

SELECTING CATECHETICAL SERIES AND TEXTS FOR K THROUGH 12

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES:

“The principal competencies of the diocesan office are the following: to elaborate, or at least to indicate to parishes and to catechists, the necessary instruments for catechesis: catechisms, directories, programs for different ages, guides for catechists, material for those being catechized, audiovisual aids, etc” (General Directory for Catechesis #266).

“Catechetical textbooks are among the tools for learning placed directly in the hands of catechumens and those being catechized. In the United States, catechetical textbooks for children and young people are ordinarily part of an integrated series that has been prepared for a number of grade levels, usually preschool or kindergarten through sixth or eighth grade. In addition, high school texts address core components of the faith in a variety of formats” (National Directory for Catechesis, 283).

THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

1. All catechetical processes in parishes and Catholic schools will have the necessary and appropriate resources for use by catechists and those being catechized.
2. All catechetical processes in parishes and Catholic schools will use textbooks and other resources from the Office of Religious Education approved list.
3. All catechetical leaders are encouraged to use the Selecting Catechetical Series and Texts process.

SELECTING CATECHETICAL SERIES AND TEXTS

GUIDELINES

The following steps are recommended when choosing or updating catechetical series and texts for use in catechesis with children, youth, and families:

- Consult with the Pastor and other appropriate parish catechetical leaders.
- Contact a Diocesan Consultant from the Office of Religious Education to seek assistance for the selection process.
- Form a committee to participate in the selection process including the Parish Director of Religious Education, the Pastor, Catholic School Principal, representative catechists, parents, adult advisors, and youth. A consultant is available to meet with the committee to discuss the selection process and give an overview of the catechetical series and texts. Samples are available from the Office of Religious Education Library or from publishers.
- Review, revise, or design with the committee the year to year curriculum plan for the religion programs based on the guidelines of the Office of Religious Education and the Diocesan Curriculum for Catechesis.
- Study and review with the committee the catechetical series and texts. Then make a selection. Approved texts may be supplemented with a variety of print and non-print resources available from the Diocesan Office of Religious Education Library.
- Inform the Pastor, other appropriate catechetical leaders, and the parish council of the selection.
- Secure new catechist manuals, student texts and resource materials.
- Budget annually for new materials, workbooks, and take home resources for families and households.
- Introduce the new catechetical series and texts by scheduling a catechist in-service and by providing an opportunity for parent orientation meetings which include an overview of the selected materials.

EVALUATION

The catechetical leader will periodically evaluate the need for changing or updating catechetical series and texts for use in catechesis with the various age groups and programs.