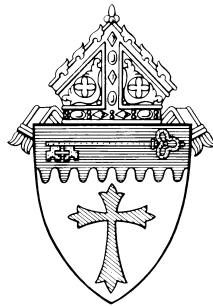


**Elementary
and
Middle School
Religion Curriculum
Guidelines**



**Catholic Schools Office
Diocese of Erie
December 2005**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction and Acknowledgements	i
Kindergarten	1
Grade 1	2
Grade 2	4
Grade 3	6
Grade 4	8
Grade 5	10
Grade 6	12
Grade 7	14
Grade 8	17
Service Projects and Activities	20

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The curriculum guidelines that follow provide a structure for teaching religion in our Catholic Schools. The document is divided into two sections.

Part One provides the goal(s) and objectives for each grade level, as well as suggested vocabulary. The objectives address the most significant learnings, the “big ideas” if you will, which are central to sharing our faith with our students. These objectives have purposely been phrased in as succinct a manner as possible to allow teachers the freedom to expand and explore each area with their students, while keeping in mind student abilities and interests, as well as prior learning. Teachers are encouraged to design lessons and activities which address multiple objectives and to integrate the teaching of religion with other subject areas. Many objectives lend themselves to integration with science, health, art, music, and language arts. It is hoped that teachers will also make use of the resources of parish and school in sharing the truths of our faith. For example, visits to the worship space and discussions of parish liturgical celebrations, particularly during holiday seasons, will add depth to opportunities for teaching and for learning.

Part Two provides a suggested list of activities and service projects suitable for various age levels, which can be used school-wide, in a specific grade, or in an individual classroom. During the writing of this curriculum, it was agreed that not only should our students learn about our faith; they should also practice living it. The purpose of requiring activities and projects is to provide an opportunity for students to put faith into action, and to reach out beyond themselves and their classrooms to the larger community. This list is intended only to be a starting point; each teacher will know the particular needs and opportunities in the school and surrounding community, and should use this information to develop projects for the class, grade, and school.

A heartfelt thank-you is due to the diocesan teachers who “practiced what they preached” by putting their faith into action in the writing of this document. Committee members Heidi Arnold, Jean Merryman, and Jane Hintz dedicated many hours of prayer, thought, work and discussion to this project. In addition, many principals and teachers provided valuable feedback on the successive drafts of this document – thank you to everyone who took the time to read and respond.

Sincere thanks are also due to Joe Streett, Director of Religious Education, who provided the Religious Education curriculum for use as a reference. This allowed the curriculum taught in the schools to be aligned with that in religious programs, providing an important consistency between the two programs.

Gratitude is also extended to the staff of Catholic Charities who gave of their time and extensive knowledge of the diocese to create the original draft of the service project list.

Thank you also to every Catholic educator! Each of you is an indispensable part of the evangelization mission of the Church. You provide our students with a model of a caring adult who lives and shares our Catholic faith.

Sincerely,

Darlene Elsesser Kovacs
Director of Elementary School Curriculum and Teacher Personnel
Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Erie
December, 2005

KINDERGARTEN

GOAL: To help the children know God as loving Creator and to develop an awareness of the presence of God in themselves, others, and the world.

OBJECTIVES: The students will:

- ❖ **RK1** Identify ourselves as people created by God
- ❖ **RK2** Explore creation through the use of the senses, as the gift of a loving and caring God
- ❖ **RK3** Discuss and celebrate the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in an age-appropriate manner
- ❖ **RK4** Explore and demonstrate Christian attitudes toward others, through taking turns, listening, helping, caring, sharing, loving, thanking, and celebrating
- ❖ **RK5** State that the Bible is a special book about God and God's people
- ❖ **RK6** Explain that Baptism is a ceremony through which we are welcomed into the family of Jesus
- ❖ **RK7** Explain that Mass is a special time with Jesus
- ❖ **RK8** Explain that prayer is talking with God; we talk AND listen
- ❖ **RK9** Make the Sign of the Cross and say a meal prayer from memory
- ❖ **RK10** Participate in class prayer
- ❖ **RK11** Create prayer, through writing, dictation, or picture
- ❖ **RK12** Share age-appropriate Bible stories and stories of the saints
- ❖ **RK13** Complete a minimum of two activities or service projects during the school year

FIRST GRADE

GOAL: To help the children grow in knowing, loving, and serving God.

OBJECTIVES: The students will:

- ❖ **R11** State that God loves us and that each person is a child of God
- ❖ **R12** State that each child of God is to know, love, and serve God
- ❖ **R13** Explore the wonders of creation as gifts of God, learning that we need to love and care for creation
- ❖ **R14** Discuss that Jesus is the Son of God and our friend and teacher
- ❖ **R15** Relate the essentials of the Christmas story
- ❖ **R16** Identify the Holy Spirit as our helper
- ❖ **R17** Explain that Jesus' family is known as the Church
- ❖ **R18** Explain that we become members of the Catholic Church through Baptism
- ❖ **R19** State that we belong to the community of the Catholic Church
- ❖ **R110** Demonstrate that prayer is talking with God, and can be done at any time and in any place
- ❖ **R111** Recite age-appropriate prayers from memory, such as the Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be
- ❖ **R112** Participate in class prayer
- ❖ **R113** Write prayer
- ❖ **R114** Share age-appropriate Bible stories
- ❖ **R115** Share age-appropriate stories of the saints
- ❖ **R116** Demonstrate an understanding of shared Bible stories and stories of the saints
- ❖ **R117** Complete a minimum of two activities or service projects during the school year

❖ Demonstrate an understanding of grade one terms, as follows:

- Angel
- Apostle
- Baptism
- Bible
- Catholic
- Christian
- Christmas
- Church
- Creator
- God the Father
- Gospel
- Holy Spirit
- Jesus Christ
- Joseph
- Mary
- Mass
- Prayer
- Sign of the Cross
- Trinity

GRADE TWO

GOAL: to develop the children's sacramental knowledge and participation, with particular emphasis on Reconciliation and Eucharist.

OBJECTIVES: The students will:

- ❖ **R21** Name the seven sacraments of the Church
- ❖ **R22** State that we become members of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism
- ❖ **R23** Say the Ten Commandments from memory, using age-appropriate vocabulary
- ❖ **R24** Explain that sin is freely choosing to do what we know is wrong
- ❖ **R25** Discuss how sin affects the relationship with God, family, friends, and the community
- ❖ **R26** Discuss that our loving God will forgive any sin, no matter how serious
- ❖ **R27** Describe the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a celebration of God's forgiveness, where we express our sorrow and promise to try to do better
- ❖ **R28** Identify the essential sign of Reconciliation as the blessing of forgiveness (absolution)
- ❖ **R29** State that Jesus is present during Eucharistic Liturgy in a special way
- ❖ **R210** Participate in responses when celebrating the Eucharistic Liturgy
- ❖ **R211** Begin to understand that the word Eucharist means thanksgiving
- ❖ **R212** Begin to understand that there are two major parts of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist
- ❖ **R213** Discuss the Eucharist as a special and holy meal
- ❖ **R214** State that the bread and wine received at Mass is the Body and Blood of Jesus
- ❖ **R215** Tell the story of the Last Supper, in the context of the events of the Triduum
- ❖ **R216** Identify the essential signs of the Eucharist as bread and wine
- ❖ **R217** State that Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are the three sacraments of Christian Initiation
- ❖ **R218** Recite an Act of Contrition from memory
- ❖ **R219** Participate in class prayer
- ❖ **R220** Write prayer
- ❖ **R221** Share age-appropriate Bible stories
- ❖ **R222** Share age-appropriate stories of the saints
- ❖ **R223** Demonstrate an understanding of shared Bible stories and stories of the saints
- ❖ **R224** Complete a minimum of two activities or service projects during the school year

❖ Demonstrate an understanding of terms listed for grade two, as follows:

- Absolution
- Act of Contrition
- Altar
- Ash Wednesday
- Baptism
- Blessed Sacrament
- Body of Christ
- Chalice
- Communion
- Confession
- Confirmation
- Conscience
- Contrition
- Easter
- Eucharist
- Examination of Conscience
- Genuflect
- Good Friday
- Grace
- Holy Thursday
- Homily
- Last Supper
- Lent
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Liturgy of the Word
- Mass
- Parish
- Penance
- Reconciliation
- Resurrection
- Sacrament
- Sin
- Tabernacle
- Ten Commandments

GRADE THREE

GOAL: To help the children grow in awareness and understanding of the Church.

OBJECTIVES: The students will:

- ❖ **R31** Recognize the Mass as the celebration of Word and Eucharist
- ❖ **R32** Distinguish between the parts of the liturgy: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist
- ❖ **R33** Define the Kingdom of God as God's love at work in the world
- ❖ **R34** Understand that a creed is a summary of beliefs
- ❖ **R35** Name the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed as the basic creeds of the Catholic community
- ❖ **R36** Discuss the basic beliefs in the Apostles' Creed
- ❖ **R37** Recite the Apostles' Creed from memory
- ❖ **R38** Recite the Two Great Commandments from memory and discuss their meaning
- ❖ **R39** Understand the Ten Commandments as laws or rules given by God to help us live good lives
- ❖ **R310** Become aware of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- ❖ **R311** Categorize the Sacraments of Initiation, the Sacraments of Healing, and the Sacraments of Vocation
- ❖ **R312** Characterize the Church as a group of people who share God's word, build community, worship God, and serve others
- ❖ **R313** Begin to understand that prayer is important to our friendship with God
- ❖ **R314** Distinguish between communal and personal prayer
- ❖ **R315** Participate in praying the Rosary
- ❖ **R316** State that the Pope is the Bishop of Rome and the head of the Catholic Church
- ❖ **R317** State that the Bishop is the head of the local Church
- ❖ **R318** Describe the Church as the People of God, all members using their gifts and talents in service to the Church and world
- ❖ **R319** Participate in class prayer
- ❖ **R320** Write prayer
- ❖ **R321** Share age-appropriate Bible stories
- ❖ **R322** Share age-appropriate stories of the saints
- ❖ **R323** Demonstrate an understanding of shared Bible stories and stories of the saints
- ❖ **R324** Complete a minimum of two activities or service projects during the school year

- ❖ Demonstrate an understanding of grade three terms, as follows:
 - Anointing of the Sick
 - Annunciation
 - Apostles' Creed
 - Bishop
 - Blessing
 - Covenant
 - Creed
 - Diocese
 - Disciple
 - Eucharist
 - Faith
 - Gospels
 - Great Commandments
 - Justice
 - Mass
 - Messiah
 - Ministry
 - Pentecost
 - Pope
 - Rosary
 - Sacrament
 - Ten Commandments
 - Worship

GRADE FOUR

GOAL: To introduce the children to Catholic moral teaching and to foster moral living.

OBJECTIVES: The students will:

- ❖ **R41** Describe the Reign of God as God's love, peace, and justice in the world
- ❖ **R42** Define grace as God's life in us
- ❖ **R43** Know that God forgives us; we should offer words and signs of our sorrow and intent to do better
- ❖ **R44** Describe the Church as a community of people striving to become a caring, loving, and faithful people responding to God's invitation
- ❖ **R45** Explain the differences among a sin, an accident, and a mistake
- ❖ **R46** Explain that conscience is the ability to determine whether an action is right or wrong
- ❖ **R47** Explain that the teachings of Jesus and the Church are necessary to help us make good decisions and develop an informed conscience
- ❖ **R48** State that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is recommended for those in venial sin and necessary for those in mortal sin
- ❖ **R49** Describe mortal sin as a personal choice to completely turn away from God
- ❖ **R410** Describe venial sin as a personal choice to hurt ourselves or others while not completely turning away from God
- ❖ **R411** Discuss active participation in the celebration of liturgy
- ❖ **R412** Say the Two Great Commandments of Jesus from memory
- ❖ **R413** Recognize the Eight Beatitudes
- ❖ **R414** Say the Ten Commandments from memory
- ❖ **R415** Recognize the Ten Commandments read in Exodus 20:11-17 and Deuteronomy 5:15-21
- ❖ **R416** Develop a deeper understanding of the meaning of the Commandments
- ❖ **R417** Begin to explore the Precepts of the Church
- ❖ **R418** Recite the Hail Holy Queen from memory
- ❖ **R419** Participate in class prayer
- ❖ **R420** Write prayer
- ❖ **R421** Share age-appropriate Bible stories
- ❖ **R422** Share age-appropriate stories of the saints
- ❖ **R423** Demonstrate an understanding of shared Bible stories and stories of the saints
- ❖ **R424** Complete a minimum of two activities or service projects during the school year

❖ Demonstrate an understanding of terms for grade 4 as follows:

- Absolution
- Act of Contrition
- Beatitudes
- Conscience
- Conversion
- Disciple
- Examination of Conscience
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Faith
- Free will
- Grace
- Great Commandments
- Holiness
- Kingdom of God/Reign of God
- Mercy
- Messiah
- Mortal sin
- Moses
- New Testament
- Old Testament
- Original sin
- Penance
- Precepts of the church
- Reconciliation
- Sabbath
- Salvation
- Service
- Sin
- Ten Commandments
- Venial sin
- Virtue

GRADE FIVE

GOAL: To enable the children to become knowledgeable of and active participants in the sacramental life of the Church.

OBJECTIVES: The students will:

- ❖ **R51** Explain and give examples of the many signs of God's presence
- ❖ **R52** Describe the Sacraments as gifts from Jesus Christ which celebrate the presence and action of God in sign and ritual
- ❖ **R53** Discuss and describe the Sacraments as sources of grace
- ❖ **R54** Describe the Church's seven Sacraments and their respective signs
- ❖ **R55** Identify the Sacraments of Initiation as Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation
- ❖ **R56** Identify the Sacraments of Healing as Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick
- ❖ **R57** Identify the Sacraments of Vocation as Matrimony and Holy Orders
- ❖ **R58** Discuss and describe the purpose of each of the seven Sacraments
- ❖ **R59** State that the purpose of each Sacrament is accomplished through the Holy Spirit
- ❖ **R510** Say the Prayer to the Holy Spirit from memory, i.e., "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful...."
- ❖ **R511** Recognize and describe the major rites of the liturgy
- ❖ **R512** Recognize covenant as a sacred promise
- ❖ **R513** Participate in class prayer
- ❖ **R514** Write prayer
- ❖ **R515** Share age-appropriate Bible stories
- ❖ **R516** Share age-appropriate stories of the saints
- ❖ **R517** Demonstrate an understanding of shared Bible stories and stories of the saints
- ❖ **R518** Complete a minimum of two activities or service projects during the school year

❖ Demonstrate an understanding of grade five terms as follows:

- Absolution
- Altar
- Ambo
- Anointing of the Sick
- Baptism
- Blessed Sacrament
- Catechumen
- Celebrant
- Chalice
- Confirmation
- Conscience
- Consecration
- Conversion
- Covenant
- Diocese
- Easter Vigil
- Eucharist
- Good Friday
- Holy Orders
- Holy Saturday
- Holy Thursday
- Liturgy
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Liturgy of the Word
- Liturgical Year
- Lord's Supper
- Marriage/Matrimony
- Ministry
- Monstrance
- Mortal Sin
- Original Sin
- Paschal Mystery
- Paten
- Penance/Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Reconciliation
- Rite
- Rite of Christian Initiation
- Ritual
- Roman Missal (Lectionary and Sacramentary)
- Sacrament
- Sin
- Venial sin
- Vocation

GRADE SIX

GOAL: To introduce the children to Holy Scripture, and to help them appreciate that it is God's revelation.

OBJECTIVES: The students will:

- ❖ **R61** Describe the Bible as God's revelation to us
- ❖ **R62** Describe the Bible as a collection of various kinds of literary forms through which God communicates, e.g., prose, poetry, narrative, myth
- ❖ **R63** Locate the Old Testament (Hebrew Scripture) and the New Testament (Christian Scripture) in the Bible
- ❖ **R64** Categorize the Old Testament (Hebrew Scripture) books into major divisions: Law (Torah/Pentateuch), Historical Writings, Wisdom Writings, and Prophetic Writings
- ❖ **R65** Define covenant as a special loving relationship between God and God's people
- ❖ **R66** Describe the Old Testament (Hebrew Scripture) as the story of God's loving relationship with the Jewish people up to the time of Christ
- ❖ **R67** Study examples of covenants in the Old Testament (Hebrew Scripture) as they relate to our salvation history, e.g., Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, David
- ❖ **R68** Say the Ten Commandments from memory
- ❖ **R69** Recognize the Ten Commandments as a means to keep the Old Testament covenant
- ❖ **R610** Recognize the Ten Commandments read in Scripture, e.g., Exodus 20:11-17 and Deuteronomy 5:15-21
- ❖ **R611** Characterize Baptism as our covenant with God and the community
- ❖ **R612** Categorize the New Testament (Christian Scripture) books as: the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the Letters (Epistles), and the Book of Revelation
- ❖ **R613** State that Jesus fulfills the promises of the Old Testament (Hebrew Scripture) as related in the New Testament (Christian Scripture)
- ❖ **R614** Recite the Eight Beatitudes from memory
- ❖ **R615** Recognize the Beatitudes as the fulfillment of the Ten Commandments and as a means to keep the New Testament covenant
- ❖ **R616** Explore the Precepts of the Church
- ❖ **R617** Participate in class prayer
- ❖ **R618** Write prayer
- ❖ **R619** Share age-appropriate Bible stories
- ❖ **R620** Share age-appropriate stories of the saints
- ❖ **R621** Demonstrate an understanding of shared Bible stories and stories of the saints
- ❖ **R622** Complete a minimum of two activities or service projects during the school year

❖ Demonstrate an understanding of grade six terms as follows:

- Abraham/Sarah
- Acts of Apostles
- Adam/Eve
- Ark of the Covenant
- Baptism
- Bible
- Christian Scripture
- Covenant
- Creation
- David
- Epic
- Epistles
- Exile
- Exodus
- Genesis
- Hebrew Scripture
- Hebrews
- Holiness
- Inspiration
- Isaac
- Israel
- Israelites
- Jacob
- Jews
- Joseph
- Literary forms
- Moses
- Myth
- New Testament
- Noah
- Old Testament
- Oral tradition
- Parable
- Passover
- Prophet
- Psalms
- Revelation
- Sacred Scripture
- Salvation History
- Seder
- Synagogue
- Temple
- Yahweh

GRADE SEVEN

GOAL: To begin to internalize and incorporate Catholic Christian doctrine and values into daily life.

OBJECTIVES (WORSHIP): The students will:

- ❖ **R71.1** Participate regularly in liturgies
- ❖ **R71.2** Participate in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- ❖ **R71.3** Discuss and be familiar with the celebration of the Triduum
- ❖ **R71.4** Assist in planning, preparing, and celebrating liturgies and prayer services
- ❖ **R71.5** Plan and participate in a variety of prayer forms, guided by Catholic tradition, e.g., meditation, silence and contemplation, guided imagery, the Rosary, spontaneous prayer, song, dance and drama, Scripture stories
- ❖ **R71.6** Pray with the youth community about important issues, e.g., guidance in making decisions, for those in authority, respect for the dignity of all life, troubled and broken relationships, families in distress, difficulties of everyday life, missions
- ❖ **R71.7** Experience a variety of Catholic devotions, e.g., Stations of the Cross, Forty Hours, Benediction, Liturgy of the Hours, Marian devotions, Eucharistic adoration

OBJECTIVES (COMMUNITY AND SERVICE): The students will:

- ❖ **R72.1** Participate in acts of service to the family and the larger community
- ❖ **R72.2** Minister to the needs of their peers in an age-appropriate manner, utilizing their talents and gifts
- ❖ **R72.3** Contribute to school and/or parish programs, by taking an active role, e.g., food pantry, social concerns, liturgical ministry, parish organizations
- ❖ **R72.4** Engage in service to the needs of the local community and/or the missions, e.g., poor, elderly, ill, disabled, children
- ❖ **R72.5** Participate in a minimum of three activities or service projects during the school year
- ❖ **R72.6** Reflect on and discuss the service performed

OBJECTIVES (PERSONAL GROWTH AND RELATIONSHIPS):

The students will:

- ❖ **R73.1** Affirm that each person is a unique creation of God
- ❖ **R73.2** Share scripture passages which describe Jesus' personal qualities in relationship with others
- ❖ **R73.3** Recognize the importance of faith and grace in relationships with God, self, and others

- ❖ **R73.4** Recognize Mary's life as a model of faith
- ❖ **R73.5** Develop an awareness of their personal gifts and limitations

NOTE: The following objectives also comprise part of the Health Curriculum:

- ❖ **R73.6** Identify self-abusive attitudes and self-destructive behavior
- ❖ **R73.7** Recognize that we constantly grow and change in relationships with the people closest to us
- ❖ **R73.8** Compare and contrast healthy and unhealthy relationships
- ❖ **R73.9** Explore constructive ways to heal hurt, jealousy, rejections, and resentments in relationships
- ❖ **R73.10** Practice skills of non-violent conflict resolution
- ❖ **R73.11** Recognize family situations that can be problematic and identify available support services for those problems, e.g., illness, divorce, separation, step-parenting, death, abuse, physical/mental challenges

OBJECTIVES (JESUS AND THE GOSPEL MESSAGE): The students will:

- ❖ **R74.1** Identify the Gospels as faith testimonies, not strictly biographical accounts
- ❖ **R74.2** Examine the Gospels as proclamations of the Good News, encounters with Jesus, and challenges to believe
- ❖ **R74.3** Relate the story of Jesus' life on earth
- ❖ **R74.4** Recognize that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine
- ❖ **R74.5** Recognize Jesus as the fulfillment of the messianic prophecies and the one who established the New Covenant
- ❖ **R74.6** Discuss the person of Jesus as revealed in his teachings, e.g., His values, attitudes, and purpose
- ❖ **R74.7** Discover the key themes of the Good News: God's love and forgiveness, prayer, service, and salvation
- ❖ **R74.8** Compare the fellowship of the first disciples to that of the present-day parish community
- ❖ **R74.9** Develop a deeper understanding of the purpose and meaning of the Beatitudes and Gospel parables

OBJECTIVES (CHURCH: TO BE A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN):

The students will:

- ❖ **R75.1** Examine the role of the Holy Spirit as the one who guides the Church and its development
- ❖ **R75.2** Review the Creeds and define the four marks of the Catholic Church: one, holy, catholic, apostolic
- ❖ **R75.3** Review the Sacraments of the Church: Initiation, Healing, Vocation

- ❖ **R75.4** Research different Christian traditions and discuss the similarities and differences among those denominations and the Catholic Church

OBJECTIVES (JUSTICE AND PEACE): The students will:

- ❖ **R76.1** Identify their responsibility to treat themselves and others with dignity
- ❖ **R76.2** Study and discuss Catholic pro-life doctrine as protecting the fundamental rights of every person
- ❖ **R76.3** Study and discuss Catholic social doctrine related to responsibility for the world (stewardship) and the fundamental dignity of each person
- ❖ **R76.4** Explore Jesus as a person of compassion as recounted in the New Testament
- ❖ **R76.5** Examine Jesus as a model of non-violence, our means of conflict resolution
- ❖ **R76.6** List ways in which prejudice and stereotyping rob people of their dignity and other fundamental rights
- ❖ **R76.7** Examine role models in the areas of peace and social justice, e.g., Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Archbishop Romero

GRADE EIGHT

GOAL: To being to internalize and incorporate Catholic Christian doctrine and values into daily life.

OBJECTIVES (WORSHIP): The students will:

- ❖ **R81.1** Participate regularly in liturgies
- ❖ **R81.2** Participate in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- ❖ **R81.3** Discuss and be familiar with the celebration of the Triduum
- ❖ **R81.4** Assist in planning, preparing, and celebrating liturgies and prayer services
- ❖ **R81.5** Plan and participate in a variety of prayer forms, guided by Catholic tradition, e.g., meditation, silence and contemplation, guided imagery, the Rosary, spontaneous prayer, song, dance and drama, Scripture stories
- ❖ **R81.6** Pray with the youth community about important issues, e.g., guidance in making decisions, for those in authority, respect for the dignity of all life, troubled and broken relationships, families in distress, difficulties of everyday life, missions
- ❖ **R81.7** Experience a variety of Catholic devotions, e.g., Stations of the Cross, Forty Hours, Benediction, Liturgy of the Hours, Marian devotions, Eucharistic adoration

OBJECTIVES (COMMUNITY AND SERVICE): The students will:

- ❖ **R82.1** Participate in acts of service to the family and the larger community
- ❖ **R82.2** Minister to the needs of their peers in an age-appropriate manner, utilizing their talents and gifts
- ❖ **R82.3** Contribute to school and/or parish programs by taking an active role, e.g., food pantry, social concerns, liturgical ministry, parish organizations
- ❖ **R82.4** Engage in service to the needs of the local community and/or the missions, e.g., poor, elderly, ill, disabled, children
- ❖ **R82.5** Participate in a minimum of three service projects or activities during the school year
- ❖ **R82.6** Reflect on and discuss the service performed

OBJECTIVES (MORALITY AND MORAL DECISION-MAKING):

The students will:

- ❖ **R83.1** Review the Two Great Commandments, the Ten Commandments, and the Beatitudes
- ❖ **R83.2** Define original sin and explore its consequences in their lives
- ❖ **R83.3** Relate conscience, sin, and reconciliation to issues of adolescent life

- ❖ **R83.4** Examine the social nature of sin
- ❖ **R83.5** Learn a moral decision-making process which takes into consideration Jesus' values, Catholic Church teachings, and the impact that our actions have on self and others
- ❖ **R83.6** Recognize the impact of culture and relationships on moral decision-making
- ❖ **R83.7** Review Catholic moral teaching on issues relevant to adolescent life
- ❖ **R83.8** Practice making moral decisions using case studies

OBJECTIVES (SEXUALITY): The students will:

- ❖ **R84.1** Recognize sexuality as a central aspect of being human
- ❖ **R84.2** Identify sexuality as a crucial factor in one's relationship with others
- ❖ **R84.3** Discuss spiritually and physically healthy behaviors in relationships and dating, in light of Church teachings
- ❖ **R84.4** Explore Scriptural descriptions of love.
- ❖ **R84.5** Discuss an appropriate lifestyle for a Christian, e.g., the vocations of the single person, married person, priest, vowed religious, or permanent deacon
- ❖ **R84.6** Recognize that marriage is the appropriate context for sexual fulfillment and the family is the most basic community
- ❖ **R84.7** Differentiate between infatuation and love
- ❖ **R84.8** Research the Catholic Christian understanding of sexuality and sexual moral values
- ❖ **R84.9** Discuss the difficult issues of sexuality from a Catholic perspective, e.g., masturbation, homosexuality, date rape, abuse, incest, pornography
- ❖ **R84.10** Recognize that abusive relationships (emotional, physical, sexual) are unhealthy and illegal
- ❖ **R84.11** Apply decision-making skills to case studies of sexual moral issues, e.g., chastity, abortion, pornography, contraception

OBJECTIVES (CHURCH HISTORY): The students will develop an appreciation and understanding of the major personalities, events, and divisions in Church history within this framework:

- ❖ **R85.1** ?? to 325 AD, to include: Pentecost, the rapid spread of the faith through the preaching of the apostles, the conflict between the early Church and Jewish tradition, the organizing efforts of Church leaders, persecution of Christians, and the conflict between the Church and the Roman Empire.

- ❖ **R85.2** 325 AD to 800 AD, to include: collapse of the Roman Empire, the end of persecutions, the rise of monasticism and feudalism, the impact of the Church on the Barbarians, the response of the Church to major heresies, and the impact of the Church Councils
- ❖ **R85.3** 800 AD to 1400 AD, to include: the Crusades, the conflict between the Popes and secular forces, schism, the Age of Christendom
- ❖ **R85.4** 1400 AD to 1700 AD, to include: the relationship between the Church and the Renaissance, the rise of Protestant religions, the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, and the Inquisition
- ❖ **R85.5** 1700 AD to 1962 AD, to include: the age of science and the rise of secular humanism, the Church in the United States, and the effects and impact of the Second Vatican Council
- ❖ **R85.6** 1962 AD to the present, to include: Catholic social teachings and World Youth Days

SUGGESTED SERVICE PROJECTS

Teachers are encouraged to develop their own projects and activities based on the interests and abilities of their students and the needs of their communities.

The following list provides a starting point for teachers who are looking for suggestions or ideas.

ALL GRADE LEVELS

- create generic birthday cards to be distributed to homeless shelters, VA hospitals, parish senior citizens
- support local food pantries; collect food, money, gift cards, or organize a parish drive
- assemble holiday gift baskets for nursing homes, veterans centers, children in hospitals
- participate in Operation Rice Bowl
- “Let us build the City of God”; for every day of Lent, take part in a fundraising activity, e.g., put a penny in the box for every shoe in your house, 50 cents if you have running water, etc.
- collect and box toiletries for distribution at missions, nursing homes, clinics
- at an age-appropriate level, take part in Crop Walk
- organize and donate to a clothing drive; donations are preferably from your own closet
- organize a “themed” collection, e.g., underwear, diapers, baby clothes, mittens, hats, scarves, socks, books
- assist with “Coats for Kids,” sponsored by local civic organizations
- organize a collection of glasses and hearing aids; donate these to the Lions Club
- have a school jeans day; use the money to buy blankets in your school colors for shelters
- collect bedding and clothing for local shelters
- host speakers on: fair trade, health care awareness, retail issues
- write “care notes” (thinking about you, scripture verse) for parish shut-ins
- discuss the importance of voting; practice decision-making in the classroom
- organize and participate in a community clean-up day; collect trash, rake, clean up building and grounds, pick up debris in the neighborhood
- research and discuss Catholic social teaching, e.g., cultural awareness, diversity, respect for differences
- develop a buddy program in your school
- create cards and make/collect gifts for residents of shelters
- fundraise for Habitat for Humanity, e.g., each class/child contributes money to purchase nails (“nails to help rather than hurt”)
- adopt a grandparent/family
- visit shut-ins; send them cards/letters/pictures
- visit your neighbors
- send cards/packages to military personnel overseas, especially at holidays

- join an environmental awareness program
- develop and complete a science project about the environment
- adopt a park
- plant a garden
- recycle materials in the home/school/neighborhood
- participate in an “energy fast”, e.g., use no electricity for an entire day
- learn about composting; set up a compost pile at home/school
- plan Earth Day activities at school
- learn more about animal protection/ASPCA (www.aspca.org)
- practice “no littering”; remind other about littering
- think of creative ways to reuse materials at home and in school; put these ideas into practice

PRIMARY GRADES

- create decorations, place mats, etc., for holidays; send these to soup kitchens, shelters, or hospitals
- grow food in a community garden
- participate in the Thread Project (www.threadproject.com)
- clean up around the school
- learn about recycling; practice recycling in the classroom/school
- donate to a clothing drive, collection of toiletries, book drive, etc.
- help pack and label donated items
- “adopt” a grandparent from a senior center or the parish

INTERMEDIATE GRADES

- make decorations, place mats, treats, for holidays and donate to soup kitchens
- grow food in a community garden
- pack “breakfast in a box” (granola bars, cereal, juice boxes); distribute to homeless shelters
- participate in the Thread Project (www.threadproject.com)
- research and discuss labor issues
- read to younger students or to senior citizens
- visit a landfill; collect data, create posters, promote recycling
- clean up a creek or pond
- learn about pesticide use
- visit an organic farm
- research and discuss environmental issues (www.earthforce.org)
- research pollution in your area; discuss what changes can be made
- participate in “Presents for Patients” program
- participate in “Hoops for Heart” (American Heart Association)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- provide service in soup kitchens or shelters
- grow food in a community garden
- participate in gleaning fields
- pack “breakfast in a box” (granola bars, cereal, juice boxes); distribute to homeless shelters
- with the supervision of adults, participate in a 24-hour famine
- organize a clothing, book, or food drive
- research, discuss, and inform others about sweatshop issues
- research and discuss labor issues
- learn about political advocacy
- research and discuss the ethic of life
- develop an activity to promote “Respect Life”
- learn more about animal protection/ASPCA (www.aspca.org)
- list companies that refrain from animal testing
- participate in the Thread Project (www.threadproject.com)
- participate in tutoring/peer tutoring in your school
- offer homework help to younger students in after-school care
- form and participate in an in-school Big Brother/Sister program
- with the cooperation of adults, provide child care for younger children when needed, e.g., PTC, after school, during Mass, summer care, Bible school
- read to younger students or to senior citizens
- research and discuss the problems of slums, renters’ rights, urban planning
- learn the meaning of “the hidden poor”; where are they in our community?
- provide home help (yard work, basic chores) for shut-ins
- visit senior centers
- assist adults in delivering meals to shut-ins
- visit group homes or programs for people with special needs
- volunteer as an aide for religious education
- spend time with a person with disabilities
- volunteer at the Special Olympics
- visit a landfill; make observations, gather data, discuss waste and conservation
- clean up a creek, pond, or lake
- volunteer for an environmental organization
- develop environmental awareness (www.earthforce.org)
- learn about pesticide use/misuse
- visit an organic farm
- research pollution in your community
- organize and participate in an environmental sciences fair