

# **NINTH THROUGH TWELFTH GRADES**

## **BACKGROUND FOR CATECHISTS**

### **PRINCIPLES OF FAITH DEVELOPMENT**

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES SENIOR HIGH – GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE**

#### **Catechists**

1. seek to assist youth to understand and appreciate themselves
2. provide opportunities for youth to exercise leadership
3. facilitate experiences in social ministry, social justice education and social outreach
4. provide opportunities for youth to act to preserve the environment
5. allow opportunities for youth to evangelize through personal witness
6. provide opportunities to explore, critique, evaluate, apply and interact with Catholic beliefs
7. share faith stories
8. provide opportunities to exchange with persons of different ethnic backgrounds
9. provide peer gathering opportunities: dances, athletic events, bowling parties, youth outings, and diocesan-sponsored events
10. provide opportunities to examine different life styles including single life, married life, priesthood, religious life, diaconate, and social ministries
11. provide opportunities to participate in hunger walks, peer tutoring, serving at soup kitchens, and Habitat for Humanity
12. provide opportunities to realize their potential to effect change among their peers
13. provide opportunity to develop Christian living skills
14. affirm youth and invite them to faith
15. demonstrate that faith motivates their actions and choices by performing actions that evidence values contained in Scripture and in the Catholic faith tradition
16. provide immersion experiences for youth
17. ensure that youth have opportunities to contribute time, talent and treasure to the Church community
18. involve youth leaders in planning
19. use group discussions, debates, panels, interviews, simulation games with debriefing follow-up, videos, with breaks for discussion

20. use role-play with typical situations
21. discuss the media
22. lead youth in guided meditation and reflection
23. provide retreat experiences

## **Youth**

1. are developing a capacity for spiritual depth
2. question values
3. can be demanding in search for absolutes
4. exhibit a sense of immortality
5. develop a compassion for others
6. are morally committed to fulfill their responsibilities to society
7. can be susceptible to cults and disaffected groups
8. cast a keen eye on what is preached and what is lived
9. seek ways to contribute to Church or societal needs
10. recognize and are moved to action by local plight and world issues.
11. recognize and enjoy diversity in the world
12. recognize the need to respond in a more humane way.
13. need to engage in worship on an adult level
14. need good role models and lived faith in the family
15. grow spiritually when families catechize informally by the witness of their lives, their participation in liturgy, their involvement in Church life, and their moral values
16. need opportunities that allow for youth to talk about their experience of God
17. watch other members of the faith community

## **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

1. grow into adulthood
2. notice changes and physical development have leveled out—development of glands and hormones have stopped
3. have lots of energy and strength
4. have lots of stamina

5. have good coordination
6. who are male may continue to mature and grow physically
7. tend to require more sleep and tend to sleep later
8. have increased appetites
9. may begin to face adult health problems such as obesity, headaches, and stress related illnesses
10. may be prone to physical problems related to accidents: cars, sports, try more daring activities such as skiing, skydiving, rock climbing etc.
11. are sensitive to skin care issues
12. take care of self; recognize consequences of risky behavior

### **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

1. need opportunity to plan for the future
2. can role model for younger students
3. continue to enjoy community and social service work
4. understand elements of employment
5. have an intolerance for imperfection
6. transition from high school to college
7. transition from home to independent living
8. deal with classmates with problems: drug abuse, delinquency, divorce, pregnancy, and suicide
9. are persistent to achieve goals in spite of setbacks
10. become skilled at teamwork and interpersonal skills
11. become independent
12. talk with parents about daily activities, learning self-disclosure skills
13. prepare for parenting, family responsibilities
14. use request and refusal skills
15. initiate and maintain cross-gender friends and romantic relationships
16. deal with drinking and driving
17. begin to focus on the future
18. explore the meaning of one's life
19. harmonize own and others' feelings

20. are adaptable
21. have creative thinking and problem solving skills especially in response to barriers/obstacles
22. earn and budget money
23. take pride in work accomplished
24. plan for a career
25. find technology important to them for communication
26. know the type of people they enjoy
27. are idealistic: justice is important, want to make a difference, want to change the world

### **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT**

1. understand government issues
2. become involved in community issues such as environmental projects
3. make realistic academic plans
4. recognize one's own strengths and weaknesses
5. possess listening and oral communication skills
6. have competence in reading, writing, and computation
7. learn to learn skills