



September 1, 2023

Dear Principals:

In past years, I approved a list of catechetical textbooks for use in grades K to 8. The criteria established for approving publishers and text series were that the texts:

- Enjoy an *Imprimatur* and *Nihil Obstat* from the competent ecclesiastical authority
- Are on the USCCB Subcommittee of the Catechism's "Conformity List"
- Follow a "spiral curriculum" so that important matters of faith would be covered over a number of years, with increasing depth and detail in successive years
- Be complemented by extensive on-line resources for the student, family and teacher
- Be "consumable," i.e., designed to prompt the student's personal use.

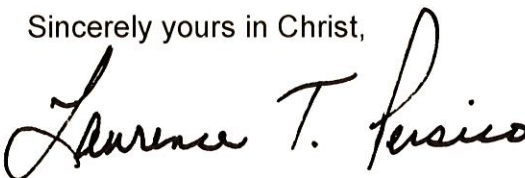
Updated and new textbook series continue to emerge that assist in educating students to know, love, and serve God in order to evangelize in a global society. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has tasked the Subcommittee on the Catechism to foster authentic implementation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This work is accomplished primarily through reviewing catechetical materials for conformity with the Catechism.

With this letter, I am announcing that schools may refer to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website and use religion textbooks that appear on the frequently updated [Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series](#). I ask that you work closely with your religion teacher and other faith formation leaders in the school and parish to determine which series best meets the needs of your students.

We all need to remember that the faith is taught first by persons who believe; the textbook is only a resource, albeit an important one. Therefore, please collaborate with your pastor in every way to continue forming our catechists and teachers in the faith. I pray that this process of textbook selection renews our recognition of the importance of handing on the faith throughout the parishes and schools of the Diocese.

With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, J.C.L.
Bishop of Erie

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