

# Guidelines for Home-Based Religious Education Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Issued March 1998 by Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk (updated in August 2009)

1. When parents decide to provide the formal religious education of their children at home, they are encouraged to meet with the pastor so that he and/or his delegate can assist them in developing a catechetical plan and in choosing catechetical materials suitable for home-based religious education. (Canons 776, 793)
2. The *Graded Course of Study for Early Childhood and Elementary Catechetical Programs and Forming Young Disciples: Guidelines and Resources for Parish-based Evangelization and Catechesis for Adolescents* have been promulgated by Archbishop Pilarczyk as the official content to be followed for all early childhood, elementary and high school catechesis in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. (These documents are available through the [Archdiocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis](#).) All catechists of children or youth are expected to follow the content outlined in these documents.
3. Parents should be invited to use the parish resource libraries and the Archdiocesan Media Centers to supplement their educational efforts.
4. Parents and their children are welcome and encouraged to participate in parish liturgies and/or events prepared specifically for children and their families.
5. The pastor and/or his delegate should invite the parents to participate in the catechist certification process of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati as outlined on the [web site](#) of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. (Canons 779/780)
6. Parents are encouraged to meet with the pastor and/or his delegate periodically to review the progress of their catechetical efforts.
7. When parents believe that their child is ready to receive a sacrament for the first time, the pastor of the parish to which the child belongs is to decide whether he or she is properly prepared. (Canons 777/914) The parish to which a child belongs is either the parish in which he or she resides or is another parish in which he or she is registered. The *Graded Course of Study for Early Childhood and Elementary Catechetical Programs* should be used as the basis for determining readiness.