

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide



Grade 7

“At the center of every process of catechesis is the living encounter with Christ.” This curriculum looks at the five tasks of catechesis that flow from the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* rooted in Sacred Scripture. The standards and indicators guide the catechist to help disciples in formation to realize the intimate connection between our Catholic faith and hope lived daily in charity. These five interconnected tasks of catechesis “are inspired by the way in which Jesus formed his disciples.” (DC 75, 76)

Catechesis with adults welcomes persons in their concrete existential situation and unique religious experiences. Listening to the questions and experiences of faith adults bring is essential to proclaim and teach Jesus Christ effectively. “Catechesis with adults is therefore configured as a personal and community learning process, aimed at the acquisition of a mentality of faith ‘until we all attain [...] the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ’” (Eph 4:13, DC 260)

“The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.” (CT, 5)



Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA Office of Faith Formation

Task of Catechesis I: Leading to Knowledge of the Faith

Professing What We Believe

Catechesis has the task of fostering the knowledge and exploration of the Christian message. In this way it helps the believer to know the truths of the Christian faith, introduces him to the knowledge of Sacred Scripture and the Church's living Tradition, fosters knowledge of the *Creed* (*Symbol of the faith*) and the creation of a coherent doctrinal vision that can be used as reference in life. It is important not to underestimate this cognitive dimension of the faith and to be attentive to integrating it into the educational process of integral Christian maturation. A catechesis, in fact, that sets up an opposition between content and the experience of faith would show itself to be worthless. Without the experience of faith, one would be deprived of a true encounter with God and with one's brothers; the absence of content would block the maturation of faith, keeping one from finding meaning in the Church and living the encounter and exchange with others. (DC, 80)

In all the baptized, from first to last, the sanctifying power of the Spirit is at work, impelling us to evangelization. The people of God is holy thanks to this anointing, which makes it infallible *in credendo*. This means that it does not err in faith, even though it may not find words to explain that faith. The Spirit guides it in truth and leads it to salvation. As part of his mysterious love for humanity, God furnishes the totality of the faithful with an instinct of faith—*sensus fidei*—which helps them to discern what is truly of God. The presence of the Spirit gives Christians a certain connaturality with divine realities, and a wisdom which enables them to grasp those realities intuitively, even when they lack the wherewithal to give them precise expression. (*Evangelii gaudium* no. 119)

“Catechesis is placed at the service of the believer's response of faith, enabling him to live the Christian life in a state of conversion. This is in essence a matter of fostering the internalization

of the Christian message, through that catechetical dynamism which in its progression knows how to integrate listening, discernment, and purification.” (DC no. 73)

Catechesis draws its message from the Word of God, which is its main source. Therefore, “it is essential that the revealed word radically enrich our catechesis and all our efforts to pass on the faith” (EG 175). Sacred Scripture, which God has inspired, reached the depths of the human spirit better than any other word. The Word of God is not exhausted in Sacred Scripture, because it is a living, active and effective reality (cf. Is 55:10-11; Heb 4:12-13). God speaks and his Word is manifested in creation (cf. Gn 1:3 ff.; Ps 33:6, 9; Wis 9:1) and in history. (DC 91)

**Pillar I: The Profession of Faith -Professing what we believe
Grade 7**

Indicator ID	Task of Catechesis I: Leading to Knowledge of the Faith	Scripture	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 1 Creed: Know, believe and proclaim the living Triune and redeeming God as revealed in creation and human experience, in Sacred Scripture and Apostolic Tradition, and as entrusted to the teaching office of the Church.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.01.01	Explain what it means to say that God's revelation is "economic": i.e., that God reveals himself over time and in human history.	Eph 1:9	54-67, 236, 1066	6, 7, 8, 9	12-15, 157
7.01.02	Identify God's revelation as the foundation of our faith as Christians.	Col 1:15, 1 Tim 1:17	142-143	25	36-39
7.01.03	Know that the Church continues to interpret the Word of God whether in written form or in the form of Tradition .	Mt 28:20	81-82, 95	12-17	27-28, 32
7.01.04	Describe how faith is both a personal relationship with God and a free assent to the truth God has revealed.	Rom 4:3, Jer 17:5-6	150-152, 176-178	27	37
7.01.05	State how we as a Church profess our faith together and to the world.	1 Tim 3:15, Jude 3	170-175, 182	31-32	45-47, 508, 521
7.01.06	Describe that the world and the human person are natural ways to know God.	Acts 17:26-28, Rom 1:19-20	27-38	2-5	2-6
7.01.07	Articulate that the central mystery of the Christian faith is the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.	Mt 28:19	232-237	44	53, 62
7.01.08	Describe the Trinity as a complete unity without confusing the Persons or dividing the substance of God.	2 Cor 13:13	252-253	49	51-52, 62-63
7.01.09	State that the Catholic faith is one and the same everywhere and expressed uniquely in many cultures.	Eph 1:22-23, Mt 28:19	830-835	166-168	129
7.01.10	Express the belief in the resurrection of the dead as essential to Christianity.	Eph 4:9-10, Acts 3:15	631-638	126	155, 156
7.01.11	State the belief that all the faithful in Christ, living and dead, form the Communion of Saints .	Acts 2:42, Acts 4:32	946-962	194	160-161

**Pillar I: The Profession of Faith -Professing what we believe
Grade 7**

Indicator ID	Task of Catechesis I: Leading to Knowledge of the Faith	Scripture	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 2 Sacred Scripture: Read, pray with and communicate God’s revelation and salvific plan in the living Word of God.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.02.01	Show understanding of God’s revealing word in Sacred Scripture as unfolding throughout the Old and New Testaments.	Hebrews 1:1-2	50-66, 138-139	6-9	24
7.02.02	State the meaning of divine inspiration in relationship to biblical authorship.	Jn 20:31, 2 Tim 3:16	105-108, 138	18, 140	24
7.02.03	Differentiate between divinely inspired truth and literal fact when interpreting Sacred Scripture.	Lk 24:25-27, 44-46	109-119, 137	19	27-28
7.02.04	Recognize that the Bible has both divine and human authorship initiated by God to reveal the truths God intends.	Phil 3:8	105-108, 135-136	18	23-27
7.02.05	State that the Church identifies 73 books in the canon of Scripture.		120, 138	20	24
7.02.06	Describe the Church as having the authority to teach and interpret Sacred Scripture.	Lk 10:16	85-90	16	27-28
7.02.07	Show familiarity with the Gospel of Luke by sharing favorite parables.	Lk 5-8, 10, 12, 13-16			
7.02.08	Identify the Gospel of Luke as a synoptic gospel.	Lk	124-127	22	26
7.02.09	Describe the Infancy Narrative in Luke and its difference from Matthew’s account.	Lk 1:1-2:40 Mt 1:18-2:23			
7.02.10	Recognize in Luke’s Gospel Jesus’ teaching ministry during his journey to Jerusalem as authoritative and prophetic.	Lk 9-19			117
7.02.11	Describe major themes of the Gospel of Luke (salvation is a joyful surprise; salvation is for all; preferential option for the poor; Mary as the first disciple.)	Lk 1:31			
7.02.12	Identify the role and significance of women in the Gospel of Luke (Elizabeth, Mary, Anna, healed women and of good example, witnesses to cross and resurrection, etc.)	Lk 1; 2:36-38; 23:27, 49 Lk 24-1-11			
7.02.13	State that the Gospel of Luke shows the universal mission of Jesus extending from Old Testament promises to the Jews to include the Gentiles.	Lk 1:1-4			



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Task of Catechesis II: Initiating into the Celebration of the Mystery

Being filled with God's grace

Catechesis, in addition to fostering the living knowledge of the mystery of Christ, also has the task of assisting in the comprehension and experience of liturgical celebrations. Through this task, catechesis helps the believer to understand the importance of the liturgy in the Church's life, initiates the person into the knowledge of the sacraments and into the sacramental life, especially the sacrament of the Eucharist, source and summit of the life and mission of the Church. The sacraments, celebrated in the liturgy, are a special means that fully communicate him who is proclaimed by the Church. (DC no. 81)

Catechesis, moreover, educates the believer in the attitudes that the Church's celebrations require: joy for the festive quality of celebrations, a sense of community, attentive listening to the word of God, confident prayer, praise and thanksgiving, awareness of symbols and signs. Through conscious and active participation in the liturgical celebrations, catechesis teaches the believer to understand the liturgical year, the true teacher of the faith, and the significance of Sunday, the day of the Lord and of the Christian community. Catechesis also aids in the appreciation of the expressions of faith found in popular piety. (DC no. 82)

The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time, it is the font from which all her power flows. For the aim and object of apostolic works is that all who are made sons of God by faith and baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of His Church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord's Supper. The liturgy in turn moves the faithful "filled with the paschal sacraments," to be "one in holiness" ... the renewal in the Eucharist between the Lord and man draws the faithful into the compelling love of Christ and sets them on fire. (*Sacrosanctum concilium* no. 10)

Catechesis, in fact, is set in motion by a first effective encounter between the one being catechized and the community that celebrates the mystery, which is to say that catechesis

reaches its true fulfillment in the liturgical life of the community. Catechesis therefore cannot be thought of merely as preparation for the sacraments, but must be understood in relationship to liturgical experience. “Catechesis is intrinsically linked with the whole of liturgical and sacramental activity, for it is in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, that Christ Jesus works in fullness for the transformation of human beings.” Therefore, liturgy and catechesis are inseparable and nourish one another. (DC no. 96 and CT no. 23)

The Christian’s formative journey, as attested to in the *mystagogical catecheses* of the Church Fathers, always had an experiential character, but never neglecting the understanding of the faith. The living and persuasive encounter with Christ proclaimed by authentic witnesses was critical. Therefore, one who introduces another to the mysteries is first of all a witness. This encounter finds its source and summit in the celebration of the Eucharist, and it is deepened through catechesis. (DC no. 97)

In the Church's Liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives. He has loved us first and he continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love. God does not demand of us a feeling which we ourselves are incapable of producing. He loves us, he makes us see and experience his love, and since he has “loved us first”, love can also blossom as a response within us. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, no. 17)

Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery -Being filled with God's grace
Grade 7

Indicator ID	Task of Catechesis II: Initiating into the Celebration of the Mystery	Scripture	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 3 Sacraments: Understand, participate in and embrace the sacraments of the Church as effective signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church to encounter the merciful love of God.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.03.01	Describe how Christians participate in the priesthood of Christ, especially through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.	2 Tim 1:6, Titus 1:5	1590-1592	263, 268, 324	197-198, 263-264
7.03.02	Describe the Sacrament of Confirmation and the elements of laying on of hands and sealing with oil of chrism .	Jn 6:27	698, 1290-1301, 1320-1321	266-267	203-206
7.03.03	Introduce the validity of Sacrament of Matrimony under the following conditions: baptized man and woman, free consent , intention to fulfill contract for good of spouses and possibility of children, and canonical form.	Gen 2:24, Mk 10:8	1627-1632	321, 344, 346	281
7.03.04	Recognize the spouses as the ministers of the Sacrament of Matrimony through the expression of their marriage vows .	1 Cor 10:17, Acts 18:18	1621-1632, 2101-2103	343-344	282
7.03.05	Describe the validity of the Sacrament of Holy Orders for men who are baptized, prepared through seminary education, and called by their bishop to be ordained.	Mk 3:14-19, Lk 6:12-16	1577-1578	333	267-271
7.03.06	Identify and describe the three ranks of Holy Orders: episcopate, presbyterate, and diaconate .	Acts 1:8, 2:4, Jn 20:22-23	1554-1571	325-330	264-265
7.03.07	Identify the priesthood as an apostolic call that comes from Jesus Christ, commissioning the apostles to continue to do the work of the Church.	Heb 5:6, 7:11, Ps 110:4	1536	322	215,262-265

Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery -Being filled with God's grace
Grade 7

Indicator ID	Task of Catechesis II: Initiating into the Celebration of the Mystery	Scripture	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 4 Liturgy: Know, understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church as expressed in the church year and celebrated in the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life and mission of the Church.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.04.01	Describe why every Catholic has the obligation to attend Mass on all Sundays and holy days of obligation.	Heb 10:25	2177, 2180-2182	453	364-369,514
7.04.02	Compare/contrast another rite with the Latin Rite, showing catholicity of the Church.	2 Tim 1:14	1200-1204, 1209, 1580	263	172
7.04.03	Describe that the validity of the Mass requires a bishop or his authorized representative (the priest) to officiate at the Mass.	Lk 24:13-35	1348, 1411	278	218-229
7.04.04	Describe how feasts of Mary and the saints are incorporated into the liturgical cycle.	Lk 4:19	1168-1173, 1195	242	173,177-178
7.04.05	Describe the funeral Mass as a special liturgy of blessing and farewell to the Christian who has died.	1 Thess 4:18	1687-1690	354-356	158-161
7.04.06	Indicate how Catholics are called to the liturgical ministries .	Acts 2:42	903-1143	189	134-135



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Task of Catechesis III: Forming for life in Christ

Imitating Jesus Christ

Catechesis has the task of making the heart of every Christian resound with the call to live a new life in keeping with the dignity of the children of God received in Baptism and with the life of the Risen One that is communicated through the sacraments. This task consists in showing that the response to the lofty vocation to holiness (cf. LG 40) is a filial way of life that is capable of bringing every situation back to the way of truth and happiness that is Christ. In this sense, catechesis instructs the believer in following the Lord according to the dispositions described in the Beatitudes (Mt 5:1-12), which manifest his very life. “Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the Beatitudes (cf. Mt 5:3-12; Lk 6:20-23). The beatitudes are like a Christian identify card (Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et exsultate*, March 19, 2018).” (DC no. 83)

In the same way, the catechetical task of educating the believer to the good life of the Gospel involves the Christian formation of the moral conscience, so that in every circumstance he may listen to the Father’s will in order to discern, under the guidance of the Spirit and in harmony with the law of Christ (cf. Gal 6:2), the evil to be avoided and the good to be done and putting this into practice with diligent charity. This is why it is important to teach the believer to draw from the commandment of charity developed from the Decalogue (cf. Ex 20:1-17; Dt 5:6-21) and from the virtues, both human and Christian, guidelines for acting as Christians in the different areas of life. Not forgetting that the Lord came to give life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10), catechesis should know how to point out “the attractiveness and the ideal of a life of wisdom, self-fulfillment and enrichment: so as to make believers “joyful messages of challenging proposal, guardians of the goodness and beauty which shine forth in a life of fidelity to the Gospel (cf. EG 168).” (DC no. 84)

The response to the common Christian vocation is realized in an incarnate manner, because every child of God, according to the measure of his freedom, listening to God and recognizing the charisms entrusted by him, has the responsibility of discovering his own role in the plan of salvation. Moral instruction in catechesis is therefore always imparted against a vocational background, looking first of all at one’s life as the first and fundamental vocation. Every form of catechesis is to do all it can to illustrate the dignity of the Christian vocation, to provide accompaniment in the discernment

of specific vocations, to help the believer to solidify his state in life. It is up to catechetical action to demonstrate that the faith lived in a commitment to loving as Christ did, is the way to foster the coming of the kingdom of God in the world and to hope in the promise of eternal beatitude. (DC no. 85)

Parents are also responsible for shaping the will of their children, fostering good habits and a natural inclination to goodness. This entails presenting certain ways of thinking and acting as desirable and worthwhile, as part of a gradual process of growth... Moral formation should always take place with active methods and a dialogue that teaches through sensitivity and by using a language that children can understand. It should also take place inductively, so that children can learn for themselves the importance of certain values, principles and norms, rather than by imposing these as absolute and unquestionable truths. (*Amoris laetitia* no. 264)

In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human success, but rather on how much we have loved. (St. John of the Cross)

Truly, matters in the world are in a bad state: but if you and I begin in earnest to reform ourselves, a really good beginning will have been made. (St. Peter of Alcantara)

Turn now to consider how these words of our Lord imply a test for yourselves also. Ask yourself whether you belong to his flock, whether you know him, whether the light of his truth shines in your minds. I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love; not by mere conviction, but by action. (Pope St. Gregory the Great)

If we completely rejoice the heart of God, let us strive in all things to conform ourselves to His divine will. Let us not only strive to conform ourselves, but also to unite ourselves to whatever dispositions God makes of us. Conformity signifies that we join our wills to the will of God. Uniformity means more. Uniformity means that we make one will of God's will and our will. In this way we will only what God wills. God's will alone is our will. (St. Alphonsus Liguori)

Pillar III: Life in Christ -Imitating Jesus Christ
Grade 7

Indicator ID	Task of Catechesis III: Forming for Life in Christ	Scripture	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 5 Conscience: Form, develop and influence a moral conscience informed by Church teachings to discern, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, evil to be avoided and the good to be pursued by imitating the beatitudes and practicing the commandment of love at the heart of the decalogue.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.05.01	Describe what is meant by: "The dignity of the human person is the foundation of Catholic Christian morality."	Lk 15:11-32	1699-1715	358	422-424
7.05.02	Explain that we identify moral values in the teachings and life of Jesus.	Dt 5:15, 5:22, Jn 15:12	2058-2074, 2077-2082	438-441	307-309
7.05.03	Differentiate between original sin , personal sin and social sin .	Rom 5:20, Ps 51:4, Gen 3:5	1848-1854, 1873-1875	76, 391-396, 400	331, 522, <i>Original Sin, Sin, Social Sin</i> , 528
7.05.04	Name and practically apply the Theological and Cardinal Virtues.	1 Cor 13:13, Wis 8:7	1805-1809, 1812-1813, 1834-1841	379, 384-385	315-317
7.05.05	Identify the Fruits of the Holy Spirit as signs of the Christian life.	Gal 5:22-23	1832	390	108, 513 <i>Fruits of the Holy Spirit</i>
7.05.06	Engage in moral decision-making.	Rom 2:14-16, Mt 7:12	1776-1794	372-376	314-315
7.05.07	Show how the Beatitudes provide the foundation for understanding the moral teaching of Jesus.	Mt 5:3-12	1716-1729	359-362	308-309
7.05.08	Analyze the relationship between race, prejudice and institutional racism as social sin .	Mt 5:3-10	1868-1869	399, 400	327-331
7.05.09	Identify the seven Capital Sins (deadly sins) as: pride, avarice, envy, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth.	Gen 4:10	1866-1867	398	317

Pillar III: Life in Christ -Imitating Jesus Christ
Grade 7

Indicator ID	Task of Catechesis III: Forming for Life in Christ	Scripture	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 6 Christian Living: Educate, understand and practice living the moral teachings of the Church in light of the Gospel message through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, conversion, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.06.01	Show an understanding that Christian discipleship requires following Jesus Christ as the way, the truth and the life.	Mt 19:16-19	2052-2055, 2466	434	451-452
7.06.02	Recognize how the Incarnation of Jesus provides a key for understanding the central principal of the dignity of the human person.	1 Jn 4:2-3, 2 Jn 7	464-469, 483	86-87	85-86
7.06.03	State the importance of Christians taking an active part in public life and promoting the common good.	Mt 25:31-46	904-907	190	325-327
7.06.04	Recognize that, as members of a Catholic faith community, we have responsibilities that we call stewardship.	2 Cor 8:9	2407	506	450-455
7.06.05	Discuss stewardship is important for the spiritual life of the faith community.	Phil 2:8-9	908-913	191	451-452
7.06.06	State the principles of the social teaching of the Church (social justice).	Gen 2:19-20, Mt 6:24	2419-2425	509-512	327-333
7.06.07	Identify gifts (time, talent, and treasure) you have received in your family, and describe what it means to be a good steward of these gifts (Prv 1:8, Eph 3:14).	Tob 4:3-4 Sir 7:27-28	2214-2220, 2251	459	376-378
7.06.08	Describe world peace as the work of justice and the effect of charity.	Lk 17:33	1886-1889	404	517, 506
7.06.09	Understand that Jesus' mission and ministry are continued today through the ministries of the word, worship, community building, and service.	Mt 28:18-20	904-907, 942	190	451-452
7.06.10	Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.	Lk 19:13, 15, Lk 17:33	1877-1906,	401-406	325-335
7.06.11	Understand that the Scriptures teach us the importance of working for justice, peace, equality, and stewardship in our lives.	1 Cor 15:28	124-133, 139-142	23-24	325-327
7.06.12	Understand that Jesus taught about carrying a cross and living a life of loving service as an essential element of discipleship.	Mt 28:19-20, 2 Cor 5:14	849-856	172, 173	91-92, 451-454



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Task of Catechesis IV: Teaching Prayer

Pray with Jesus Christ

The Catechism of the Catholic Church identifies three ways or expressions of prayer leading to composure of heart: vocal prayer, meditative prayer and contemplative prayer (CCC nos. 2700-2724). These three expressions of prayer are further defined by the four core forms or types of prayer, namely, adoration, contrition, thanksgiving and supplication (ACTS) (CCC nos. 1451, 2623-2649).

“Prayer is first of all a gift from God; in fact, in every one of the baptized ‘the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words’ (Rom 8:26). Catechesis has the task of educating the believer for prayer and in prayer, developing the contemplative dimension of Christian experience. It is necessary to teach him to pray with Jesus Christ and like him: ‘To learn to pray with Jesus is to pray with the same sentiments with which he turned to the Father: adoration, praise, thanksgiving, filial confidence, supplication [contrition] and awe for his glory. All of these sentiments are reflected in the Our Father, the prayer which Jesus taught his disciples and which is the model of all Christian prayer [...] When catechesis is permeated by a climate of prayer, the assimilation of the entire Christian life reaches its summit.’” (GDC no. 85; DC no. 86)

“This task implies the teaching of both personal prayer and liturgical and community prayer, initiating the believer into the permanent forms of prayer: blessing and adoration, petition [contrition], intercession, thanksgiving, and praise. There are several well-established means for achieving these ends: the prayerful reading of sacred scripture, in particular through the liturgy of the hours and *lectio divina*; the prayer of the heart called the Jesus prayer, the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary through practices of piety like the holy Rosary, supplications, processions, etc.” (DC no. 87; CCC 2626-2649; CCC 435)

“Spirit-filled evangelizers are evangelizers who pray and work... What is needed is the ability to cultivate an interior space which can give a Christian meaning to commitment and activity. Without prolonged moments of adoration, of prayerful encounter with the word, of sincere conversation with the Lord, our work easily becomes meaningless; we lose energy as a result of weariness and

difficulties, and our fervor dies out. The Church urgently needs the deep breath of prayer.” (*Evangelii gaudium* no. 262)

“God draws every human being towards himself, and every human being desires communion with God. Prayer is the basis and expression of the vital and personal relationship of a human person with the living and true God: ‘God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer.’ His initiative comes first; the human response to his initiative is itself prompted by the grace of the Holy Spirit... In prayer, the Holy Spirit not only reveals the identity of the Triune God to human persons, but also reveals the identity of human persons to themselves.” (GDC no. 34 and CCC no. 2567)

“The issue is the primacy of God... If a man's heart is not good, then nothing else can turn out good either.” (Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth*, New York: Doubleday, 2007, 33-34)

**Pillar IV: Christian Prayer -Praying with Jesus Christ
Grade 7**

Indicator ID	Task of Catechesis IV: Teaching Prayer	Scripture	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 7 Prayer: Form a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by learning the Catholic tradition of prayer and leading a life of prayer as the primary way we deepen our knowledge of God personally and in the community.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.07.01	Examine our relationship with God through personal prayer in light of call to conversion, repentance, and conformity to Christ.	Lk 15:11-24, Mk 10:22	1439, 2708, 2725-2745, 2754, 2784	301, 570, 574, 583	476
7.07.02	Affirm that worship belongs to God alone while the saints are venerated. (Ps 51:7)	Lk 18:1, Mt 9:13, 12:7	2095-2105, 2135-2136	443	341-343
7.07.03	Recognize the Liturgy of the Eucharist as the community's central act of worship .	Jn 13:1, Gal 2:20	1378-1381, 1418	286	215-224
7.07.04	Recognize prayer using scripture.	2 Sam 7:18-29, Ezra 9:6-15	2579, 2585-2589	540	464-469
7.07.05	Identify and examine the elements of the Lord's Prayer .	Ps 42:7, Lk 22:44, 12:50, 1 Cor 15:28	2803-2806, 2857	587	483-490
7.07.06	Illustrate how the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary come from Sacred Scripture .	Acts 1:14, Lk 1:41, 48	2673-2679, 2682, 2803- 2865	562-563, 580- 581	470-471, 483-490
7.07.07	Outline the steps for Lectio Divina and use this method to pray with the Sunday Gospel.	Mt 11:25-26, Mk 14:36	2705-2708, 2723	570	474, See <i>Lectio Divina</i> , 517-518



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Task of Catechesis V: Introduction to Community Life

Belonging to the Catholic Church as Co-responsible Missionary Disciples in Communion

The faith is professed, celebrated, expressed, and lived above all in community: The communitarian dimension is not just a ‘frame,’ an ‘outline,’ but an integral part of the Christian life, of witness and of evangelization” (Francis, general audience (January 15, 2014). This is well expressed in the classical principle: “Idem velle atque idem nolle -to want the same thing, and to reject the same thing -was recognized by antiquity as the authentic content of love: the one becomes similar to the other, and this leads to a community of will and thought” (Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter *Deus Caritas Est*, December 25, 2005, 17). What makes this possible is cultivating a spirituality of communion. This makes one able to see the light of the Trinity reflected in the face of one’s brother as well, feeling through the profound unity of the mystical Body that he is part of oneself; sharing his joys and sufferings in order to perceive his desires; taking care of his needs; offering him a true and profound friendship. Looking above all at what is positive in the other in order to cherish him as a gift from God helps one to reject the selfish temptations that lead to competition, careerism, distrust and jealousy. (DC no. 88)

Catechesis, in reference to preparation for community life, therefore has the task of developing the sense of belonging to the Church; teaching the sense of ecclesial communion, promoting the acceptance of the Magisterium, communion with pastors, fraternal dialogue, forming believers in the sense of ecclesial co-responsibility, contributing as active participants to building up the community and as missionary disciples to its growth. (DC no. 89)

Being Church means being God’s people, in accordance with the great plan of his fatherly love. This means that we are to be God’s leaven in the midst of humanity. It means proclaiming and bringing God’s salvation into our world, which often goes astray and needs to be encouraged, given hope and strengthened on the way. The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel. (*Evangelii Gaudium* no. 114)

The Church, by her nature a dialogical reality in that she is an image of the Trinity and is enlivened by the Holy Spirit, is committed in an irreversible way to the promotion of the unity of all the disciples of Christ. Life all ecclesial activities, catechesis as well is intrinsically marked by an ecumenical dimension, in the wake of the movement elicited by the Holy Spirit that drives the Catholic Church to seek perfect unity with the other Churches or Christian confessions according to the will of the Lord, on the basis of Baptism, Sacred Scripture, the common heritage of faith, and in particular today the powerful shared experience of martyrdom. On the one hand, the proclamation of the Gospel and catechesis are at the service of dialogue and ecumenical formation; on the other, the commitment to Christian unity is itself a credible way and instrument of evangelization in the world. (DC no. 344)

An attitude of openness in truth and in love must characterize the dialogue with the followers of non-Christian religions, in spite of various obstacles and difficulties, especially forms of fundamentalism on both sides. Interreligious dialogue is a necessary condition for peace in the world, and so it is a duty for Christians as well as other religious communities. This dialogue is in first place a conversation about human existence or simply, as the bishops of India have put it, a matter of “being open to them, sharing their joys and sorrows.” In this way we learn to accept others and their different ways of living, thinking and speaking. We can then join one another in taking up the duty of serving justice and peace, which should become a basic principle of all of our exchanges. A dialogue which seeks social peace and justice is in itself, beyond all merely practical considerations, an ethical commitment which brings about a new social situation. Efforts made in dealing with a specific theme can become a process in which, by mutual listening, both parts can be purified and enriched. These efforts, therefore, can also express love for truth. (*Evangelii Gaudium* no. 250)

At all times and in every race, God has given welcome to whosoever fears Him and does what is right. God, however, does not make men holy and save them merely as individuals, without bond or link between one another. Rather has it pleased Him to bring men together as one people, a people which acknowledges Him in truth and serves Him in holiness.” (*Lumen Gentium* no. 9)

Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into human situations and seeking to transform individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself (Go and Make Disciples no.15). Evangelization is an ecclesial process, inspired and supported by the Holy Spirit, through which the Gospel is proclaimed and spread throughout the world (DC 21).

In this renewed awareness of her vocation, the Church is also re-envisioning catechesis as one of her works *in a missionary going forth*. This means being willing to seek out the glimmers of truth that are already present in various human activities, trusting that God is mysteriously active in in the heart of the human being before this has been explicitly reached by the Gospel. In this sense, she will find ways to draw near to the people of our time, walking alongside them wherever they happen to be. Catechesis, moreover, forms believers for mission, accompanying them in the maturation of attitudes of faith and making them aware that they are *missionary disciples*, called to participate actively in the proclamation of the Gospel and to make the Kingdom of God present in the world.” (DC no. 50)

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Indicator ID	Task of Catechesis V: Introduction to Community Life	Scripture	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 8 Catholic Church: Introduce, understand and share in the mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ, the community of believers, as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charisms, members and the communion of saints.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.08.01	Recognize that the Church is missionary by nature.	1 Tim 2:4	852-856	173	115-117, 132-134
7.08.02	State that the Church has a special mission to the poor.	Mt 5:42, 10:8	2443-2449, 2462-2463	520	421-427, 449-456
7.08.03	Show understanding that all the living and dead together form the Communion of Saints in the Church.	Rom 14:7, Eph 4:1-6	946-962	194-195	160-161
7.08.04	Introduce and discuss the four marks of the Church as professed in the Nicene Creed , namely, one, holy , catholic , and apostolic.	Acts 9:13, 1 Cor 6:1, 16:1	See <i>Nicene Creed</i> , p. 49, 823-838	See <i>Nicene Creed</i> , p.16, 165, 166	129-131
7.08.05	Recognize that the Church names Mary as Mother of the Church.	Jn 19:26-27	963-964, 973	196	146, 148
7.08.06	State the belief that the Church has the power to forgive sins through the sacraments.	Lk 24:47, 2 Cor 5:18	981-983, 986-987	201	236, 244-245
7.08.07	State that the Rites of the Catholic Church derive from one profession of faith, celebration of the seven sacraments and one hierarchy.	2 Tim 1:14, Rom 16:26	1200-1209	247-249	171-172
7.08.08	Show understanding that a Catholic may fully participate in the liturgies of all the Rites of the Catholic Church.	Jn 17:21-23	835, 1200-1203	32	172

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Indicator ID	Task of Catechesis V: Introduction to Community Life	Scripture	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 9 Ecumenism: Introduce, understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with Eastern Catholic, Orthodox, and Christian churches.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.09.01	List the Lutheran, Episcopalian, Baptist, Methodist, and Apostolic churches as some of the churches evolved from the time of the Protestant Reformation.	Jn 17:21, Heb 7:25	816-822, 838, 866, 870	162-164, 168	127, See <i>Protestant</i> , 895
7.09.02	Identify the Pope as the leader of the Catholic Church throughout the world, the successor of the Apostle Peter and a sign of our unity.		881-882, 936-937	182	130, 265-266
7.09.03	Explain that Catholics are called to work and pray for unity in the Church because Jesus also prayed "that they all may be one".	Jn 17:20-23	820-822, 866	164	127-129, 136, 193
7.09.04	Explain that our respect for other Christians and faiths does not mean that we deny the fullness of the faith Christ taught is found in the Catholic Church.	Mt 16:18	816, 870	162163	127-129, 136, 193
7.09.05	State that our respect for other Christians means that we can both recognize what we share in common but that we also need to be honest about how we differ.	Eph 4:4-6	816-822, 866, 870	163-164	129-134
7.09.06	Identify that the Eastern Catholic Churches call their sacraments " mysteries " and Confirmation, " chrismation ."	Acts 10:38 Lk 22:19	1289, 1328-1332	266, 275	See <i>Chrismation</i> , 507

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Indicator ID	Task of Catechesis V: Introduction to Community Life	Scripture	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 10 Interpersonal Relationships: Introduce principles of Catholic theology of the body to cultivate healthy and safe relationships.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.10.01	Recognize that human rights are based on the equality of all persons resting on their dignity as human persons created in the image and the likeness of God.	Gen 1:27, Lk 15:11-32	355-358, 374-379, 1699-1715	66, 72, 358	7, 66-68, 71
7.10.02	State the meaning of human sexuality as a gift of God meant for married love between a man and a woman.	Gen 1:27, 28, Gen 5:1-2	2331-2336, 2392-2393	487	441-445
7.10.03	Describe human sexuality as being all that makes a person male or female. (physical characteristics and responses, psychological characteristics and emotional responses, social relationships and need for intimacy, intellectual aptitude and attitude, and spiritual perspective)	Gen 1:27-28	1605, 2203, 2331-2336, 2392-2393	337, 456, 487-489, 495-496	404-416
7.10.04	Analyze what is needed to live a chaste lifestyle.	Rom 12:2, Col 1:10, Wis 15:5	2520-2527	488-496	405-407
7.10.05	Define and differentiate between abstinence, chastity, and celibacy.	Mt 11:28, Mt 5:37, Gal 3:27	1658, 2337-2359, 2348, See <i>Celibacy & Chastity</i> , p.879	488-496	405-416, See <i>Chastity</i> , 506
7.10.06	Understand that sexual attraction is part of God's plan to bring about the purposes of marriage -- unity of the spouses and the procreation of children.	Eph 5:25, 32, Mk 7:21	1659-1660, 1762-1770, 2331-2336	338, 370-371	408-410
7.10.07	Recognize that every baptized person is called to lead a chaste life no matter what their state in life.	Mt 5:37, Sir 1:22	2337-2367, 2392-2394	488-496	405
7.10.08	Recognize that the Christian response to life is that human life has inherent dignity and one should respect life in all its stages.	Lk 15:11-32, Ex 20:13	1699-1715, 2258-2262, 2318-2320	358, 466	388-389

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Indicator ID	Task of Catechesis V: Introduction to Community Life	Scripture	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 11 Vocation Discernment: Understand, discern and undertake discipleship in Christ as a response of faith within the mission of the Church by living a specific call in the life of the Church.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.11.01	State that the call to religious life in the Church is identified in two forms: active and contemplative.	Mt 19:12	914-918, 920-921, 925-927, 930	192-193	135-139, 413, See <i>Contemplation</i> , 508, See <i>Religious Life</i> , 525
7.11.02	Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.	1 Cor 12	900	337-350, 322-336	279, 375, 452
	Standard 12 Catholic Social Teaching: Introduce, critique, and apply social justice and stewardship principles to societal situations in a way that acknowledges and affirms the dignity of the human person, the common good of the community and care of creation.				
7.12.01	State that the Scriptures teach us the importance of working for justice, peace, equality, and stewardship in our lives.	Rev 21:4	908-913, 943, 1886-1889, 1913-1917, 1926	191, 404, 410	419-427
7.12.02	Recognize that the Christian response to life is recognition of its inherent dignity and a respect for life in all its stages.	Ex 20:13, Deut 5:17	2258-262, 2268-283, 2318-2326	466, 470-472	389-402
7.12.03	Show understanding that the Christian life requires preferential love for the poor.	Mt 5:42, 10:8	2443-2449, 2462-2463	520	307-309, 420-425
7.12.04	State the conditions for abortion being a grave sin and the need for reconciliation and healing.	Mt 5:21, Job 12:10	2258-262, 2318-2320	466	389-392
7.12.05	Introduce the strict conditions for legitimate defense by military force as established by the “just war” theory.	Mt 5:21, Mt 5:9	2302-2317	467	395-397

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	Standard 13 Interreligious Dialogue: Introduce, understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with Jews, Muslims, and all faith traditions beyond Christianity by being witnesses of faith.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.13.01	State how the Church respects all faith traditions.	Rom 9:4-5, Rom 11:29	839-845	169-170	129-132
7.13.02	Articulate why other religions must be respected.	Jn 13:34-35	842-843	170	129-132
7.13.03	Understand that the Catholic Church acknowledges her special relationship to the Jewish people. The Second Vatican Council declared regarding Jewish people that "this people remains most dear to God, for God does not repent of the gifts he makes nor of the calls he issues."	Gen 17 Dt 7:6 Gal 3:8-9	839-840	169	130-131
7.13.04	Describe the role of the rabbi in Jewish education.	Jn 1:38-41			
7.13.05	Show understanding that Jews express their faith in observing the commands of the covenant, reading Sacred Scripture, synagogue worship and family life.	Ex 20:1-17	2052-2063	436	327-328
7.13.06	Show understanding that Islam is a religion that expresses faith in the one God.	Rom 1:21, 25	841-845	170	131

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Indicator ID	Task of Catechesis V: Introduction to Community Life	Scripture	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 14 Missionary Discipleship: Initiate, cultivate and send baptized and confirmed Catholics to be active participants in the evangelizing mission of the Church by proclaiming and teaching the person of Jesus Christ, nurtured by the Holy Eucharist and the community.	Book, Chapter and Verses	Paragraph USCCB Version	Question	Page
7.14.01	Explain why the example of our lives as Christians is as important as what we say about the Gospel of Jesus.	Mt 20:28	783-786	155	117-118, 502
7.14.02	Recognize that Jesus gave us the Catholic Church that reflects the unity of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.	Eph 4:3, Col 3:14	813-815, 866	161	126-129
7.14.03	Summarize what Christ is asking of His disciples when He said: "teach them to observe all that I have commanded you."	Mt 28:19-20	849-851	172	1135-137
7.14.04	Identify special missionary vocations in the lives of the saints (St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. John Vianney, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. Joan of Arc, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Katherine Drexel, St. Martin of Tours).	Mt 28:19-20	852-856	173	131-134
7.14.05	Recognize that the Church is missionary by nature.	Mt 28:19-20	852-856	173	131-134
7.14.06	State that the Church has a special mission to the poor.	Mt 5:42, 10:8	2443-2449, 2462-2463	520	307-309, 420-425
7.14.07	Recognize the theology of stewardship as it relates to distribution and use of resources for missionary work.	1 Cor 13:8, Acts 17:26-28	25-34	531	450-454