



DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

117 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 3A
POST OFFICE BOX 1000
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855-1000
www.dioceseofmarquette.org

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
(906) 227-9115
FAX (906) 225-0437

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever!

It is with particular joy and gratitude to Almighty God that I present to you this K-8 curriculum for faith formation and education to be used throughout the entire Diocese of Marquette.

I am deeply grateful to the Faith Formation Advisory Committee for the development of this curriculum. It was no small task to put this curriculum together, and I appreciate the long hours and hard work that they have done. I am also grateful to all the donors to our Legacy of Faith diocesan endowment, whose generosity will enable the implementation of this curriculum and training for catechists with little or no financial burden to the parishes and missions.

I have long believed that a universal curriculum for faith formation in our Diocese was a necessary vehicle for ensuring the adequate education of our children in the precious Faith that has been handed on to us. We seek to form not only the minds of our children in the ways of our Faith, but also their hearts, to know and love the Lord and one another. The issuance of this curriculum brings that desire to fruition.

This curriculum places responsibility for the faith formation of our children on many shoulders. These include pastors, associate pastors, pastoral coordinators, faith formation coordinators, catechists and other lay ecclesial ministers.

I wish to emphasize, however, that the primary responsibility for the faith formation and education of children lies squarely with their parents. In the strongest terms possible, I urge parents to take up this role in a serious way and cooperate fully with the implementation of this curriculum. This includes your personal commitment and cooperation with the parental expectations outlined in the curriculum and also ensuring your children's attendance and participation in the faith formation sessions at school or in the parish. There is no greater gift you give your children!

This curriculum is mandatory for all of the schools, parishes and missions of the Diocese of Marquette. Its full implementation will be required as of the Fall of 2009.

I place this curriculum in the loving arms of our Immaculate Mother and ask her intercession for our children, that they may come to know, love and serve the Lord in this life in order for them to be happy with Him forever in the life to come.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Alexander K. Sample
Bishop of Marquette



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117 West Washington Street, Suite 3A
PO Box 1000 ❖ Marquette, MI 49855-1000
ph: 906.225.1141 ❖ fx: 906.225.0437
www.dioceseofmarquette.org

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Dear Catechetical Leaders,

In this year of St. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, with joy and thanksgiving the *Faith Formation Curriculum for Kindergarten through Grade Eight* for the Diocese of Marquette is being published and distributed for use in our parishes, missions, and schools.

The curriculum provides those engaged in the catechetical mission of our diocese, with clear and concrete guidelines for passing on the faith in the parishes and missions across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Use of the curriculum will ensure consistent and thorough teaching of our beloved Catholic faith. It is to be used by pastors, parish leaders, faith formation coordinators, and catechists as they work to further the Church's fundamental mission to "make disciples of all nations." (Mt 28:19)

Acknowledging the role of parents as the primary educators of their children in the faith, the curriculum provides expectations of parents for each grade level. These expectations will assist parents to fulfill the promises they made at their child's baptism to raise them in the faith. They outline specific ways for parents to take an active role in the religious education of their children and help them reinforce and support the work of catechists.

The curriculum was developed by the Faith Formation Advisory Committee whose members represent the seven vicariates of the diocese. I would like to express my gratitude to the members of this group who have given so freely of their time and talents in the development of this document. They truly exemplify how "Catechesis is a collaborative effort within the diocese." (*National Directory for Catechesis*, 218)

As you continue your ministry to hand on the teachings of Christ to those being catechized, prepare them for the sacraments, orient them toward a life according to the moral teachings of Christ, and lead them to pray with Christ, this curriculum will be an invaluable resource. (NDC, 101)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise M. Foye".

Denise M. Foye
Director of the Office of Faith Formation

Faith Formation Curriculum and Standards Diocese of Marquette

Introduction

Welcome to the Faith Formation (Religious Education) Curriculum and Standards for children in the Diocese of Marquette. The grade-based curriculum and standards presented herein are prescribed for use in all Catholic schools, parishes, and missions of the diocese beginning in the fall of 2009.

Catechists *and parents* alike are expected to participate fully in the faith formation of all our children. Catechists are to prepare and deliver clear, relevant lessons based on this curriculum and standards document, in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Parents are expected to support the catechists and their classroom activities, fulfill the “Expectations of Parents” stated in this document, and actively develop their own faith, which they in turn will hand on to their children.

This Faith Formation Curriculum and Standards document brings together the current wisdom of the Church about catechesis as expressed in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) and the *National Directory for Catechesis* (NDC). Catechesis is “an education of children, young people, and adults in the faith of the Church through the teaching of Christian doctrine in an organic and systematic way to make them disciples of Jesus Christ” (CCC Glossary). Catechesis should be holistic and should involve three areas: being, knowing, and doing. This document endeavors to balance what Catholic students should know, what they should be able to do, and how they should be living, all of which will allow them to become true disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Aim of Faith Formation (Catechesis)

Faith formation is both evangelical and relational. Between our classroom-based faith formation programs and our faith-oriented family activities in the home (the domestic church), we are called to go beyond instilling mere academic knowledge to providing ongoing opportunities for people to develop a lifelong personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Catechesis must form people who will be active participants in their faith community and in its celebration of the Liturgy, of the Sacraments, and of Catholic traditions.

This is our mission as catechists. Beginning in early childhood, children should receive the kind of faith formation that equips them with the tools and the hunger to continue to seek deeper faith formation throughout their lives. As truly well-formed Catholics, they are then sent to fulfill the call and promise of their baptism, armed with a spirituality of openness and receptivity to growth and to further faith development.

To foster an environment in which persons can be formed in faith, *religious educators must be open to their own growth and development*. Regular participation in the sacramental life of the Church (i.e., regular participation in Mass and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation), active study of the Word, ongoing exploration of Church doctrine and tradition, and a full prayer

life are indispensable. It has been said that while children may not remember every detail of what we teach, they will certainly remember who we are as persons of faith and as disciples of Jesus Christ. For this reason, the Diocese of Marquette requires all catechists to fully participate in the diocesan program for formation of catechists and to be exemplary Catholics in their parish and personal lives.

Parents, of course, are the primary educators of their children. They spend much more time with their children than do catechists. They create the home environment in which the child develops, and they are daily examples for their children of how to live a Christian life. When a child is baptized, parents accept the responsibility, in their gratitude to God, to assist the child to know, love, and serve God and to prepare the child to celebrate Confirmation and participate in the Holy Eucharist. To fulfill their responsibilities, parents too must grow and develop in their own faith by studying God's Word, participating in the sacraments (Eucharist and Reconciliation), and prayer. Routinely discussing their faith with other parents, exploring the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and asking questions of their pastor are all means of helping their faith grow. To help focus the efforts of parents in educating their children, and to enable them to support the religious instruction provided by catechists, the expectations of this diocese for parents are listed by grade of the child in Part 5 (page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**) of this document: "Expectations of Parents." Coordinators of faith formation and catechists at each parish, mission, and school must communicate these expectations to the parents at the beginning of each school year and repeat them as needed throughout the school year.

Curriculum Goals and Standards

The overall structure of the curriculum and standards in this document is simple and straightforward. Catechetical objectives for each grade level, Kindergarten through Eighth Grade, are established under **five topics**: Sacred Scripture plus the four "pillars" of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Christian Morality, and Prayer.

A potential sixth topic, Social Justice, is not developed here with its own unique set of objectives, because elements of social justice are interwoven throughout the five specified topics, especially in Sacred Scripture, Christian Morality, and Prayer. The children's faith and their sense of responsibility for social justice are to be developed through the catechists' lessons based on the learning objectives listed under the five main topics. For example, scripture lessons on the Golden Rule and on the Parable of the Good Samaritan will inherently have social justice implications, and these must be included, but teaching these subjects under Scripture or Christian Morality keeps the focus on Jesus as the teacher and exemplar of how we are to live—rather than doing good simply for the sake of doing good.

For each of the five main topics of the curriculum, there are performance standards, learning objectives by grade within that topic, expressions of faith (behaviors) to be exhibited by the students based on their growing knowledge and faith, and expectations of parents by grade level as to how they are to support their children and the catechist. In addition, there are specified vocabulary words by grade, so that students will know "the language" of their faith, as well as traditional prayers to be learned in each grade.

The curriculum is a “spiraling curriculum,” meaning that some of the things taught at lower grades are re-taught more comprehensively at higher grades. This provides review and reinforcement from one year to the next. For principals, directors of faith formation, faith formation coordinators, and catechists who wish to observe how individual elements of a topic spiral up through the grades, this can most easily be done in the “Curriculum by Topic” portion of this document beginning on page **Error! Bookmark not defined.** For catechists primarily interested in assimilating all the learning objectives for their own grade, they should refer to the “Curriculum by Grade” portion beginning on page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

The *learning objectives are the same in both sections*: Curriculum by Topic and Curriculum by Grade.

Catechists will hopefully note with interest that the *first main section* of this document (beginning on page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**) is not about curriculum or standards but about *understanding the students* at the various grade levels. The particular characteristics and faith development needs of students at different grade levels should be of interest to all catechists, but parish catechists should be especially mindful of this information as they prepare their lessons. Unless they have children of their own at approximately the grade level they are teaching, they may miss opportunities to make their teaching efforts as effective as possible by not understanding their students.

How the Standards Are to Be Used

A grade-based faith formation (religious education) program adhering to this Faith Formation Curriculum and Standards document is to be fully implemented at each parish, mission, and Catholic school in the Diocese of Marquette by September 2009. This will bring uniformity and consistency to our faith formation programs. Parishes and missions will be “on the same page” when it comes to catechesis. There is no need or reason for each parish to be doing something completely different from other parishes. Faith formation coordinators and catechists *are* encouraged to use creative methodologies in formulating and delivering their own lesson plans for teaching the prescribed curriculum, i.e., how they turn the wheel, but they should not reinvent the wheel. Consistent use of this diocesan curriculum will keep all schools, parishes, and missions in step with each other and will prevent any disruption that may occur if and when a new pastor is assigned. Adherence to this curriculum will also make it easier for families who, for some reason, must relocate to another part of the diocese.

Regular classroom instruction (weekly for most of the year) is required. Intergenerational faith formation is encouraged but only as a supplemental activity, not as a replacement for systematic classroom catechesis.

A limited series of catechetical books (two or three publishers) will be approved to meet the curriculum. Any other texts must be regarded as supplemental only.

Training and education will be given to catechists to enable them to implement this curriculum in an effective and consistent manner.

Each catechist in a parish/mission setting and in a Catholic school, with the help of their director of faith formation or faith formation coordinator, will develop his/her own lesson plans consistent with this curriculum and the chosen series of catechetical books. Careful selection of supplemental materials is recommended to enhance classroom presentations and activities as appropriate.

Emphasis will be placed on *living the Catholic faith* in the family and in the community in which the student lives and on the relationship of each individual student with Jesus Christ. All students must understand that their faith is a matter of heart *and* head—both are essential. It should be obvious that as they fall more deeply in love with him, they will want to learn more about him. Conversely, the more they come to know Jesus as a divine person, who took on a human nature for love of us, the more they will fall in love with him.

This curriculum and standards document ends with grade eight. A diocesan curriculum for grades 9–12 will be developed and published in the future.

Assessment

Some form of standardized testing will be done to ensure that the children and youth of our parishes/missions are mastering the material prescribed by the curriculum. Information will be provided as it becomes available.

Acknowledgements

This document was created through the efforts of the bishop's Faith Formation Advisory Committee, which is made up of teacher and catechist representatives of the Diocese of Marquette—one per vicariate.

Committee:

Patricia Nicksich, chair	St. Mary Rockland Vicariate
Fr. Corey Litzner	St. Joseph & St. Patrick Vicariate
Dcn. Tom McClelland	Holy Name of Mary Vicariate
Carol Gayan	St. Mary Norway Vicariate
Dcn. Art Stancher	Holy Name of Jesus Vicariate
Sr. Lois Risch, OSF	St. Peter Cathedral Vicariate
Beth Horn	St. John Neumann Vicariate
Denise Foye	Director of Faith Formation, Diocese of Marquette
Greg Gostomski	Director of Youth Ministry, Diocese of Marquette

This faith formation curriculum is established by direction and approval of:

Most Reverend Alexander K. Sample, Bishop of Marquette

Resources Used

Below is a list of resources that were used in developing this curriculum.

- *Catechesae Tradendae*, John Paul II, 1979.
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. 2nd ed. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C., 2000.
- *Catholic Dictionary*, Peter M. J. Stravinskias, Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington, Indiana, 2002.
- *Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*, Brian Singer-Towns, ed., et. al.. St. Mary's Press, Winona, Minnesota, 2004.
- *Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2006.
- *Dei Verbum*, Vatican II Document, 1965.
- *Essentials for Christian Living*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2008.
- *Faith Formation Curriculum and Standards*, Diocese of Joliet, 2005.
- *General Directory for Catechesis*, Congregation for the Clergy, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.
- *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. 2003
- *Handing on the Faith, A Unified Content Reference for Teaching the Catholic Faith*, Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, May 1999.
- *Harper Collins Encyclopedia of Catholicism, The*, Richard P. McBrien, ed., et. al. Harper Collins, San Francisco, 1995.
- *Humani Generis*, Pope Pius XII, 1950.
- *Lumen Gentium*, Vatican II Document, 1964.
- *New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law*. John P. Beal, ed., et. al. Paulist Press, New York, 2000.
- *National Directory for Catechesis*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. 2005.
- *Parish/School K-12 Religion Curriculum*, Diocese of Saginaw, 2004.
- *Pre-K through 8th grade School and Parish Religion Curriculum*, Diocese of Harrisburg, 2006.
- *Profiles of Student*, Diocese of Fargo Religion Curriculum, XXXX.
- *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, John Paul II, 2002.
- *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C., 2006.
- *Word, Worship, Works: The Religion Curriculum*, Diocese of Gaylord, May 2002 Revision

Scripture quotations contained in this document are from the Saint Joseph Edition of The New American Bible, Catholic Book Publishing Company, New York., 1970

Abbreviations

Church Documents

CT	<i>Catechesae Tradendae</i>
CCC	<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>
CIC	<i>Code of Canon Law (Codex Iuris Canonici)</i>
DV	<i>Dei Verbum</i>
GIRM	<i>General Instruction of the Roman Missal</i>
HG	<i>Humani Generis</i>
RVM	<i>Rosarium Virginis Mariae</i>
USCCA	<i>United States Catholic Catechism for Adults</i>

Books of the Bible

Old Testament

Gn	Genesis	Is	Isaiah
Ex	Exodus	Jer	Jeremiah
Lv	Leviticus	Lam	Lamentations
Nm	Numbers	Bar	Baruch
Dt	Deuteronomy	Ez	Ezekiel
Jos	Joshua	Dn	Daniel
Jgs	Judges	Hos	Hosea
Ru	Ruth	Jl	Joel
1 Sm	1 Samuel	Am	Amos
2 Sm	2 Samuel	Ob	Obadiah
1 Kgs	1 Kings	Jon	Jonah
2 Kgs	2 Kings	Mi	Micah
1 Chr	1 Chronicles	Na	Nahum
2 Chr	2 Chronicles	Hb	Habbakkuk
Ezr	Ezra	Zep	Zephaniah
Neh	Nehemiah	Hg	Haggai
Tb	Tobit	Zec	Zechariah
Jdt	Judith	Mal	Malachi
Est	Esther		
1 Mc	1 Maccabees		
2 Mc	2 Maccabees		
Jb	Job		
Ps	Psalms		
Prv	Proverbs		
Eccl	Ecclesiastes		
Sg	Song of Songs		
Wis	Wisdom		
Sir	Sirach		

New Testament

Mt	Matthew
Mk	Mark
Lk	Luke
Jn	John
Acts	Acts of the Apostles
Rom	Romans
1 Cor	1 Corinthians
2 Cor	2 Corinthians
Gal	Galatians
Eph	Ephesians
Phil	Philippians
Col	Colossians
1 Thes	1 Thessalonians
2 Thes	2 Thessalonians
1 Tim	1 Timothy
2 Tim	2 Timothy
Ti	Titus
Phlm	Philemon
Heb	Hebrews
Jas	James
1 Pt	1 Peter
2 Pt	2 Peter
1 Jn	1 John
2 Jn	2 John
3 Jn	2 John
Jude	Jude
Rev	Revelation