 of the Catechism.**
 20. That the seasons of Advent and Lent are times to strengthen the habits of prayer, penance, and almsgiving and are good times for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. (524, 540, 1438) **Note to Catechist: Common pastoral advice for the frequency with which we should go to Confession is about once per month, though the precept of the Church commands only a minimum of once per year (provided we have not committed serious sin). This precept is the minimum, not the ideal. It should also be taught that if one commits mortal sin, he or she should go to Confession as soon as possible.**

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking and singing about Jesus and how he is our model for behavior.
- Reciting the Ten Commandments.
- Asking the Holy Spirit and their patron saint(s) to help them in doing good.
- Talking about and distinguishing between venial and mortal sin and the need to “go to Confession” soon after any serious sin.
- Explaining that virtues are habits of doing good; expressing an intent and desire to practice faith, hope, and charity.
- Discussing with parents the need for an examination of conscience, making an examination of conscience, praying an act of contrition as part of their bedtime prayers.
- Saying “I’m sorry” when they hurt or offend someone; being quick and sincere in forgiving others who hurt them.

Vocabulary Words:

actual grace	humility	obedience	sanctifying grace
commission, sins of	mortal sins	omission, sins of	venial sins

Christian Morality Objectives — Grade Four

By the end of 4th grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve him and so to enter heaven. (1721) **Note to Catechist: Heaven is everlasting joy, happiness, and glory with God. Hell is everlasting suffering, the primary pain of which is separation from God. Purgatory is a state after death in which holy souls (those who have died in a state of grace but are not yet perfectly purified) are made free from the effects of sin so as to enter heaven. It is important that the students understand that, since all of those who are in**

purgatory died in the state of sanctifying grace, they will all be in heaven one day. Minimize the idea of heaven as a place and indicate that it is a spiritual state of being in the presence of God.

2. That God makes all human beings very good, in his image and likeness, and we must respect human life in all stages and forms. (356-361, 2270)
3. That Jesus is our model for how to live the Christian life as God's holy children. (1694, 1698)
4. That virtues are good spiritual habits. (1803)
5. That the cardinal virtues are fortitude, justice, prudence, and temperance. The theological virtues are faith, hope and charity. (1806-1809, 1814-1829, 1834-44) **Note to Catechist: A good way to teach the students about these virtues is to share the stories of those who have experienced them in their lives, especially the saints.**
6. That our conscience is an "inner voice", aided by grace, which helps us to choose what is right. (1776, 1785-1786)
7. That actual grace is from God, and helps us respond to him in particular instances. (2000)
8. That sanctifying grace is our participation in the life of God. (2023-2024)
9. That we must die in a state of sanctifying grace to enter into heaven, and that the best way to make sure that we die in a state of sanctifying grace is to live consistently in sanctifying grace. **Note to Catechist: It is important to stress to students that attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and frequent celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation are crucial to Life in Christ, i.e., living in a state of sanctifying grace. When teaching, it is important to remember that people are not responsible for that which is impossible. So, for example, if a child has no reasonable means by which to get to Mass — for instance, their parents refuse to take them or to let them go — that child is not responsible for missing Mass, though the parents would be.**
10. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law. (1849-1850)
11. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the person, but mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863) **Note to Catechist: "Deliberate and un-repentent venial sin disposes us little by little to commit mortal sin." (1863)**
12. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose it anyway. (1859)
13. That the occasions of sin are any person, place, or thing that we know might lead us to sin. Occasions of sin are different for every person. (1853)
14. That prayer helps us in times of temptation. (2846-2849)
15. That the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation was given to us by Jesus. In it we ask for and receive forgiveness of our sins from God through the priest. (1444, 1461) **Note to Catechist: Common pastoral advice for the frequency with which we should go to Confession is about once per month, though the precept of the Church commands only a minimum of once per year (provided we have not committed serious sin). This precept is the minimum, not the ideal. It should also be taught that if one commits mortal sin, he or she should go to Confession as soon as possible.**
16. That the Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching. (1716, 1717)

17. That the Ten Commandments are to be memorized, and the students will be able to recite them in order. **Note to Catechist: Use the traditional catechetical formula for the Ten Commandments; do not have the students express them in their own words. For example, the 8th Commandment is – “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (2464)**
18. That the works of mercy are loving actions that help our neighbors in their spiritual and bodily needs. (2447)
19. That the seven spiritual works of mercy are: (2447)
 - a. Admonish sinners.
 - b. Instruct the ignorant.
 - c. Counsel the doubtful.
 - d. Comfort the afflicted.
 - e. Bear wrongs patiently.
 - f. Forgive offenses.
 - g. Pray for the living and the dead.
20. That the seven corporal works of mercy are: (2447)
 - a. Feed the hungry.
 - b. Give drink to the thirsty.
 - c. Clothe the naked.
 - d. Shelter the homeless.
 - e. Visit the sick.
 - f. Visit the imprisoned.
 - g. Bury the dead.

Expressions of Faith:

- Practicing the cardinal virtues of fortitude, justice, prudence, and temperance with family and peers.
- Acknowledging that we serve God by serving others.
- Talking about and living by the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, with Jesus as their model.
- Talking with parents about how to best form their conscience, how to recognize and avoid/overcome temptations. Listening more and more to their “inner voice.”
- Regularly participating in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation with other family members.

- Taking responsibility for doing good and avoiding evil—choosing good television programs, movies, books, music, computer games, and Internet sites.
- Following the Golden Rule in their lives.
- Voluntarily helping neighbors and other family members.

Vocabulary Words:

Cardinal Virtues	mercy	occasion of sin	Virtue
consequences	morality	social justice/teachings	virtue, theological
disposes	morals	temptation	

Christian Morality Objectives — Grade Five

By the end of 5th grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve him, and so to enter heaven. (1721)
Note to Catechist: Heaven is everlasting joy, happiness, and glory with God. Hell is everlasting suffering, the primary pain of which is separation from God. Purgatory is a state after death in which holy souls (those who have died in a state of grace but are not yet perfectly purified) are made free from the effects of sin so as to enter heaven. It is important that the students understand that, since all of those who are in purgatory died in the state of sanctifying grace, they will all be in heaven one day. Minimize the idea of heaven as a place and indicate that it is a spiritual state of being in the presence of God.
2. That we are made in God's image and likeness, with intellect and will (two powers of the soul), and that God wants us to live in communion with him but does not force us to do so. (1730, 1732, 1831, 1834)
3. That sanctifying grace is how we share in God's life, and it is what makes us holy. (2023-2024)
4. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law. (1849-1850)
5. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863) **Note to Catechist: "Deliberate and un-repentent venial sin disposes us little by little to commit mortal sin." (1863)**
6. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose it anyway. (1859)
7. That the occasions of sin are any person, place, or thing that might easily lead us to sin. Occasions of sin are different for every person. (1853)
8. That we must die in a state of sanctifying grace to enter into heaven and that the best way to make sure that we die in a state of sanctifying grace is to live consistently in sanctifying grace. (1030, 1033, 1821)
9. That once one has received sanctifying grace in Baptism, the only way for it to be lost is by mortal sin. (1266, 1274, 1861)
10. That when a person receives absolution in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, he recovers sanctifying grace if he/she had lost it through mortal sin. (1484, 1497)
11. That the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is the only ordinary way that a baptized person recovers sanctifying grace that has been lost by committing mortal sin. (1440, 1497, 1861)
12. That in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation we receive God's mercy. (1422, 1424)
13. That sin has personal and social consequences, and when we sin we weaken our friendship with God and with the Church. (947, 953, 1869)
14. That they need to examine their conscience in light of the Ten Commandments, the Greatest Commandment, and the Golden Rule. (2052-2055, 2068)
15. That faith, hope, and charity are theological virtues given to human beings by God at

Baptism, to help them throughout their entire lives. (1812-29, 1840-44) That the cardinal virtues are fortitude, justice, prudence, and temperance. (1804-11, 1833-39) **Note to Catechist: A good way to teach the students about these virtues is to share the stories of those who have experienced them in their lives, especially the saints.**

16. That going to Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, and frequently receiving the Holy Eucharist, helps us to lead morally good lives. (1389, 1393-1395, 1983, 2180-2183)
17. That they must respect their bodies because they are temples of the Holy Spirit. (364, 1265, 1695, 2519) **Note to Catechist: “Formation in Christian Chastity,” as required by the Diocesan Safe Environment Policy, is to be taught in the classroom at this grade level.**

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking freely about heaven and hell, good and evil, and how Jesus is a part of their lives.
- Recognizing and avoiding occasions of sin; choosing friends carefully and making good choices in what they wear.
- Discussing the fact that sin has social consequences as well as personal consequences; that it hurts God deeply if they lead others to sin.
- Doing acts of kindness for others, showing respect for others, and displaying good manners at all times.
- Regularly participating in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation with the whole family.
- Exhibiting the cardinal and theological virtues in actions with others.
- Taking responsibility for doing good and avoiding evil—choosing good television programs, movies, books, music, computer games, and Internet sites.

Vocabulary Words:

chastity	peace	well-formed conscience	
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Christian Morality Objectives — Grade Six

By the end of 6th grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve him and so to enter heaven. (1721)
2. That we are made in God’s image and likeness, with intellect and will (two powers of the soul), and that God wants us to live in communion with him but does not force us to do so. (1730, 1732, 1834, 1934)
3. That sanctifying grace is how we share in God’s life, and it is what makes us holy. We must be in a state of grace when we die to go to heaven. The only way for a person to go to hell is by dying in un-repented mortal sin. (1033, 2023-2024)
4. That the Old Testament experiences of faithfulness, sin, conversion, and reconciliation are the roots of the Christian moral life today. (1962)
5. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God’s law. (1849-50) **Note to Catechist: Emphasis must be given to what is implied by “intentional.” Temptation itself is not a sin. Jesus, himself, was tempted. It is only when we allow the temptation to direct our thoughts, words, and actions that we sin. Furthermore,**

to be guilty of a sin of omission one must intentionally avoid doing something they should have done, e.g., witnessing a friend stealing something and not reporting it. (1868)

6. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863) **Note to Catechist: “Deliberate and unrepented venial sin disposes us little by little to commit mortal sin.” (1863)**
7. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose it anyway. (1859)
8. That the occasions of sin are any person, place, or thing that may easily lead us to sin. (1853)
9. That many aspects of popular culture, including certain magazines, video games, television shows, music, and certain websites, etc. are contrary to the teachings of Christ and that it is sinful to purposely involve oneself with them. (909, 2496, 2512)
10. That conversion is turning away from sin and toward life in Christ. (1439, 1490)
11. That ultimately God and his goodness always prevail over sin and evil. (1432, 1853)
12. That we should call upon the Holy Spirit to help us do what is right, especially in difficult times. (1433)
13. That by our words, actions, and thoughts we must respect life and the basic human rights of all people for the fulfillment of God’s Kingdom. (677, 1931, 2270)
14. That habits of selfishness and moral weakness lead to sin. Students should learn that the remedy is to grow in virtue. (1849, 1876)
15. The meaning of the theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity) and of the cardinal virtues (prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude). (1804-44) **Note to Catechist: A good way to teach the students about these virtues is to share the stories of those who have experienced them in their lives, especially the saints.**
16. That we are to be chaste and pure in thoughts, words, and actions, both with ourselves and with others. (2341, 2344-2345, 2348, 2518) **Note to Catechist: “Formation in Christian Chastity,” as required by the Diocesan Safe Environment Policy, is to be taught in the classroom at this grade level.**

Expressions of Faith:

- Recognizing and avoiding occasions of sin, choosing friends carefully, and making good choices in what they wear.
- Doing acts of kindness for others, showing respect for others, and displaying good manners at all times.
- Regularly participating in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation with the whole family.
- Exhibiting the cardinal and theological virtues in actions with others.
- Taking responsibility for doing good and avoiding evil—choosing good television programs, movies, books, music, computer games, and Internet sites.

Vocabulary Words:

conversion			
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Christian Morality Objectives — Grade Seven

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve him and so to enter heaven. (1721)
2. That we are made in God's image and likeness, with intellect and will (two powers of the soul), and that God wants us to live in communion with him but does not force us to do so. (1730, 1732, 1834, 1934)
3. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law. (1849-1850) **Note to Catechist: Emphasis must be given to what is implied by "intentional." Temptation itself is not a sin. Jesus was tempted. It is only when we allow the temptation to direct our thoughts, words, and actions that we sin. Furthermore, to be guilty of a sin of omission one must intentionally avoid doing something they should have done, e.g., witnessing a friend stealing something and not reporting it. (1868)**
4. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863) **Note to Catechist: "Deliberate and un-repented venial sin disposes us little by little to commit mortal sin." (1863)**
5. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose it anyway. (1859)
6. That the occasions of sin are any person, place, or thing that might easily lead us to sin. (1853)
7. That sanctifying grace is how we share in God's life and it is what makes us holy. We must be in a state of grace when we die to go to heaven. The only way for a person to go to hell is by dying in un-repented mortal sin. (1033, 2023, 2024)
8. That we should respect others and ourselves because we are made in the image and likeness of God. (1738, 1934)
9. That good moral decision-making, which is based on God's law and the teachings of the Church, is brought about by forming our conscience with the assistance of God's grace. (1776, 1785)
10. The meaning of the theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity) and of the cardinal virtues (prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude). (1804-44) **Note to Catechist: A good way to teach the students about these virtues is to share the stories of those who have experienced them in their lives, especially the saints.**
11. That Christ's invitation to "... take up your cross and follow me" (*Mt 16:24*) demands keeping the commandments, living the beatitudes, and offering up our sufferings in union with Jesus' sufferings. (2015)
12. That the Church has the authority, given to her by Jesus, to provide moral teaching and direction through the Magisterium. The Magisterium is the pope and the bishops in communion with him. (2034, 2050)
13. That prayer, God's grace, and self-discipline help us to overcome temptation. (2340)
14. That sexuality is a gift and that its expression is reserved for a husband and wife in marriage for the purposes of having children and strengthening the bond of marital love between them. (2360-2363) **Note to Catechist: "Formation in Christian Chastity," as required by the Diocesan Safe Environment Policy, is to be taught in the classroom at this grade level.**

Expressions of Faith:

- Talking with family members about their understanding of sin.
- Recognizing and avoiding “occasions of sin;” choosing friends carefully, and making good choices in what they wear.
- Talking about their conscience and the importance of its being formed in accordance with Catholic Church teachings.
- Talking about and putting into practice the cardinal and theological virtues; recognizing these virtues in others.
- Making a habit of daily examination of conscience and praying an act of contrition.
- Taking responsibility for doing good and avoiding evil — choosing good television programs, movies, books, music, computer games, and Internet sites.

Vocabulary Words:

gossip	repent	scandal	slander
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Christian Morality Objectives — Grade Eight

By the end of 8th grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve him and so to enter heaven. (1721)
2. That we are made in God’s image and likeness, with intellect and will (two powers of the soul), and that God wants us to live in communion with him but does not force us to do so. (1730, 1732, 1834, 1934)
3. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God’s law. (1849-1850) **Note to Catechist: Emphasis must be given to what is implied by “intentional.” Temptation itself is not a sin. Jesus was tempted. It is only when we allow the temptation to direct our thoughts, words, and actions that we sin. Furthermore, to be guilty of a sin of omission one must intentionally avoid doing something they should have done, e.g., witnessing a friend stealing something and not reporting it. (1868)**
4. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863)
5. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose it anyway. (1859)
6. That the occasions of sin are any person, place, or thing that might easily lead us to sin. (1853)
7. That sanctifying grace is how we share in God’s life and it is what makes us holy. We must be in a state of grace when we die to go to heaven. The only way for a person to go to hell is by dying in un-repented mortal sin. (1033, 2023-2024)
8. The meaning of the theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity) and of the cardinal virtues (prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude). (1804-44) **Note to Catechist: A good way to teach the students about these virtues is to share the stories of those who have experienced them in their lives, especially the saints.**
9. The importance and the need for frequent celebration of the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. (1458)

10. That everyone is called to holiness by living a moral life inspired by grace, practicing a life of virtue, and imitating Christ in daily life. Students must be able to give examples from the lives of the saints. (2013)
11. That the Gifts of the Holy Spirit strengthen us to live a moral life. (1831)
12. That frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist is the primary source of grace needed to faithfully live out the Christian life. (1392)
13. That there is objective moral law binding on all human beings which enables us to discern what is good and what is evil. (1954-60, 1978, 1979) **Note to Catechist: An example of what is objective moral evil would be murder is always wrong. An objective moral good would be seeking justice that promotes human dignity.**
14. That through the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive special sacramental grace to give witness to Christ in our daily lives. (1303)
15. That the Magisterium (the pope and the bishops in union with him) is the teaching office of the Church. It hands on definitive and authoritative interpretation of the truths God has revealed through Scripture and Tradition. (2034, 2050)
16. That we have an obligation to promote respect for all human life from conception to natural death. (2258, 2266, 2270-2283) **Note to Catechist: This would be where the abortion issue, end of life issues, capital punishment, conception, and contraception issues can be discussed. Remember that the taking of innocent human life is objectively more grievous than the taking of a guilty convicted criminal's life.**
17. That we have a special obligation to help the poor to the extent that we are capable of doing so. (2449)
18. That we have a responsibility to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. (2447, Mt 25:31-46)
19. That modesty, self-control, and chastity are important fruits of the Holy Spirit. (1832) **Note to Catechist: "Formation in Christian Chastity," as required by the Diocesan Safe Environment Policy, is to be taught in the classroom at this grade level.**
20. That the Catholic Church has a long tradition of social teaching articulated in the seven principals of Catholic Social Teaching (2419-2425) **Note to Catechist: The seven principles of Catholic Social Teachings are (1) Sanctity of Life and Dignity of the Human Person; (2) Call to Family and Community Participation; (3) Rights and Responsibilities; (4) Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; (5) Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers; (6) Solidarity; and (7) Care for God's Creation.**
21. That following the precepts of the Church help us to participate in the life of the parish and to grow in holiness. (2041) **Note to Catechist: The precepts of the Church are: (1) attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor; (2) confess your sins at least once a year; (3) receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least once during the Easter season; (4) observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church; and (5) help to provide for the needs of the Church. (2041-2043)**
22. That sexual desires are good and are given by God to be properly expressed in marriage. In the Sacrament of Marriage, the husband and wife are called to make a total gift of themselves to each other through the marital act. (2360-2363) **Note to Catechist: If the teacher or catechist is asked by a student what the marital act is, they should simply state that it is the act by which a husband and wife give themselves totally to one another, body and soul, and that this act is so good and powerful that God sometimes**

chooses to create a new human being through it. The marital act is reserved for marriage and must always be open to life and love. (1643)

23. That sexual acts outside of the sacrament of marriage are grave, i.e., very serious sins. (2351-59) **Note to Catechist: Sexual acts outside of marriage are motivated by lust and use humans as objects. Christ is nowhere present in sexual acts outside of marriage. Care must be taken in explaining this, as some students' parents may be living atypical marriages or may not be married. Students with serious or deeply emotional questions in this regard should be referred to the pastor for consultation.**

Expressions of Faith:

- Making good, moral decisions based on the Beatitudes, Ten Commandments, and Church teachings.
- Incorporating the virtues (faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance) into their lives.
- Taking responsibility for doing good and avoiding evil—choosing good television programs, movies, books, music, computer games, Internet sites, and dressing modestly.
- Participating in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation with understanding.
- Making service and caring for others a regular part of their lives.
- Showing proper respect and conduct for their sexuality.
- Making a habit of daily examination of conscience and praying an act of contrition.

Vocabulary Words:

Precepts of the Church			
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