

Graded Course of Study for Early Childhood and Elementary Catechetical Programs



Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Office of Evangelization and Catechesis
2009

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GRADED COURSE OF STUDY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD AND ELEMENTARY CATECHETICAL PROGRAMS

I INTRODUCTION

Catechesis is the name given to all of the Church's efforts to make disciples, to help people to believe in Jesus, and to instruct them in the Christian way of life. It is one element of the Church's evangelizing mission. Catechesis includes the systematic teaching of Catholic doctrine with the aim of leading children, youth, and adults to a deeper relationship with Jesus, a greater knowledge of his teachings, and a commitment to follow him. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Graded Course of Study for Early Childhood and Elementary Catechetical Programs contains the official content for systematic catechesis for students from age three through grade 8. Promulgated by Archbishop Pilarczyk in June of 2009, it is to be followed by those who are responsible for catechesis in Catholic schools, in parish religious education programs, and by parents who provide formal religious education for their children at home. All religion textbooks included on the "Preferred Textbook List" of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati must be in agreement with the Graded Course of Study as well as meeting the standards of the Subcommittee on the Catechism of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Graded Course of Study has been prepared using the [*Catechism of the Catholic Church*](#) and the *National Directory for Catechesis*. Most learning objectives have a direct reference to the Catechism listed in parentheses after each objective. The concepts in this document are written in the language of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. When teaching these concepts, catechists must adapt the theological language to the age and background of their students. All children have individual learning needs. Some students may not be able to communicate in a way that demonstrates the depth of their knowledge and understanding. Awareness of these learning needs demands that all topics or concepts be presented with appropriate modifications.

The Graded Course of Study provides guidance for formal, organized catechetical programs which are only one source of catechesis. Effectively transmitting the faith to children depends upon the active involvement of parents and other significant adults who model Catholic Christian attitudes, beliefs, and practices. The parish also plays a major role by the quality of its liturgical celebrations, service to others, and community life. Therefore, parents, pastors, pastoral staffs, catechetical leaders, parish catechists, Catholic school principals, and Catholic school teachers should collaborate to assist children in attaining the goals and objectives set forth in this document.

II EXPLANATION OF TERMS

For each grade level we have indicated which learning objectives are to be **INTRODUCED** and which are to be **MASTERED**. Introducing concepts or skills means presenting them to children for the first time. Mastering a concept or skill means that children have a clear understanding of the material and can demonstrate it or apply it to new situations. Concepts or skills introduced in a particular grade must continue to be developed in subsequent grades until mastery is achieved. Some objectives will not be mastered by elementary students. Teachers or catechists should design lessons which expand upon, reinforce, and practice previously introduced objectives. Therefore, it is important for all teachers and catechists to be familiar with the entire Graded Course of Study.

No concepts are concretely introduced at the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten levels because early childhood is a time for **READINESS** for religious experiences. This means that teachers and catechists offer appropriate learning activities to provide the foundation for the later introduction of concepts and skills.

III PROGRAM GOALS

We have divided the content of the Graded Course of Study according to the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The first pillar, The Profession of Faith, has been subdivided into the categories of Revelation, Salvation, Jesus, and the Church. Each pillar and category contains specific objectives for each grade level. However, there are some general goals in these categories that children and youth in our parish and school catechetical programs should attain. These are listed below.

GOAL I THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

Revelation

Students will:

1. Understand the meaning of revelation.
2. Describe major elements of God's self-revelation.
3. Develop appreciation for God's revelation in Scripture.
4. Develop appreciation for God's revelation in Church Tradition.

Salvation

Students will:

1. Recount key events of salvation history.
2. Understand the meaning of salvation.
3. Discuss God's call to eternal life.
4. Describe obstacles to salvation.

Jesus

Students will:

1. Describe the mission and identity of Jesus.
2. Describe the ministry and teaching of Jesus.
3. Identify key events in Jesus' life.
4. Explain the meaning of the titles of Jesus.
5. Develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Church

Students will:

1. Describe the meaning and mission of the Church.
2. Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church.
3. Develop their commitment to participate in the life and mission of the Church.
4. Identify images of the Church.
5. Describe the structure of the Church.
6. Recall important events in Church History.
7. Tell about the Church's relationship to other churches and the unchurched.
8. Explain Mary's role in the Church.
9. Explain the saints' role in the Church.

GOAL II THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY (SACRAMENTS)

Students will:

1. State basic facts about the sacraments.
2. Describe the symbols/rites of the sacraments.
3. Develop the ability to plan/participate in sacramental celebrations.
4. Discuss the effects of sacraments on personal life.
5. Participate in sacramental celebrations with openness and responsiveness.

GOAL III LIFE IN CHRIST (CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN MORALITY)

Students will:

1. Understand the relationship between Christian morality and the universal call to holiness.
2. Identify norms of Christian behavior.
3. Appreciate the importance of continual conversion in the Christian moral life.
4. Develop a sense of personal integrity.
5. Define Christian vocations and stewardship.
6. Understand the seven key themes of Catholic Social Teaching and be able to apply them to contemporary issues.

GOAL IV CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Students will:

1. Understand the meaning of personal and liturgical prayer.
2. Describe various forms of prayer.
3. Experience different forms of prayer.
4. Appreciate prayer as essential to Christian life.

IV INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

In order to accomplish the goals and objectives of this Graded Course of Study, we recommend that teachers and catechists use the catechetical process described below. Jesus himself appears to have followed a similar method when he spoke to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35). It consists of four steps:

Human Experience

Begin with the students' own experiences. Help them to become aware of the ways that the theme of a particular lesson affects their lives. Explore its different aspects. What have they learned in life thus far regarding this theme? How is it related to their concerns? Useful methods for this step are discussion, personal reflection, analysis, simulation games, and videos. Teaching centers on leading the students from the particular to the general. It involves a gathering of particular experiences. Starting with personal experience creates in the children an openness to receive the message. It assists them in recognizing the relevance of the Church's teachings and allows the doctrine to touch their hearts as well as their minds. By connecting religion to life it lessens the tendency of students to compartmentalize their faith.

Message or Doctrine

Move to the revealed message. What has God said about this theme? How do Sacred Scripture and the teaching of the Church enlighten the children's understanding of their experience? Some helpful methods are Scripture study, storytelling, role playing, drama, multimedia presentations, brief lectures, and questioning. Teaching focuses on providing information.

Discovery

This part of the lesson gives students time to make the message/doctrine their own, to assimilate the truth or value, to discover how the message/doctrine could change their lives if they believed it and lived it. Some helpful methods are guided meditation, personal sharing, journaling, creative writing, and reading high quality children's literature. Teaching encourages the students to reflect.

Response

The fourth step is students' response to the message and its relevance to their lives. How do they feel about it? How will they respond to what God is asking of them? This step also includes a community celebration of the interior discovery. Appropriate methods are singing, liturgical celebrations, prayer services, creative art work or crafts, and involvement in service projects. Teaching is reverent.

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PRE-KINDERGARTEN (Ages 3 & 4)

No concepts are concretely introduced at the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten levels because early childhood is a time for **READINESS** for religious experiences. This means that parishes and schools offer appropriate learning activities to provide the foundation for the later introduction of the concepts and skills listed here.

I THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

A. Revelation

- Pre-K.1 God is the creator of the world (290)
- Pre-K.2 Stories from the Old Testament that show God's love for creation (295) and how God entrusted creation to humans (299)
- Pre-K.3 Age-appropriate parables told by Jesus (546)
- Pre-K.4 The Bible is a special book that we treat respectfully (102-103)

B. Salvation

- Pre-K.5 God's love and wisdom is reflected in all that God created (339)
- Pre-K.6 Our call to know, love and serve God (2002), to love others as ourselves (2196), and to respect all of creation (2415)

C. Jesus

- Pre-K.7 Jesus helps us to know God's love (458)
- Pre-K.8 The story of Jesus' birth (525)
- Pre-K.9 Jesus is our friend and helper who shows special concern for the poor (543-544)
- Pre-K.10 The two great commandments: love of God and love of others (2196)
- Pre-K.11 Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead, is a celebration of new life (638, 658)

D. Church

- Pre-K.12 The people of the Church are God's family (756)
- Pre-K.13 Mary is the Mother of Jesus (963-964) and our Mother (966-968)
- Pre-K.14 Saints are models of Christian living and are our friends and helpers (828)

II THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY (SACRAMENTS)

- Pre-K.15 Through Baptism we become children of God and members of the Church (1213)
- Pre-K.16 The Eucharist is a special meal ((1329)
- Pre-K.17 The meaning and use of liturgical symbols and gestures, e.g., the Sign of the Cross (2157), kneeling and genuflecting (1378), etc.
- Pre-K.18 The meaning and use of liturgical words and songs, e.g., amen, alleluia, etc.

III LIFE IN CHRIST (CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN MORALITY)

- Pre-K.19 Love and gratitude to God for life and gifts (2258)
- Pre-K.20 The need for honesty, sharing, and respect for others (1738)
- Pre-K.21 The need to forgive themselves and others and to seek forgiveness from others (1469)
- Pre-K.22 Feelings are neither good nor bad (1767) and everyone has feelings (1762-1766)
- Pre-K.23 Being created and loved by God is the source of our human dignity (1929-1930, 1934)
- Pre-K.24 Human relationships depend on love, respect and caring for the feelings and needs of others (1878-1880)
- Pre-K.25 Ways to show respect for God's gifts and to care for the environment (373)

IV CHRISTIAN PRAYER

- Pre-K.26 Prayer is talking to and listening to God (2559-2561)
- Pre-K.27 There are different ways to pray: reflecting, reading prayers, singing, etc. (2700-2719)
- Pre-K.28 Praise, thanksgiving, petition, and contrition are forms of prayer (2626-2643)
- Pre-K.29 Prayer can be spontaneous or memorized (1668-1673)
- Pre-K.30 Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter are important seasons of the liturgical year (1168)

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KINDERGARTEN

No concepts are concretely introduced at the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten levels because early childhood is a time for **READINESS** for religious experiences. This means that parishes and schools offer appropriate learning activities to provide the foundation for the later introduction of the concepts and skills listed here. The concepts and skills from the Pre-kindergarten section appear in this section also. New concepts and skills for the kindergarten level appear in bold print.

I THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

A. Revelation

- Pre-K & K.1 God is the creator of the world (290)
Pre-K & K.2 Stories from the Old Testament that show God's love for creation (295) and how God entrusted creation to humans (299)
Pre-K & K.3 Age-appropriate parables told by Jesus (546)
Pre-K & K.4 The Bible is a special book that we treat respectfully (102-103)

B. Salvation

- Pre-K & K.5 God's love and wisdom is reflected in all that God created (339)
Pre-K & K.6 Our call to know, love and serve God (2002), to love others as ourselves (2196), and to respect all of creation (2415)

C. Jesus

- Pre-K & K.7 Jesus helps us to know God's love (458)
K.8 Jesus is the Son of God (444)
K.9 Jesus taught us to call God our Father (443)
Pre-K & K.10 The story of Jesus' birth (525)
Pre-K & K.11 Jesus is our friend and helper who shows special concern for the poor (543-544)
Pre-K & K.12 The two great commandments: love of God and love of others (2196)
K.13 Palm Sunday is the day Jesus entered into Jerusalem (560)
K.14 Jesus shared the Last Supper with the apostles on Holy Thursday (610)
K.15 Good Friday is the day that Jesus died (613-614)
Pre-K & K.16 Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead, is a celebration of new life (638, 658)

D. Church

- Pre-K.17 The people of the Church are God's family (756)
K.18 The parish is their Church community (2179)
Pre-K & K.19 Mary is the Mother of Jesus (963-964) and our Mother (966-968)
Pre-K & K.20 Saints are models of Christian living and are our friends and helpers (828)

II THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY (SACRAMENTS)

- Pre-K & K.21 Through Baptism we become children of God and members of the Church (1213)
Pre-K & K.22 The Eucharist is a special meal (1329)
Pre-K & K.23 The meaning and use of liturgical symbols and gestures, e.g., the Sign of the Cross (2157), kneeling and genuflecting (1378), etc.
Pre-K & K.24 The meaning and use of liturgical words and songs, e.g., amen, alleluia, etc.

III LIFE IN CHRIST (CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN MORALITY)

- K.25 The meaning of lawful civil authority and why we need it (2234)
Pre-K & K.26 Love and gratitude to God for life and gifts (2258)
Pre-K & K.27 The need for honesty, sharing, and respect for others (1738)
Pre-K & K.28 The need to forgive themselves and others and to seek forgiveness from others (1469)
Pre-K & K.29 Feelings are neither good nor bad (1767) and everyone has feelings (1762-1766)
Pre-K & K.30 Being created and loved by God is the source of our human dignity (1929-1930, 1934)
Pre-K & K.31 Human relationships depend on love, respect and caring for the feelings and needs of others (1878-1880)
K.32 Concern for the hungry, the homeless, and the victims of violence and injustice (2443-2448)
Pre-K & K.33 Ways to show respect for God's gifts and to care for the environment (373)

IV CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Pre-K & K.34	Prayer is talking to and listening to God (2559-2561)
Pre-K & K.35	There are different ways to pray: reflecting, reading prayers, singing, etc. (2700-2719)
Pre-K & K.36	Praise, thanksgiving, petition, and contrition are forms of prayer (2626-2643)
Pre-K & K.37	Prayer can be spontaneous or memorized (1668-1673)
Pre-K & K.38	Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter are important seasons of the liturgical year (1168)

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GRADE 1

The following objectives should be INTRODUCED at this grade level:

I THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

A. Revelation

Students will:

- 1.1 Identify God's self-revelation in creation (36)
- 1.2 Describe God as creating the universe out of nothing (296)
- 1.3 Identify creation as all that is, both visible and invisible (279)
- 1.4 Discuss God the Father as creator of the world (238)
- 1.5 Explain Old Testament theme of God's love for creation (295)
- 1.6 Explain Old Testament theme of God entrusting creation to humans (299)
- 1.7 Recount the story of the birth of Jesus (437)
- 1.8 Explain the meaning of the parables of Jesus (546)
- 1.9 Display reverence for the Bible (103,104)

B. Salvation

Students will:

- 1.10 Describe all of God's creation as having its own particular goodness and reflecting God's wisdom and love (339)
- 1.11 Discuss God's call to know, love and serve God (2002), to love our neighbor as ourselves (2196), to respect all of creation (2415), and to share eternal life with God (1026)

C. Jesus

Students will:

- 1.12 Describe Jesus as sent by God so that we might know God's love (458)
- 1.13 Identify Jesus as sharing his life with us in a personal and on-going way (426)
- 1.14 Identify Jesus as the only Son of God the Father (443, 444)
- 1.15 Recognize Jesus as one who invites us to call God our Father (443)
- 1.16 Describe Jesus' commandment to love one another as Jesus loves us (1823)
- 1.17 Describe Jesus as one who reaches out to all, showing special concern for the poor, the lowly, the weak and the suffering (543,544)
- 1.18 Identify the two great commandments as the core of Jesus' message (2196)

- 1.19 Tell the story of Christmas (525)
- 1.20 Tell the story of the finding of Jesus in the Temple (534)
- 1.21 Describe Jesus' entry into Jerusalem/Palm Sunday (559, 560)
- 1.22 Describe the Last Supper/Holy Thursday (610-612)
- 1.23 Describe the suffering and death of Jesus/Good Friday (613-617)
- 1.24 Tell the story of the Resurrection/Easter Sunday (638-640)
- 1.25 Describe the meaning of these titles of Jesus (430)-Emmanuel (744) and Son of God (441)

D. Church

Students will:

- 1.26 Explain the Church as parish (2179)
- 1.27 Identify faith and Baptism as criteria for membership in the Church (837-838)
- 1.28 Identify the Church as God's family (1655)
- 1.29 Explain reasons for Christ-like respect for people of all religions (817-819)
- 1.30 Recognize Mary as the Mother of Christ (963-964), Mother of God (963), Our Mother (968), and the Model of Obedience (494)
- 1.31 Recall the events and implications of the Annunciation (484-486) and Visitation (495)
- 1.32 Identify saints as models of Christian life (828) and as ordinary people who grew in freedom, understanding and love (1477)

II THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY (SACRAMENTS)

Students will:

- 1.33 Define Baptism as becoming members of Christ and sharing in his mission (1213)
- 1.34 Define Baptism as incorporating people into the Church (1226)
- 1.35 Define Eucharist as a meal (1329) and a celebration (1324-1327)
- 1.36 Experience and describe symbols as a way of communicating spiritual realities through physical signs (1146)
- 1.37 Describe the symbols, rites and ministers of Baptism (1235-1245), Eucharist (1348-1355), and Penance/Reconciliation (1491-1495)
- 1.38 Explain the meaning of liturgical gestures, e.g., kneeling, singing, genuflecting (1145-1158)
- 1.39 Recite/sing common responses of the assembly at Mass (1153-1158)
- 1.40 Participate as part of the assembly when sacraments are celebrated

III LIFE IN CHRIST (CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN MORALITY)

Students will:

- 1.41 Recognize morality as an invitation to respond freely to God's love (1749-1752)
- 1.42 Recognize the legitimate authority of God (1899) and parents (2199)
- 1.43 Define lawful civil authority (2234-2237)
- 1.44 Identify persons with legitimate authority (2234-2237)
- 1.45 Express obedience appropriately (2234)
- 1.46 Express awe and gratitude to God for life (2258)
- 1.47 Demonstrate honesty, sharing and respect for others' needs (1738)
- 1.48 Recognize the need to forgive themselves (1468)
- 1.49 Forgive others and ask others for forgiveness (1469)
- 1.50 Appreciate human abilities and the uniqueness of themselves and others (1946)
- 1.51 Acknowledge themselves and others as persons with feelings (1764-1766)
- 1.52 Recognize that positive and negative feelings are neither good nor bad in themselves (1767)
- 1.53 Demonstrate an attitude of humility and patience with their own and others' weaknesses (2447)
- 1.54 Recognize that each person's dignity comes from being loved by God and called by God to a life of holiness (1934-1937)
- 1.55 Identify Christian service as response to the needs of the community (340)
- 1.56 Participate in Christian service activities appropriate to the their age (1913)
- 1.57 Express concern for the hungry, victims of violence and injustice, the homeless and addicted (2443-2448)
- 1.58 Exhibit non-violent responses to frustration and need (2306)
- 1.59 Define peace (2304)
- 1.60 Identify some means to maintain peace (2304)
- 1.61 Recognize all life as a gift from God (2258)
- 1.62 Recognize the equality of races, sexes and the rights of all people (1878-1892)
- 1.63 Recognize reconciliation, love and joy as the core of family relationships (2206-2215)
- 1.64 Discuss that expressing feelings among family members is necessary and healthy (2223)
- 1.65 Recognize that human relationships are built on respect and love of themselves and others (1878-1880)
- 1.66 Exhibit respect for the environment. (373)
- 1.67 Recognize the responsibility for sharing and conserving resources (2415-2456)
- 1.68 Recognize and respect responsible use of land (2402)

IV CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Students will:

- 1.69 Explain the importance of prayer in a relationship with God (2565)
- 1.70 Define prayer as a response to an awareness of God's love and goodness (2567)
- 1.71 Define liturgy as the prayer of the community (1140)
- 1.72 Identify reading, reflecting, listening, singing, and meditating as ways to pray (2700-2719)
- 1.73 Explain personal prayer and formal prayer (2697-2699)
- 1.74 List the forms of prayer: praise, thanksgiving, petition, contrition (2626-2643)
- 1.75 Describe the essential elements of Eucharistic Liturgy (1346), Prayer Services (2663) and the Way of the Cross (2669)
- 1.76 Describe various forms of private prayer: the rosary (971), devotions to Mary and the saints (2675, 2683-2684), the use of sacramentals (1667-1670), memorized prayers (1674-1676), and spontaneous prayer (1674-1676)
- 1.77 Make the Sign of the Cross (232-235)
- 1.78 Recite: Our Father (2759-2772), Hail Mary (2776, 2777), and Glory Be to the Father (2639-2643)
- 1.79 Experience various forms of personal prayer, e.g., centering, reflection, journaling (2699)
- 1.80 Experience Liturgy of the Hours (1174-1178)
- 1.81 Define the Liturgical Year (1168-1173)
- 1.82 Identify the basic elements of the Liturgical Year: Advent (524), Christmas (525), Lent (540), Easter (639-644)
- 1.83 Identify Holy Days of Obligation (2180, 2185) and major Marian Feasts (971)

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GRADE 2

By the end of Grade 2 students will have MASTERED the following concepts or skills:

- M2.1 Eucharist defined as a meal (1329)
- M2.2 Eucharist as a celebration (1324-1327)
- M2.3 Liturgy as the prayer of the community (1140, 1141)
- M2.4 Making the Sign of the Cross (2157)

The following objectives should be INTRODUCED at this grade level:

I THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

A. Revelation

Students will:

- 2.1 Describe God as the Holy Trinity (253)
- 2.2 Discuss the Son as Savior of the World (457)
- 2.3 Explain the life and ministry of Jesus including his teachings and miracles (517)
- 2.4 Discuss the Passion and Death of Jesus (599) as well as the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus (651)
- 2.5 Identify important men and women of Scripture

B. Salvation

Students will:

- 2.6 Describe the power of God's love as greater than the power of sin (420)
- 2.7 Define sin as refusal to love God, self, neighbor and the environment (1849)
- 2.8 Discuss the degrees of personal sinfulness: mortal (grave) offense and venial (lesser) offense (1855)
- 2.9 Distinguish how sin, temptation and mistakes differ (1860)
- 2.10 Explain sin as affecting communion with God, self, others and creation (1849)
- 2.11 Recognize the need for reconciliation within the community (1443)

C. Jesus

Students will:

- 2.12 Explain that the name Jesus means "God Saves" (430)
- 2.13 Describe Jesus Christ as truly God and truly human (464, 469)

- 2.14 Identify Jesus as like us in every way except sin (470)
- 2.15 Describe Jesus as entrusted with the message and ministry of reconciliation. (457)
- 2.16 Describe Jesus' return to the Father/Ascension into Heaven (659-667)

D. Church

Students will:

- 2.17 Identify the Holy Spirit as one with the Father and Son (685)
- 2.18 Explain Church as local/world communities (752)
- 2.19 Define the Church as People of God (781-786)
- 2.20 Recognize the hierarchal structure of the Church: laity, professed religious, bishops, Pope, priests and deacons (934-945)
- 2.21 Describe the function of priests (1562-1568)
- 2.22 Recognize Mary as Mother of the Church (963)
- 2.23 Recount the lives of several selected saints

II THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY (SACRAMENTS)

Students will:

- 2.24 Define sacraments as means of grace unless hindered by the participant (1127, 1128)
- 2.25 Define Eucharist as sharing Christ's Body and Blood (1131), as sacrifice (1365-1372), as Jesus' gift of himself (1382), as the sacrament in which Jesus Christ is uniquely and truly present (1374)
- 2.26 Describe the Eucharist as recalling/reenacting the Last Supper (1329), the sacrifice of the cross, the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection (1366, 1370)
- 2.27 Describe Eucharist as effecting our unity with one another in Christ (1325)
- 2.28 Explain that Christ makes himself present in the bread and wine through the power of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of the ordained priest (1373-1377)
- 2.29 Explain how the Eucharist calls each participant to a greater love of God and neighbor (1396)
- 2.30 Describe Penance/Reconciliation as a sacrament of conversion (1423)
- 2.31 Describe the sacrament of Penance as Jesus' continuing work of embracing and healing (1442)
- 2.32 Define Penance as the sinner's re-establishing communion with the loving God and the Church (1440)
- 2.33 Define the elements of Penance: Contrition/Conversion, Examination of Conscience, Confession, Absolution, Satisfaction (1451-1460)

- 2.34 Discuss the role of parents in the sacramental life of the child (1461-1467)
- 2.35 Discuss the role of the community in the sacramental life of the child (1253-1255)
- 2.36 Discuss the appropriate frequency for participating in Eucharist and Penance (1389, 1457)
- 2.37 Describe ritual options for Penance (1482-1484)
- 2.38 Participate as part of the assembly in celebrations of the sacrament of Penance

III LIFE IN CHRIST (CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN MORALITY)

Students will:

- 2.39 Experience making moral decisions
- 2.40 Identify norms for Christian behavior: God's Law of Love (1889), Ten Commandments (2072-2081)
- 2.41 Define conscience (1778)
- 2.42 Understand themselves and others as persons accountable for choices and their consequences (1930)
- 2.43 Identify rights and responsibilities of membership in: family, neighborhood, parish and civil society (1880-1882)
- 2.44 Recognize prejudice and discrimination (1906-1911)
- 2.45 Identify types, causes and effects of discrimination and possible solutions (1807)
- 2.46 Recognize personal responsibility for relationships with others (2212)
- 2.47 Recognize signs of a lack of respect for others (2284-2299)

IV CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Students will:

- 2.48 Identify the Eucharistic Liturgy as the source and goal of all Christian prayer (1073)
- 2.49 Experience personal reflection as a form of prayer (2708)
- 2.50 Recite the Act of Contrition (1451-1453)
- 2.51 Write simple prayers of praise, thanksgiving, petition and contrition (2626-2642)
- 2.52 Identify basic elements of the sacred Triduum (1168)
- 2.53 Discuss prayer as a way of deepening their relationship with God (2565)

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GRADE 3

By the end of Grade 3 students will have MASTERED the following concepts or skills:

- M3.1 Creation is all that God has made, both visible and invisible (326)
- M3.2 God's love for creation as a major theme in the Old Testament (295)
- M3.3 Displaying reverence for the Bible and explaining why Christians revere it (102-103)
- M3.4 Praise, thanksgiving, petition and contrition as forms of prayer (2626-2643)
- M3.5 Reciting the Our Father (2857-2865), Hail Mary (2676, 2677), and Glory Be to the Father (257-267)

The following objectives should be INTRODUCED at this grade level:

I THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

A. Revelation

Students will:

- 3.1 Explain the coming of the Holy Spirit (731)
- 3.2 Identify the missionary activities of the Apostles (858)
- 3.3 Understand the formation of Christian communities

B. Salvation

Students will:

- 3.4 Define faith as a grace, a gift of God (153)
- 3.5 Discuss God's call to ongoing conversion (1428)

C. Jesus

Students will:

- 3.6 Identify Jesus as the one whose whole earthly life most fully reveals who God is (516)
- 3.7 Identify Jesus as the one who invites all to continuing conversion and faith (654-655)
- 3.8 Discuss the meanings of Jesus' parables and his purpose for using them (546)
- 3.9 Define miracles as signs worked by Jesus that reveal God's love and power at work in him, manifest the presence of the Kingdom in him and attest that he was the promised Messiah (547, 548)

- 3.10 Tell the story of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple (534)
- 3.11 Describe the Baptism of Jesus as the beginning of his public life/ministry (535-536)
- 3.12 Discuss Jesus' calling of the apostles (858)
- 3.13 Tell the story of the sending of the Holy Spirit/Pentecost (731,732)
- 3.14 Describe the meaning of the titles of Jesus: The Christ/Messiah (436-438), Lord (446-451), Redeemer (622) and Savior (389)

D. Church

Students will:

- 3.15 Explain that all members are called by Baptism to proclaim and share the Good News among all nations and cultures (1267-1270)
- 3.16 Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in preparing for Christ's coming (716)
- 3.17 Recognize the symbols of the Holy Spirit and their meaning: Cloud and Light (697), Dove (701), Fire (696)
- 3.18 Recognize Mary as Patroness of the United States of America
- 3.19 Identify saints as intercessors (828)
- 3.20 Distinguish between worship of God and devotion to the saints
- 3.21 Identify American saints, modern day saints, and those whose cause for sainthood is being promoted

II THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY (SACRAMENTS)

A. Sacraments

Students will:

- 3.22 List the seven sacraments (1113)
- 3.23 Describe sacraments as signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church (1131)
- 3.24 Define sacraments as visible signs of God's grace (1127)
- 3.25 Describe Jesus' continuing care for the sick and dying as expressed in the Anointing of the Sick (1421)
- 3.26 List the ranks of Holy Orders as Bishop, Priest, and Deacon (1593)

III LIFE IN CHRIST (CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN MORALITY)

Students will:

- 3.27 Identify a Christian as a disciple of Jesus (1816-2471)
- 3.28 Describe stewardship as making the best use of God's gifts in creation (2415-2417), caring for and sharing one's time, talents and possessions (1937)
- 3.29 Respond to the need to care for and share their gifts of time, talent, possessions, etc. (1937)
- 3.30 Identify causes and effects of hunger in the world (2448)

IV CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Students will:

- 3.31 Describe prayer as asking the saints to intercede with God for us and the entire world (2683, 2684)
- 3.32 Describe the essential elements of Benediction/Exposition (1418) of the Blessed Sacrament (1330)
- 3.33 Recite the Apostles Creed (194)
- 3.34 Plan a prayer around a theme
- 3.35 Identify basic elements of the Liturgical year: Pentecost (1076) and Ordinary Time (1168-1173)

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GRADE 4

By the end of Grade 4 students will have MASTERED the following concepts or skills:

- M4.1 God the Father as creator of the world (238)
- M4.2 Creation as having intrinsic goodness and perfection (339)
- M4.3 God's creation as an expression of divine love reflecting God's wisdom and goodness (339)
- M4.4 Mary being the Mother of Christ (437)
- M4.5 An Act of Contrition (1451-1453)

The following objectives should be INTRODUCED at this grade level:

I THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

A. Revelation

Students will:

- 4.1 Identify God's self-revelation in the Church (79) and in Scripture (81)
- 4.2 Describe Scripture as a written record of God's relationship with a people (101-104)
- 4.3 Discuss revelation as God's invitation to us to respond to God's love in faith (143)
- 4.4 Describe God as personally involved in the life and history of a people (142)
- 4.5 Discuss Scripture as helping us to reach a deeper understanding of life and faith (131)
- 4.6 Explain the division of the bible into the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) and the New Testament (Christian Scriptures) (128-130)
- 4.7 Find Scripture references by book, chapter and verse
- 4.8 Identify Scripture as inspired by God (105-107)
- 4.9 Identify the Bible as a collection of books determined by the Church to be inspired (120)
- 4.10 Describe the Bible as the Word of God in human words (101)
- 4.11 Recognize the Bible as having been written over a long period of time by different authors (106)
- 4.12 Identify the Nicene Creed as a summary of the principle doctrines of the Church (195)
- 4.13 List the principle precepts of the Church (2042, 2043)

B. Salvation

Students will:

- 4.14 Describe all creation as interdependent (340)
- 4.15 Identify humanity as the summit of creation (343)
- 4.16 Discuss God's covenant relationship with the Hebrew people (62)
- 4.17 Define salvation as merited through Jesus death and resurrection (1992)
- 4.18 Define grace as God's free and undeserved help (1996), as participation in God's life (1997), as demanding our free acceptance (2002), as a gift of the Holy Spirit (2003), as God's activity in our lives (2003)
- 4.19 Discuss faith as necessary for salvation (161)
- 4.20 Discuss faith as a human act of response to God's call (154,155)
- 4.21 Understand original sin as a result of the first sin that transmitted to all humans a weakened human nature and deprived all humans of original holiness and justice (417)
- 4.22 Understand that ignorance, suffering, death and the inclination to sin results from original sin (418)
- 4.23 Identify sin as an obstacle to salvation (1850)
- 4.24 Define personal sin as a free and deliberate violation of the natural moral law (1849, 1853, 1960)

C. Jesus

Students will:

- 4.25 Identify Jesus as the model for the Beatitudes (1716) and the norm of the new law, "Love one another as I have loved you" (459)
- 4.26 Describe Jesus as one who acted with a human will and loved with a human heart (470-475)
- 4.27 Describe Jesus as totally open and responsive to God's will (606-608)
- 4.28 Describe Jesus as the one through whom all are reconciled to God (457)
- 4.29 List the Beatitudes (1716) and discuss how they are to be lived (1718-1728)
- 4.30 Associate Jesus' healing miracles with reconciliation and the forgiveness of sins (547-550)
- 4.31 Explain that Jesus' suffering and death atone for our faults and make satisfaction for our sins (613-615)

D. Church

Students will:

- 4.32 Describe that prayer and work for Christian unity are essential to Christian life (820)
- 4.33 Discuss the relationship of the Church with the Jewish people (839, 840)
- 4.34 Recognize Mary as a Model of Faith (967), Model of Hope (968), Model of Charity (967, 968), and Model of Holiness (2030)

II THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY (SACRAMENTS)

(No new objectives are introduced.)

III LIFE IN CHRIST (CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN MORALITY)

Students will:

- 4.35 Recognize the authority of one's conscience (1781, 1782, 1800)
- 4.36 Define virtue (1803)
- 4.37 Memorize the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy (2443-2447)
- 4.38 Apply the works of mercy to daily life (2443-2447)
- 4.39 Explain that God's invitation to life calls for a free response (1730, 1731)
- 4.40 Identify the Beatitudes as norms for Christian behavior (1723)
- 4.41 Recognize laws, precepts and other Church teachings as sources for established norms of behavior (1975-1986)
- 4.42 Recognize that a well-formed conscience is a necessary guide in distinguishing good from evil (1783)
- 4.43 Associate morality with freedom and responsibility (1731-1738)
- 4.44 Identify each person's responsibility for continuing a lifelong process of conscience development (1783-1785)
- 4.45 Recognize the importance of the Holy Spirit, Church teaching, prayer and counsel in continuing formation of conscience (1785)
- 4.46 Identify criteria for what is just (1807)
- 4.47 Recognize the sinful consequences of abuse in the world, local community and personal situations (1938)
- 4.48 Recognize abuses of life: abortion (2271), euthanasia (2277), capital punishment (2258), suicide, (2280-2283), child abuse (2273), pollution (2288), etc.
- 4.49 Identify immodesty and not taking care of one's body as a misuse of one's sexuality (2338)
- 4.50 Recognize the responsibility of Christians to victims of HIV/AIDS (1503)

IV CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Students will:

4.51 Recite the Acts of Faith, Hope and Love

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GRADE 5

By the end of Grade 5 students will have MASTERED the following concepts or skills:

- M5.1 The Old Testament theme of God entrusting creation to humans (299)
- M5.2 God's call to respect all creation (2415)
- M5.3 God's call to share eternal life with God (1026)
- M5.4 Mary as Mother of God (495) and Mother of the Church (963)
- M5.5 Listing the sacraments (1113)
- M5.6 Baptism as the sacrament by which we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church, and share in its mission (1213)
- M5.7 Eucharist as sharing Christ's Body and Blood (1331), a sacrifice (1365-1372), and Jesus' gift of himself (1382)
- M5.8 The Eucharist as recalling/reenacting the Last Supper (1329)
- M5.9 The elements of Penance/Reconciliation: contrition/conversion (1451-1453), examination of conscience (1454), confession (1455-1458), absolution (1449), satisfaction (1459-1460)
- M5.10 Listing the degrees of Holy Orders as bishop, priest, and deacon (1593)
- M5.11 The symbols, rites and ministers of Baptism (1234-1245), Eucharist (1348-1355), and Penance/Reconciliation (1491-1495)
- M5.12 Reciting/singing common responses of the assembly at Mass (1153-1158)
- M5.13 Identify reading, thinking, listening, reflecting and meditating as ways to prayer (2700-2719)

The following objectives should be INTRODUCED at this grade level:

I THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

A. Revelation

Students will:

- 5.1 Identify Scripture and Tradition as principal sources for God's Revelation (80)
- 5.2 Describe the Trinity as the relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (255)
- 5.3 Discuss the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier of the world (703)
- 5.4 Identify the Nicene Creed as a summary of the principle doctrines of the Church (195)
- 5.5 List the principle precepts of the Church (2041-2043)

B. Salvation

Students will:

- 5.6 Define heaven as the perfect life with the Holy Trinity; the fulfillment of the deepest human longings; the state of definitive happiness (1024)
- 5.7 Define hell as being separated from God forever by our own free choice (1033)
- 5.8 Define purgatory as the final purification necessary to enter the joy of heaven (1030)

C. Jesus

Students will:

- 5.9 Identify the Paschal Mystery as Jesus' passion, death and resurrection (1067, 1085)
- 5.10 Identify the Incarnation as God taking on human nature (461-464)
- 5.11 Describe Jesus as the perfect model of what it means to be truly human (520-521)
- 5.12 Describe Jesus as the sacrifice of the New Covenant which restores the human family to communion with God (613)
- 5.13 Explain that the Holy Spirit was sent by the Father in the Risen Jesus' name to guide the Church and all individuals (669, 729-730)
- 5.14 Describe the meaning of the following titles of Jesus: King (786), Lamb of God (608), Priest (784), Prophet (785)

D. Church

Students will:

- 5.15 Explain the Church as a community of believers united by Christ and led by the Holy Spirit on its journey to the Father (737)
- 5.16 Explain the missionary nature of the Church (767-768)
- 5.17 Recognize the characteristics of the Church: One (813-822), Holy (823-829), Catholic (830-835), and Apostolic (857-865)
- 5.18 Recognize the Church as an instrument for the salvation of all (774-776)
- 5.19 Discuss the Catholic Church as the true Church founded by God through Christ (845-848)
- 5.20 Recognize the Holy Spirit as continuing Christ's work in the world (729-730)
- 5.21 Explain the symbols of the Holy Spirit: Seal (698), Water (694)
- 5.22 Explain that the Holy Spirit was fully revealed at Pentecost (731-732)
- 5.23 Explain how the Holy Spirit is present in a special way in the Church (737-741)
- 5.24 Explain the Church as diocese (833)

- 5.25 Define Catholic Church as that part of the people of God fully participating in the sacramental life, faithful to God and loyal to the bishops and pope (837)
- 5.26 Identify the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ (779), a Pilgrim People (769), a Community of Faith, Hope and Love (771)
- 5.27 Describe the function of laity and religious (897-913, 925-927), deacons (1569-1571), bishops, cardinals, and popes (880-896)
- 5.28 Identify present Church leaders
- 5.29 Recognize Vatican City as the administrative center of the hierarchical Church
- 5.30 Recognize the relationship between Church history and world history
- 5.31 Associate Pentecost with the visible beginning of the Church (767)
- 5.32 Recognize that other Christian traditions possess authentic insights into the Gospel (819)
- 5.33 Recognize Mary as Mediatrix of Grace (968-969) and Model of Discipleship
- 5.34 Recall the events and implications of the Immaculate Conception (490-493) and Assumption (966)
- 5.35 Recognize Mary's role in the mystery of redemption (964)
- 5.36 Explain the Communion of Saints (946-959)

II THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY (SACRAMENTS)

Students will:

- 5.37 Describe Jesus as the sacrament of God (1114-1116)
- 5.38 Describe the Church as the sacrament of Christ (1118-1119)
- 5.39 Define sacraments as actions of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church (1116)
- 5.40 Explain the meaning of Jesus' institution of the sacraments (1131)
- 5.41 Describe the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults as the normative way for unbaptized adults to enter the Church (1232)
- 5.42 Identify Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as sacraments of initiation (1212)
- 5.43 Identify Penance/Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick as sacraments of healing (1421)
- 5.44 Identify Matrimony and Holy Orders as sacraments of service to others and the mission of the faithful (1534)
- 5.45 Define Baptism as the sacrament which frees us from sin through water and the Holy Spirit to become a new creation (1213)
- 5.46 Identify Confirmation as the right of all baptized persons (1285, 1306) and the ratification of Baptism (1289)
- 5.47 Identify Confirmation as the sacrament in which baptized persons are sealed with the Holy Spirit (1304) and called to more generously live out their baptismal commitment (1303)

- 5.48 Describe the role of the parish community in preparing candidates for Confirmation (1309)
- 5.49 Define Eucharist as completing Christian initiation (1322)
- 5.50 Identify the effects of the Anointing of the Sick (1532)
- 5.51 Identify appropriate candidates for the Anointing of the Sick (1514-1515)
- 5.52 Describe marriage as a life-long covenant of love (1601)
- 5.53 Describe marriage as a sign of Christ's love for his Church (1612-1617)
- 5.54 Define marriage as a vocation ordered toward conjugal love and the begetting and educating of children (1601)
- 5.55 Define Holy Orders as a vocation to share in the priestly ministry of sanctifying, teaching and building the community (1544-1553)
- 5.56 Define rite as being prescribed actions of the Church (1125)
- 5.57 Describe the symbols, rites and ministers of Confirmation (1297-1301), Anointing of the Sick (1516-1519), Matrimony (1621-1624), and Holy Orders (1572-1576)
- 5.58 Explain the role of the sponsor for Baptism, Confirmation, and the RCIA (1255, 1311)
- 5.59 Discuss sacraments of initiation as a commitment to Christian living (1248)
- 5.60 Discuss the spiritual and healing effect of Penance/Reconciliation (1468-1470)
- 5.61 Discuss the importance of the community in the celebration of Anointing of the Sick (1517)
- 5.62 Discuss marriage as the basis for family life (1652-1653)
- 5.63 Identify marriage with love, intimacy, fidelity, raising a family, permanence, companionship and support (1643-1651)
- 5.64 Discuss vocation as the call to marriage, ordained ministry, vowed religious life, and the single life recognizing that these are responses to our baptismal call to holiness (825, 1533)
- 5.65 Discuss the differences between the priesthood of all the baptized and the ordained priesthood (1546-1547)

III LIFE IN CHRIST (CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN MORALITY)

Students will:

- 5.66 Discuss facing death with courage and hope because of belief in Jesus' resurrection (1006)
- 5.67 Discuss eternal destiny in light of Christian hope (1010)
- 5.68 Recognize that growing in knowledge and use of one's talents and abilities is needed for furthering the Kingdom (1936-1937)
- 5.69 Explain separation, divorce, annulment and dissolution (1650, 2382-2386)
- 5.70 Recognize sexuality as integral to the total person (2332-2334)

- 5.71 Identify ways to express sexuality according to age, depth of relating and vocation (1643)
- 5.72 Identify misuse of one's own sexuality through masturbation (2352) and premarital sex (2353)
- 5.73 Identify misuse of sexuality with others: prostitution, fornication, pornography, lust, premarital sex, adultery, etc. (2351-2356)
- 5.74 Explain the Church's teaching about artificial contraception (2368-2370, 2399)
- 5.75 Discuss sexually transmitted diseases: types, causes, symptoms, etc.
- 5.76 Discuss HIV/AIDs: the manner of transmission and the effects of the disease
- 5.77 Identify the moral principles that should guide the production and use of media (2493-2496)
- 5.78 Contrast the commercial motives that shape the worldview and values portrayed in the media with a Christian worldview (2496)
- 5.79 Demonstrate the ability to critique media in light of religious values (2494)

IV CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Students will:

- 5.80 Discuss prayer as an awareness of and response to the Holy Spirit in our lives (2664-2565)
- 5.81 Define sacramentals as aides to devotion/prayer (1668)
- 5.82 Discuss the relationship between liturgy and prayer (1073)
- 5.83 Discuss personal prayer as a help to enter into public/communal prayer (2655)
- 5.84 Describe essential elements of the celebration of sacraments within a Liturgy of the Word (1154)
- 5.85 Recite the Nicene Creed (195)
- 5.86 Discuss the relationship between Eucharistic liturgy and daily personal life (1109, 1391-1397)
- 5.87 Discuss the role of liturgical prayer in building community (1108, 1325)

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GRADE 6

By the end of Grade 6 students will have MASTERED the following concepts or skills:

- M6.1 The division of the Bible into the Old Testament and the New Testament (120)
- M6.2 Recounting the story of the birth of Jesus (437)
- M6.3 Finding Scripture references by book, chapter and verse
- M6.4 Defining peace (2304)
- M6.5 Defining prejudice and discrimination (1906-1907, 1934-1935, 2433)
- M6.6 The importance of prayer in a relationship with God (2565)
- M6.7 Prayer as a response to an awareness of God's initiative of love and goodness (2567)
- M6.8 How to pray the Rosary (971, 2678)
- M6.9 Reciting the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love, and the Apostles' Creed (194)

The following objectives should be INTRODUCED at this grade level:

I THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

A. Revelation

Students will:

- 6.1 Identify revelation as God's self-communication, the communication of God's own divine life, the communication of the mystery of God's love and of God's plan for salvation (50-54)
- 6.2 Describe God's self-revelation as reaching its fullest expression in the Incarnation (65)
- 6.3 Identify God's self-revelation as being found in the Tradition of the Church (81)
- 6.4 Identify the books of both the Old and New Testaments (120)
- 6.5 Explain major topics of the Old Testament: Abraham and the Chosen People (59-60), the Exodus and the continuing covenant with the Jewish nation (62), Judges/tribes, Kings, Prophets (64), Babylonian Exile (710)
- 6.6 Explain the New Testament theme of Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Covenant (73, 128)
- 6.7 Find geographic locations of significant places and events in Scripture
- 6.8 Recognize the Bible as having been written in various literary forms (110)
- 6.9 Understand the time line of Scriptural events
- 6.10 Discuss the need for continuing study to gain a deeper understanding of Scripture (133)

B. Salvation

Students will:

- 6.11 Recognize creation as the beginning of the history of salvation (280)
- 6.12 Describe Jesus' life, death and resurrection as the fullness of God's plan for salvation (606-607)

C. Jesus

Students will:

- 6.13 Describe the meaning of the following titles of Jesus: Rabbi (581-582), Suffering Servant (601), and Word of God (65, 241)

D. Church

Students will:

- 6.14 Identify biblical images which portray the nature of the Church (751-757)
- 6.15 Explain the following titles of the Holy Spirit: Breath of God (703), Giver of Life (705), Source of all Holiness (749), Spirit of Truth (692)
- 6.16 Discuss that Islam shares our faith in one God (841)

II THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY (SACRAMENTS)

Students will:

- 6.17 Name the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit (1830-1832)

III LIFE IN CHRIST (CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN MORALITY)

Students will:

- 6.18 Identify the cardinal virtues (1804-1809)
- 6.19 Identify the theological virtues (1812-1829)
- 6.20 Explain the major principles of Catholic Social Teaching (2419-2423)
- 6.21 Research the lives of people who work for social justice

IV CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Students will:

- 6.22 Define the Liturgy of the Hours as an official liturgical prayer of the Church (1174)
- 6.23 Describe the essential elements of the Liturgy of the Hours (1174-1178)
- 6.24 Explain how to pray using Scripture (2653-2654)
- 6.25 Explain the purpose of a retreat

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GRADE 7

By the end of Grade 7 students will have MASTERED the following concepts or skills:

- M7.1 Jesus was sent by God so that we might know God's love (458)
- M7.2 Listing the Beatitudes (1716)
- M7.3 Telling the story of the Christmas mystery (525), the presentation of Jesus in the Temple (529), and the finding of Jesus in the Temple (534)
- M7.4 The baptism of Jesus was the beginning of his public life/ministry (535-536)
- M7.5 Telling the story of Jesus' calling of the disciples (858)
- M7.6 Telling the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem/Palm Sunday (559-560)
- M7.7 Telling the story of the Last Supper/Holy Thursday (610-611) and the suffering and death of Jesus/Good Friday (613-624)
- M7.8 Telling the story of Jesus' Resurrection/Easter Sunday (638-647)
- M7.9 Telling the story of Jesus' return to the Father/Ascension into Heaven (659-664)
- M7.10 Telling the story of the sending of the Holy Spirit/Pentecost (731-732)
- M7.11 The Holy Spirit is one with the Father and the Son (685)
- M7.12 The hierarchical structure of the Church consists of the pope, bishops, priests, and deacons (873)
- M7.13 Lawful civil authority (2234)
- M7.14 Memorizing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (2443-2447)

The following objectives should be INTRODUCED at this grade level.

I THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

A. Revelation

Students will:

- 7.1 Explain Jesus' teachings about the Kingdom of God (541-546)
- 7.2 Discuss Jesus' call to give witness to the Kingdom of God in our midst (546)
- 7.3 Retell accounts of the Early Church from the Acts of the Apostles
- 7.4 Discuss the advice for the Early Church as found in the Epistles

B. Salvation

Students will:

- 7.5 Describe each Christian's obligation to be involved with others in God's plan of salvation (166)
- 7.6 Discuss the significance of Christ's Second Coming (681), the Resurrection of our bodies (1003-1004), and the Last Judgment (1038-1041)
- 7.7 Describe as sinful those social situations and institutions that are contrary to the divine goodness (1869)
- 7.8 Describe unintentional ignorance or passionate feelings as diminishing the voluntary and free character of sin (1860)

C. Jesus

Students will:

- 7.9 Identify three aspects of Jesus' ministry: priest (celebrating the sacred mysteries), prophet (proclaiming God's Word in the midst of this world), and king (serving the people, especially the poor and suffering) (783-786)
- 7.10 Define miracles as signs worked by Jesus that manifest that the Kingdom is present in him (547)

D. Church

Students will:

- 7.11 Identify the Church as a mystery of divine love which exists as a sign of the Reign of Christ in our midst (763-765)
- 7.12 Explain the meaning of "Paraclete" as a title for the Holy Spirit (692)
- 7.13 Identify the Church as Servant (786), Hierarchical Society (771), Sacrament (738), and Community of Disciples (425)
- 7.14 Identify the Latin rite and the Eastern rites (1203)
- 7.15 Explain the implications of those Marian apparitions recognized by the Church (67)

II THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY (SACRAMENTS)

(Students will MASTER all of the objectives in this section.)

Students will:

- 7.16 Define sacraments as visible signs of God's grace (1127) and actions of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church (1116)
- 7.17 Identify Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as sacraments of initiation (1212)
- 7.18 Identify Penance/Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick as sacraments of healing (1421)
- 7.19 Identify Matrimony and Holy Orders as sacraments of service to others and to the mission of the faithful (1534)
- 7.20 Identify Confirmation as the right of all baptized persons (1285, 1306) and the ratification of Baptism (1289)
- 7.21 Identify Confirmation as the sacrament in which baptized persons are sealed with the Holy Spirit (1304) and called to more generously live out their baptismal commitment (1303)
- 7.22 Describe the role of the parish community in preparing candidates for Confirmation (1309)
- 7.23 Describe the Eucharist as recalling/reenacting the sacrifice of the cross: the Lord's passion, death and resurrection (1362-1366)
- 7.24 Explain how the Eucharist calls each participant to a greater love of God and neighbor (1397)
- 7.25 Define Eucharist as completing Christian initiation (1322)
- 7.26 Describe Penance/Reconciliation as a sacrament of conversion (1423) which continues Jesus' work of forgiving and healing
- 7.27 Define Penance/Reconciliation as the sinner's re-establishing communion with the loving God and the Church (1440)
- 7.28 Describe Jesus' continuing care for the sick and dying as expressed in the Anointing of the Sick (1503, 1509-1510)
- 7.29 Define rites as being prescribed actions of the Church (1125)
- 7.30 Describe the symbols, rites and ministers of Confirmation (1297-1301)

III LIFE IN CHRIST (CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN MORALITY)

Students will:

- 7.16 Recognize the natural moral law as a guide in moral decision-making (1954-1960)
- 7.17 Recognize that one's responsibility for an action can be diminished by extenuating circumstances (1735)
- 7.18 Discuss poverty, chastity and obedience as guiding rules for every Christian (915)

IV CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Students will:

- 7.19 Explain authentic prayer/devotions as being centered in Christ (1674-1676, 2664)
- 7.20 Describe the various forms and styles of meditation (2705-2708)

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GRADE 8

By the end of Grade 8 students will have MASTERED the following concepts or skills:

- M8.1 Identify God's self-revelation as being found in creation (36)
- M8.2 Identify present Church leaders
- M8.3 Name the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit (1831-1832)
- M8.4 Identify the cardinal virtues (1805-1809)
- M8.5 Identify the theological virtues (1812-1829)
- M8.6 Identify the Beatitudes (Sermon on the Mount) (1716-1717) and the Ten Commandments as norms for Christian behavior (2052-2082)
- M8.7 Define conscience (1777-1778)
- M8.8 Identify the moral principles that should guide the production and use of media (2493-2496)
- M8.9 Recite the Nicene Creed (195)

The following objectives should be INTRODUCED at this grade level:

I THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

A. Revelation

Students will:

- 8.1 Discuss fundamentalism
- 8.2 Distinguish between Tradition as the teaching authority of the Church and our traditional legends, pious practices, personal devotions, etc. (83)
- 8.3 Describe tradition as continuing to make present and fruitful the mystery of Christ (80)
- 8.4 Describe the Magisterium, the teaching authority of the Church (85-86)
- 8.5 Define dogma (88), doctrine, encyclical, pastoral letter, and canon law

B. Salvation (No new objectives are introduced.)

C. Jesus (No new objectives are introduced.)

D. Church

Students will:

- 8.6 Identify the Church as a sign and instrument of communion with God and of the unity among all people (775-776)
- 8.7 Identify the Church as a priestly people (784, 1591)
- 8.8 Identify various religious orders (917)
- 8.9 Identify types of lay ecclesial ministry (900-913)
- 8.10 Describe the election of a pope
- 8.11 Discuss infallibility (889-891)
- 8.12 Define councils, conclaves and synods
- 8.13 Identify general characteristics of the Church during the various periods of Church History
- 8.14 Name and explain the significance of important leaders and events in the history of the Church, e.g., major councils, influential popes, great missionary efforts, the founding of religious orders, the East-West Schism, the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter-Reformation, etc.
- 8.15 Define ecumenism (817-822)
- 8.16 Discuss the commonalities of the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Churches (838, 1399)
- 8.17 Describe briefly the canonization process (828)

II THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY (SACRAMENTS)

(No new objectives are introduced.)

III LIFE IN CHRIST (CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN MORALITY)

Students will:

- 8.18 Recognize the types and causes of poverty (2444)

IV CHRISTIAN PRAYER

(No new objectives are introduced.)

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