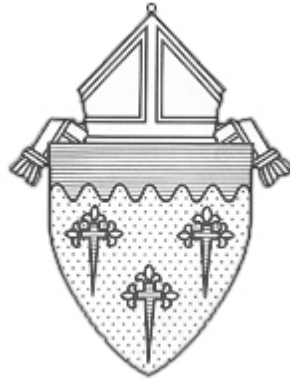


Diocese of Superior

RELIGION CURRICULUM FOR SCHOOLS

Grades PK-8



February 8, 2009

DRAFT

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Superior are a mission of the Church entrusted by Jesus Christ to instill Catholic faith and morals in our students. Within community, our schools prepare students spiritually, academically, and physically to proclaim and live out the Good News in preparation for eternal life.

Introduction

Catholic Schools are a mission of the Church instituted by Jesus Christ. In companion with the parents, the first educators of their children, Catholic schools must help to educate children in the Catholic faith. To do this every school must provide an environment that puts Christ at the center. The catechesis that takes place within the religion curriculum of the school and throughout the entire academic curriculum needs to:

- ‡ Promote knowledge of the faith;
- ‡ Promote knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and the sacraments;
- ‡ Promote moral formation in Jesus Christ;
- ‡ Teach the Christian how to pray with Christ;
- ‡ Prepare the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church; and
- ‡ Promote a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society. (National Directory of Catechesis #20)

The religion curriculum is meant to be both an academic requirement as well as an overview of the values and concepts taught throughout all the curriculum and daily activities of the school day. Therefore, all the items listed may *not* be taught in the once-a-day religion class, but may also be spread throughout other subject areas, i.e. the history of the Church may be taught in Social Studies or the physical development of a person may be taught in Science. Thus, every school needs to identify the subject in which the items of this curriculum will be taught.

When a child is baptized, he/she enters a relationship with Jesus and becomes a member of the Church community. At the same time, parents and the parish community including the school catechists and teachers assume the responsibility to nurture the child's growth in faith. This

shared responsibility continues until the child is ready to enter fully into the Church's life and mission at Confirmation.

Because of this, the textbook is not the sole source of catechesis. Most major textbook publishers deal with the topics identified in this curriculum. However, no single textbook series follows the curriculum precisely. Therefore, to provide consistency and continuity in scope and sequence, it is best to use the same major textbook series with related support materials for each grade. In this way a majority of the curriculum will be covered by the textbook. All texts used to teach the curriculum must be on the USCCB Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series found at <http://www.usccb.org/catechism/index.htm>.

This curriculum cross-references with the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) indicated by a number at the right of the page. The Catechism of the Catholic Church *is a statement of the Church's faith and of catholic doctrine, attested to or illuminated by Sacred Scripture, the Apostolic Tradition and the Church's Magisterium. It is the sure norm for teaching the faith and thus a valid and legitimate instrument for ecclesial communion.* (Pope John Paul II, 1992)

In addition to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, this document also sites scripture passages, the *Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living: Guidelines for Curriculum Design and Publication* (CFCL) created by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the *Creating Safe and Sacred Places for Children and Youth* resource binder implemented by the Charter: *Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal*.