August 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The mission of the Catholic Church and its Catholic Schools is to evangelize the youth of our community and perpetuate the faith to the next generation of Catholics. As a Catholic community, we must utilize all of our resources to ensure our youth know the teachings of the Church, practice these teachings, and evangelize the wider community.

The Church throughout its history has amassed the critical theological knowledge and doctrine every Catholic needs to assist them in their path to seek eternal salvation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church encapsulates this knowledge in four themes. The four themes of the Catechism are The Profession of Faith, Christian Mystery, Life in Christ, and Christian Prayer. Together they provide a comprehensive path to understanding and catechizing our faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains the teaching and mysteries of the Faith; it naturally serves as the foundation of our theology curriculum in our schools. The catechism is an essential part and all of you should be sure to have an in depth knowledge of it. This curriculum guide uses five standards across grades K-8 to ensure continuity for students as they progress through our schools. Beyond references to the Catechism, each grade level this guide provides the teachers with references to vocabulary and content that are evaluated through the Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE). The guide also highlights important Bible references to help teachers and students connect the lesson with the original sources for the doctrine. The last components found in the curriculum guide are important vocabulary and prayers that students’ are expected to know at the completion of the grade.

Your work to educate our Catholic youth is an essential part of your work as a Catholic educator. I implore you to continuously use all of the gifts God has bestowed upon you to help your students gain a deeper knowledge of the faith so they too can live their lives in the example of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your dedication to the Mission of the Church.

Your brother in Christ,

R. Walker Nickless
Bishop of Sioux City

9/17/2013 Grade 8
Diocese of Sioux City Religion Curriculum—Grade 8

Introduction: These standards and benchmarks are intended to be a guide for the development of our students’ faith formation. The standards are based on the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1995 and the benchmarks are the minimum expectations for each grade level. Teachers are encouraged to extend the faith formation of each student in every subject, each day.

User Guide: When using the following curriculum, please take note of several resources included in the guide. Each standard is labeled according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Profession of Faith, Sacraments, etc.). In addition, each standard identifies the ACRE Pillar (CREED etc.) and the ACRE domain associated with each standard. At the end of each standard the catechetical paragraph reference (1-1065).

The benchmarks listed under each standard include specific catechetical paragraph references (815, 1113, 1133-1134, 1210-1666) and suggested bible verses listed in red (JOHN 15: 9-15 ACTS 2: 42-47 ACTS 4: 32-37).

The guide also includes a copy of the Prayer Guidelines appropriate for each grade level. (For a copy of the prayers, *please go to the Diocesan website www.scdiocese.org. In addition, please find a list of ACRE vocabulary specific to grade level. Also included are book references to supplement teaching the standards.

NOTE: It is important to be familiar with the standards and benchmarks (s/b) at the grade levels in close proximity to the grade you teach. For example, the sixth grade teacher should be familiar with the s/b for grades 5, 6, and 7. The benchmarks are intended to be mastered by the students at each grade level. It is important to note that the benchmarks are meant to be built on each year. In 6th grade students are expected to “Understand the church teachings on the abuse of drugs and alcohol.” While the knowledge will be tested in 6th grade, teachers in subsequent grades should be using the knowledge learned in 6th grade to extend the student’s understanding and application of the knowledge as the students progress through school.

If you have questions, if you would like additional resources, or if you would like training on lesson plan development using the standards and benchmarks, please contact the Diocese of Sioux City Office of Education.

STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS

Standard 1: Profession of Faith (CREED) Growing in knowledge of the creed as the foundation of our Catholic faith. (ACRE Domain 1, 2, 6) (CCC 1-1065)

1. Identify the four last things—death, judgment, heaven, hell. (1006-1041)
3. Define the role of the Holy Spirit in the development of the Church and its teachings on apostolic succession and infallibility. (49, 77, 737-741, 767-768, 815, 830-833, 860, 862, 889-892, 2035, 2038)
4. Examine Mary’s role as spiritual Mother (mediatrix of all grace). (967-970)

Standard 2: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (SACRAMENTS) Growing in knowledge of the Sacraments as signs and instruments of grace. (ACRE Domain 3) (CCC 1066-1690)

1. Deepen your understanding of the sacraments. (815, 1113, 1133-1134, 1210-1666) LUKE 4:26-28

Standard 3: Life in Christ (MORAL LIFE) Understanding and using the teachings of Jesus and the church to form a developed conscience for decision-making. (ACRE Domain 5) (CCC 1691-2557)

1. Demonstrate how our Christian values help us make moral, social, economic, and political choices including subsidy and solidarity. (1786-1794, 2234-2246, 2254-2257) COL.3: 15-16
2. Understand how man’s vocation in light of the Beatitudes, man’s freedom, the morality of human acts, the morality of the passions, moral conscience, and the virtues. (1691-1845)
3. Define and identify in one’s life the gifts, fruits, and charismas of the Holy Spirit. (799-801,1831-1832)
4. Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding the Church and its teachings on apostolic succession and infallibility. (77, 737-741, 767-768, 815, 830-833, 860, 862, 889-892, 2035, 2038) JOHN 17: 4 MARK 1: 35-38
5. Understand the Church’s teaching on death, last judgment and heaven and the importance of celebrating Christian funerals. (988-1065, 2299-2301)

Standard 4: Christian PRAYER Understanding and engaging in different forms of Catholic prayer as a way of deepening one’s spiritual life. (ACRE Domain 3 and 7) (CCC 2558-2834)

1. Demonstrate knowledge of Holy Images and the church environment to enhance one’s prayer life. (1159-1162)
2. Identify parts of the liturgical celebration as liturgy of the word—first reading, response, second reading, petitions—and liturgy of the Eucharist—preparation of gifts, Eucharistic prayer, communion, closing prayer.
3. Lead the Rosary.
4. Participate in devotional and various forms of prayer (spontaneous prayer, blessings, adoration, prayer services, litanies, Stations of the Cross, novenas, chaplets, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise). (520, 2607, 2625, 2628, 2743, 2745) (REFER TO PRAYER GUIDELINES)
5. Lead the Liturgy of the Hours. (1174-1178)
6. Participation and planning liturgies is expected as the school and parish permits. (2697-2698)

Standard 5: DISCIPLESHIP Living our Catholic faith through worship and service as followers of Christ in community. (CCC 1816, 2233)

1. Apply Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy by identifying ministries within school and parish that apply. MATTHEW 5: 12-16 MATTHEW 25: 31-46
2. Participate in acts of stewardship (service, alms giving). (1716-1729, 1822-1829, 1886-1889, 1905-1917, 1928-1942) TOBIT 4: 7