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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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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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