



## ELEMENTARY CATECHESIS

### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES:

“The ecclesial community should dialogue with the parents if possible, supporting them in their educational task; it should also make itself present and available to offer motherly concern and practical consideration at all times: this will be a primary and fundamental proclamation of God’s providential goodness” (Directory for Catechesis, #238).

“Catechesis, not fragmentary but organized along an itinerary that presents in their essential form all the mysteries of Christian life and their bearing on the moral conscience, is also attentive to the existential conditions of children and to their questions of meaning” (Directory for Catechesis, #240).

“The whole community has the task of transmitting the faith and of bearing witness to the possibility of walking through life with Christ” (Directory for Catechesis, #244).

“School-age children should receive formal and systematic catechesis in a parish-based catechetical process, a Catholic school, or a process of home-based catechesis in which the content of the faith and the experience of Christian life is presented authentically and completely” (National Catechetical Directory, #204).

“Though the influence of peers and adult catechesis is important, catechetical processes are not intended to supplant parents as the primary educators of their children. Parent involvement in catechetical processes is essential” (National Catechetical Directory, #229).

### IN THE DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN:

Parish catechetical leaders will ensure that all parish, Catholic school, and home-based catechesis include implementation of the Diocese of Youngstown Curriculum for Catechesis as promulgated by Bishop Bonnar in 2021.

### COMPONENTS

- Religion texts and resources will be selected from those approved by the Office of Faith Formation and Lay Ecclesial Ministry.
- The recommended number of contact times for instructional catechesis will be scheduled (at least 36 hours each year).
- An appropriate catechist to child ratio will be ensured for effective communication, constructive interaction, and meaningful faith formation experiences (1-10).
- A yearly program will be developed to include worship, community building, apostolic works, and other faith formation experiences for children and their families.
- Parishes will provide for the faith formation of children with disabilities.

## ADMINISTRATION

- The Pastor and/or his delegate will administer the catechetical processes.
- On-going dialogue and collaboration are encouraged among all parish catechetical leaders, especially in regard to faith formation of catechists and selection of catechetical resources.
- Permanent records and parish sacramental records are to be maintained by the parish administrator for each elementary age student.
- Program reports regarding parish elementary catechesis will be submitted to the Office of Faith Formation and Lay Ecclesial Ministry and kept on file at the parish.

## PARENTS

- Parents and guardians will register with the parish and communicate the catechetical process chosen for their elementary age children; Catholic school, parish faith formation or home-based catechesis.
- Regular communication and meetings with the parents and guardians of elementary age children will be provided to inform them of the role of family in faith development, the Curriculum for Catechesis, textbooks, planned formation and activities, and parish procedures and policies.
- Parents and guardians will be invited to become involved with the formation and familiar with the resources provided for their elementary age children.

## CATECHISTS

- All catechists will demonstrate the qualities essential for their ministry.
- Safe Environment Policy Compliance records will be maintained for all catechists and aides.
- Opportunities for on-going formation and spiritual growth will be provided for all catechists.
- All catechists will meet the standards for diocesan certification or establish an appropriate study plan mutually agreed upon by the catechist and catechetical leader or pastor.

## FINANCES

- The pastor and/or his delegate will budget and allocate sufficient funds for maintaining quality catechetical processes.
- The pastor and/or his delegate may establish an appropriate fee to subsidize parish catechetical processes.
- Funds will be made available for textbooks, catechist manuals, including equipment, internet and other necessary supplies, catechist formation, certification and background checks, and other additional expenses.
- An annual financial report of income and expenses will be submitted to the pastor and the Office of Faith Formation and Lay Ecclesial Ministry. A copy of this report will be kept on file at the parish.

## EVALUATION

- The elementary catechetical processes will be evaluated annually.
- Administrators will invite catechists, parents, and children to participate in the evaluation process.
- A sample evaluation procedure can be found in the Directory of Catechesis section H.
- The evaluation summary will be submitted to the pastor, pastoral council, and the Office of Faith Formation and Lay Ecclesial Ministry. A copy of this report will be kept on file at the parish.