

SENIOR HIGH SERIES
APPROVED SERIES

All of the following textbook series are approved by the Committee on Catechesis for their content, correlation with diocesan Curriculum Standards for Catechesis, and conformity with the Catechism (as approved by the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops).

RCL - Understanding the Catechism Series © 1998

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW:

This is a four volume series: *Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer*. Each volume is compact and designed for one quarter of a school year when used in the classroom. In a parish religious education program, each volume could be used for one semester or one year. The entire series could be used throughout the three or four years of senior high religious education.

II. SPECIFIC STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES:

CATEGORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	COMMENT/EXPLANATION
<i>COMPATIBILITY WITH GUIDELINES</i>	X		Covers the four pillars of the <i>Catechism</i> thoroughly. Some topics will need to be covered in more depth, according to the Guidelines.
<i>PRAYER TOOLS & LITURGICAL TOOLS</i>	X		Catholic prayers woven throughout student text; there is no separate prayer section, except for the volume on Prayer. Prayer suggestions provided for each lesson in teacher texts. Could have more liturgical references.
<i>CATECHISM & SCRIPTURE REFERENCE</i>	X		Student text contains plenty of both. Provides many opportunities for looking up Scripture passages. Every lesson in the teacher's manual is referenced to the CCC.
<i>PARISH/SCHOOL COMPATIBILITY</i>	X		Designed for Catholic high school, but provides guidance on how to use it in a parish setting. RCL also offers a K-8 and adult series if your parish is looking to use the same publisher for all levels of education.
<i>FAMILY INVOLVEMENT</i>		X	None.
<i>TEACHER RESOURCES</i>		X	Teacher manual provides additional information for each part of the chapters, discussion questions for video segments, quizzes, CCC background, opening and closing prayers, and reviews. *Teacher manual has <u>not</u> been approved by Ad Hoc

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			Committee.
<i>ASSESSMENT TOOLS</i>	X		Quizzes/tests provided in teacher manual.
<i>OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS</i>		X	Provides video segments; however, these are not overly helpful.
<i>ONLINE RESOURCES</i>		X	Website is mostly for purchasing texts and contacting sales representatives.
<i>DIVERSITY FOR THE LEARNER (LEARNING STYLES, CULTURE, ETC.</i>	X		Pictures show diversity of cultures. Some diversity in activities to address different learning styles.
<i>APPEARANCE & FORMAT</i>	X		Overall, format is fine. Student text consists of two-tone colors. Consists of short paragraphs, sidebars, and text bars. Some photos are out of date.

III. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ◆ This series covers most of the four pillars of the Catechism; however, it does not go into depth on many of the topics. The DRE or teacher would need to ensure the Guidelines are covered for each of the topics.
- ◆ The series may be better suited for use by the teachers (for lesson planning and learning the topics) rather than using as a student text.
- ◆ There are some “What do you think?” questions. The catechist needs to follow up to ensure the students know the Church’s teachings on these subjects.
- ◆ Specific Clarifications:
 - Morality, Teacher Manual p. 29 - refers to Reconciliation as ‘the least popular’ of the sacraments: The sacraments are gifts from God. Students should not be led to view any of them as something “unpopular”.
 - Morality, Teacher Manual p. 44 - contains an activity to see if the students agree with the precepts of the Church. This could be misleading. The students should not be led to believe that we can vote on what we like in the Church. Be sure the reasons for the precepts of the Church are explained.
 - Morality, Teacher Manual p. 62 - Students are asked to record their parents’ stance on moral issues. This activity should not be done. The students should not be asked to reveal this information.
 - Morality, p. 85 - The Church’s teaching on capital punishment needs to be clarified here. The book states that “the Catholic Church recognizes the right of the state to use the death penalty” but the Catechism clarifies “if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor.” Therefore “the cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity ‘are very rare, if not practically non-existent.’” (CCC #2267)