# CURRICULUM GUIDELINES FOR CATECHESIS
# *GRADE SIX*

**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
**D** Presents the Three Persons in One God as The Father (1st Person), the Son (2nd Person) and Holy Spirit (3rd Person)
**D** Explains that the Holy Spirit lives in the Church and in each member of the Church
**D** Encourages respect and devotion to the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary and Joseph)
**D** Explains that the will of God is communicated to each one through the legitimate teaching authority of the Church
**D** Explains that the Holy Spirit guides the life of the Church and helps each one grow in love and trust
**D** Discusses the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit
**D** Presents God as worthy of worship
**D** Discusses the diversity of worship by other religions
**D** Explains that God's presence is known and felt through sign and symbol
**D** Explains that God is worshipped in the Church through Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit
**D** Explains that God can bring good out of the evil that a person chooses to do
**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
**D** Defines Jesus as second person of the Trinity
**D** Presents Jesus as Healer, Reconciler, and Prince of Peace
**D** Explains that Jesus is risen and living among His people
**D** Discusses God as being fully revealed by Jesus
**D** Discusses Jesus as God-with-us (Incarnation)
**D** Discusses Jesus as true God and true man
**D** Examines the life of Jesus – His public ministry, His way of life
**D** Presents Jesus' life, teaching and ministry, as an example of perfect response to the Father
**D** Identifies Jesus' life, death and resurrection as a manifestation of God's love for His people
**D** Recounts the establishment of the Church by Jesus while He was on earth

**D** Explains that Jesus came to restore our dignity as children of God and to invite all to His community
**D** Explains that the individual's response to Jesus is a free decision
**D** Lists ways that the individual can experience Jesus in daily life
**D** Lists ways that individuals can respond to Jesus by the way they treat others

# SCRIPTURE

**D** Presents the Bible as God's Living Word
**D** Discusses Scripture as the main sourcebook of faith
**I** Explains the two major divisions of the Bible and their meaning (Old and New Testaments)
**D** Recounts Biblical stories of Jesus in the four Gospels
**I** Guides students in the skill of locating Biblical passages
**I** Interprets the meaning and message of the Scriptural revelations of Old and New Testament passages
**D** Examines Jesus' command to love God and neighbor (Mk 7:1-10; 1 John 4:21; 1 Peter 4:10).
**D** Explains the understanding that evil came into the world through original sin
**D** Identifies and explains the use of Scripture passages in the conferral of the Sacraments
**D** 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
**D** 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
**D** Act of Contrition
**D** Act of Faith, Hope, and Love
**D** Apostles' Creed
**D** Angelus
**D** Memorare
**D** Hail Holy Queen
**I** Magnificat
**D** Stations of the Cross
**D** Rosary (and mysteries)
**D** Selected Psalms
**D** Guardian Angel
**D** Come Holy Spirit

**D** Describes the meaning and form of meditative prayer
**D** Provides opportunities for participation in a meditative prayer experience
**D** Defines liturgy as the public worship of the Church
**D** Defines the celebration of the Mass as a liturgical celebration and a family experience
**D** Lists the parts of the Mass in order
**D** Explains what takes place at each part of the Mass
**D** Identifies the steps necessary to prepare for the celebration of Mass (theme, songs, readings, banners, etc.)
**D** Provides opportunities for planning and participating in the celebration of a Mass
**D** Describes and explains various Eucharistic Prayers
**D** Lists examples of various liturgical celebrations, such as penance services and prayer services for special occasions
**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** Penitential Rite
**D** Alleluia
**D** Psalm Response
**D** Holy, Holy, Holy
**D** Memorial Acclamation
**D** Amen
**D** Rite of Peace
**D** Lamb of God
**D** Lord, I am not Worthy
**D** Provides opportunities for planning and participating in celebrations
**D** Discusses participation in liturgy as an expression of Christian desire to respond to the Risen Christ
**D** Discusses benediction and correlates that discussion with an experience of the rite
**D** Provides opportunity to renew baptismal vows
**D** Explains that the Scripture is the Word of God
**D** Provides opportunities for listening to Scripture readings
**D** Explains the meaning of Scripture passages
**D** Defines Scripture-based prayer as listening to God's Word, reflecting on it, and responding to the urgings of the Spirit
**D** Defines Scripture as God speaking His message to each person
**D** Lists ways that individuals respond to Scripture in today's world
**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
**D** Provides an opportunity to participate in a Seder celebration
**D** 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
**D** 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

**D** Discusses prayer as arising from daily experiences nourished by the rich heritage of Catholic spirituality
**D** Presents prayer as critical to learning since it integrates personal responsibility to others with responsibility to God
**D** Explains the meaning of the mysteries of the rosary
**D** Encourages recognition of the call to make life a prayer
**D** Describes prayer as a way of seeking answers to questions and finding true peace and happiness
**D** Associates prayer with the struggle against evil
**I** Describes Abraham's trust in God as a form of prayer
**D** Discusses prayer as essential for changes that will bring each one closer to God and neighbor

# SACRAMENTS

**D** Fosters appreciation for sharing God's life through sacraments
**D** Lists and presents for memorization the seven sacraments
**D** Explains the meaning of the seven sacraments
**D** Identifies the signs and symbols appropriate to each sacrament
**D** Explains the use of symbols as necessary to the celebration of sacraments
**D** Explains how one meets Jesus in a special way in the sacraments
**D** Identifies and discusses sacramental signs that help express the actions of God in life
**D** Presents Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as Sacraments of Initiation
**D** Develops the recognition and appreciation of Baptism as the beginning of one's life as an active member of God's family
**D** Associates the Sacraments of Initiation & Rite of Reconciliation with the call of Christians to worship and service
**D** Develops an awareness of a forgiving God
**D** Promotes an appreciation of Jesus as Healer through Reconciliation
**D** Identifies and discusses the Sacrament of Penance as a call to continued growth
**D** 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
**D** Explains the meaning of bread and wine as the body and blood of Christ
**D** Explains the Mass as a re-presentation of the sacrificial offering of Jesus on the cross
**D** Associates the sacrifice of Jesus represented at Eucharist with his presence among us
**D** Encourages reverence and love for Jesus in the Eucharist
**D** Presents regular reception of the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation as a spiritually healthy practice
**D** Correlates the Sacrament of Confirmation with the working of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit's gifts in the lives of God's people
**D** Defines Confirmation as a public profession of belief and the attempt to live more fully a life of faith
**D** Associates the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick with the continuation of Jesus' healing ministry
**D** Presents the Sacrament of Matrimony as an expression of a couple's relationship with each other and God
**D** Presents the Sacrament of Holy Orders as providing priests and deacons for the service of the people of God

# SALVATION/CHURCH HISTORY

**I** Associates God's plan of salvation with an awareness of how that plan is relived and experienced in the Liturgical Year
**D** Describes God's fidelity to His promises by citing historical examples
**D** Describes how Scripture provides the history of the worship of God's people
**D** Identifies the constancy of God's love
**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
**D** Explains Pentecost as the birth of the Church
**D** Identifies the Church as Trinitarian and Christ-centered, leading to the Father, through the Son, with the Holy Spirit
**D** Identifies Church as community
**D** 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
**D** Presents the Church as a Communion of Saints
**D** Describes the Church as a supportive community of people
**D** Presents the Church as a continuation of the life and ministry of Jesus
**D** Explains how the precepts of the Church guide the lives of its members
**D** Explains the hierarchy of the Church
**D** Explains the Pope as the visible head of the Church and Vicar of Christ
**D** 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
**D** 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
**D** Explains that belonging to a community can bring meaning to a person's life
**D** 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 –

**D** in himself / herself
**D** in each person
**D** in a Christian community by sharing in group experience
**D** in the Church as a focal point of his / her life by sharing in prayer, liturgies and Scripture

**D** Correlates shared love with the mark of a Christian
**D** Explains the need for reconciliation between self and others
**D** Provides opportunities for the development of an appreciation of oneself as a unique reflection of God
**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** Explains God's call of each person into being
**D** Provides opportunities for students to discover their specific skills, talents, and abilities
**D** Discusses the unconditional love of God for each individual
**D** Analyzes the concept that without love of self there can be no love for others
**D** Defines uniqueness
**D** Explains that uniqueness is not just physical but embraces the entire personality
**D** Presents ways of growing in self esteem
**D** Lists a wide variety of personal characteristics
**D** Discusses ways people are similar and ways they differ
**D** Describes ways in which human beings exhibit interdependence in the course of daily life
**D** Explains the meaning of Christ's humanity as an example of how people are to live
**D** Lists ways that Jesus treated people and showed concern for their human dignity
**D** Presents evidence from current events and communications media of how human life is sometimes degraded
**D** Presents examples whereby the principle of each one having a basic right to life is upheld or disregarded

**D** Discusses ways human life is lessened (e.g., through violence, unwantedness, child abuse, smoking, destructive attitudes and alcohol/drug abuse, etc.).
**D** Explains why life is sacred from conception to death
**D** Identifies ways that life is enhanced through positive attitudes
**D** Explains peer pressure and its effects
**D** Explains loneliness as a universal, personal experience
**D** Explains some of the possible responses to loneliness and rejection
**D** Discusses ways of dealing with rejection and failure
**D** Provides opportunities for evaluating one's own personal strengths and weaknesses
**D** Discusses the importance of proper dress, grooming and behavior
**D** Explains physical and emotional change as a normal part of growth
**D** Provides opportunities for expressing feelings about one's family
**D** 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 the value of vocations to the single life, married life, vowed religious life, priesthood and deaconate
**D** Examines similarities and differences between the child's values and those of the family
**D** Discusses the need for parental approval
**D** Identifies the attitudes and qualities necessary to be a responsible parent and a responsible child
**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** Explains the act of reproduction in humans
**D** Explains how physical differences between men and women are complementary in sexual intercourse
**D** Provides opportunities for the development of the skills necessary to integrate sexuality into personality and interpersonal relationships
**D** Discusses the need to express openly and honestly questions relating to students' developing sexuality
**D** Provides opportunities for healthy and balanced interaction with the opposite sex
**D** Explains the rapid physical, psycho-emotional and intellectual changes accompanying puberty as positive signs of growth
**D** Explains positive ways of dealing with psychosexual changes such as menstruation and nocturnal emissions
**D** Explains ways of dealing with masturbation and sexual impulses
**D** Defines homosexuality and the appropriate Christian response
**D** Analyzes the importance of signs, touch, and words in expressing love
**D** Distinguishes between being and relating to others as a sexual person, and being and relating to others in a way that involves genital activity
**D** Presents Jesus' relationships with people as a role model for interpersonal relationships
**D** Examines the many ways an individual's personal growth is influenced by heredity and environment

**D** Identifies and expresses positively the changing feelings associated with the beginning stages of puberty
**D** Identifies some of the harmful effects of sex stereotyping
**D** Discusses human sexuality from infancy to young adulthood
**D** Presents intimacy as an expression of friendship and love

# MORALITY/MORAL ISSUES

**D** Explains the concept of responsible choices
**D** Promotes an understanding of an informed conscience
**D** Defines the steps in making moral judgments
**D** Presents sin as an alienation from God
**D** Recognizes sin as a part of the human condition
**D** Defines valuing
**D** Defines free will as a gift given to all by God in order to make choices
**D** Associates moral decisions with the responsibility necessary in making them
**I** Explains the call to change one's life to be more in accord with the will of God
**D** Presents as personal Jesus' call to live honest, unselfish and prayerful lives
**D** Explains the beatitudes as basic to Jesus' teaching
**D** Discusses the importance of living the Beatitudes
**D** Describes God's laws (Ten Commandments) as paths to freedom
**I** Explains the meaning of sins of omission
**D** Presents the capital sins and explains their meaning

# 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
**D** Presents true understanding of the Fourth Commandment as important to personal growth
**D** Discusses the sacrament of marriage as the beginning of a new family unit
**D** Presents reasons for limiting intercourse to the married state
**D** Discusses ways of dealing with factors disruptive of family life (e.g., unemployment, illness, child abuse, divorce, etc.)

# JUSTICE & PEACE

**D** Discusses the concept of freedom and relates freedom to the fact that one cannot infringe upon the rights of others
**I** Explains the call to change one's life to be more in accord with the will of God
**D** Defines the obligation of Christian service to those in need
**D** Defines peace making as doing the will of God
**D** Explains that peace can come only if people strive for justice
**D** Identifies peacemaking as an exercise of faith
**D** Discusses the value of recognizing diversity in cultures and promotes the attitude of understanding towards all people

**D** Discusses the need for balance between the rights of individuals and the rights of society
**D** Identifies the role of the United States as a world power and its responsibility toward smaller nations
**D** Explains the responsibilities of great nations for smaller ones
**D** Presents human needs and powerlessness as it effects peoples of the Third World
**D** Discusses examples Jesus gave of stewardship and service
**I** Defines "stewardship"
**D** 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
**D** Associates Jesus' service to the poor, ill and needy with the call of the Church to do the same
**D** Presents and promotes understanding of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy
**D** Defines the Eucharist as food – food that Jesus asks Christians to share with others in love and justice
**D** Defines the difference between justice and charity
**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** Distinguishes the relative importance of the different bases of love, (e.g., commitment, fidelity, respect, emotional and physical reactions)
**D** Discusses "self" as gift
**D** Discusses others as gift
**D** 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
**D** Presents theological virtues: Faith, Hope and Love
**D** Promotes respect for one's own body and the bodies of others
**D** Explains the Church's teachings about life and procreation
**D** Explains how God-given sexuality enables a person to make a fuller response to life
**D** Presents chastity as a positive virtue aiding personal and interpersonal growth
**D** Discusses ways to show respect for the health and safety of one's self and others
**D** Instills an awareness of death and human suffering as a sharing in the suffering of Jesus
**D** Provides the experience of praying for the dead and of expressing condolences' for the grieving
**D** Presents the issue of abortion as taking of human life
**D** Defines euthanasia and explains this as an unjust taking of life
**D** Lists alternatives to abortion and euthanasia and discusses them
**D** Explains suicide as a desperate response to life situations
**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
**D** Demonstrates in human action that the end does not justify the means