

A SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF A CATECHETICAL/RELIGION TEXTBOOK BY A PARISH OR SCHOOL

The Office of Evangelization & Catechesis strongly encourages parishes and schools wishing to select a catechetical/religion textbook series to use the following process:

1. Contact the Evangelization & Catechesis consultant for your parish/school. The consultant for your parish/school will be able to answer questions and offer help and advice in conducting the selection process. A valuable resource is the booklet ***How to Choose Catechetical Texts*** (third edition, revised by Christine M. Malmevik, 2005). It is available from the archdiocesan Media Centers.
2. Select a committee:
 - a. Composed of catechetical leader(s), catechists/teachers, parents, Education Commission members, etc.
 - b. On the basis of your philosophy of religious education, make a list of key elements you expect to find in a series, e.g.:
 1. What are the three most important elements you would look for in a teacher's manual?
 2. What are the three most important elements you would look for in a student's text?
3. Review texts from the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catechism "Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series" (uscgb.org) using an appropriate questionnaire. A sample questionnaire appears below.
4. Collate the information.
5. After considering the data and reviewing the series, the committee should jointly make a recommendation.
6. The local catechetical leader makes the final decision and reports the decision to the pastor and the Education Commission. He/she informs the parish of the final decision.
7. The local catechetical leader provides an in-service for catechists/teachers and a parent orientation which should include an overview of the series and an explanation of how to use it effectively.

Worksheet for Selecting a New Catechetical/Religion Textbook

Text/Series Title: _____ Grade Level: _____
 Publisher: _____ Copyright: _____
 Reviewer: _____

Check the appropriate column.

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>
1. The teacher/catechist guides are clear and easy to follow. Comments:	_____	_____	_____
2. The teacher/catechist guides contain sufficient suggestions for a variety of learning activities and service opportunities. Comments:	_____	_____	_____
3. The student texts are visually appealing. Comments:	_____	_____	_____
4. Presentation of the material in the student text is clearly organized. Comments:	_____	_____	_____
5. The lessons will hold the interest of the learners. Comments:	_____	_____	_____
6. The lessons contain interactive, hands-on learning activities. Comments:	_____	_____	_____
7. The suggestions for family activities are appealing and easy to do. Comments:	_____	_____	_____
8. The support materials and the web site for this text are interesting and helpful. Comments:	_____	_____	_____
9. The teacher/catechist guides and student texts offer a variety of prayer styles that are appealing and would encourage the students to pray. Comments:	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARY

Complete the following statements after having reviewed the materials.

1. On the whole, I think that the strengths of this text are:

2. On the whole, I think that the weaknesses of this text are:

3. Check one: I strongly recommend selecting this text.
 I recommend selecting this text.
 I do not recommend selecting this text.

4. General comments: