

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES FOR CATECHESIS

GRADE TWO

I = INTRODUCE AT THIS LEVEL

D = DEVELOP FURTHER AT THIS LEVEL

This course:

GOD

D Presents God as Father/Creator

D Presents Jesus as gift of God, Son and Redeemer

D Presents the Holy Spirit as Love and Friend

I Presents the Three Persons in One God as The Father (1st Person), the Son (2nd Person) and Holy Spirit (3rd Person)

D Encourages respect and devotion to the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary and Joseph)

D Presents God as worthy of worship

D Presents all people as members of God's family

JESUS/CHRISTOLOGY

D Presents Jesus' teachings as our way of life

D Presents Jesus as friend

D Presents Jesus as the Son of God and Redeemer who was sent to teach us the way to the Father

I Defines Jesus as second person of the Trinity

D Presents Jesus as Healer, Reconciler, and Prince of Peace

I Explains that Jesus is risen and living among His people

I Discusses God as being fully revealed by Jesus

I Discusses Jesus as God-with-us (Incarnation)

I Discusses Jesus as true God and true man

D Examines the life of Jesus – His public ministry, His way of life

I Identifies Jesus' life, death and resurrection as a manifestation of God's love for His people

I Lists ways that the individual can experience Jesus in daily life

I Lists ways that individuals can respond to Jesus by the way they treat others

SCRIPTURE

D Presents the Bible as God's Living Word

I Recounts Biblical stories of Jesus in the four Gospels

D Examines Jesus' command to love God and neighbor (Mk 7:1-10; 1 John 4:21; 1 Peter 4:10).

I Explains the understanding that evil came into the world through original sin

I Discusses the proclamation of the Word of God in the Eucharistic liturgy

D Introduces a prayer corner/sacred space

D Encourages the learning of selected Bible stories and Psalms

D Provides opportunities to appreciate the Word of God through selected scripture passages

PRAYER/WORSHIP

D Discusses “listening” to God in prayer

I Encourages response to the Word of God through communal prayer, liturgical prayer, and the challenge to live faith-filled lives

Expresses knowledge and understanding of formal prayers, especially –

D The Sign of the Cross

D The Lord’s Prayer

D Glory Be

D Hail Mary

D Meal Prayers

D Morning and Evening Prayer

I Act of Contrition

I Act of Faith, Hope, and Love

I Stations of the Cross

I Rosary (and mysteries)

I Selected Psalms

D Guardian Angel

I Provides opportunities for participation in a meditative prayer experience

I Defines liturgy as the public worship of the Church

I Lists the parts of the Mass in order

I Explains what takes place at each part of the Mass

D Provides opportunities for planning and participating in the celebration of a Mass

D Presents symbols using concrete objects and gestures for prayer and liturgy

D Presents the concept of spontaneous prayer and provides opportunities for spontaneous prayer of love, thanksgiving, praise, sorrow, petition

Provides opportunities for answering the responses at Mass, including –

D Alleluia

D Psalm Response

I Holy, Holy, Holy

I Memorial Acclamation

D Amen

D Rite of Peace

D Provides opportunities for planning and participating in celebrations

I Provides opportunity to renew baptismal vows

I Explains that the Scripture is the Word of God

D Provides opportunities for listening to Scripture readings

I Defines Scripture as God speaking His message to each person

D Provides opportunities for shared prayer based on Scripture (e.g., Bible Services)

D Provides for student planning and participation in prayer experiences that bring to life the special liturgical seasons

I Provides an opportunity to participate in a Seder celebration

I Explains the Rites and invites students to participate at the celebration of the Easter Vigil

D Provides opportunities for quiet, reflection and meditation that demonstrate proper attitudes needed for prayer

- I** Provides opportunities for extended prayer time in community (retreat days)
- D** Provides opportunities for experiencing the Gospel message of love carrying out various service projects in school and home
- I** Discusses prayer as arising from daily experiences nourished by the rich heritage of Catholic spirituality
- I** Describes prayer as a way of seeking answers to questions and finding true peace and happiness
- I** Discusses prayer as essential for changes that will bring each one closer to God and neighbor

SACRAMENTS

- I** Fosters appreciation for sharing God's life through sacraments
- D** Identifies the signs and symbols appropriate to each sacrament
- I** Explains how one meets Jesus in a special way in the sacraments
- D** Develops the recognition and appreciation of Baptism as the beginning of one's life as an active member of God's family
- D** Develops an awareness of a forgiving God
- I** Identifies and discusses the Sacrament of Penance as a call to continued growth
- I** Identifies the Sacrament of Penance as God's gift of healing to us
- D** Identifies Eucharist as the Church's most important act of worship
- I** Explains the meaning of bread and wine as the body and blood of Christ
- I** Explains the Mass as a re-presentation of the sacrificial offering of Jesus on the cross
- D** Encourages reverence and love for Jesus in the Eucharist
- I** Presents regular reception of the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation as a spiritually healthy practice

SALVATION/CHURCH HISTORY

- D** Describes God's acts in human history
- D** Promotes pride in Catholic roots

MODELS OF THE CHURCH/ECCLESIOLOGY

- D** Provides opportunities for reflection on and response to the invitation of Jesus to be a member of the Church
- Explains Pentecost as the birth of the Church
- Identifies the Church as Trinitarian and Christ-centered, leading to the Father, through the Son, with the Holy Spirit
- I** Identifies Church as community
- I** Discusses the personal need to belong to a community
- Describes the Church
 - D** as God's family
 - D** as reflective of the Kingdom of God
 - D** as a harmonious living community
 - D** as a parish
- Describes the Church as a Communion of Saints
- Describes the Church as a supportive community of people
- Describes the Church as a continuation of the life and ministry of Jesus

Recognizes the four identifying marks of the Church (i.e., one, catholic, apostolic and holy) and explains how each member is called to make these signs visible

Explains how the precepts of the Church guide the lives of its members

Presents the Nicene Creed as the Church's formal statement of belief

Explains the hierarchy of the Church

Explains the Pope as the visible head of the Church and Vicar of Christ

Discusses the diocese, its history and cathedral, and the meaning it gives to the local Church

Examines the parish council structure and other organizations that promote participation in parish life

Explains that the teachings of the Church are based on Scripture and tradition

D Recognizes God in the Church seasons (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost), and Holy Days of Obligation

D Instills knowledge of and a sense of the sacred with regard to the Church building, altar, tabernacle, font, crucifix, stained glass windows, etc.

D Identifies the presence of Mary at the prayer and worship of the early Christian community

D Explains that the honor due Mary as the mother of God can be seen in the liturgical celebrations of her feasts

I Identifies Mary as a model for a faith-filled response to the Father

D Presents Mary as Mother of the Church and presents ways of honoring and imitating her in prayer and song

I Explains that belonging to a community can bring meaning to a person's life

I Creates an atmosphere whereby the group itself is a "mini-experience" of Church by virtue of the way each person relates, responds, and shares with others

PERSONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Discusses the experience of belonging to –

D a family

D a neighborhood

D a parish

D a school

D Identifies persons as a member of a family, a school, a parish, a neighborhood

D Encourages the student to recognize/appreciate responsibilities for service to the community and aid to others

D Explains that all people are children of God

D Provides opportunities to experience enjoyment in the world

D Provides opportunities for discussion of membership in groups and development of special friendships

D Provides opportunity to establish friendships

D Correlates fun time, learning time, and quiet time

D Provides opportunity to pray, sing, talk, listen to and about God

Elicits an awareness of the presence of God –

I in himself / herself

I in each person

I Correlates shared love with the mark of a Christian

D Explains the need for reconciliation between self and others

D Elicits an awareness of the uniqueness of the self feelings, senses, name, living, being loved

- D Discusses how each is unique to God and each has a special, one-of-a-kind relationship with Christ
- D Discusses and provides for the celebration of the uniqueness of each person
- D Provides opportunities for students to discover their specific skills, talents, and abilities
- D Discusses the unconditional love of God for each individual
- D Defines uniqueness
- D Explains that uniqueness is not just physical but embraces the entire personality
- D Presents ways of growing in self esteem
- I Lists a wide variety of personal characteristics
- I Discusses ways people are similar and ways they differ
- I Describes ways in which human beings exhibit interdependence in the course of daily life
- I Explains the meaning of Christ's humanity as an example of how people are to live
- I Lists ways that Jesus treated people and showed concern for their human dignity
- D Explains why life is sacred from conception to death
- I Identifies ways that life is enhanced through positive attitudes
- I Discusses ways of dealing with rejection and failure
- D Discusses the importance of proper dress, grooming and behavior
- D Provides opportunities for expressing feelings about one's family
- I Compares and contrasts different family life styles
- D Discusses parent/child and sibling relationships in a family
- D Presents family communication skills
- D Examines the child's changing role in the family
- D Discusses a person's need to receive love and share it with others
- D Discusses the different types of love
- D Explains that individual growth is helped by and shared with others
- D Explains that the human body is a material sign of the total person created in God's image
- D Discusses the primary differences between boys and girls
- D Provides opportunities for healthy and balanced interaction with the opposite sex
- D Analyzes the importance of signs, touch, and words in expressing love
- I Identifies some of the harmful effects of sex stereotyping

MORALITY/MORAL ISSUES

- I Explains the concept of responsible choices
- I Promotes an understanding of an informed conscience
- I Defines free will as a gift given to all by God in order to make choices

FAMILY LIFE

- D Encourages a realization of responsibility to family and community
- D Discusses the meaning of loving, caring praying and sharing in the family unit
- D Demonstrates the kinds of family activities that bring happiness (e.g. family prayer)
- D Discusses the observance of family rules
- D Explains the role of parental authority in the lives of young people

JUSTICE & PEACE

I Discusses the concept of freedom and relates freedom to the fact that one cannot infringe upon the rights of others

D Defines peace making as doing the will of God

D Identifies peacemaking as an exercise of faith

I Discusses examples Jesus gave of stewardship and service

I Discusses the living out of Matthew 25:40: “As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me,” in terms of responding to the needs of others in the family community, school community, parish community, local community, and world community

I Defines the Eucharist as food – food that Jesus asks Christians to share with others in love and justice

D Fosters an attitude which might result in a fundamental option for the poor

D Designs service projects, (e.g., clothing drives, food baskets, Rice Bowls, special Church collections)

D Provides for student involvement in service projects, encouraging students to initiate, plan and carry out these projects

RESPECT LIFE

D Discusses “self” as gift

D Discusses others as gift

I Discusses the individual’s value as bearer of God’s life to others

D Promotes respect for life

D Presents examples of trusting, loving, forgiving oneself and others

D Presents heroes, saints and others as models for imitation

I Presents theological virtues: Faith, Hope and Love

D Discusses ways to show respect for the health and safety of one’s self and others

I Instills an awareness of death and human suffering as a sharing in the suffering of Jesus

I Provides the experience of praying for the dead and of expressing condolences’ for the grieving

D Presents persons as more valuable than material things (e.g., social status and productivity)

D Examines responsibility for the world and the things in it through conservation of resources