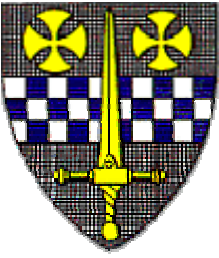


**EVALUATIONS OF CATECHETICAL  
TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS  
FOR  
ELEMENTARY & HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Secretariat for Education  
Diocese of Pittsburgh

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**DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH**

**SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION**

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April 25, 2006  
St. Mark, Evangelist

Reverend and dear Fathers and Esteemed Catechetical Leaders,

In 1998 the Secretariat for Education introduced the document *Evaluations of Catechetical Textbooks and Materials* which contained all the catechetical texts and resource material approved for use in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Since then, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* has continued its positive impact on catechetical resources such that the number of textbooks and series conforming doctrinally to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* has grown rapidly and with great benefit to our ministry.

It has become necessary, then, to re-issue our textbook evaluation document in an expanded form. The enclosed document is a complete and up-to-date printing of all evaluation summaries currently available in our diocese; this document replaces the one issued in 1998 which you are free to discard. Only those texts and resources listed in this binder are approved for use in our programs.

Along with well-formed catechists and clear curriculum guidelines to direct the use of any approved textbook or series, these evaluations are important to the ministry of catechesis in our diocese. They would not be possible without the work of a great many diocesan staff, priests, principals, youth ministers and other catechists to whom we all owe a high degree of gratitude.

As always, we will update this document often with addenda containing additional evaluations as they become available. Meanwhile please make use of these evaluation summaries as you choose from among the variety of approved catechetical resources. As always, please contact the Department for Religious Education when seeking guidance in selecting materials for your program.

With every best wish and prayer, I remain,

Sincerely in Christ,

*Fr. Kris Stubna*

Reverend Kris D. Stubna, S.T.D.  
Secretary for Education

Enclosure

## EVALUATIONS OF BASAL ELEMENTERY SERIES

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BENZIGER</b> <b>Come, Follow Me (Parish/School 1998) K-8</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Develops well the concept of Trinity
- Provides good explanations of the Church's teaching on the sacraments
- Incorporates Mary and the Saints in an excellent manner

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Provides for a variety of prayer forms
- Suggests a variety of strategies, activities and auxiliary resources for the catechist
- Indicates ways of involving parents in the preparation of their children for the sacraments

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Distinguish between faith, church doctrine and theological opinion
- Explain further the traditions and practices of the Catholic Churches of the East
- Seek materials for the learner with special needs
- Address concerns regarding age-appropriateness of reading level
- Provide minor amounts of supplemental information in several grade levels (i.e. eschatology in Grade 5)
- Adjust the scope of the junior high texts (according to our diocesan curriculum guidelines)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BENZIGER</b> <b>Share the Joy (1998) K-6</b></p>
--

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Helps the baptized appreciate Catholic tradition in a personal way
- Calls attention to the special significance of Sunday as the day of the Lord's resurrection, emphasizing active participation in Sunday Mass
- Develops well the topic of prayer and its importance in Christian life

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Includes inspirational and imitational models for the learner such as clergy, lay men and women, religious men and women, and saints
- Integrates biblical themes and scriptural references in the presentation of doctrine and moral teaching and encourages a hands-on familiarity with the Bible
- Acknowledges appropriate use of inclusive language in the text and avoids racial, ethnic, and gender stereotypes in text and in pictures

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Elaborate on certain doctrines to help ensure an accurate understanding (i.e. sin)
- Link the Eucharist to Christ's sacrifice on the cross, explaining it as a sacrament of his presence in the Church and as a meal of communal solidarity that is a sign of the heavenly banquet to which the faithful are called
- Address concerns regarding age-appropriateness of pictures and graphics and how well they reflect cultural diversity, special needs and contemporary culture
- Enhance presentation on the rituals and symbols of Holy Orders
- Provide minor amounts of supplemental information in several grade levels (i.e. vocations in Grade 3)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HARCOURT</b> <b>Walking by Faith (Parish/School 1999) K-6</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Explains key concepts such as grace, the Holy Trinity, heaven and hell in a clear and consistent manner
- Connects faith with service and community responsibilities
- Fosters Marian devotions and explains well the Church's particular beliefs about Mary (e.g. the Immaculate Conception, Virgin Birth, and Assumption)

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Uses artwork which lends itself well to the concepts presented, and which gives the texts a rich and inviting appearance
- Proposes various forms of prayer which are integrated within the lesson well
- Explores the lives of a number of saints compellingly

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Address concerns related to age-appropriateness of concepts and vocabulary, particularly in primary grade levels
- Seek materials for the learner with special needs
- Consult liturgical principals for help in planning scriptural celebrations
- Emphasize, in the intermediate grade levels, parental involvement through home activities and parent update materials
- Provide minor amounts of supplemental information in several grade levels (i.e. eschatology in Grade 5)

**CATHOLICS UNITED FOR THE FAITH**  
**Faith and Life (1985, 2002, 2003) 1-8**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Underscores the value and importance of the Magisterium (the teaching authority of the Pope and bishops)
- Centralizes the Eucharist as “the source and summit of all Christian life”
- Grounds Catholic tradition in Scriptures
- Emphasizes Church Fathers and a sense of history in its presentation of the Faith

*We commend this series for the following methodological feature:*

- Uses artwork from the rich tradition of our Church

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Emphasize references to social justice and service
- Adjust scope and sequence for more gradual and age-appropriate catechesis, balancing formation and information
- Help some students who may find difficulty with the reading level and vocabulary
- Bolster preparation for first Eucharist and Penance by presenting and explaining the Rites in their entirety
- Build on the series' movement toward involving the family
- Relate the Faith to student's life experience; seek and offer prayer opportunities
- Provide minor amounts of supplemental information in Grades 4 and 5 (i.e. Works of Mercy and sacramental information), a significant amount in Grade 6 (i.e. Old Testament and ecumenism), and adjust the scope of the junior high texts (according to our diocesan curriculum guidelines)

**IGNATIUS PRESS**  
**Image of God (1986-1993 depending on grade) K-8**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Offers an abundance of information on our Church's doctrinal teachings
- Highlights the uniqueness of Jesus' divine mission so that he appears as more than a great prophet and moral teacher
- Develops well the concepts of death, judgement, and eternity

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Indicates activities which encourage cooperation with others
- Integrates biblical themes and scriptural references in the presentation of doctrine and moral teaching and encourages a hands-on familiarity with the Bible

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Seek additional direction about how best to use the teacher manual
- Address concerns regarding age-appropriateness of reading level and illustrations
- Seek materials for the learner with special needs
- Call attention to social justice issues in the text and their integration into the students' lives
- Offer a variety of prayer forms and liturgical experiences
- Provide minor amounts of supplemental information in several grade levels (i.e. ecumenism in Grade 6)

## EVALUATION OF A BASAL ELEMENTARY SERIES

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LOYOLA PRESS</b> <b>Christ Our Life (Parish/School 1997, 1997/2002, 2009) K-8</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### **Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Provides comprehensive treatment of doctrine and sacraments
- Develops liturgical seasons
- Provides an articulate teaching on Mary and the saints and fosters devotion to Mary

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Provides comprehensive and integrated activities, e.g. art, drama, journaling
- Offers a variety of supplemental materials, e.g. blackline masters, activity books, bulletin board designs
- Contains a strong glossary

### **Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Adapt use of text depending on school or parish setting (i.e. no separate student text exists specifically for either setting)
- Emphasize examples of social justice
- Incorporate concerns of cultural diversity and special needs
- Make connections to student's own personal life and faith experience
- Include liturgical formation and variety of prayer opportunities on junior high level
- Provide minor amounts of supplemental information in several grade levels (i.e. Precepts of the Church in Grade 4)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SADLIER</b> <b>Coming to Faith (Parish 1999 &amp; School 1998) K-6</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Offers an extensive approach to prayers, providing various formats in the lessons and encouraging family prayer and involvement
- Provides good use of Scripture
- Supplies models of Christian life such as saints, priests, religious (brothers, priests, and sisters), laity including peer models
- Teaches Reconciliation and Eucharist at each grade level

*We commend this series for the following methodological feature:*

- Fosters easy use for both new and experienced catechists

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Secure and provide supplemental information about the Churches of the East especially those Churches with whom we share communion
- Suggest examples of how to develop conscience that are more age-appropriate than those in text
- Integrate concrete examples of beatitudinal way of living
- Provide minor amounts of supplemental information in Grades 4 and 5 (i.e. hell and purgatory, and ecumenism)

**SILVER BURDETT GINN**  
**This Is Our Faith (School 1998) K-8**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Emphasizes the work and the person of Jesus Christ as the key and chief point of Christian reference in reading the Scriptures
- Develops well the topic of prayer
- Introduces lives of saints and contemporary Christians who are models of social ministry

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Provides pictures and graphics which are age appropriate and which reflect cultural diversity, special needs and contemporary culture as appropriate
- Uses a vocabulary that is appropriate to the age level of the students

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Elaborate upon the Church's teaching on angels
- Foster ecumenism by presenting information about other churches including non-Christian, especially in the intermediate grades
- Suggest additional ways for parents to communicate the teachings of the Church and reflect on them with their children, nurturing the faith life of the family; this is particularly needed in the junior high texts
- Elaborate occasionally on certain topics, e.g. ecumenism in Grade 6
- Adjust the scope of the junior high texts (according to our diocesan curriculum guidelines)

<p style="text-align:center"><b>RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING</b> <b>Faith First (2000 and 2006) K-6</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Makes clear that Jesus gave us himself in the Eucharist at the last supper and he continues doing so during Mass
- Honors Mary as Mother of God, our mother, and model disciple in Christ's Church
- Understands that the mission of Jesus is kept alive in the Catholic Church by the presence of the Holy Spirit

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Integrates the use of Scriptural stories, quotes, references and activities
- Presents clear and adaptable lesson plans including ones for the liturgical seasons
- Encourages communication between parents and children regarding Church teaching and nurturing the faith life of the family

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Interweave throughout that we are all called to serve in a vocation including parent and married person, permanent deacon, sister, brother, single person, priest and bishop
- Provide minor amounts of supplemental information in several grade levels e.g.
  - Holy Orders as a permanent sign of Christ's presence through the priest (Gr.4)
  - The Magisterium as final authority to interpret truth in the Scriptures (Gr.6)
  - Divisiveness as against God's will / need for Church unity (Gr.6)
- Seek materials for the learner with special needs e.g. the *Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program* (please see page Sp-1 of this evaluation document)
- Distinguish between Church doctrine and theological opinion/interpretation
- Involve parents and pastors more deeply in preparing children for the sacraments

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BENZIGER</b> <b>Christ Jesus, The Way! (Parish &amp; School 2002) K-6</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Clearly presents the Church as being one, holy, catholic and apostolic
- Presents the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist particularly well in primary grades
- Makes clear that saints are people who have responded well to God's grace and are examples for us to imitate

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Offers adequate activities and aids to choose from, including those for children of different backgrounds and needs
- Maintains a judicious balance between personal expression and memorization, emphasizing that it is important both for the community and themselves that individuals commit to memory selected biblical passages, essential prayers, liturgical responses, key doctrinal ideas, and lists of moral responsibilities
- Examines central human values expressed in the arts, science, technology, culture, economic life, social life

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Interweave the concept of vocation throughout all grade levels
- Offer additional details e.g. in grade four regarding Mary, in grade five about Holy Orders and in grade six concerning the Old Testament's relevance for each of us
- Provide clarifying information e.g. in grade three: Jesus chose Peter as the leader of the apostles, in grade four: Jesus calls each of us to personal conversion through a process of sorrow, forgiveness and reconciliation, in grade five: at death each individual will be personally accountable before God for choices made during life, and in grade six: major themes present throughout the Scriptures are *Revelation, Redemption and Salvation*
- Describe for parents ways to celebrate liturgical feasts in the home
- Offer an adequate and appropriate parent's bibliography featuring materials such as *The Teaching of Christ: A Catholic Catechism for Adults, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*
- Encourage communication between parents and children and suggest ways parents can answer their children's questions

*Replacement: new copyright year*

## **EVALUATION OF A BASAL ELEMENTARY SERIES**

<p><b>SILVER BURDETT GINN</b> <b>Blest Are We (Parish 2002, 2008, School 2004, 2008) 1-6</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### **Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Presents well the parts of the Mass and various other aspects of our sacramental life
- Addresses morality at the age-level recommended in our diocesan curriculum guidelines
- Develops topics and themes in the curriculum guidelines in a clear and comprehensive manner

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Sets forth the ideal of living a life based on the teachings of the Gospel
- Includes inspirational and imitational models for the learner such as clergy, lay men and women, religious men and women, and saints
- Integrates the use of Scriptural stories, quotes, references and activities

### **Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Clarify in certain grade levels some aspects related to ecclesiology (e.g. in grade three the role of bishops and in grade six the Magisterium's role in interpreting Scripture)
- Provide additional information: in grade four the precepts of the Church, in grade five that Anointing of the Sick is sometimes a restoration of bodily health
- Offer supplemental details in grade six regarding angels and ecumenism
- Stress the importance of the local church community for Christian living, so that every Catholic contributes to building up the spirit of the parish family and sees its ministries as part of the Church's universal mission
- Challenge Catholics to critique and transform contemporary values and behaviors in light of the Gospel and spirit of the Church's teaching
- Examine central human values expressed in the arts, science, technology, culture, economic life and social life

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SADLIER</b> <b>We Believe (Parish and School 2004) K-6</b></p>
--

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Helps students understand that we are called to believe what the Church teaches
- Conveys that God wants us to care for our bodies and respect the bodies of others
- Invites students to a deeper love for the Sacraments by addressing them well e.g.
  - the Eucharist, the center of our sacramental life, is the real presence of Jesus
  - Matrimony celebrates life-long love and commitment between a man and a woman

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Presents pictures and graphics which are age appropriate and reflect cultural diversity, and special needs
- Helps develop the catechist's own faith life, experience of prayer, and mature commitment to the Church and motivates them toward ongoing enrichment
- Maintains a judicious balance between personal expression and memorization, emphasizing that it is important both for the community and themselves that individuals commit to memory selected biblical passages, essential prayer, liturgical responses, key doctrinal ideas, and lists of moral responsibilities

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Point out that special parts of the Church are the crucifix, altar, tabernacle, baptismal font, holy water font, reconciliation rooms or confessionals
- Interweave that individual gifts and talents lead us to be disciples as priests, sisters and brothers, married or single people
- Explain that Kings Saul, David, and Solomon help us to understand why the people of Jesus' time were waiting for the "anointed one"
- Highlight the responsibility of the parish community to support the young being brought to Baptism, welcomed to the Eucharist and celebrating Confirmation
- Examine central human values expressed in the arts, science, technology, culture, economic life and social life
- Suggest additional ways for children and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together at home

**APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION**  
**Consecration in Truth (2001) 1-8**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Makes clear that the formation of our conscience is a life-long task requiring prayer, fidelity to the Church's teachings and the guidance of her Magisterium
- Indicates that Christian liturgy not only recalls the events that saved us, but makes them present; in each celebration an outpouring of the Holy Spirit makes the Pascal mystery present
- Impresses upon students that every person has the responsibility to develop a personal and communal or ecclesial faith relationship with Jesus

*We commend this series for the following methodological feature:*

- Maintains a judicious balance between personal expression and memorization, emphasizing that it is important both for the community and themselves that individuals commit to memory selected biblical passages, essential prayer, liturgical responses, key doctrinal ideas, and lists of moral responsibilities
- Includes resources that can be used in the home to assist parents in communicating Church teaching and nurturing the faith life of the family

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Be selective in using and expanding upon various lessons at all grade levels; e.g.
  - grade 3's theme in the curriculum guidelines is Church, whereas only 3 of 33 lessons in this resource's level 3 address Church directly
  - similarly, Jesus is a major focus of our grade 7, yet only 2 of the series' level 7 lessons are directly Christological
- Consult the Background for Catechist section of our Curriculum Guidelines for guidance on developmental traits of children at each grade level
- Help some students who may find difficulty with the reading level and vocabulary
- Maintain a balance between the cognitive and affective approaches

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HARCOURT</b> <b>Call to Faith (2005) 1-6</b></p>
--

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Communicates that Jesus' new law of love tells us we must love God above all things and love others of diverse races, ages, cultures, and abilities
- Explains that in the sacrament of penance we express sorrow and experience God's forgiveness sacramentally; we need to go to confession regularly
- Helps students understand that the mission of Jesus is kept alive in the Catholic Church by the presence of the Holy Spirit

*We commend this series for the following methodological feature:*

- Takes into account the experience and background of those being catechized and suggests ways that the Christian message illumines their lives
- Suggests a variety of strategies, activities and auxiliary resources that can enrich instruction, deepen understanding, and facilitate the integration of doctrine and life
- Emphasizes the importance of the local Church community for Christian living, so that every Catholic contributes to building up the spirit of the parish family and sees its ministries as part of the Church's universal mission

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Indicate, at all grade levels, that God made each of us to grow up and help others in our own special way as a married person and parent, a single person, a sister or brother, or a priest
- Include additional details about Holy Orders, e.g. it is a permanent sign of Christ's presence through the priest, and it is a primary means of the sacramental presence of Christ
- Help students understand that division among people is against the will of God; all must strive for the unity of the Church
- Hold continually before students the ideal of living a life based on the gospel
- Suggest additional ways for parents to reflect on the teachings of the Church with their children

**LOYOLA PRESS**  
**Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts (2005) 1-6**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Points out that God's family includes people of every race, age, culture and ability
- Helps students understand that the Mass is the most important prayer of the Church and that Jesus is still present in the Church especially through the Eucharist and other sacraments
- Communicates that Jesus calls each of us to personal conversion through a process of sorrow, forgiveness, and reconciliation, and that division of any kind is against the will of Christ

*We commend this series for the following methodological feature:*

- Encourages catechists to listen carefully to children with awareness of their cultural differences and current priorities
- Indicates activities which encourage cooperation with others
- Offers ample activities and aids to choose from, including those for children of different backgrounds and needs

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Point out, thoroughly, the special parts of a Church (e.g. altar, tabernacle, reconciliation room or confessional) as well as helping students understand the role of sacramentals in reminding us of Christ's presence and love
- Call attention to the two great commandments and especially the seven precepts of the Church to round out an understanding of morality
- Make clear that the Catholic Church in its Magisterium or teaching office of the bishops has final authority to interpret the truth we find in the Scriptures
- Maintain a judicious balance between personal expression and memorization, emphasizing that it is important both for the community and themselves that individuals commit to memory selected biblical passages, essential prayer, liturgical responses, key doctrinal ideas, and lists of moral responsibilities
- Explain that expressions of genuine faith via the arts, architecture, technological achievement etc. can be signs of God's presence in the world today

**CIRCLE PRESS**  
**The Treasure of My Catholic Faith (2003) 1-6**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Helps students understand that through baptism we are made sons and daughters of God and we become part of God's family
- Instills that the parts of the Mass are:
  - listening to God's Word
  - offering ourselves with Jesus to the Father; and
  - receiving Jesus in communion
- Makes clear that the Scriptures are the inspired Word of God

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Indicates activities which encourage cooperation with others; e.g. role playing, dramatization, discussion, art activities, singing, visiting, dance, mime
- Integrates biblical themes and scriptural references in the presentation of doctrine and moral teaching and encourages a hands-on familiarity with the Bible
- Continually holds before the intended audience the ideal of living a life based on the teachings of the gospel
- Takes into account the age and experience of the learner

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Specify that the Eucharist is both a special meal that Jesus shares with us and a sacrifice of his love
- Point out that the Holy Spirit draws Jesus' followers together as one Christian community
- Emphasize that every Catholic is responsible for building up the body of Christ within the parish family
- Help students understand that division among people is against the will of God; all must strive for the unity of the Church
- Use more liturgical celebration integrated into faith response
- Suggest additional ways for parents to reflect on the teachings of the Church with their children



<u>Course</u>	<u>Approved Text(s)</u>	<u>Recommended Supplemental Resources</u>
Christ: The Eternal Word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Understanding the Scriptures</i> (2005) CCC</li> <li>-<i>The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith and Justice</i> (2005) CCC</li> <li>-<i>Journey Through the Old Testament</i> (2002 &amp; 2006) CCC</li> <li>- <i>Written on Our Hearts</i> (2002) CCC</li> <li>-<i>Encountering Jesus in the New Testament</i> (2003) CCC</li> <li>-<i>Journey Through the New Testament</i> (2006) CCC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Love and Sexuality</i> by Bishop Wuerl (1992) &amp; accompanying catechetical resources</li> </ul>
Christ: Who is Jesus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-same as above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>That's Where I Live: A Guide to Good Relationships</i> (Life Athletes Press)</li> </ul>
What Did Christ Accomplish? (The Paschal Mystery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-same as above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Theology of the Body for Teens</i> (2006)</li> <li>-see those for general use below</li> </ul>
How Does Christ's Work Continue in the World Today? (The Church)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>The Church: Our Story</i> (1999 &amp; 2006) CCC</li> <li>-<i>The History of the Church</i> (2005) CCC</li> <li>-<i>The Church Through History</i> (2007) CCC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Top 10 Questions Catholics are Asked</i> (OSV 2002)</li> </ul>
Sacraments as the Principal Manifestations of Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Liturgy &amp; Sacraments</i> text of <i>Understanding the Catechism</i> series (1999) CCC</li> <li>-<i>Our Sacramental Life: Living and Worshiping in Christ</i> (2003) CCC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Penance</i> by Bishop Wuerl (1999) &amp; accompanying catechetical resources</li> <li>-<i>The Eucharist: Source of Our Strength</i> catechetical resource manual</li> <li>-<i>A Walk Through the Mass</i> video with Bishop Wuerl (&amp; accompanying study guide)</li> <li>-<i>How to Make A Good Confession</i> by Father Kris Stubna (OSV 2003)</li> <li>-<i>A Plea for Purity: Sex, Marriage, and God</i> (J.C. Arnold)</li> </ul>

<u>Course</u>	<u>Approved Text(s)</u>	<u>Recommended Supplemental Resources</u>
Life in Christ (Part I)	<p>-<i>Morality</i> text of <i>Understanding the Catechism</i> series (1999) CCC</p> <p>-<i>Your Life in Christ: Foundations in Catholic Morality</i> (2001 &amp; 2008) CCC</p> <p>-<i>Our Moral Life in Christ</i> (2003) CCC</p> <p>-<i>Morality</i> (2005) CCC</p>	<p>-<i>God's Good Gift of Life</i> by Bishop Wuerl (1999)</p> <p>-<i>What Catholics Believe: A Pocket Catechism</i></p>
Life in Christ (Part II)	<p>-<i>Catholic Social Teaching: Learning and Living Justice</i> (2001 &amp; 2007) CCC</p> <p>-<i>Living Justice and Peace</i> (2002) CCC</p> <p>-<i>Our Moral Life in Christ</i> (2003) CCC</p> <p>-<i>Justice &amp; Peace: Our Faith in Action</i> (2007) CCC</p>	<p>-<i>Confronting Racism Today</i> by Bishop Wuerl (1996, revised in 1999)</p> <p>-<i>The Death Penalty: Choose Life</i> by the Bishops of Pennsylvania (2001)</p> <p>-<i>Faithful Citizenship</i> (USCCB)</p> <p>-<i>Exploring the Religions of Our World</i> (1999)</p>
Sacraments at the Service of Communion	<p>-<i>Liturgy &amp; Sacraments and Morality</i> texts of <i>Understanding the Catechism</i> series (1999) CCC</p> <p>-<i>Our Sacramental Life: Living and Worshiping in Christ</i> (2003) CCC</p> <p>-<i>Your Life in Christ: Foundations in Catholic Morality</i> (2001) CCC</p> <p>-<i>Our Moral Life in Christ</i> (2003) CCC</p> <p>-<i>Morality</i> (2005) CCC</p> <p>-<i>Marriage &amp; Holy Orders: Your Call to Love and Service</i> (2007) CCC</p>	<p>-<i>To Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus</i> by Bishop Wuerl (1998)</p> <p>-<i>Living Together: Questions &amp; Answers Regarding Cohabitation &amp; the Church's Moral Teaching</i> by the Bishops of Pennsylvania (1999)</p> <p>-Natural Family Planning brochure by our Office for Adult &amp; Family Catechesis</p> <p>-Speakers and/or panels from the diocesan Office for Vocations as well as the Pittsburgh Religious Vocation Council</p> <p>-<i>10 Frequently Asked Questions About the Reservation of Priestly Ordination to Men</i> (USCCB)</p> <p>-<i>Your Catholic Faith on Campus</i> by the Bishops of Pennsylvania (2001)</p> <p>-<i>Between Man &amp; Woman: Questions &amp; Answers About Marriage &amp; Same-Sex Unions</i> (USCCB)</p>

## High School: Supplemental Resources for General Use

various pastoral letters by Bishop Wuerl including but not limited to those mentioned above

*Respect Life* catechetical resource manual

*The Incredible Gift: The Truth About Love & Sex* by Our Sunday Visitor

*Ecclesia de Eucharista* & accompanying catechetical resources

*The Sacraments: Volumes I & II* video series with Bishop Wuerl (& accompanying resources)

*Questions & Answers on the Eucharist* (2000) & *A Guide to the Sacrament of Penance* (2002) by the Bishops of Pennsylvania

The *Opening Doors* program of our Department for Persons with Disabilities

*Understanding the Catechism* series by RCL (evaluation follows)

*What Catholics Believe: A Pocket Catechism* by Our Sunday Visitor

*Our Catholic Faith* by Ave Maria Press

*The Light of Faith* by Harcourt Religion Publishers

*Introduction to Catholicism* by Midwest Theological Forum

*The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth* by Saint Mary's Press (evaluation follows)

*The Apostolate's Family Catechism* by the Apostolate for Family Consecration (please see Additional Catechetical Resources section of this document for an evaluation)

*Catholicism* series by C.R. Publications (please see Additional Catechetical Resources section of this document for an evaluation)

*Dominican Series* by Priory Press (please see Additional Catechetical Resources section of this document for an evaluation)

*A Review of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* and *Exploring the Teaching of Christ* videos with Bishop Wuerl (& accompanying resources)

The Videotape Catalog of our Learning Media Center

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and its *Compendium*

The *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*

The Homepage of our Secretariat for Education ([www.diopitt.org/education](http://www.diopitt.org/education))

## Evaluations of Catholic High School Textbooks

### **THE LIGHT OF FAITH Harcourt (2005)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

#### **Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Explains that Jesus is the revelation of the Father as Son of God and second person of the Trinity
- Outlines the vocational call to all Christians from Baptism as inclusive of prayer, sacramental celebration, moral living and service to others
- Helps students continue to enter into the deeper mystery of Jesus Christ in the Church and respond to him as a source of grace and life which leads to a fully authentic Christian life
- Offers a systematic presentation of doctrine and a context for reflection on its meaning

#### **Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Help students identify and critically examine their world and lifestyle in terms of adjustments necessary to encounter new people and unfamiliar challenges
- Make clear that the psychological, emotional, intellectual, social and physical changes taking place in adolescence are normal and good and call for acceptance, patience and growth which lead to personal growth and maturation
- Distinguish between authoritative Church teaching and doctrine and the opinions and interpretations of theologians
- Suggest ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

### **CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: LEARNING AND LIVING JUSTICE Ave Maria Press (2001 and 2007)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

#### **Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Outlines the key teachings and phrases in the Church's historical development of social justice doctrine
- Identifies and critiques unjust acts of aggression against the value of human life including abortion, suicide, euthanasia, racial and ethnic discrimination
- Evaluates social structures in the light of Gospel imperatives and Church teachings
- Offers a systematic presentation of doctrine and a context for reflection on doctrine's meaning

#### **Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Help each student appreciate the relationship in his/her own life between the requirements of personal morality and social morality
- Suggest more ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

**THE CHURCH: OUR STORY**  
**Ave Maria Press (1999 and 2006)**  
**Patricia Morrison Driedger**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Excellently covers ecclesiology; may also be useful as a supplement for sacramentology
- Helps students learn to love the Church more earnestly as embodying the proclamation of God's Kingdom on earth
- Presents a balance between information and formation
- Emphasizes the parish's importance--encouraging Catholics to help build the local church community and see its ministries as part of the Church's universal mission

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Present additional material regarding the Catholic Churches of the East
- Suggest more ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

**EXPLORING THE RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD**  
**Ave Maria Press (1999)**  
**Nancy Clemmons, SNJM**

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Discusses facts, statistics, definitions, foundations and features of the major world religions
- Contains vocabulary appropriate to the age level of the students
- Establishes the rational foundations of faith and emphasizes that growth in faith includes the desire for a deeper knowledge of faith's truths

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Help students recognize the appeal and potential dangers of cultic and Satanic activity
- Analyze and critique contemporary forms of agnosticism and atheism
- Elaborate on the rationale for the ongoing call of the Church in its missionary efforts in light of respect for religious freedom

## ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Ave Maria Press (2003)

Michael Pennock

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Defines Jesus in His divinity and humanity as true God and true man as taught in the Scripture and proclaimed in the teaching of the Church
- Develops and appreciates the life of prayer as it is presented to believers from the New Testament
- Values human suffering as a means to share in the redemptive life of Christ
- Presents clear and adaptable lesson plans
- Suggests a variety of strategies, activities and auxiliary resources that can enrich instruction, deepen understanding, and facilitate the integration of doctrine and life

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Help students value the centrality of the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity into whose life the believer in Christ is initiated and drawn
- Suggest additional ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

## JOURNEY THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

Harcourt Religion Publishers (2002 and 2006)

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Appreciates the goodness of God's creation, including the human person's inherent dignity
- Includes inspirational and imitational models for the learner such as clergy, lay men and women, religious men and women, and saints
- Suggests a variety of strategies, activities and auxiliary resources that can enrich instruction, deepen understanding, and facilitate the integration of doctrine and life

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Distinguish between Church doctrine and the opinions and interpretations of theologians
- Offer a systematic presentation of doctrine and a context for reflection on doctrine's meaning
- Make clear the inner coherence of the truths of faith, and their relation to one another and humanity's ultimate end
- Establish the rational foundations of faith and emphasize that growth in faith includes the desire for a deeper knowledge of the truths of faith

*Replacement: new copyright year*  
**EVALUATIONS OF HIGH SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT: OUR CALL TO FAITH AND JUSTICE**  
**Ave Maria Press (2005)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Explains inspiration as a movement of God upon the sacred writers to write all the he intended and only what he intended yet freely and in their own way
- Helps students appreciate the preparation of the people of Israel by God for the coming of the Son of God
- Establishes the rational foundations of faith and emphasizes that growth in faith includes the desire for a deeper knowledge of faith's truths

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Explain revelation as God's self disclosure to humanity
- Define inerrancy as a property of the Sacred Scriptures which asserts the truth of their message under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Suggest ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

**YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST: FOUNDATIONS IN CATHOLIC MORALITY**  
**Ave Maria Press (2001, 2008)**  
**Michael Pennock**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Defines natural law and explains its foundational role for sound moral decision making
- Describes the difference between mortal and venial sins
- Includes inspirational and imitational models for the learner such as clergy, lay men and women, religious men and women, and saints
- Offers a systematic presentation of doctrine and a context for reflection on doctrine's meaning

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Stress the importance of the local church community for Christian living, so that every Catholic contributes to building up the spirit of the parish family and sees its ministries as part of the Church's universal mission
- Challenge Catholics to critique and transform contemporary values and behaviors in light of the Gospel and spirit of the Church's teaching
- Examine central human values expressed in the arts, science, technology, culture, economic life and social life

**LIVING JUSTICE AND PEACE**  
**Saint Mary's Press (2002)**  
**Jerry Windley-Daoust**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Helps students evaluate social structures in light of Gospel imperatives and Church teachings
- Encourages students to understand themselves and others as human persons with an inherent dignity and as participants in the local, regional and global world economic, social and political order
- Continually holds before students the ideal of living a life based on the gospel's teachings
- Challenges students to critique and transform contemporary values and behaviors in light of the Gospel and the spirit of the Church's teaching

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Define human persons as composed of body and soul, gifted with intelligence and wisdom
- Distinguish legitimate political authority from proper participation in the political process
- Identify, explain the issues involved, the current Church teaching on and the proper response to suicide, euthanasia and various medical ethical concerns
- Distinguish between church doctrine and the opinions and interpretations of theologians
- Encourage expressions of belief through audio-visuals, arts, poetry, literature, music, architecture, philosophy and scientific or technological achievement and describe how these can be signs of God's presence in the world today

**WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS: THE OLD TESTAMENT STORY OF GOD'S LOVE**  
**Saint Mary's Press (2002)**  
**Mary Reed Newland**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Describes the unique nature of the Bible, a library of books composed over several centuries as the inspired Word of God
- Perceives the Bible as a means by which God communicates His loving care for His people
- Helps strengthen attitudes with regard to the sanctity of human life, call to justice, love for the poor, and a covenant relationship with God
- Reflects the catholicity of the Church in art and graphics by presenting the diverse customs and religious practices of racial, ethnic, cultural and family groups

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Clarify revelation as God's self disclosure to humanity
- Define inerrancy as a property of the scriptures which asserts the truth of their message under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Stress the parish's importance—encouraging Catholics to help build the local church community and see its ministries as part of the Church's universal mission
- Suggest ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

## **OUR SACRAMENTAL LIFE: LIVING AND WORSHIPING IN CHRIST**

**Ave Maria Press (2003)  
Patricia Morrison Driedger**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### **Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Explains sacraments as efficacious signs and causes of God's grace
- Summarizes examples of conditions necessary for valid celebration of the sacraments
- Helps each student grow in a receptive generosity in attempting prayerfully to discern his or her vocation
- Makes clear the inner coherence of the truths of faith, and their relation to one another and humanity's ultimate end

### **Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Distinguish very clearly between the terms "birth control" and "natural family planning"
- Outline the personal and faith qualities as well as preparation called for in the life of orders
- Discuss the characteristics necessary to live a chaste married life and for the establishment of a healthy, holy family and home
- Suggest additional ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

## **INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLICISM**

**Midwest Theological Forum (2003)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### **Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Recognizes the authority of the Church as derived both through Scripture and Tradition, as received through the bishops and pope and doctrines, dogmas and creedal statements of the church as official statements of faith
- Presents the Catholic moral life as the response in faith lived according to the Decalogue, the teachings of Christ and of His Church
- Works to facilitate behavioral change
- Suggests ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

### **Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Help students analyze the factors that influence the emotional, physical, social, intellectual, sexual and religious development of the entire person
- Seek additional ways to reach the whole person, integrating both cognitive, behavioral and affective techniques
- Help some students who may find difficulty with the reading level and vocabulary

**OUR MORAL LIFE IN CHRIST**  
**Midwest Theological Forum (2003)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Presents well all Catholic morality objectives in general as well as those specifically addressing social justice
- Challenges the rapid learner
- Challenges Catholics to critique and transform contemporary values and behaviors in light of the Gospel and the spirit of the Church's teaching
- Offers a systematic presentation of doctrine and a context for reflection on doctrine's meaning

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Outline the essential components of the process of adolescent development and growth
- List and explain the essential elements in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation; describe the difference in the various forms of this celebration according to the present Rite of Penance
- Maintain a balance between the cognitive and affective approaches
- Help some students who may find difficulty with the reading level and vocabulary

**MORALITY**  
**Harcourt Religion Publishers (2005)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Explains the priority to be given to the Law of Christ and of the Church in reaching moral decisions
- Helps students develop a personal challenge and plan toward improvement of his or her moral life
- Stresses the importance of the local church community for Christian living, so that every Catholic contributes to building up the spirit of the parish family and sees its ministries as part of the Church's universal mission
- Establishes the rational foundations of faith and emphasizes that growth in faith includes the desire for a deeper knowledge of faith's truths

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Help students analyze the limitations of approaches to moral situations such as situationalism, narcissism and arbitrariness
- Make adaptations to challenge the rapid learner
- Suggest additional ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

**UNDERSTANDING THE SCRIPTURES**  
**Midwest Theological Forum (2005)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Explains the link between Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium
- Defines and distinguishes between the following doctrines: the Incarnation, Immaculate Conception, Assumption and Mary's perpetual virginity
- Explains the significance of the death and bodily resurrection of Jesus as real events in history involving Christ's physical body
- Uses language and images appropriate to the age level and developmental stages and special needs of those being catechized
- Examines central human values expressed in the arts, science, technology, culture, economic life, social life
- Makes clear the inner coherence of the truths of faith, and their relation to one another and humanity's ultimate end

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Point out that religion exists everywhere and in a variety of forms
- Help students answer various challenges to belief through support of creation, the witness of reason, Tradition, witness and testimony of others and Scripture
- Indicate activities which encourage cooperation with others; e.g. role playing, dramatization, discussion, art activities, singing, visiting, dance, mime
- Adapt materials to challenge the rapid learner

**JOURNEY THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT**  
**Harcourt Religion Publishers (2006)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Excellently covers a variety of objectives associated with Sacred Scripture and Christology including an understanding of the Paschal Mystery
- Encourages growth in relationship to, and in imitation of, our Blessed Mother
- Offers a systematic presentation of doctrine and a context for reflection on its meaning
- Establishes the rational foundations of faith and emphasizes that growth in faith includes the desire for a deeper knowledge of faith's truths

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Discuss Jesus' titles: Savior, Word, Son, Redeemer, Mediator and especially Lord
- Identify Christ as the model of chastity
- Distinguish between Church doctrine and the opinions and interpretations of theologians
- Encourage expressions of belief through audio-visuals, arts, poetry, literature, music, architecture, philosophy and scientific or technological achievement and describe how these can be signs of God's presence in the world today

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH</b> <b>Midwest Theological Forum (2005)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Acknowledges the enormous spiritual role that the Church has played in the development of human civilization
- Appreciates the authentic and normative role of the Magisterium, or teaching office, in the Church and seeks to be informed by its teaching in faith and morals
- Makes clear the inner coherence of the truths of faith, and their relation to one another and humanity's ultimate end
- Is adaptable to challenge the rapid learner

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Name, summarize and explain various images and models of the Church
- Encourage a fuller participation in various aspects of life, work and worship in the Church within the school, parish, diocese and universal Church
- Use formal, spontaneous, shared and silent prayer as well as reflection and meditation as a part of faith responses – not only in private prayer but also leading to active participation in the Church's liturgical life
- Suggest additional ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

## EVALUATIONS OF HIGH SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS

### **MARRIAGE & HOLY ORDERS: YOUR CALL TO LOVE & SERVE** **Ave Maria Press (2007)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

#### **Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Encourages a sharing in the vocation common to all Christians by striving to live a life of holiness, prayer, maturity and charity
- Explains the nature of Christian marriage as a sacrament, a life-giving and unitive sign of permanent fidelity between a man and a woman
- Explores the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Orders, identifying the essential elements
- Challenges Catholics to critique and transform contemporary values and behaviors in light of the Gospel and the spirit of the Church's teaching

#### **Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Outline key elements of Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body and its implications for both consecrated celibacy and matrimony
- Make clear the inner coherence of the truths of faith, and their relation to one another and humanity's ultimate end

### **JUSTICE & PEACE: OUR FAITH IN ACTION** **Harcourt Religion Publishers (2007)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

#### **Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Recalls that the social nature of the person reflects the image of our loving Triune God and our human dignity
- Acknowledges that politics should not merely be about ideological conflict. Rather it should be concerned with public policy that reflects sound moral choices (based on the truth as revealed to us through Jesus Christ)
- Desires coherence between faith and life, Gospel and culture, as it is our duty as Catholics to be bound to our faith in all that we do
- Supplies models of Christian life such as saints, priests, religious (brothers, priests, and sisters), laity including peer models

#### **Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Raise awareness that sometimes a single issue will be so important that it overrides a whole range of lesser issues. Therefore, legislators and candidates for office have a clear and grave obligation to oppose legislation that supports the termination of human life
- Suggest more ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

## Evaluation of a Catholic High School (and Parish Youth Ministry) Resource

### UNDERSTANDING THE CATECHISM Series Resources for Christian Living (1999)

*Creed*  
*Liturgy & Sacraments*  
*Morality*  
*Prayer*

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

#### Commendations

*We commend this series for the following features:*

- Makes clear the inner coherence of the truths of faith as well as their relation to one another and humanity's ultimate end
- Integrates the use of Scriptural stories, quotes, references and activities
- Presents a balance between information and formation
- Offers overall methodological soundness and great ease of use for catechists

#### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Supplement any given text in the series to cover certain objectives; its four titles correspond to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church's* four pillars and might not offer enough detail for some topics in a core curriculum course
- Suggest more ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

## Evaluation of a Parish Youth Ministry (and Catholic High School) Resource

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE CATHOLIC FAITH HANDBOOK FOR YOUTH</b> <b>Saint Mary's Press (2003)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Provides an excellent overview of Sacred Tradition for use throughout high school years
- Explains and gives examples, from the stories of the saints, of the life of holiness to which each member of the Church is called
- Challenges Catholics to critique and transform contemporary values and behaviors in light of the Gospel and the spirit of the Church's teaching
- Establishes the rational foundations of faith and emphasizes that growth in faith includes the desire for a deeper knowledge of faith's truths

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this text may need to:*

- Indicate activities which encourage cooperation with others; e.g. role playing, dramatization, discussion, art activities etc.
- Suggest more ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together
- Provide supplemental information and experiences related to Salvation History, particularly Sacred Scripture

## EVALUATIONS OF SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESOURCES

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH</b> <b>The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve</b> <b>Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with</b> <b>Mental Retardation (1997) Ages 5-21</b></p>
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### Commendations

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Presents sacramental preparation clearly for children with mental retardation
- Provides complete references to the Scriptures, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the *National Catechetical Directory*

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Presents the Roman Catholic Faith developmentally/sequentially for children with mental retardation (260 lesson plans)
- Includes two workbooks: One for assistance to the catechist and one to guide parents in sharing their faith with their children with mental retardation
- Offers clear direction for the catechist of Special Religious Education to teach children with special needs
- Provides forty prayer services to assist the catechist and enrich lesson plans

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Provide little if any augmentation. This resource was developed by the Diocese of Pittsburgh and is intended to be comprehensive. For information about this resource, please call our diocesan Office for Persons with Mental Retardation and Special Religious Education at (412) 456-3119.

## EVALUATION OF SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESOURCE

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON  
**Institute for Pastoral Initiatives**  
**Sacraments: Gifts for All**  
**Reconciliation**

### Commendations

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Offers guidelines to assist those working with special needs students.
- Helps the student to understand that sin is a break in our relationship with God and that through the Rite of Reconciliation God forgives our sins.
- Assists students in understanding that God always forgives us when we are sorry.
- Presents the 10 Commandments in a simple, concise way and assists the student in distinguishing between right and wrong.
- Provides a simple outline of the Rite of Reconciliation including a simple Act of Contrition.
- Includes additional resources: religious icons, references to CCC, possible activities based on preferred learning style of the student.

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this resource may need to:*

- Refer to the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Curriculum, Relational Level 1, to enrich lesson plans.
- Encourage the student to pray to the Holy Spirit for help in making right choices.
- Provide an opportunity for the student to meet the priest and visit the Reconciliation Room/Confessional prior to the sacrament.
- Take care in practicing the ritual action prior to the reception of the sacrament.
- Use the resource side by side with the content of catechist's mainline publisher's text.

# EVALUATION OF SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESOURCE

<p>UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON Institute for Pastoral Initiatives Sacraments: Gifts for All Eucharist</p>
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## Commendations

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Offers guidelines to assist those working with special needs students.
- Helps the student know who Jesus is.
- Assists the student in understanding the difference between ordinary bread and the Eucharist.
- Encourages the student to express love and thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist.
- Presents a simple and concise outline of the parts of the Mass.
- Includes additional resources: religious icons, references to CCC, possible activities based on preferred learning style of the student.

## Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this resource may need to:*

- Refer to the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Curriculum, Relational Level 1, to enrich lesson plans.
- Encourage the student visit the church building to discover the meaning of the different areas and objects used at Mass.
- Make connections between sharing a meal with family and the Eucharistic meal.
- Take care in practicing the ritual action prior to the reception of the sacrament.
- Use the resource side by side with the content of catechist's mainline publisher's text.

## EVALUATION OF SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESOURCE

<p>UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON <b>Institute for Pastoral Initiatives</b> <b>Sacraments: Gifts for All</b> <b>Confirmation</b></p>
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### Commendations

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Offers guidelines to assist those working with special needs students.
- Presents symbols used to describe the Holy Spirit.
- Helps the student to know the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Assists the student in reviewing the Sacraments of Initiation.
- Connects the Sacrament of Confirmation with Christian Service.
- Provides a simple outline of the Rite of Confirmation.
- Includes additional resources: religious icons, references to CCC, possible activities based on preferred learning style of the student.

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this resource may need to:*

- Refer to the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Curriculum, Discipleship Level 3, to enrich lesson plans.
- Assist the student in understanding that by the anointing with Holy oil at Confirmation they are sealed with the Holy Spirit.
- Help the student to name the person who will be his/her sponsor.
- Take care in rehearsing the ritual action prior to reception of the sacrament.
- Use the resource side by side with the content of catechist's mainline publisher's text.

## Evaluations of Sacramental Resources

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AVE MARIA PRESS</b> <b>Send Out Your Spirit (2003)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the Paschal Mystery
- Indicates that the reception of the sacrament of confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace
- Establishes that the history of the sacrament of confirmation should be understood
- Helps the candidates prepare for the gift of the Holy Spirit by setting aside any hindrances through prayer and, as needed, through reconciliation

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Specify that happiness depends upon understanding who God created us to be and the Holy Spirit enlightens our choices so that we come to recognize the will of God in our lives
- Help students understand godparents and sponsors represent the Christian community and are to be models of faith
- Challenge students that we need to take ownership for our personal choices while specifying that the Christian life is one of continual conversion from sin to a life of grace
- Encourage the candidates to spend time with family members—and especially the sponsors—in prayer and joyful anticipation of the sacrament

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HARCOURT RELIGION PUBLISHERS</b> <b>Celebrating Our Faith: Confirmation (2000)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Makes clear that personal and social sins exist in our own life experience and that our ability to choose good is empowered by the Spirit
- States that receiving the sacrament of confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace
- Generally addresses purification and enlightenment well e.g.
  - encourages candidates to spend time with family members--and especially the sponsors--in prayer and joyful anticipation of the sacrament
  - also encourages candidates to make a retreat of day of recollection
  - points out the role of the local community's prayer and support for candidates and their sponsors

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Help candidates understand that happiness depends upon understanding who God created us to be
- Refer to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as the Paschal Mystery
- Point out that the communion of saints is the community of all believers, living and dead
- State that the "seven sacraments touch all stages and important moments of a Christian's life"
- Make clear that the history of the sacrament of confirmation should be understood

**HARCOURT RELIGION PUBLISHERS**  
**Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation (2000)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that the sacrament of penance is the ordinary means of sacramental forgiveness
- Makes clear that Reconciliation frees us from sin and gives us grace, God's own life
- Also makes clear that Reconciliation is necessary for the forgiveness of mortal sin and helpful for the forgiveness of venial sin and the strengthening of virtue
- Points out that Jesus gave the priest the authority to forgive sins in the sacrament of penance

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Clarify that Jesus gave us the gift of forgiveness of sins when he appeared to the Apostles after the resurrection
- Emphasize that regular confession is a way to grow in faith
- Point out that there are many wrong choices shown on television and in the media and sometimes through our friends
- Help students understand that family and friends can also help us to make the right choices

**HARCOURT RELIGION PUBLISHERS**  
**Celebrating Our Faith: Eucharist (2000)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that the Mass is the most important prayer of the Catholic Church
- Indicates that the Eucharist is both meal and sacrifice
- Makes clear that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament
- Addresses the community dimension of catechesis well
- Shows that as Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist, we are called to serve others

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Point out to students that we bless food in our families
- Help students participate in gestures and postures for the various parts of the Liturgy
- Make certain that students are clear on the different ways to receive communion
- Encourage students to visit the church to discover the meaning of the different areas and objects used at Mass

**HARCOURT RELIGION PUBLISHERS**  
**Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation & Eucharist, Level II (2002)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that the Eucharist is both meal and sacrifice
- Makes clear that Jesus gives Himself to us as food at every Mass
- Encourages realization that God wants us to welcome ALL people of whatever ability and culture to our faith community
- Shows that as Jesus gives himself to us in Eucharist, we are called to serve others

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Point out that the Holy Spirit helps us to make right choices
- Help students value the role of parents and teachers in making right choices
- Emphasize that there are many wrong choices shown on television and in the media and sometimes through our friends
- See to it that students understand the different ways to receive communion

**IGNATIUS PRESS**  
**Image of God: Confirmation (1993)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Indicates that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the Paschal Mystery
- Helps students understand that the Holy Spirit enlightens our choices so that we come to recognize the will of God in our lives
- Includes that godparents and sponsors represent the Christian community and are to be models of faith
- Advises students that we need to take ownership for our personal choices while communicating that the Christian life is one of continual conversion from sin to a life of grace

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Specify that happiness depends upon understanding who God created us to be
- Help students understand that the reception of the sacrament of confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace and that the history of the sacrament of confirmation should be understood
- Advise the candidates to prepare for the gift of the Holy Spirit by setting aside any hindrances through prayer and, as needed, through reconciliation
- Encourage the candidates to spend time with family members—and especially the sponsors—in prayer and joyful anticipation of the sacrament

**LOYOLA PRESS**  
**Christ Our Life: Confirmed in the Spirit (1997 and 2007)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that the Church is a family of faith called to holiness through baptism
- Asserts that the history of the sacrament of confirmation should be understood
- Indicates that the Paschal Mystery triumphs over sin and through personal conversion we become "other Christs" to the world
- Helps increase the candidates' desire and readiness to be empowered by heavenly gifts for their role in the world

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Clarify that happiness depends upon understanding who God created us to be
- Point out that our daily life journey is related to the Paschal Mystery
- Help students understand that there is power in and responsibility for God's gift of free will
- Encourage candidates' desire and readiness to be newly-consecrated by God as sharers in Christ's messianic nature

**PAULINE BOOKS & MEDIA**  
**Be Sealed (1998)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Establishes that the history of the sacrament of confirmation should be understood
- Helps increase candidates' desire and readiness to renew the promises of their baptism
- Helps candidates prepare for the gift of the Holy Spirit by setting aside any hindrances through prayer and, as needed, through reconciliation
- Encourages candidates to make a retreat or day of recollection

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Help students understand our daily life journey is related to the Paschal Mystery
- Point out that the communion of saints is the community of all believers, living and dead
- Make clear that the "seven sacraments touch all stages and important moments of a Christian's life"
- Note that the Paschal Mystery triumphs over sin and through personal conversion we become "other Christs" to the world

**PAULINE BOOKS & MEDIA**  
**Jesus Brings Us Life (1996)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that Reconciliation frees us from sin and gives us grace, God's own life
- Challenges that there are many wrong choices shown on television and in the media and sometimes through our friends
- Makes clear that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament
- Fully develops the different ways to receive communion

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Specify that Jesus gave us the gift of forgiveness of sins when he appeared to the Apostles after the resurrection
- More fully develop the individual and communal Rites of Reconciliation
- Point out to students that we bless food in our families
- Emphasize that it is important to participate in the Eucharistic liturgy with our family

**RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING**  
**Eucharist (2003)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that the Mass is the most important prayer of the Catholic Church
- Indicates that the bread and wine of the Eucharist are consecrated by the priest; through the power of the Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine truly become the body and blood of Jesus
- Encourages students to participate in the singing, responses, and listening with the parish community at Sunday liturgies each week
- Leads students to visit the church to discover the meaning of the different areas and objects used at Mass

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Help students understand that we should receive Communion often and worthily
- Emphasize that it is important to participate in the Eucharistic liturgy with our family and encourage students to participate in parish worship and social activities for liturgical seasons and feasts
- Help students realize that God wants to welcome ALL people of whatever ability and culture to our faith community
- Show the role of the laity, religious and priests as one of service

**RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING**  
**Reconciliation (2003)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that sin is a break in our relationship with God
- Indicates that Reconciliation frees us from sin and gives us grace which is God's own life and which changes us
- Values the role of parents and teachers in making right choices—indicating that family and friends can also help us make right choices
- Includes that there are many wrong choices shown on television and in the media and sometimes through our friends

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Make clear that the sacrament of penance is the ordinary means of sacramental forgiveness
- Emphasize that regular confession is a way to grow in faith
- Help students realize that we can be selfish and how that selfishness affects other people
- Encourage students to participate in activities that show a good example to others

**WILLIAM H. SADLIER, INC.**  
**One Faith, One Lord (2003)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand the Holy Spirit enlightens our choices so that we come to recognize the will of God in our lives
- Asserts that receiving the sacrament of confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace
- Challenges that each confirmed person is empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to share their faith with others as they continue the mission of Jesus
- Helps deepen the candidates' recognition of the support they have in the unity of the members of Christ's body

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Help students understand godparents and sponsors represent the Christian community and are to be models of faith
- Encourage the candidates to spend time with family members—and especially the sponsors—in prayer and joyful anticipation of the sacrament
- Help move candidates toward making a retreat or day of recollection
- Point out to the candidates the role of the local community's prayer and support for them and their sponsors

**WILLIAM H. SADLIER, INC.**  
**First Reconciliation (2000)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that God will always forgive us when we make wrong choices, if we are sorry
- Makes clear that the sacrament of penance is the ordinary means of sacramental forgiveness, explaining well both the individual and communal Rites of Reconciliation
- Encourages students to visit the reconciliation room/confessional to become familiar with it and discover the meaning of the objects and furniture in it
- Challenges students to participate in activities to serve others as a way to show love for God and forgiveness and love for others

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Help students understand that Reconciliation is necessary for the forgiveness of mortal sin and helpful for the forgiveness of venial sin and the strengthening of virtue
- Motivate students toward valuing the role of parents and teachers in making right choices
- Emphasize that there are many wrong choices shown on television and in the media and sometimes through our friends
- Make clear that God's grace changes us

**WILLIAM H. SADLIER, INC.**  
**First Eucharist (2000)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Shows that the bread and wine of the Eucharist are consecrated by the priest; through the power of the Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine truly become the body and blood of Jesus
- Indicates that the priest repeats Jesus' words and actions in the Eucharistic prayer
- Helps students realize God wants us to welcome ALL people of whatever ability and culture to our faith community
- Encourages students to participate in the singing, responses, and listening with the parish community at Sunday liturgies each week

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Develop more fully the topic of receiving Communion worthily
- Clearly connect the Sign of the Cross at the Introductory Rites with the sacrament of baptism
- Help students understand that our Church celebrates advent, Christmas, lent, holy week, Easter and special holy days and honors Mary, the Mother of God and saints
- Provide models of good liturgical action and setting e.g.
  - show students that the Mass usually occurs within a Church building
  - explain that the deacon carries the Book of the Gospels in procession

**WILLIAM H. SADLIER, INC.**  
**The Spirit Sets Us Free: Confirmation Prep for Youth (2000)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Defines that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the Paschal Mystery
- Indicates godparents and sponsors represent the Christian community and are to be models of faith
- Helps students see that the Christian life is one of continual conversion from sin to a life of grace
- Helps the candidates prepare for the gift of the Holy Spirit by setting aside any hindrances through prayer and, as needed, through reconciliation

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- State that we play a role in keeping all God's creation sacred
- Make clear that personal and social sins exist in our own life experience
- Emphasize that the history of the sacrament of confirmation should be understood
- Help increase the candidates' desire and readiness to:
  - renew the promises of their baptism
  - be newly-consecrated by God as sharers in Christ's messianic nature
  - be empowered with heavenly gifts for their role in the world

**SILVER BURDETT GINN**  
**The Gift of Eucharist (2000)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Teaches that the bread and wine of the Eucharist are consecrated by the priest; through the power of the Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine truly become the body and blood of Jesus
- Helps students understand that the Eucharist is both meal and sacrifice
- Encourages students to participate in the singing, responses, and listening with the parish community at Sunday liturgies each week as well as helping them participate in the gestures and postures for the various parts of the Liturgy
- Indicates that we are sent forth to love and serve the Lord, using the gifts and talents God gave us

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Encourage students to participate in parish worship and social activities for liturgical seasons and feasts
- Help students pray required prayers not found in the text as well as allowing them to experience spontaneous prayer
- Elaborate on the presentation and preparation of gifts in which we get ready to thank God and offer ourselves with Jesus to the Father
- Visit the church with students to discover the meaning of the different areas and objects used at Mass

**SILVER BURDETT GINN**  
**The Gift of Reconciliation (2000)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that the sacrament of penance welcomes us back to close friendship with God and the community
- Encourages realization that we can be selfish and how that selfishness affects other people
- Assists students in valuing the role of parents and teachers in making right choices—understanding that family and friends can also help us make right choices
- Moves students toward visiting the reconciliation room/confessional to become familiar with it and discover the meaning of the objects and furniture in it

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Specify that Jesus gave us the gift of forgiveness of sins when he appeared to the Apostles after the resurrection
- Help students understand that the priest is our friend and that Jesus gave the priest the authority to forgive sins in the sacrament of penance
- Emphasize that regular confession is a way to grow in faith
- Alert students that there are many wrong choices shown on television and in the media and sometimes through our friends

**PFLAUM PUBLISHING GROUP**  
**Together in Jesus – Reconciliation (2004)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Communicates that God wants us to forgive others
- Helps students understand that the sacrament of penance is the ordinary means of sacramental forgiveness
- Leads students to experience the sacrament of penance
- Encourages students to visit the reconciliation room/confessional to become familiar with it and discover the meaning of the objects in it

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Point out that the Holy Spirit helps us to make right choices
- Make clear that Reconciliation is necessary for the forgiveness of mortal sin and important for the forgiveness of venial sin and the strengthening of virtue
- Help students understand that family and friends can also help us to make the right choices
- Include that as we grow, we learn to be more responsible

**PFLAUM PUBLISHING GROUP**  
**Together in Jesus – Eucharist (2004)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that at the last supper, Jesus changed bread and wine into His body and blood
- Makes clear that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament
- Points out that as Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist, we are called to serve others

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Help students understand that at the dismissal of Mass we are blessed to go out and help others
- Encourage students to participate in the singing, responses, and listening with the parish community at Sunday liturgies each week
- Explain the distinct roles of the laity, religious and priests, and how all are oriented towards a life of service

**PFLAUM PUBLISHING GROUP**  
**Confirmation: Gifted With the Spirit (7-8\*) [2005]**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that our faith family, the Church, offers support, guidance and care for its members throughout life
- Focuses on doctrine revealed through Scripture and Tradition, encouraging students to reflect on the faith with good attention to vocation discernment
- Encourages the candidates to spend time with family members—and especially the sponsors—in prayer and joyful anticipation of the sacrament

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Point out that our daily life journey is related to the Paschal Mystery
- Help students understand that the Christian virtue of hope is based on the belief that Jesus triumphed over evil
- Make clear that the seven sacraments touch on all stages and important moments of a Christian's life

**\* A 9-12 resource by this publisher, *Confirmation: Receiving the Gift of the Spirit* [2005], is also available. Because it conforms doctrinally to the Catechism, it is considered approved for use with older youth.**

**BENZIGER**  
**Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace (primary\*) [2006]**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that the sacrament of Penance is the ordinary and necessary means of sacramental forgiveness
- Values the role of parents and teachers in making right choices
- Encourages students to participate in activities that show a good example to others

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Clarify that Jesus gave us the gift of forgiveness of sins when He appeared to the Apostles after the Resurrection
- Point out that regular confession is a way to grow in faith
- Help students understand that there are many wrong choices shown on television and in the media and sometimes through our friends

**\* An intermediate level of this resource is also available. Because it conforms doctrinally to the Catechism, it is considered approved for use with older children.**

**BENZIGER**  
**Eucharist: We Give Thanks and Praise (primary\*) [2006]**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand the parts of the Mass
- Assists students to realize God wants us to welcome ALL people of whatever ability and culture to our faith community
- Teaches students to participate in gestures and postures for the various parts of the Liturgy

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Point out to students that in the Scriptures, Jesus teaches us that He is the Bread of Life
- Help students understand that in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we remember and give thanks for Jesus' death and resurrection
- Make clear that we should receive Communion often and worthily

**\* An intermediate level of this resource is also available. Because it conforms doctrinally to the Catechism, it is considered approved for use with older children.**

**HARCOURT RELIGION PUBLISHERS**  
**Call to Celebrate: Reconciliation (2007)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that regular confession is a way to grow in faith
- Makes clear that as we grow, we learn to be more responsible in choosing what is right
- Points out that we cannot love God without loving the people around us

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Clarify that Reconciliation frees us from sin and gives us grace, God's own life
- Point out that we can be selfish and how that selfishness affects other people
- Help students understand that there are many wrong choices shown on television and in the media and sometimes through our friends

**HARCOURT RELIGION PUBLISHERS**  
**Call to Celebrate: Eucharist (2007)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that the Mass is the most important prayer of the Catholic Church
- Indicates that the priest repeats Jesus' words and actions in the Eucharistic prayer
- Encourages students to participate in the singing, responses, and listening with the parish community at Sunday liturgies each week

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Point out to students that we bless food in our families
- Help students understand that the Mass commemorates Jesus' sacrifice
- Make clear that our Church celebrates Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and special holy days as well as honoring Mary—the Mother of God—and all the saints

**WILLIAM H. SADLIER, INC.**  
**We Believe and Celebrate First Penance (2006)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that Reconciliation is necessary for the forgiveness of mortal sin and helpful for the forgiveness of venial sin and the strengthening of virtue
- Points out that we can be selfish and how that selfishness affects other people
- Encourages students to participate in activities that show a good example to others

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Make clear that there are many wrong choices shown on television and in the media and sometimes through our friends
- Advise that family and friends can also help us make right choices
- Comment on examples to bring out the right lessons in them

**WILLIAM H. SADLIER, INC.**  
**We Believe and Celebrate First Communion (2006)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that the Eucharist is both meal and sacrifice
- Indicates that it is important to participate in the Eucharistic liturgy with our family
- Encourages students that God wants us to welcome ALL people of whatever ability and culture to our faith community

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Point out that the Mass is the most important prayer of the Catholic Church
- Make clear that our Church celebrates Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and special holy days as well as honoring Mary—the Mother of God—and all the saints
- Help students participate in gestures and postures for various parts of the liturgy

## EVALUATIONS OF SACRAMENTAL RESOURCES

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SAINT MARY'S PRESS</b> <b>Confirmed in a Faithful Community* (2006)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that our daily life journey is related to the Paschal Mystery
- Points out that we need to take ownership for our personal choices
- Encourages candidates to make a retreat or day of recollection

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Make clear that we play a role in keeping all God's creation sacred
- Advise that the Christian virtue of hope is based on the belief that Jesus triumphed over evil
- Help the candidates prepare for the gift of the Holy Spirit by examining their lives

**\*This is a 9-12 resource. Because it conforms doctrinally to the Catechism, it is considered approved for use with older youth.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING</b> <b>Confirmation (2007)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that the Spirit empowers us to proclaim Jesus, the person and message, "to the ends of the earth"
- Points out that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace
- Encourages the candidates to spend time with family members—and especially the sponsors—in prayer and joyful anticipation of the sacrament

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines for sacramental preparation, catechists relying on this resource for such preparation may need to:*

- Point out that there is power in and responsibility for God's gift of free will
- Help students understand that we need to take ownership for our personal choices
- Encourage candidates to make a retreat or day of recollection

## **MODELS OF FAMILY CENTERED CATECHESIS**

### **A. Primary models of family centered catechesis—stand alone**

1. Families meet in clusters with periodic gatherings at main sight for fellowship.
2. Families gather monthly at church for Faith Formation then receive materials to take home to continue their formation.
3. Whole parish is catechized in intergenerational family groups/clusters.
4. Home centered catechesis with parent sessions for enrichment/and/or seasonal family gatherings.
5. Intergenerational family clusters with adult leader.

### **B. Secondary models of family catechesis— in addition to traditional classroom catechesis**

6. Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter— family gatherings/inserts/resources.
7. In-home lectionary based catechesis with monthly gatherings: parents/students/family.
8. Classroom catechesis plus family or parent sessions.
9. Classroom catechesis plus home materials

### **C. Alternative models of Catechesis—other than/beyond traditional classroom catechesis**

10. Cluster groups of children taught in a home by parent leaders

## **INTERFACE OF TEXTBOOKS WITH FAMILY CENTERED MODELS**

- 1. Families meet in clusters with periodic gatherings at main sight for fellowship:**
  - Blest Are We, Silver Burdett/Ginn
  - Faith First, RCL
  - Christ, Our Life, Loyola
  
- 2. Families gather at church for Faith Formation then receive materials to continue their formation:**
  - Blest Are We, Silver Burdett/Ginn
  - Coming to Faith, Sadlier
  - Image of God, Ignatius Press
  - Faith First, RCL
  - Christ, Our Life, Loyola
  
- 3. Whole parish is catechized in intergenerational family groups/clusters:**
  - Blest Are We, Silver Burdett/Ginn
  
- 4. Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter family gatherings/inserts/resources:**
  - Blest Are We, Silver Burdett/Ginn
  - Coming to Faith, Sadlier
  - Image of God, Ignatius Press
  
- 5. In-home lectionary based catechesis**
  - Coming to Faith, Sadlier
  
- 6. Home centered catechesis plus parish parent sessions for enrichment**
  - Blest Are We, Silver Burdett/Ginn
  - Image of God, Ignatius Press
  - Faith First, RCL
  - Christ, Our Life, Loyola
  
- 7. Classroom catechesis plus family or parent sessions**
  - Blest Are We, Silver Burdett/Ginn
  - Image of God, Ignatius Press
  - Faith First, RCL
  - Christ, Our Life, Loyola
  
- 8. Classroom catechesis plus home materials**
  - Blest Are We, Silver Burdett/Ginn
  - Coming to Faith, Sadlier
  - Image of God, Ignatius Press
  - Share the Joy, Benziger
  - Faith First, RCL
  - Christ, Our Life, Loyola

**9. Cluster groups of children taught in a home by parent leaders:**

- Blest Are We, Silver Burdett/Ginn
- Coming to Faith, Sadlier
- Image of God, Ignatius Press
- Faith First, RCL
- Christ, Our Life, Loyola

**10. Intergenerational family clusters with adult leader:**

- Blest Are We, Silver Burdett/Ginn
- Coming to Faith, Sadlier

Series evaluated thus far:

1. Blest Are We, Silver Burdett/Ginn
2. Coming to Faith, Sadlier
3. Image of God, Ignatius Press
4. Faith First, RCL
5. Share the Joy, Benziger
6. Christ, Our Life, Loyola

## TEXTBOOK EVALUATION

### Evaluation Standards:

**4 = very good    3 = good    2 = adequate    1 = poor    0 = missing**

<u>EVALUATION RESULTS</u>	4	3	2	1	0
1. A how-to component for parents	BL,C	F	COL	I	S
2. Adaptability to use in a variety of ways	C	BL,F	I,S COL		
3. Adaptable for home use	C	BL,I,F COL	S		
4. Additional resources listed as well as different races, cultures, ages and abilities	BL,C	F,COL	I,S		
5. Bilingual component especially Spanish	BL,S	F,COL			C,I
6. Child's workbook or text or worksheet	BL,C I,F,C OL	S			
7. Communal identity	BL,C I,F		S,CO L		
8. Component for families	BL,C F	S	I		COL
9. Creative/engaging approach	BL,C F		I,S,C OL		
10. Demographically diverse	BL,I	S,F COL			
11. Incorporate different learning styles	C,F	BL,I COL		S	
12. Prayer as a regular component	BL,C I,F		S,CO L		
13. Sequential and developmental	BL,C I,F		S		
14. Web & media support	C,F	BL		S	I

BL            \*Blest Are We, Silver Burdett/Ginn  
 C            \*Coming to Faith, Sadlier  
 I            Image of God, Ignatius Press  
 S            Share the Joy, Benziger  
 F            \*Faith First, RCL  
 COL        Christ Our Life, Loyola

\* Indicates well suited for family centered catechesis

## **SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILY CENTERED CATECHESIS**

### **Kitchen Table Gospel—Benziger**

- Indexed to many basal text book series
- Reflects the vision of Church documents on family
- Style is Liturgical Catechesis (life cycle set within liturgical cycle)
- Broad based for resourcing all families in parish; parish groups
- Adaptive—suitable for
  - Family gatherings at church
  - Individual families
  - Clusters of families
- Facilitator friendly
  - Well organized
  - Well resourced

### **F.I.R.E.—Liguori**

- Designed for use with clustered families
- Difficult to use with individual families in the home
- Style is intergenerational
- Engaging
- Facilitator friendly
  - Well resourced
- Stand alone program that is thematically designed—difficult to index to basal textbook series

### **Generations of Faith—Center for Ministry Development**

- Cultural diversity and timely in design
- Broad use of media
- Ideally used with clusters of families meeting once a month with material sent home for the other three weeks each month
- Stand alone program
- Liturgically based
- Difficult to index to basal text book series

### **Celebrating The Lectionary Series—Resource Publications**

- Liturgy based whole parish catechesis
- Scope & sequence
- Year overview
- Spiraling doctrinal formation
- Catechetical age-level packets

## EVALUATIONS OF CHASTITY EDUCATION RESOURCES

### OUR SUNDAY VISITOR Catholic Vision of Love (1996, revised edition) 5-8

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

#### Commendations

*We commend this series for the following features:*

- In the entirely unique area of sexuality catechesis the resource addresses three indispensable needs: parental involvement, catechist formation and doctrinal integrity
- Parents are helped in their irreplaceable role by the component “Talking to Youth About Sexuality: A Parent’s Role:” this includes simple visuals for that which only parents can appropriately address—anatomical information with their own child(ren)
- Introductory sections for each grade level make clear that only catechists who embrace the Church’s teaching on love and sexuality may in turn conduct the classroom sessions
- Student lessons and catechist notes provide an authentic, complete and age-appropriate catechesis for a life of chastity
- All three of the above-mentioned requirements—parents, catechists and lesson content—are reinforced throughout the program for consistency and effectiveness

#### Suggestions for Use

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this series to:*

- Satisfy the completely unique demands of chastity education by completing classroom lessons in collaboration with parents thereby deepening their own appropriation of this area in Catholic faith
- Provide adult catechesis through parent meetings, letters to parents and other forms of parental communication—always making clear to them their special role in sexuality education and that the *Catholic Vision of Love* offers assistance in completing this uniquely parental responsibility
- Enhance their own knowledge and understanding of our Catholic vision of love and sexuality, improving their catechetical effectiveness
- Replace all or parts of chapters in basal elementary and junior high textbooks when overlap with the *Catholic Vision of Love* occurs
- Further in various ways the ongoing process of this threefold ministry—relying on sound materials to serve themselves and fellow catechists in supporting parents as primary educators

**LIFE ATHLETES PRESS**  
**That's Where I Live: A Guide to Good Relationships**  
**(1999<sup>\*</sup>)**

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Articulates those aspects of goodness and holiness which are intrinsic to married life
- Offers guidance in life choices by the virtues and values of modesty and chastity
- Encourages the regular celebration of the sacraments of both Eucharist and Penance

**Suggestions for Use**

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this resource to:*

- Supplement a variety of Catholic high school courses
- Form the basis for a series of catechetical sessions in a parish Youth Ministry setting
- Augment the activities of a Respect Life or perhaps a Life Athletes club/group

**\* A 2003 resource *As In a Mirror* by this publisher puts the content of *That's Where I Live* in to a ready-made lesson plan format. It may be helpful for catechetical sessions and other activities.**

**OUR SUNDAY VISITOR**  
**The Incredible Gift! The Truth About Love and Sex**  
**(1996)**

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Distinguishes between appropriate and inappropriate expressions of affection outside of marriage
- Appreciates the meaning of sexuality and sex from the Catholic perspective
- Helps adolescents realize the good sense of the Christian vision of sexuality, as made to support and express enduring love, through the promises, the generosity, and the responsibilities of marriage

**Suggestions for Use**

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this resource to:*

- Suggest a series of reading assignments for students in grades 9 – 12
- Offer independent study or extra credit opportunities
- Share with parents as well as youth—encouraging them to discuss each chapter together

**THE PLOUGH PUBLISHING HOUSE**  
**A Plea for Purity: Sex, Marriage & God**  
**(1998)**

**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Outlines the teaching of the New Testament with regard to the sacredness of sexuality as found in the teachings of Jesus and the letters of Paul
- Offers guidance in life choices by the virtues and values of modesty and chastity
- Makes clear the inner coherence of the truths of faith, and their relation to one another and humanity's ultimate end

**Suggestions for Use**

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this resource to:*

- Supplement a variety of Catholic high school courses and provide a basis for an adult education opportunity
- Provide a focus for an ecumenical discussion group
- Offer independent study or extra credit opportunities

**PANORAMA**  
**Hable Claro de Sexualidad con sus Hijos (2004)**  
*(also available in English as Talking to Youth About Sexuality)*

**Commendations**

*We commend this booklet for the following features:*

- For the growing Hispanic community in our diocese, this resource offers accessible guidance for parents as primary educators of their children
- Section entitled Answers to Young People's Questions About Sexuality (Respuestas a las preguntas de los jóvenes acerca de la sexualidad) clearly articulates Church teaching on many areas of the topic, including references to the Catechism of the Catholic Church as well as The Teaching of Christ (4<sup>th</sup> edition)
- Parents' questions about addressing the topic of sexuality with their own children are answered in a straightforward, practical and pastoral manner
- Youth are offered, through their parents who will read and use this resource, strategies for saying No (i.e. advice for avoiding near occasions of unchaste behavior)
- Simple diagrams help parents communicate basic biological information, related to sexuality, with their own children
- An excellent bibliography encourages further reading, formation and growth in faith

**Suggestions for Use**

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this booklet to:*

- Distribute at the required Catholic Vision of Love parent meeting, thereby offering parents practical and effective help in fulfilling their irreplaceable role in chastity education
- Form the basis of a workshop, for all Spanish-speaking parents in a parish or deanery, on helping their children continue living chaste lives
- Offer quality adult catechesis on an authentic vision of love, life and God's beautiful gift of human sexuality

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LIFE ATHLETES PRESS</b> <b>See, I Make All Things New: Build Yourself</b> <b>(2005)</b></p>
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**Commendations**

*We commend this resource for the following features:*

- Addresses respect for life, and chastity, within the parameters established by the Catholic Vision of Love
- Complements the content of CVOL lessons in grades seven and eight
- Extols a variety of virtues in an engaging, eye-catching and age-appropriate way

**Suggestions for Use**

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this resource to:*

- Complement the seventh- and eighth-grade Catholic Vision of Love lessons with additional activities
- Form a basis for assignments that provide opportunities for parents and students to reflect together on purity, justice and other virtues
- Incorporate virtue-related activities on retreats and days of reflection

## EVALUATIONS OF ADDITIONAL CATECHETICAL RESOURCES

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BRIGHTSTAR PUBLISHING</b> <b>Light of the World (1996 &amp; 1997) Ages 9-13</b> <b>David Fielding</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this series for the following features:*

- Focuses on Jesus, covering doctrine through his actions and teaching
- Engaging story technique uses visual images and narrative well
- Parent/teacher manual offers guidance for use in group settings or at home

### Suggestions for Use

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this series to:*

- Encourage families to study the Faith and pray together
- Enrich classroom experiences with the activities, worksheets and projects offered

**LOYOLA PRESS**  
**Knowing Our Catholic Faith: Beliefs & Traditions (2000) 1-8**  
**Peg Bowman**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following features:*

- Systematically touches on each of the 4 pillars of our Faith--Creed, Sacraments, Morality, Prayer--in every grade level
- References to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* begin each lesson so that catechists in a variety of settings can easily read further
- Each doctrinal and liturgical point is reinforced with an activity

**Suggestions for Use**

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this series to:*

- Augment whatever basal text is being used by assigning these lessons in whatever order needed
- Encourage families to review catechetical content together
- Assist in catechesis for the Christian Initiation of Children
- Acquaint adults and even older children with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OUR SUNDAY VISITOR</b> <b>What Catholics Believe: A Pocket Catechism (1999)</b> <b>Mike Aquilina, Fr. Kris D. Stubna</b></p>
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**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Summarizes well the basic beliefs of our Faith, helping a person to grasp quickly and concisely what the Church teaches
- "A Closer Look at the Mass" section provides excellent information regarding Liturgy and Eucharist
- Question-and-Answer approach is a springboard for discussion and further study, as well as memorization of key concepts
- "How to Make a Good Confession" and "How to Make an Examination of Conscience" help people to understand the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to use it more frequently
- Contains a "Treasury of Prayers" that provides a wealth of beloved and well-used Catholic prayers for those being taught

**Suggestions for Use**

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this text to:*

- Supplement catechetical series with young people as well as guide young adult/adult study groups, or even RCIA candidates
- Make the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* more understandable and accessible to various audiences (as the text organizes itself around the 4 pillars of the CCC)

**RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING**  
**Our Catholic Identity (1998) 1-8**  
**Ed DeStefano**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following features:*

- Systematically touches on each of the 4 pillars of our Faith--Creed, Sacraments, Morality, Prayer--in every grade level
- Offers numerous activities for each grade level
- Encourages communication between parents and children as well as between child and peers regarding the Faith

**Suggestions for Use**

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this series to:*

- Assess understanding of key concepts
- Promote peer learning as well as family catechesis
- Supplement the Christian Initiation of Adults process and adult catechesis (The level eight booklet is available without the "8" so as to facilitate its use in settings other than elementary programs.)

*Replacement: new volume and copyright year*

## EVALUATION OF AN ADDITIONAL CATECHETICAL RESOURCE

**C.R. PUBLICATIONS**  
**Catholicism series (1996-1997, 2006)**  
**James J. Drummey**  
*Catholicism & Reason*  
*Catholicism & Life*  
*Catholicism & Society*  
*Catholicism & Ethics*  
*Catholicism & Scripture*

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this series for the following features:*

- Recognizes the Church's authority as being derived through scripture and tradition as received through the bishops and pope; also acknowledges doctrines, dogmas and creeds of the Church as official statements of faith
- Helps students give examples of following or breaking the Ten Commandments and committing other sins as well as explaining the essential elements in celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Covers several Scripture-related objectives very well

### Suggestions for Use

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this series to:*

- Augment a number of secondary religion courses, especially sections of Morality, Church, Sacraments and Scripture
- Assign as an independent study resource to those at the appropriate reading level

**OUR SUNDAY VISITOR**  
**A Pocket Catechism for Kids (2001)**  
**Fr. Kris D. Stubna, Mike Aquilina**

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Presents for young people the essential elements of the Faith in a concise and easily recognizable and remembered fashion
- “How to Pray the Mass” section is both practical and motivating
- Format of question and answer concretely addresses many inquiries that continually arise as people attempt to grow more deeply in their understanding of the Faith
- “Why Go To Confession?” and related sections give age-appropriately gentle yet firm encouragement to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance
- Enriched by “A Treasury of Prayers” with its collection of beloved and well-used Catholic prayers—including simple ones in keeping with diocesan curriculum guidelines for preschoolers
- “The Church Calendar and the Saints” succinctly lays out our liturgical year

**Suggestions for Use**

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this text to:*

- Encourage Mass attendance, lectionary/liturgical-based observances and frequent reception of Holy Communion
- Further the new evangelization by offering initial answers to the questions that naturally arise as the Faith is shared with young people
- Supplement specific grade levels using this resource’s indication of what level is appropriate for each particular teaching
- Make the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (as the text organizes itself around the 4 pillars of the CCC) more accessible and understandable to those middle school students who may be ready for it
- Use “Thoughts on Christian Friendship” as a springboard to various topics in the hope-filled work of manifesting God’s kingdom

**PRIORY PRESS**  
**Dominican Series (2000)**  
*Love's Revelation*  
*God Calls You*  
*Responding to God*  
*Jesus is the Way*

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following features:*

- Outlines the rationale for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and helps students develop a habit for regular individual celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Defines Jesus in His divinity and humanity as true God and true man as taught in the scripture and proclaimed in the teaching of the Church

**Suggestions for Use**

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this series to:*

- Address, especially with young men, various topics within the study of Morality and Matrimony
- Supplement their own reading as well as that of their students, especially for research and/or independent study

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION</b> <b>The Apostolate's Family Catechism (2003)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Continually holds before its intended audience the ideal of living a life based on the teachings of the gospel
- Stresses the importance of the local church community for Christian living, so that every Catholic contributes to building up the spirit of the parish family and sees its ministries as part of the Church's universal mission

**Suggestions for Use**

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this text to:*

- Supplement their own reading as well as that of their students, especially for research and/or independent study
- Draw from its extensive illustrations and diagrams to help visualize for students various points of doctrine

## EVALUATION OF AN ADDITIONAL CATECHETICAL RESOURCE

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ASCENSION PRESS</b> <b>Theology of the Body for Teens (2006)</b></p>
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### Commendations

*We commend this text for the following features:*

- Outlines very effectively the key elements of Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body
- Provides guidance for making choices based on the virtues of modesty and chastity
- Defends the appropriateness of sexual intimacy within the covenantal relationship of marriage between a man and a woman (taking in to account Natural Family Planning)
- Discusses the Church as the Spouse of Christ and the consistency of Church practice in ordaining only men (viri)

### Suggestions for Use

*In fulfilling our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists might use this text to:*

- Follow up on the Catholic Vision of Love lessons (taught in earlier grade levels)
- Explain the connection between regular celebration of the sacraments of Eucharist and Penance with the moral life in general and a life of chastity specifically
- Identify Christ as the model of chastity, showing that every baptized person is called to lead a chaste life, each according to his or her particular state of life
- Essentially cover any objective related to the teaching of the Church regarding love and sexuality

## 2007 Vacation Bible School Resources

<b>Vacation Bible School Producer</b>	<b>Name of Vacation Bible School</b>	<b><u>Overview</u></b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
K4J	<i>Win the World for Jesus!</i>	Come on a K4J Missionary Expedition and follow in the footsteps of the missionary saints.	1-877-KIDSNET
Liguori	SonForce Kids (Catholic Edition)	Join the SonForce Kids Special Agents as they go on a mission for God decoding Joshua 1:9.	1-800-325-9521
Harcourt Religion Publishers	Avalanche Ranch (Catholic Edition)	Take a wild ride through God's Word and get ready for an exciting Bible adventure with Bible stories, songs, crafts, and activities.	1-800-922-7696
Creative Communication for the Parish	Quest for Truth (Catholic Edition)	Join Dakota Joe and his faithful dog, Digger, as they tackle daily challenges to unearth the Keeper of the Truth Artifact.	1-800-325-9414
Traditions of Roman Catholic Homes	<i>Following Jesus through the Church Year</i>	Make the Catholic Faith come alive with these possible theme suggestions: The Liturgical Seasons; and the Traditional Day Dedications.	T.O.R.C.H. 1144 Mt. Torrey Rd. Lyndhurst, VA 22952
Catholic Heritage Curricula	It's A Mystery – The Secret Garden	Enter the Secret Garden...meet the Queen of Heaven, run a Rosary race and create your own Mary Garden.	1-800-490-7713
Growing With the Saints	Assorted Saints & the Virtues of Faith, Hope & Love	Discover the mystery and the timeless virtues of Faith, Hope and Love with the saints.	1-864-599-5697
Our Sunday Visitor/Sadlier	Great Bible Reef	Prepare for a refreshing new adventure where participants dive deep into God's Word.	1-800-348-2440
Pflaum	Take the Plunge (Catholic Edition)	Twist and turn your way through whirlwind adventures that are sure to make a splash!	1-800-543-4383

**Preview these resources at the diocesan Learning Media Center – (412) 456-3120 or [Imc@diopitt.org](mailto:Imc@diopitt.org).**

## Evaluations of Preschool Materials

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BENZIGER</b> <b>Religion Readiness (1996)</b> <b>4-year-old and kindergarten</b></p>
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### Commendations

*We commend these materials for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that God is all-loving and all-forgiving
- Includes that we are called to pray every day
- Changes activities frequently to accommodate short attention spans

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using these materials may need to:*

- Make clear that God made each of us to love Him, and be His child now and always
- Point out that sacred images, e.g. statues, pictures, crucifix, are reminders of God's presence in our lives
- Assist children in developing a sense of responsibility and service to others by rotating simple chores, role-playing different jobs both in the home and in the community

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HARCOURT RELIGION PUBLISHERS</b> <b>Sharing God's Story (1998)</b> <b>3-year-old, 4-year-old, and kindergarten</b></p>
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### Commendations

*We commend these materials for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that God has given us the ability to make and do many things
- Changes activities frequently to accommodate short attention spans
- Encourages natural curiosity by providing many sensory experiences

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using these materials may need to:*

- Specify that sacred images, e.g. statues, pictures, crucifix, are reminders of God's presence in our lives
- Make clear that during the Mass, Jesus is with us in a special way
- Nurture a sense of reverence through informal prayers of praise and thanksgiving

**LOYOLA PRESS**  
**Christ Our Life (1996)**  
**3-year-old and 4-year-old**

**Commendations**

*We commend these materials for the following features:*

- Indicates that God made each of us to love Him, and be His child now and always
- Helps students understand that our parents who give us life, love, care, and provide for us are a very special and wonderful gift from God
- Encourages individual attention to be given to each child
- Employs a basic routine and uses clear directions

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using these materials may need to:*

- Make clear that God has something special in life for each of us to do
- Point out that God is all-forgiving
- Specify that sacred images, e.g. statues, pictures, crucifix, are reminders of God's presence in our lives

**OUR SUNDAY VISITOR**  
**I Am Special (1999-2003)**  
**3-year-old, 4-year-old, and kindergarten**

**Commendations**

*We commend these materials for the following features:*

- Specifies that sacred images, e.g. statues, pictures, crucifix, are reminders of God's presence in our lives
- Includes that God shows love for us through the love of our parents, friends, priests, brothers or sisters
- Makes clear that during the Mass, Jesus is with us in a special way
- Builds on children's desire to please others as a first step in deepening a sense of selflessness and concern for others
- Allows the children to make decisions as a basis for developing a social conscience

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using these materials may need to:*

- Emphasize that God has something special in life for each of us to do
- Make clear that God is all-forgiving

**RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING**  
**Children of God (1994)**  
**4-year-old and kindergarten**

**Commendations**

*We commend these materials for the following features:*

- Helps students understand that God has something special in life for each of us to do
- Includes that we become members of God's family through baptism
- Employs a basic routine and uses clear directions
- Builds on children's desire to please others as a first step in deepening a sense of selflessness and concern for others

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using these materials may need to:*

- Point out that sacred images, e.g. statues, pictures, crucifix, are reminders of God's presence in our lives
- Help students understand that God shows love for us through the love of our parents, friends, priests, brothers or sisters
- Make clear that during the Mass, Jesus is with us in a special way
- Provide brief periods of silence to allow children to focus and internalize what has been learned

**SADLIER**  
**Discovering God (2000)**  
**3-year-old, 4-year-old, and kindergarten**

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend these materials for the following features:*

- Points out that playmates and classmates are meant to be our friends
- Includes that we become members of God's family through baptism
- Encourages natural curiosity by providing many sensory experiences

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using these materials may need to:*

- Make clear that God made each of us to love Him, and to be His child now and always
- Specify that Jesus is God's Son and He reveals God's love to us
- Incorporate opportunities for making choices as a basis for moral development

**SILVER BURDETT GINN**  
**This Is Our Faith (1990)**  
**3-year-old and 4-year-old**

**Commendations**

*We commend these materials for the following features:*

- Helps students proclaim and experience the love and care of God
- Points out that playmates and classmates are meant to be our friends
- Employs a basic routine and uses clear directions

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using these materials may need to:*

- Make clear that we are called to pray every day
- Specify that sacred images, e.g. statues, pictures, crucifix, are reminders of God's presence in our lives
- Encourage the children to make decisions as a basis for developing a social conscience

## EVALUATION OF A JUNIOR HIGH SERIES

*Replacement: new copyright year*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING</b> <b>Faith First Junior High (2001, 2006 and 2007)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Presents Christology well and makes clear the Christocentric basis of our moral life
- Helps students understand that every person has the responsibility to develop a personal and communal or ecclesial faith relationship with Jesus
- Makes clear that the Paschal mystery is a real, historical event; yet it participates in eternity, so that it can be present to all times and places

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Special sections of each chapter make clear the connection of doctrine with both personal and ecclesial life
- Challenges Catholics to critique and transform contemporary values and behaviors in light of the Gospel and spirit of the Church's teaching
- Establishes the rational foundations of faith and emphasizes that growth in faith includes the desire for a deeper knowledge of faith's truths

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Delineate that morally sound medical treatment must exclude: harming or killing another person in the hope of helping others (as "compassionate" abortion or taking stem cells from embryos); cloning or in vitro fertilization of humans; treating patients without their informed consent; or refusing ordinary care to the infirm (please see *Respect Life Catechetical Resource Manual*, Secretariat for Education, Diocese of Pittsburgh)
- Include certain details related to Sacraments at the Service of Communion e.g. that priests remain celibate for the sake of the kingdom of heaven
- Indicate additional activities which encourage cooperation with others; e.g. role playing, dramatization, discussion, art activities, singing, dance, mime
- Address vocabulary-related concerns i.e. age-level appropriateness and consistency between textual use and glossary definition
- Narrow judiciously the scope of coverage, especially in parish schools of religion, without neglecting diocesan objectives or missing opportunities for creative teaching
- Switch between two volumes ('01) or from among five volumes ('06-'07) mid-year so as to follow the diocesan-required sequence of Jesus, Morality, Church then Sacraments

<b>SADLIER</b> <b>Faith and Witness (School &amp; Parish 1998-1999)</b>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Makes clear that prayer and the Eucharist are essential components of the moral life
- Differentiates between ordained ministry and the ministry of the Baptized
- Addresses several Sacramental objectives well e.g.
  - the Eucharist not only recalls Christ's Passover but also makes it present
  - the Church confers the Sacrament of Holy Orders only on baptized men (viri), whose suitability for the exercise of the ministry has been duly recognized
  - Christ is present in the graces of the Sacrament of Matrimony to enable the couple to live out what might seem at times an impossible demand

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Expresses concern for behavioral change
- Shows pastoral sensitivity by speaking strongly but graciously, charitably giving practical encouragement to any whose home lives are not ideal
- Suggests ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church's teaching together

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Clarify certain Christological matters e.g. Jesus' miracles are dramatic signs of God's power and love
- Specify some aspects of morality e.g.
  - Catholics are privileged and obliged to attend Sunday Mass; not to do so is a grave sin
  - we have a responsibility to take part in public life
- Delineate that morally sound medical treatment must exclude: harming or killing another person in the hope of helping others (as "compassionate" abortion or taking stem cells from embryos); cloning or in vitro fertilization of humans; treating patients without their informed consent; or refusing ordinary care to the infirm (please see *Respect Life Catechetical Resource Manual*, Secretariat for Education, Diocese of Pittsburgh)
- Point out a few Sacramental matters e.g.
  - in the liturgical celebration, we are joined to the heavenly liturgy
  - for the faithful, individual and integral confession of grave sins followed by absolution remains the only ordinary means of reconciliation with God and with the Church
  - priests remain celibate for the sake of the kingdom of heaven
- Emphasize that every Christian is called to holiness and that growth in faith includes the desire for a deeper knowledge of faith's truths
- Offer an adequate and appropriate teacher's bibliography featuring materials such as *The Teaching of Christ: A Catholic Catechism for Adults, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*
- Forego using one of the five books in this program—especially in parish schools of religion where instructional time is less than that in a Catholic school

<p style="text-align:center"><b>SILVER BURDETT GINN</b> <b>Blest Are We Junior High (Parish 2003, School 2005)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Commendations**

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Covers objectives directly related to Jesus well
- Helps students understand that we have a responsibility to take part in public life
- Indicates that the Church is the Body of Christ, with different kinds of leadership roles which exist within it, both clerical and lay
- Communicates that for the faithful, “individual and integral confession of grave sins followed by absolution remains the only ordinary means of reconciliation with God and with the Church”
- Makes clear that “the Church confers the Sacrament of Holy Orders only on baptized men (viri), whose suitability for the exercise of ministry has been duly recognized”
- Shows that every Christian is called to holiness

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Expresses concern for behavioral change
- Suggests ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on their faith and the Church’s teaching together

**Augmentation Needed**

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Delineate more clearly certain aspects of morality e.g.
  - there are moral absolutes (right and wrong)
  - Catholics are privileged and obliged to attend Sunday Mass; not to do so is a grave sin
  - morally sound medical treatment must exclude: harming or killing another person in the hope of helping others (as “compassionate” abortion or taking stem cells from embryos); cloning or in vitro fertilization of humans; treating patients without their informed consent; or refusing ordinary care to the infirm (please see *Respect Life Catechetical Resource Manual*, Secretariat for Education, Diocese of Pittsburgh)
  - prayer and the Eucharist are essential components of the moral life
- Specify a few Sacramental matters e.g.
  - in the liturgical celebration, we are joined to the heavenly liturgy
  - the Eucharist is a memorial of Christ’s Passover in the sense of anamnesis; it not only recalls, but also makes it present
  - priests remain celibate for the sake of the kingdom of heaven
  - Christ is present in the graces of the Sacrament of Matrimony to enable the couple to live out what might seem at times an impossible demand
- Emphasize that growth in faith includes the desire for a deeper knowledge of faith’s truths

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BENZIGER</b> <b>Christ Jesus, the Way 7-8 (2004)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Makes clear that Jesus did really die and rise bodily from the dead and through his death, and resurrection, he conquered death and the devil “who has the power of death”
- Helps students understand that the formation of our conscience is a life-long task requiring prayer, fidelity in the Church’s teachings and the guidance of her magisterium
- Points out that there are role models—local, global and historical—who exemplify Catholic values

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Follows up the point about role models by then including many inspirational and imitational models for the learner such as clergy, lay men, lay women, religious men, religious women, and saints, heroes, and heroines
- Emphasizes the importance of the local church community for Christian living, so that every Catholic contributes to building up the spirit of the parish family and sees its ministries as part of the Church’s universal mission
- Challenges Catholics to critique and transform contemporary values and behaviors in light of the Gospel and the spirit of the Church’s teaching

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Point out that subsidiarity means that nothing should be done at a higher level of society when it could be accomplished at a lower
- Help students understand that some people freely embrace virginity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven
- Explain that persons who are divorced and remarried without an annulment remain in the Church but cannot receive Communion
- Adapt materials to challenge the rapid learner
- Clarify for themselves that while newer and deeper insights into meanings and applications of doctrine can occur (i.e. the development of doctrine), doctrine itself does not change
- Seek an adequate and appropriate teacher’s bibliography grounded in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and *The Teaching of Christ* (5<sup>th</sup> edition)

## EVALUATION OF A JUNIOR HIGH SERIES

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HARCOURT RELIGION PUBLISHERS</b> <b>Call to Faith (2007)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Helps students understand that Catholics believe in a true merit of eternal life, due to our new life of grace
- Emphasizes that prayer and the Eucharist are essential components of the moral life
- Makes clear that the Church is a group of people that is inclusive and is a multi-faceted faith community with a rich, varied liturgical tradition

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Encourages students to view service (age and ability appropriate) as an integral part of their catechetical preparation
- Points out the inner coherence of the truths of faith, and their relation to one another and humanity's ultimate end
- Establishes the rational foundations of faith and emphasizes that growth in faith includes the desire for a deeper knowledge of faith's truths

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Help students understand that every marriage act must be open to children; this excludes the use of artificial contraception
- Specify that Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, under the guidance of the Magisterium, contain the fullness of God's divine revelation
- Emphasize that Mary is the Mother of the Church and the perfect model for all Christians to follow
- Explain that some persons freely embrace virginity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven
- Make clear that persons who are divorced and remarried without an annulment remain in the Church but cannot receive Communion
- Distinguish between Church teaching and the opinions and interpretations of theologians
- Suggest additional ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on the faith and the Church's teaching together

## EVALUATION OF A JUNIOR HIGH SERIES

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LOYOLA PRESS</b> <b>Finding God (2007)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Helps students understand that Christ is the heavenly high priest, always interceding for us
- Specifies that the four marks of the Church are one, holy, catholic and apostolic
- Makes clear that the Paschal Mystery is a real, historical event; yet it participates in eternity, so that it can be present to all times and places

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Uses formal, spontaneous, shared, and silent prayer as well as reflection and meditative prayer as a part of faith responses—not only in private prayer but also leading to active participation in the Church’s liturgical life
- Emphasizes the importance of the local church community for Christian living, so that every Catholic contributes to building up the spirit of the parish family and sees its ministries as part of the Church’s universal mission
- Challenges Catholics to critique and transform contemporary values and behaviors in light of the Gospel and the spirit of the Church’s teaching

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Help students understand that the use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life and that clandestine production and trafficking in drugs are scandalous practices because they constitute direct cooperation with evil
- Explore the Church as a mystery which can be described through images such as the Mystical Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, Flock of Christ, Vineyard, and People of God
- Assert that there is objective evil
- Point out that the Catholic Church has the right to teach on questions of natural law because its observance is necessary for salvation
- Make clear that in the liturgy, and especially in the sacraments, there are unchangeable parts which are divinely given as well as parts that the Church has the authority to adapt to different cultures
- Distinguish between Church teaching and the opinions and interpretations of theologians
- Suggest additional ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on the faith and the Church’s teaching together

## EVALUATION OF A JUNIOR HIGH SERIES

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SADLIER</b> <b>We Believe (2007)</b></p>
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The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

### Commendations

*We commend this series for the following doctrinal features:*

- Helps students understand that through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is present in the Church, in the sacraments, and in the Christian community
- Specifies that Mary, from the first instant of her Immaculate Conception, was totally preserved from original sin, and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life
- Makes clear that to work for the common good in economic and political realities is especially the role of the laity
- Points out that the Church is an organized structure, and different kinds of leadership roles exist within it, both clerical and lay

*We commend this series for the following methodological features:*

- Takes into account the experience and background of those being catechized and suggests ways that the Christian message illumines their lives
- Offers a systematic presentation of doctrine and a context for reflection on its meaning
- Suggests ways for adolescents and their parents to reflect on the faith and the Church's teaching together

### Augmentation Needed

*In order to fulfill our diocesan curriculum guidelines, catechists using this series may need to:*

- Help students understand that the mysteries of Christ's public life are his baptism, temptations, announcement of the Kingdom, miracles, transfiguration, ascent to and entry into Jerusalem
- Specify that Christ is the heavenly high priest, always interceding for us
- Explain that all Christian churches are part of the People of God and have some albeit imperfect linkage with the Catholic Church as the one true Church
- Distinguish between Church teaching and the opinions and interpretations of theologians

Switch between two volumes mid-year so as to follow the diocesan-required sequence of Jesus, Morality, Church then Sacraments

# Instrument for Choosing Textbooks

**Only those textbooks identified in *Evaluations of Catechetical Textbooks and Materials for Elementary and High School Programs* are approved for use. Questions may be referred to (412) 456-3115.**

Committee: _____	Pastor
_____	Parent(s)
_____	Student(s)
_____	Catechetical Administrator
_____	Principal
_____	Catechists
_____	_____
_____	<i>Series Title</i>
_____	_____
_____	<i>Publisher</i>
_____	_____
_____	<i>Copyright Date</i>

On a scale of 1 to 5, five being excellent and one being poor, how does this series rate in the following areas?

1. The doctrinal features commended in **Evaluations of Catechetical Textbooks and Materials for Elementary and High School Programs** fit our mission statement and/or major aims.

Excellently	Well	Fairly	Adequately	Poorly
5	4	3	2	1

2. The methodological features commended in the above-mentioned document are suited for our catechists.

Excellently	Well	Fairly	Adequately	Poorly
5	4	3	2	1

3. Again, in the document mentioned above, the augmentation needed to fulfill **diocesan curriculum guidelines** can be provided with relative ease.

Excellently	Well	Fairly	Adequately	Poorly
5	4	3	2	1

*continued*

Instrument for Choosing Textbooks  
*continued*

4. Any overall theme or purpose statement in this series reflects the unique features of our faith community.

Excellently 5	Well 4	Fairly 3	Adequately 2	Poorly 1
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5. The sales representative will provide follow-up assistance in using the series, determined best by references rather than the representative's personality/presentation.

Excellently 5	Well 4	Fairly 3	Adequately 2	Poorly 1
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6. The series offers ease of use. (Could be determined by catechists using it on a trial basis.)

Excellently 5	Well 4	Fairly 3	Adequately 2	Poorly 1
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7. The materials present a pleasing appearance.

Excellently 5	Well 4	Fairly 3	Adequately 2	Poorly 1
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8. Our budget will allow purchasing and using this series.

Excellently 5	Well 4	Fairly 3	Adequately 2	Poorly 1
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\_\_\_\_\_ Total of the scores from above (for possible comparison purposes).

Overall recommendation:

\_\_\_ Definitely consider this series for purchase.

\_\_\_ Withhold recommendation pending comparison with other series.

\_\_\_ Eliminate this series from consideration.

Please feel free to add any additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Thank you for your time and your valuable input.*

## Publishers

Apostolate for Family Consecration  
800 367-6279

Ascension Press  
800 376-0520

Ave Maria Press  
800 282-1865

Benziger  
800 551-8766

Brightstar Publishing  
(724) 864-6819

Catholics United for the Faith  
800 398-5470

Circle Press  
888 881-0729

C.R. Publications  
877 730-8877

Harcourt Religion Publishers  
800 922-7696

Ignatius Press  
800 651-1531

Life Athletes Press  
(574) 237-9000

Loyola Press  
800 621-1008

Midwest Theological Forum  
(630) 739-9750

Our Sunday Visitor  
800 348-2440

Panorama  
[www.panoramaed.com.mx](http://www.panoramaed.com.mx)

Pauline Books & Media  
800 836-9723

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference  
(717) 238-9613

Pflaum Publishing Group  
800 543-4383

Plough Publishing House  
(845) 658-8351

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