

Religion Standards – Six Tasks of Catechesis

The Diocese of Dallas religion curriculum standards are organized around the six tasks of catechesis outlined in the National Directory of Catechesis. “Forming his disciples, Jesus entrusted to them “the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven”; he taught them how to pray; he opened his “meek and humble heart” to them; and he sent them “ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. The fundamental task of catechesis is to achieve this same objective: the formation of disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus instructed his disciples; he prayed with them; he showed them how to live; and he gave them his mission”(NDC, 20).

Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND, in *The Six Tasks of Catechesis: Key Principles and Practices for Forming Faith*, explains each task as follows:

1. Teaching knowledge of the faith means imparting the truths about the God whom Jesus revealed, the story of salvation in which Jesus is promised (Old Testament), the history of the church that Jesus founded, and the teachings of Jesus and his church.
2. Teaching liturgy is presenting the seven sacraments, the acts of Jesus today on behalf of his people. Chief among these is the Eucharist, during which the sacrifice of Jesus is re-presented and he unites himself to us and one another in Communion
3. Teaching prayer is leading children to foster a relationship with Jesus so that he becomes their best friend and their way, truth, and life.
4. Teaching moral formation is encouraging children to live like Jesus and make decisions in the light of his moral teachings.
5. Teaching community is informing children about Christ’s church, the family of God they belong to, and showing them how to take an active role in it.
6. Teaching mission means making children aware of Christ’s mandate to spread the Good News, motivating them to do so, and providing opportunities to fulfill this responsibility.

Because all six tasks are interconnected, when planning lessons, teacher should teach all six tasks. “Suppose a lesson teaches that the Bible is God’s word and that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors. It might cover the parts of the Bible, the kinds of books and how to interpret a Scripture citation. All of these pertain to the knowledge of faith. How improved the lesson would be if other tasks were added, for example in these ways:

- Teach the children to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit before reading the Bible (prayer)
- Refer to the readings from last Sunday’s Mass (liturgy)
- For practice in looking up a passage, choose some that are moral instructions (moral formation)
- Form groups and ask the children to share their favorite Bible passages (community)
- Give students the assignment of telling a sibling or a friend a story about Jesus (mission)

Glavich, Mary Kathleen. *The Six Tasks of Catechesis: Key Principles and Practices for Forming Faith*. Twenty Third Publications, 2016.

I. Knowledge of Faith

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
2.1A Person of Jesus Christ Know Jesus loves and invites every person to be in relationship with him.	2.1A.1 Know that Jesus came to establish God’s kingdom on earth (CCC 544) 2.1A.2 Know that Jesus loved each person so much he died on the cross for each one (CCC 606-607; Jn 15:12-13) 2.1A.3 Understand that Jesus’ resurrection is at the center of the Christian faith (CCC 638; 1 Cor 15:12-19)		
2.1B Sacred Scripture Recognize Sacred Scripture as the living word of God, a story of the covenant, and a guide for life today.	2.1B.1 Explain that God speaks to the Church through the people and the stories of the Bible (CCC 104) 2.1B.2 Identify the two main parts of the Bible: Old and New Testaments (CCC 120) 2.1B.3 Identify the four Gospels as accounts of Jesus’ life and teachings (CCC 125)^ 2.1B.4 Explain that learning about people in the Scriptures helps one to understand how God loves and cares for them 2.1B.5 Identify stories that show God’s readiness to forgive, (e.g., parables of the Lost Sheep (Lk 15:1-7) and the Lost Son (Lk 15:11-32) (CCC 1439, 1465)		
2.1 C Creed Explain and pray the Creed as an expression of our faith.	2.1C.1 Know that creation is an expression of God’s love and goodness (CCC 299; Gn 1:1ff) 2.1C.2 Recognize that the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be proclaim the Christian belief in the Triune God (CCC 2157) 2.1C.3 Know that the Holy Spirit came to Jesus’s disciples after his resurrection and ascension (CCC 728; Acts 2:1-4) 2.1C.4 Know that life with God continues after death (CCC 1038-1041; Jn 14:2-3) 2.1C.5 Explain the stages of Revelation beginning with the promise of salvation to Adam and Eve, the covenants with Noah, Abraham as the father of all nations, His law revealed through Moses, and God revealing Himself by sending his own Son (CCC 70, 71, 72, 73, 315)^		
2.1 D Church History Describe Church structure and history.	2.1D.1 Know that on Pentecost God sent the Holy Spirit to the apostles to establish the Church (CCC 2623; Acts 2;1-4) 2.1D.2 Identify the Church as the “People of God” both in Heaven and on earth (CCC 781-782)		

II. Liturgy and Sacraments

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
2.2A Paschal Mystery Understand the liturgy and sacraments inform, form, and transform us as disciples.	2.2A.1 Know the liturgy is a participation in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus (CCC 571, 1068)		
2.2B Sacraments Explain the purpose of the sacraments and the centrality of the Eucharist.	2.2B.1 Know that a sacrament is an outward sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace (CCC 1131) Reconciliation 2.2B.2 Identify the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation as the sacrament in which Jesus forgives sins (CCC 1421, 1441) 2.2B.3 Know that an Examination of Conscience is used to prepare for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (CCC 1454) 2.2B.4 Demonstrate the steps in individual confessions to the priest (CCC 1480) 2.2B.5 Learn an Act of Contrition Eucharist 2.2B.6 Know the Eucharist strengthens one to live as a disciple (CCC 1391-1401) 2.2B.7 Identify the bread and wine as distinct from the Body and Blood of Christ (CCC 1333; Mt 26:26-28) 2.2B.8 Know that the Real Presence of Christ exists in the consecrated host (CCC 1377) 2.2B.9 Identify some of the symbols used in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, e.g. altar, chalice, paten, tabernacle, etc. 2.2B.10 Demonstrate how to receive Holy Communion		
2.2C Liturgical Catechesis Engage in the liturgical life of the Church.	2.2C.1 Recognize that we celebrate Sunday as the Lord's Day because of Jesus' Resurrection (CCC 1166-67, 1193) 2.2C.2 Identify the two main parts of the mass: Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC 1346) 2.2C.3 Recognize that Jesus is uniquely present in the Eucharistic species but also present in the word proclaimed, the priest, and the community (CCC 1373-1374) 2.2C.4 Understand that receiving Holy Communion is a very special way of sharing in Jesus' life (CCC 1391) 2.2C.5 Recognize the Eucharist as the greatest prayer in the life of the Church (CCC 1324) 2.2C.6 Know that after receiving Holy Communion, one should express thanks to God (CCC 1378) 2.2C.7 Understand that the priest ends Mass by sending us forth to do good works in the world (CCC 1134) 2.2C.8 Learn some of the responses, gestures and postures used at Mass, and know when to do them (CCC 1153, 1155) 2.2C.9 Explain that during the liturgical seasons we reflect on Jesus' life which helps us grow closer to him (CCC 1194)		

III. Morality

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
2.3A Christian Living Explain Jesus as a model of how to live and love.	2.3A.1 Explain the significance of being made in the image of God (CCC 1711) 2.3A.2 Understand that, by example, Jesus teaches us how to love God and each other (CCC 520, 1823; Jn 13:34-35; Jn 15:12) 2.3A.3 Identify the Ten Commandments as God’s guide for how to be his people (CCC 2060, 2062; EX 20:1-17) 2.3A.4 Illustrate ways Jesus teaches us to love God and our neighbor, and state the Two Great Commandments of God and their meaning (CCC 1965-1972)		
2.3B Conscience Describe how to make decisions in the light of Jesus’ moral teachings.	2.3B.1 Describe the differences between an accident, a mistake and a sin 2.3B.2 Know that sin is when one chooses to disobey God’s law (CCC 1849) 2.3B.3 Identify mortal sin as a serious offense against God’s law that breaks friendship with God and others (CCC 1854-1864) 2.3B.4 Identify venial sin as a less serious offense against God’s law that weakens friendship with God and others (CCC 1854-1864) 2.3B.5 Realize that when one does something sinful, one needs to ask forgiveness from God and from those who have been hurt (CCC 2839, 2840) 2.3B.6 Remember that one should forgive those who hurt him/her (CCC 2262; Mt 5:22-39) 2.3B.7 Identify grace as sharing in the life of God (CCC 1997) 2.3B.8 Define “sacramental grace” (CCC 2003) 2.3B.9 Identify conscience as God’s gift to help one know right from wrong (CCC 1776) 2.3B.10 State that God gives us the ability to choose right or wrong (CCC 1730-1732) 2.3B.11 Know that the Bible and the teachings of the Church guide people in knowing right and wrong (CCC 1785) 2.3B.12 Know that the Holy Spirit gives what is needed to live as a disciple of Jesus (CCC 2003; Jn 14:26)		

IV. Prayer

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
2.4A Prayer Describe the role of prayer in spiritual growth.	2.4A.1 Explain the purpose of prayer (CCC 2590) 2.4A.2 Describe when, where, and how we pray (CCC 2591, 2680, 2720, 2757) 2.4A.3 Describe how praying the Stations of the Cross helps us reflect on Jesus’ suffering and death^ 2.4A.4 Explain the purpose of and actively pray grade-level prayers ^		

V. Community Life

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
2.5A Spiritual Growth Demonstrate ways in which we grow spiritually.	2.5A.1 Understand that people grow in holiness, just as they grow in other ways (CCC 2813; 1 Cor 13:11-12) 2.5A.2 Know that the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist are necessary for one to grow in holiness (CCC 1325-1327, 1468; Mt 5:23-26)		
2.5B Relationships and Responsibilities Know that Jesus teaches us how to grow in understanding, compassion and concern for others.	2.5B.1 Understand that we show love for God by the way we treat others (Mt 25:31-46) 2.5B.2 Understand that each person is unique, made by God and must be treated with respect and compassion		
2.5C Marriage and Family Life- Domestic Church Describe families as the Church of home where we learn to love.	2.5C.1 Know that the Holy Family is a model for all families (CCC 532) 2.5C.2 Understand that marriage is a sacrament (CCC 1601) 2.5C.3 Know that children are a gift from God (Ps 127:3) 2.5C.4 Know that children must obey their parents (CCC 2214-2217; Ep 6:1) 2.5C.5 Know that daily prayer helps the family grow in holiness (CCC 2205)		
2.5D Faith Communities Describe how life in the Church is both personal and communal.	2.5D.1 Recall that baptism makes Christians children of God--brothers and sisters to each other, with God as our Father (CCC 804; Mt 12:50) 2.5D.2 Know that when one receives the sacraments one participates more fully in the life of the Church (CCC 815)		
2.5E Nature and Mission of the Church Explain that the Church is the people of God, sent to bring the Good News.	2.5E.1 Recall that Jesus came to establish the Kingdom of God (CCC 541-542; Mk 1:14-15) 2.5E.2 Know that Jesus wants each person to help build the Kingdom (CCC 863; Mt 28:19-20) 2.5E.3 Know that church refers to both the "People of God" and a place of worship (CCC 1199) 2.5E.4 Know the names of the local pastor, local bishop, and the current pope		
2.5F Ecumenism Explain that we share in the promoting the unity of all God's people.	None at this grade-level.		

VI. Missionary Spirit

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
2.6A Evangelization Evangelize by witness in words and actions.	2.6A.1 Understand that disciples of Jesus are called to share his love with others (CCC 1823; Jn 13:34) 2.6A.2 Identify the Holy Spirit as a guide and helper in living out the Christian calling (CCC 852; Jn 14:26)		
2.6B Vocation Explain how each of us is called to a particular task in helping to reveal the Kingdom of God.	2.6B.1 Know that God loves and calls each person to follow him (CCC 2093; Jn 1:39) 2.6B.2 Identify some of the ways God calls people to serve him: priest or deacon, consecrated religious, single, married (CCC 934-945)		
2.6C Social Action and Transformation Engage in activities that foster social teachings of the Church.	2.6C.1 Recall that God asks us to take care of each other and all creation (CCC 307)		

Explain the purpose of and actively pray the following prayers:									
PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross
Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)	Grace (before/after meals)
Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel	Guardian Angel
		Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer
		Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Hail Mary
		Glory Be	Glory Be	Glory Be	Glory Be	Glory Be	Glory Be	Glory Be	Glory Be
			Confiteor	Confiteor	Confiteor	Confiteor	Confiteor	Confiteor	Confiteor
			Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition
			Prayers of the Faithful	Prayers of the Faithful	Prayers of the Faithful	Prayers of the Faithful	Prayers of the Faithful	Prayers of the Faithful	Prayers of the Faithful
			Stations of the Cross	Stations of the Cross	Stations of the Cross	Stations of the Cross	Stations of the Cross	Stations of the Cross	Stations of the Cross
				Come Holy Spirit	Come Holy Spirit				
				Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria
				St. Michael the Archangel	St. Michael the Archangel				
				Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament				
					Nicene Creed	Nicene Creed	Nicene Creed	Nicene Creed	Nicene Creed
					Angelus	Angelus	Angelus	Angelus	Angelus
					Magnificat	Magnificat	Magnificat	Magnificat	Magnificat
						Apostle's Creed	Apostle's Creed	Apostle's Creed	Apostle's Creed
						Rosary	Rosary	Rosary	Rosary
							Memorare	Memorare	Memorare
							Lectio Divina	Lectio Divina	Lectio Divina
								Hail, Holy Queen	Hail, Holy Queen
								The Examen	The Examen
								Rite of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction	Rite of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction
									Liturgy of the Hours