

Implementing the UNITED STATES BISHOPS' Doctrinal Framework for High School Catechesis Adapted for Parishes



Implementation may begin at anytime as appropriate

Implementation required for the school year 2018-2019

Department of Religious Education

St. Mark Catholic Center
429 E. Grandview Blvd.
PO Box 10397
Erie, PA 16514

Director of Religious Education
Email: RelEdDir@erieRCD.org



Department of Religious Education

Diocese of Erie

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Who is this for and why are we doing it?

“THE DEFINITIVE AIM OF CATECHESIS IS TO PUT people not only in touch but in communion, IN INTIMACY, WITH JESUS CHRIST” (Catechesi Tradendae, #5) These ends are evident in this framework - designed to guide catechetical instruction for young people of high-school age wherever and however it takes place: in Catholic high schools, in parish religious education programs, with young people school ed at home, or within the context of the catechetical instruction which should be part of every youth ministry program.

*Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the
Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High
School Age*

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2008

(Adapted for parishes - 2010)

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Why have we delayed implementation until now?

The framework advanced by the Bishops was to guide the development of catechetical materials (as the document name states directly). We have been waiting for publishing companies to produce materials, i.e., textbooks designed specifically for parish use to teach the framework. To date, there are no materials designed for this purpose (materials have been produced for use in Catholic High Schools).

While there are many good High School books on the market, utilizing these existing materials requires the purchase of several textbooks for each student for each year. At a time when parishes are striving to be frugal in the allocation of resources it seems excessive to require the purchase of multiple books per student and then use only small portions of these books to teach the mandated content of the Framework.

Why are we doing it now?

1. Waiting is no longer a viable strategy as there are apparently no textbooks forthcoming from the publishing community.
2. We have identified a reasonably priced set of materials to teach the required information.
3. A group of dedicated parish leaders have assisted us in designing a **process that is responsive to the Bishops' Framework** requirements while also remaining faithful to our specific diocesan needs.

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What does the Framework add that is new?

1. **Christocentric:** The Bishops' Framework centers our entire teaching effort around making the person of Jesus Christ known and loved.
2. **Systematic:** The framework is strategic in its approach organizing material to present the faith as a coherent whole. The Bishops have asked that the required courses be taught in the order prescribed. (see below)

What Courses does the Framework require?

| Required Courses (Core) | Optional Courses |
|---|--|
| 1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture (Core-1) | Sacred Scripture (Option-A) |
| 2. Who Is Jesus Christ (Core-2) | History of the Catholic Church (Option-B) |
| 3. The Mission of Jesus Christ (Core-3) | Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society (Option-C) |
| 4. Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church (Core-4) | Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ (Option-D) |
| 5. Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ (Core-5) | Ecumenical and Interreligious Issues (Option-E) |
| 6. Life in Jesus Christ (Core-6) | |

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| Our process to accomplish the Framework | | |
|--|---|--|
| 9th Grade | 10th Grade | 11th Grade |
| The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture (Core-1) | Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church (Core-4) | Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ (Core-5) |
| Who Is Jesus Christ (C-2) | Life in Jesus Christ (C-6) | Confirmation Preparation |
| The Mission of Jesus Christ (Core-3) | Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ (Option-D) | |

This process calls for three courses in the 9th grade and three courses in the 10th grade. The decision to insert Option D in the 10th grade is an effort to respond to the youth's need to spend time considering their vocational responsibilities.

The 11th grade attempts to insert the preparation for Confirmation into a larger conversation about the meaning of Sacraments. The plan for 11th grade is very flexible recognizing that Confirmation celebrations and related requirements are not always totally under your control.

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| Resources to implement Curriculum (Center for Ministry Development - CMD) | | |
|--|--|---|
| | Resource / Textbook | Cost |
| 9th Grade | Youth Ministry Access - Sr. High CMD Web Site Subscription <i>The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth</i> St. Mary's Press (third edition) | 1/3 of \$150 subscription fee to CMD plus \$20 x (# of students) (every year) |
| 10th Grade | Youth Ministry Access - Sr. High CMD Web Site Subscription <i>The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth</i> | 1/3 of \$150 subscription fee to CMD plus \$20 x (# of students) (first year only, returning 10th students will already have the text) |
| 11th Grade | Youth Ministry Access - Sr. High CMD Web Site Subscription <i>The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth</i> Parish choice of Confirmation text | 1/3 of \$150 subscription fee to CMD plus \$20 x (# of students) (first year only, returning 11th students will already have the text) ??? |

| Cost Summary | 9th Grade | First Year | Subsequent Years |
|-----------------|---------------|---|---|
| | | \$ 150 per year includes lessons for 9th grade, 10th grade, and 11th grade plus duplication costs of lesson plans and worksheets. | \$ 150 per year includes lessons for 9th grade, 10th grade, and 11th grade plus duplication costs of lesson plans and worksheets. |
| | 10th Grade | + | + |
| | 11th Grade | \$20 x # of students | \$20 x # of <u>9th grade</u> students |
| | Confirmation | + | + |
| | | Cost of Confirmation Text | Cost of Confirmation Text |

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IMPLEMENTATION

1. Enroll with the Center for Ministry Development (CMD) and subscribe to “Youth Ministry Access - Senior High” (see the box on the next page for details). You will download all of the catechist lesson plans and student worksheets from this site to teach the High School Curriculum.
2. For the first year of implementation, **purchase “Catholic Faith Handbook” (third edition)** from St. Mary’s Press for each 9th, 10th and 11th grade student. A student will use this book for all three years of H.S. as a supplant to the CMD curriculum. This text is NOT OPTIONAL and should become the student’s personal property at the end of 11th grade. (see ordering details in the box on the next page)
3. There are a sufficient number of CMD lesson plans for each meeting date in the calendar year 2013-2014 (see the attached Curriculum Plans for 9th, 10th & 11th grades). It is important to follow this plan carefully because **these lessons are specifically chosen to meet the US Bishop’s curriculum expectations for H.S.**
4. The “LESSONS” are designed in a specific order and should be used in this order as much as possible.
5. The “DATES” that you will see on the curriculum plans are be flexible. Each parish has traditions and celebrations that are unique and important to parish life so please feel free to shift “DATES” as needed. To say that the dates are flexible is not the same as saying the lessons are expendable.
6. CMD lessons are correlated whenever possible to the *Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth* for additional material. These correlations are noted on the Curriculum Plan pages as “CFH.”

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Subscribing with Center for Ministry Development

1. Enter Center for Ministry Development in your search engine (or surf to <http://www.cmdnet.org>)
2. Click on “CMD Store” (directly under the main logo in the large Blue Band)
3. Click on “Youth Ministry Access” under “on-Line Subscriptions”
4. Click on “YMA High School: New Subscription” (this is the third option down the list) [Options 1 and 2 include access to Middle School resources which are not needed]
5. You should see - “\$150.00 each” on the screen [IMPORTANT: if you see \$225 you picked the wrong option]
6. Select “add to cart,” and fill in the billing information and proceed to payment

PURCHASING FROM ST. MARY’S PRESS

1. Enter “Saint Mary’s Press” in your Search engine or surf to <http://www.smp.org>)
2. Click on “The Catholic Faith Handbook” (Under “bestsellers” or choose “high school” and then “the Catholic Faith Handbook)
3. Click on “Order” (one of the three blue bars in the middle of the page)
4. Be sure you choose “paperback - third edition” - enter the number you need and click add to cart -Proceed to checkout (you will be asked to register if you do not already have an account).