

CATECHIST – Required Materials

The following texts should always be considered as the primary texts for any teaching, and should be studied carefully when preparing to teach any lesson.

SACRED SCRIPTURE

An obvious requirement for both teachers and students, who should both become intimately familiar with the holy Word of God, throughout religious education.

Some recommended translations:

Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (RSVCE) and the Revised Standard Version Second Catholic Edition (both published by Ignatius Press), New American Bible (NAB), New Jerusalem Bible (NJB)

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH © 1997 2nd Edition

This is another obvious required source that both teachers and students should become familiar with throughout their religious education.

COMPENDIUM OF THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH © 2006

This is another obvious required resource that both teachers and students should become familiar with throughout their religious education.

UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CATECHISM FOR ADULTS © 2006

This is another obvious required resource that both teachers and students should become familiar with throughout their religious education.

The following are some other texts on catechesis that every Catechetical Leader and catechist should be familiar with.

THE GENERAL DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS © 1997

An essential companion to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the General Directory for Catechesis (GDC) provides religious educators, teachers, and catechists with a single point of reference for all aspects of catechetical instruction, for content and pedagogy, as well as for methodology. Beginning with an introductory reflection of how contemporary human and ecclesial conditions have impacted the preaching of the Gospel, the *Directory* moves through a detailed presentation of the goals and essential elements of catechesis, from its role in the Church's mission of evangelization, to norms and guidelines for its presentation, to adaptations for various groups and situations.

THE NATIONAL DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS © 2005

A companion to the General Directory for Catechesis (GDC), the National Directory for Catechesis builds on some of the core themes of the GDC, like catechesis's relationship to evangelization and worship, and provides practical tools for doing catechesis well. It also includes the practice of catechesis in the United States.

JOHN PAUL II. CATECHESI TRADENDAE, ON CATECHESIS IN OUR TIME. APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION (1979)

PAUL VI, EVANGELII NUNTIANDI, ON EVANGELIZATION IN THE MODERN WORLD. APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION (1975)

CATECHIST – Supplemental Materials

NEW

YOUCAT © 2011 Ignatius Press

YOUCAT is short for Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, which was launched on World Youth Day, 2011. Developed with the help of young Catholics and written for high-school age people and young adults, YOUCAT is an accessible, contemporary expression of the Catholic Faith. The appealing graphic format includes Questions-and-Answers, highly-readable commentary, summary definitions of key terms, Bible citations and inspiring and thought-provoking quotes from Saints and others in the margins. What's more, YOUCAT is keyed to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, so people can go deeper. It explains:

- What Catholics believe and why (doctrine)
- How Catholics celebrate the mysteries of the faith (sacraments)
- How Catholics are to live (moral life)
- How they should pray (prayer and spirituality)

The questions are direct and honest, even at times tough; the answers straightforward, relevant, and compelling. YOUCAT will likely become the "go-to" place for young people to learn the truth about the Catholic faith. Illustrated. This book is a great reference for catechists of junior high or high school aged students.

"Study this Catechism with passion and perseverance. Make a sacrifice of your time for it! Study it in the quiet of your room; read it with a friend; form study groups and networks; share with each other on the Internet. By all means continue to talk with each other about your faith." – Pope Benedict XVI

COMPENDIUM OF THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH © 2005

This resource, put out by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, is a magnificent resource for going deeper into the social doctrine of the Church.

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR – *The Teaching of Christ: A Catholic Catechism for Adults* by Bishop Donald Wuerl – 4th Edition © 1995 or 5th Edition © 2004

This would be a wonderful aid in helping teach the faith. It could also be used as supplemental text in High School.

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR – *The Gift of Faith: A Question and Answer Version of The Teaching of Christ* by Bishop Donald Wuerl – © 2001

This is another helpful tool for teaching. This is a question and answer version of the above mentioned *The Teaching of Christ* from Our Sunday Visitor.

APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION – *The Apostolate's Family Catechism, Two Volume Abridged Edition* © 2005

This textbook was found to be conformity with the Catechism (as approved by the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops).

This resource contains 304 questions and answers, hundreds of illustrations and prayers, texts from Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Vatican II document, and papal documents. Also available on DVD or CD are commentaries on every question by Francis Cardinal Arinze for Junior and Senior High, and by Sr. John Vianney for Elementary.

IGNATIUS PRESS – *Living the Catechism of the Catholic Church: A Brief Commentary on the Catechism for Every Week of the Year* by Christoph Cardinal Schonborn (4 Volumes)

This resource is a commentary by the general editor of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in 4 volumes each dealing with one of the 4 pillars of the Catechism: Volume 1 - The Creed, Volume 2 - The Sacraments, Volume 3 - Life in Christ & Volume 4 - Paths of Prayer.

ASSOCIATION FOR CATECHUMENAL MINISTRY’S CATECHIST’S MANUAL – LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS

This Catechist’s Manual is part of the *On the Journey* series of books intended to be used for the RCIA. This Manual is designed to be a practical help to the catechist by offering a structured way of preparing for and presenting the catechetical session. Particularly helpful for all catechesis, not just those involved in RCIA, are the 60 doctrinal lesson plans, with full Scripture and Catechism references. For each of the lesson plans, the manual also contains at least five suggested hymns, a Liturgy of the Word, suggested discussion questions, definitions of key terms, and suggested prayers. This manual is designed for systematic and organic catechesis, presenting the full splendor of the Catholic faith. www.acmrcia.org, or www.ltp.org/

EWTN - HANDING ON THE FAITH DVD SERIES – Hosted by Dr. Petroc Willey

Editor of *The Sower* and Deputy Director of Maryvale Institute, Dr. Petroc Willey, leads a panel of discussions with professors of catechetics and catechetical leaders in the field about *Handing on the Faith* in personal, integral, and engaging ways. Whether you're a religious educator or an earnest layperson, these masters of catechesis can equip you to bring the Faith to anyone and everyone. Dr. Willey invites his guests to discuss and explain the purpose of catechesis, its progressive stages, its challenges, the sources of the Faith and how to implement them, and the vocation and role of the catechist. Every DRE and catechist will benefit from *Handing on the Faith*. www.thesowerreview.org (30 min. each)

DISC 1 1. Handing on the Faith Today 2. The Pedagogy of God 3. Handing on the Faith Personally	DISC 3 7. Handing on the Story of Faith 8. Handing on the Faith Scripturally 9. Handing on the Faith Prayerfully
DISC 2 4. Handing on an Adult Faith 5. Handing on the Faith Holistically 6. Handing on an Organic Faith	DISC 4 10. Handing on the Faith Liturgically 11. Handing on the Faith Truthfully 12. Handing on the Faith Beautifully 13. Holiness: The Point of Handing on the Faith

IGNATIUS PRESS – The Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Craft of Catechesis by Petroc Willey, Fr. Pierre de Cointet and Barbara Morgan

The theme of this book is that the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, perhaps the most important work on catechesis since the Apostolic Age, offers not only a new, definitive account for our times of the full teaching of the Catholic faith, but also that it is a superbly crafted work from which to learn and to teach the faith. This book reveals the pedagogy embedded in the Catechism, showing every teacher, parent, catechist or student how to discover the key principles that enable one to learn from, and teach from, the Catechism.

The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of the “wisdom of the presentation” of the Catechism and of “the depth of its spirituality”. These points have rarely been explained in any sustained way and have never before been systematically treated. The unique point about this book is that it focuses on these points, rather than a simple explanation of the content of the Catechism. This book offers a pedagogical approach to the Catechism for handing on the faith of the Catholic Church in any setting, whether home, school and parish. It offers perennially valid teaching points drawn from a perennial text, and an explanation of the ‘pedagogy of God’ which underpins all authentic teaching methods in the Church. In this way, the book offers a twelve step ‘path to recovery’ out of unhealthy catechetical addictions and obsessions which have bedeviled the catechetical world. The three authors display a deep trust and love for the words of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* – words that hold a rich heritage and can be pondered lovingly and searchingly, since they are for our good, for everyone’s good.

WIPH & STOCK – *The Mystery We Proclaim: Catechesis for the Third Millennium*, by Msgr. Francis Kelly (second edition)

The Mystery We Proclaim is an invitation to all involved in catechesis to reflect and examine the importance of their ministry in light of the revealed mystery of Faith. It uses the riches of the Catechism and *General Directory for Catechesis* to guide catechists into greater clarity, confidence and effectiveness. It is divided into five parts: Catechesis and the New Context, The Heritage and Challenge of Catechesis, The Goals of Catechesis, The Content of Catechesis and A Methodology for Catechesis.

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR – *The Love That Never Ends: A Key to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Frs. J. Augustine DiNoia, OP, Gabriel O'Donnell, OP, Romanus Cessario, OP, and Peter John Cameron, OP

To share in the unending love of the triune God is the destiny of every person. This promise of "the love that never ends" is the quintessential Good News - the core of the Gospel and the grace that flows in the inner life of the Church.

The four Dominican authors of this book have taken this single truth as the key to unlock the riches of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. They show how "the love that never ends" is the central mystery of the Catholic Faith, the truth that provides the underlying unity of the Catechism's exposition of the creed, liturgy, sacraments, commandments, and prayer.

ASCENSION PRESS – *Homosexuality and the Catholic Church: Clear Answers to Difficult Questions* by Fr. John Harvey, OSFS

As the founder and director of the Courage and Encourage support groups, Fr. John Harvey is aware of the sensitive nature of homosexuality. With his extensive experience ministering to those with same-sex attraction, Fr. Harvey presents the Church's teaching in an objective and pastorally-sensitive manner. This book contains 110 Questions and Answers. Priests, religious, and laity alike will benefit from the many questions considered here including:

- What is the basis of the Church's teaching regarding homosexuality
- What do many consider to be the cause of same-sex attraction?
- Can a person overcome same-sex attraction?
- Why is it important for civil law to limit marriage to one man and one woman?
- How can a person live the virtue of chastity joyfully?

UNITES STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS – *Fishers of Men DVD for Priestly Vocations*

Overview of Full Length 'Fishers of Men' DVD (18 min.) This video can also be viewed online at <http://www.usccb.org/vocations/>.

I. Introduction

This section opens with shots of fishing boats and fishermen casting nets, which introduce the theme of the DVD – 'Fishers of Men'. We see some early Christians meeting on the beach. One traces an arc in the sand and the other completes to form the early Christian symbol of the ichthys, which is how they identified one another in times of persecution. This scene presents an early invitation to 'come follow me'. This section also shows us several shots of early Christians being martyred, relating the sacrifice involved in answering God's call.

Priests speak of young people's desire to respond to the call to be something more than mediocre, to be something remarkable. The other theme that begins to emerge here is the role of priests, as alter Christi, of saying to others, 'follow me.' Many scenes in this section are from World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne, which show the great numbers of priests present, and the energy of the youth.

II. Vocations to the Priesthood in this Culture

This section opens with a priest stating, “the vocation to the priesthood is counter-cultural.” It speaks of the noise and distractions which impede young people from hearing the call, and of the unique challenges that this generation faces – immorality, violence, etc.

III. Creating a Vocation Culture

The invitation to consider the priestly vocation and discernment are the main themes in this section, along with the need to create an environment where prayerful, silent discernment is possible. One priest speaks of his strong Catholic upbringing, and of wanting to a priest from his youth. Another speaks of having had careers as a baseball player and actor before discerning his priestly vocation (he portrayed an outfielder in the 1989 film *Field of Dreams*). Several young people at World Youth Day 2005 are interviewed regarding the role and importance of priests in their lives.

IV. John Paul II: ‘Do Not be Afraid’

Pope John Paul II is the focus of the fourth section: how he was a ‘hero’ to young people, and how he presented the world with a model of what the priesthood should be. Seminarians also speak of how the Pope John Paul put his own gifts into the service of the priesthood, of his Marian devotion, and how these provided examples to other priests.

V. Minister of the Mysteries of God

This section focuses on the priest’s role as minister of the sacraments, especially of the Eucharist. A continuity is depicted between the early Christians and today’s priests, who bring Jesus Christ to others. The section also depicts how the priesthood is meaningful in every culture and society, and how the priest is called to minister in various environments and situations – prisons, hospitals, among the poor, etc.

VI. A Vocation Story

This section depicts a scenario which is inspired by a vocation story. A priest is shown responding to an automobile accident, administering the sacrament of anointing to a dying young man. This story underscores the role of the priest in ‘bringing the soul home to God.’ It also shows the importance of the priest’s example. The scene shows a young boy who witnesses the priest’s response at the accident and is inspired to become a priest himself.

Again, we hear priests emphasize the priest’s role in inviting other young men to consider the vocation to priesthood. They speak of the sacrifices involved in the vocation of a priest, their call to ‘lay down their lives’, and of the need for courage and strong character in answering the call.

VII. ‘Fishers of Men’

The closing section depicts an ordination rite, along with the call of Simon and Andrew, while emphasizing the fulfillment that comes from responding to God’s call.

SOPHIA INSTITUTE PRESS – *Meet Mary: Getting to Know the Mother of God* by Mark Miravalle

This book is a wonderful introduction to the basics of the Church’s teaching of Marian doctrine and devotion.

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR – *Catechist’s Companion to the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* by Joseph White, Ph.D.

This is a great resource for aiding catechists in understanding and using the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It has many practical ideas for using the *Compendium*.

WILEY PUBLISHING, INC. - *Catholicism for Dummies* by Rev. John Trigilio & Rev. Kenneth Brighenti

Catholicism for Dummies is not a catechism or religious textbook, but a casual, down-to-earth introduction to Catholicism. It gives commonsense explanations so that the next time you’re invited to a Catholic wedding, Baptism, funeral, Confirmation, or First Communion, you won’t be totally confused. You’ll also discover other

important topics that can help you better understand the Catholic culture—from morality and devotions to worship and liturgy. This book will familiarize you with Catholicism by showing you:

- What it means to be a Catholic: traditions, prayers, beliefs, and holidays
- Who is who in the Catholic hierarchy
- How Catholics worship
- What the Seven Sacraments and Ten Commandments are
- The book regarded as the holiest to Catholics: The Bible
- The Church’s stand on some sticky issues

Catholicism for Dummies presents a rich tapestry and history of the Catholic faith—from devotions to doctrines.

LOYOLA PRESS – *The Catechist’s Toolbox* by Joe Paprocki

NEW

Written specifically for any catechist who is new to the job or has never had any formal training, *The Catechist’s Toolbox* features an invaluable collection of catechetical tips, techniques, methodologies, and advice. Throughout the book, master teacher Joe Paprocki shares the wisdom he has gleaned in two decades as a catechist, high school teacher, and religious educator. Employing the metaphor of a homeowner’s toolbox, Paprocki explains how a new catechist is like a do-it-yourself builder who needs the right collection of tools to do the job; he then explains what the tools are, what they can do, and how to use them skillfully and effectively.