

Using the Religion Standards and Guidelines

The Religion Standards promulgated in 2018 are ordered by grade. Standards are arranged into seven themes: The Faith Professed, Sacraments and Liturgical Life, Living in Freedom, Prayer, Church: The Body of Christ, Christians in the World, and Theology of the Body. Some of these themes are large and are further divided. For example, The Faith Professed encompasses doctrine and Scripture. The standards are written to direct teachers to the significant themes and concepts to be covered in the year.

The Religion Guidelines are designed to accompany the Religion Standards. The Religion Guidelines unpack the standards and detail specific concepts that should be addressed at each grade level. Their purpose is to clarify the standard, providing consistency and preventing repeat coverage or gaps in instruction, and to provide links to background information which may be helpful to the teacher. They feature a side by side view of the previous grade level, shaded out in light blue, so that the classroom teacher can easily see what should be review and where he or she can expect to begin building with new information. This means that one guidelines document will contain the guidelines for two grade levels, the lower grade on the left, and the higher on the right. A fifth grade teacher, for example, would use Religion Guidelines 4 & 5 for example, and would have the 4th grade guidelines blued out on the left hand side and would plan referencing the 5th grade guidelines on the right. Guidelines that are introduced to the students for the first time that year are bolded. Often guidelines are detailed, so it is possible to include several in a single lesson.

Religion Guidelines Fourth-Fifth Grade Comparison Fifth Grade Emphasis

Fourth Grade	Rev.	New	Intro	Fifth Grade
The Faith Professed				The Faith Professed
Doctrine				Doctrine
A 'mystery' of Faith is something that we can only partially understand on Earth. Our minds can understand a part, but we can never fully understand or explain the mystery. God calls us to reflect on the mystery and use our minds to explore the mystery and our heart to love him as we explore the mystery.		X		A 'mystery' of Faith is something that we can only partially understand on Earth. Our minds can understand a part and our faith does make sense, but we can never fully understand or explain the mystery. God calls us to reflect on the mystery and use our minds to explore the mystery and our heart to love him as we explore the mystery.
		X		Tell what the transcendence of God means.
The greatest mystery of our faith is God, the Holy Trinity.	X			The greatest mystery of our faith is God, the Holy Trinity.
		X		Recognize that each person of the Trinity is fully God.
Describe the meaning of faith in my life.	X			Describe the meaning of faith in my life.

Acknowledgements:

During the course of this project, several dioceses have been most generous in their assistance. We would like to thank the following for sharing their standards or for allowing their standards to be referenced during this drafting process:

Diocese of Buffalo
 Archdiocese of Cincinnati
 Archdiocese of Denver
 Diocese of Harrisburg
 Diocese of Lincoln
 Diocese of Washington, D.C.