

## 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
<b>3.1A Jesus Christ</b> Know that Jesus loves and invites every person to be in relationship with him.	3.1A.1 Describe Jesus Christ as the Savior who redeemed all people by his life, death, and resurrection (CCC 605, 629: Mt 20:28) 3.1A.2 Know that at his Ascension Jesus returned to his father in Heaven (CCC 659; Lk 24:50-51) 3.1A.3 Know that Jesus promised to be with his disciples forever (CCC 729-730; Mt 28:20)		
<b>3.1B Sacred Scripture</b> Recognize Sacred Scripture as the living word of God, a story of the covenant, and a guide for life today.	3.1B.1 Identify the Bible as a collection of sacred books that reveals God's Word to us (CCC 59, 64)^ 3.1B.2 Identify "testament" or "covenant" as a special promise made by God to his people (CCC 781) 3.1B.3 Name the Old Testament and New Testament as the two major sections of the Bible (CCC 121-127) 3.1B.4 Identify the Old Testament as the story of God's love relationship with the Hebrew people (CCC 121-123) 3.1B.5 Identify the New Testament as stories of Jesus and the early Church (CCC 124)^		
<b>3.1C Creed</b> Explain and pray the Creed as an expression of our faith	3.1C.1 Explain the purpose of the creed as a profession of faith stating what we believe as Catholics (CCC 194, 195)^ 3.1C.2 Name and describe the two creeds: Nicene and Apostles' 3.1C.3 Explain the meaning of "one God" (Catholic faith is monotheistic) which leads us to turn to Him alone (CCC 228) 3.1C.4 Explain that by sending his Son and the Holy Spirit, God reveals that he is an eternal exchange of love and Truth (CCC 42, 231) 3.1C.5 Explain "Father Almighty" as God created us thus is our Heavenly Father and he loves all his children (CCC 229, 239) 3.1C.6 Explain the meaning of "maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible – "God created everything" (CCC 316, 317)		
<b>3.1D Church History</b> Describe Church structure and history.	3.1D.1 Explain the role of the pope as: Priest who leads the Church; Supreme authority of Christ to teach the faith; answers moral questions (CCC 2050, 937, 2034) 3.1D.2 Describe the role of Saint Peter as visible foundation of the Church on earth and as the first pope (CCC 881, 936) 3.1A.3 Identify the popes as successors of Saint Peter (CCC 881, 936) 3.1A.4 Explain that the apostles were sent by the Holy Spirit to preach the Gospel (CCC 888, 938) 3.1A.5 Identify the bishops as successors of the apostles (CCC 938, 1594)		

## II. Liturgy and Sacraments

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<b>3.2A</b> <b>Paschal Mystery</b> Understand how the liturgy and sacraments inform, form, and transform us as disciples.	3.2A.1 Recognize the term “Paschal Mystery” as referring to the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus (CCC 571) 3.1A.2 Understand that by participating in the sacraments one is better able to know and serve God (CCC 1123)		
<b>3.2B</b> <b>Sacraments</b> Explain the purpose of the sacraments and the centrality of the Eucharist.	3.2B.1 Explain that sacraments are a gift from God to help us live a holy life (grace) (CCC 1131) 3.2B.2 Know that Jesus instituted the sacraments (CCC 1131) 3.2B.3 Name and categorize the 7 sacraments (CCC 1113) 3.2B.4 Name the effects of the Sacrament of Baptism: new life as a child of God; membership in the Church; forgiveness of all sin; the presence of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1262-1263) 3.2B.5 Know that the Eucharist is a prayer of thanksgiving and praise to the father, a sacrificial memorial of Christ and his Body, and the presence of Christ in word and spirit (CCC 1358) 3.2B.6 Know that the bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass (CCC 1333)		
<b>3.2C</b> <b>Liturgical Catechesis</b> Engage in the liturgical life of the Church.	3.2C.1 Define liturgy (CCC 1066-1070) 3.2C.2 Explain Sunday (day of the Resurrection) as the principle day for the celebration of the Eucharist (CCC 1166, 1193, 2181) 3.2C.3 Recognize some of the parts of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC 1346) 3.2C.4 Identify symbols of the Eucharist as the consecrated bread and wine (CCC 1373-1375, 1413) 3.2C.5 Know members of the Church are expected to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (CCC 2180-2181) 3.2C.6 Explain how we can grow closer to Jesus in each liturgical season (CCC 1194)		

## III. Morality

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<b>3.3A</b> <b>Christian Living</b> Explain Jesus as a model of how to live and love.	3.3A.1 Know that every person deserves respect in word, thought and action because of one’s inherent dignity as a child of God (CCC 364, 1700) 3.3A.2 Identify moral law as those rules that teach one how to treat God, self, and others (CCC 1950) 3.3A.3 Know that the Ten Commandments are laws that guide one’s actions towards God and others (CCC 2067) 3.3A.4 Understand that the Beatitudes provide an example of how a Christian should live (CC 1965; Mt 5:1-12; Lk 6:20-26) 3.3A.5 Identify a virtue as a good habit (CCC 1803) 3.3A.6 Know that we need God’s help to live a virtuous life.		
<b>3.3B</b> <b>Conscience</b> Describe how to make decisions in the light of Jesus’ moral teachings.	3.3B.1 Know that sin is freely choosing to do what is wrong or failing to do what is right (CCC 1849, 1852-1853) 3.3B.2 Understand the difference between mortal and venial sin (CCC 1854-1864) 3.3B.3 Define “Original Sin” (CCC 397) 3.3B.4 Explain the role of our conscience (CCC 1176, 1784, 1796, 1798, 1799) 3.3B.5 Understand that grace and the Holy Spirit are God’s gifts to help in the formation of conscience (CCC 1776, 2008) 3.3B.6 Understand that an Examination of Conscience helps one grow in holiness (CCC 1781, 1785) 3.3B.7 Articulate the belief that God gives us a free will to choose what is right and to avoid evil (1730-1737, 1739-1742) 3.3B.8 Define and give examples of making good choices (1755-1760)		

**IV. Prayer**

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<b>3.4A Prayer</b> Describe the role of prayer in spiritual growth.	3.4A.1 Explain the 5 basic forms of prayer (CCC 26744)^ 3.4A.2 Explain the purpose of the Lord's Prayer (CCC 2774, 2775, 2776, 2798, 2799, 2800) 3.4A.3 Recall that Jesus taught his followers the Our Father^ 3.4A.4 Describe the 7 petitions in the Lord's Prayer (CCC 2857) 3.4A.5 Describe how praying the Stations of the Cross helps us reflect on Jesus' suffering and death^ 3.4A.6 Explain the purpose of and actively pray grade-level prayers ^		

**V. Community Life**

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<b>3.5A Spiritual Growth</b> Demonstrate ways in which we grow spiritually.	3.5A.1 Identify some examples in Scripture of God's invitation to change and grow, e.g., 1 Sam 2:26; Lk 2:39-40 3.5A.2 Know that participation in the sacraments helps the Christian community grow in holiness		
<b>3.5B Relationships and Responsibilities</b> Know that Jesus teaches us how to grow in understanding, compassion and concern for others.	3.5B.1 Know that God gives special gifts to every person to be used for the good of the community (CCC 2003; 1 Cor 12:4-26) 3.5B.2 Know that despite the differences between persons (race, ethnicity, gender, faith, ability) all people must be respected and treated with charity 3.5B.3 Know that through prayer and the practice of good actions we can grow in our ability to love and serve other		
<b>3.5C Marriage and Family Life-Domestic Church</b> Describe families as the Church of home where we learn to love.	3.5C.1 Identify the family as the "domestic church" (CCC 2685) 3.5C.2 Recognize Jesus' obedience to his parents as an example for all (CCC 531-533) 3.5C.3 Know that the family reflects the communal love of the Trinity (CCC 2205)		
<b>3.5D Faith Communities</b> Describe how life in the Church is both personal and communal.	3.5D.1 Understand that all baptized Christians are members of the Church (CCC 836) 3.5D.2 Know that one lives the Christian faith most fully within a community (CCC 1102, 1166; Acts 2:42) 3.5D.3 Understand that liturgy builds community (CCC 1140)		
<b>3.5E Nature and Mission of the Church</b> Explain that the Church is the people of God, sent to bring the Good News.	3.5E.1 Identify the term "Good News"—God's mercy and love revealed in the life death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (CCC 571; 2 Tm 2:8) 3.5E.2 Identify the responsibility of the Church to share the "Good News" through evangelization (CCC 1122; Mt 28:19)		
<b>3.5F Ecumenism</b> Explain how we share in promoting the unity of all God's people.	3.5F.1 Know that Christianity includes many faith traditions, including Catholicism (CCC 838 )		

**IV. Missionary Spirit**

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards		Unit	Notes
<b>3.6A</b> <b>Evangelization</b> Evangelize by witness in words and actions.	3.6A.1	Know that all Christians by virtue of their baptism are called to share the "Good News" with the world (CCC 425, 900; Acts 13:32-33)		
	3.6A.2	Understand that a disciple can share the faith by being a good example to others (CCC 1816)		
<b>3.6B</b> <b>Vocation</b> Explain how each of us is called to a particular task in helping to reveal the Kingdom of God.	3.6B.1	Know that God loves and calls each person to follow him (CCC 2093; Jn 1:39)		
	3.6B.2	Identify some of the ways God calls people to serve him: priest or deacon, consecrated religious, single, married (CCC 934-935)		
<b>3.6C</b> <b>Social Action and Transformation</b> Engage in activities that foster social teachings of the Church.	3.6C.1	Know that Jesus asks all Christians to help build the Kingdom of God on earth		
	3.6C.2	Understand that building the Kingdom of God means following Jesus' example (CCC 1816)		
	3.6C.3	Introduce the Works of Mercy as one way a Christian can help build the Kingdom of God (Mt 25)^		

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	Come Holy Spirit	Come Holy Spirit	Come Holy Spirit	Come Holy Spirit
				Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria
				St. Michael the Archangel	St. Michael the Archangel	St. Michael the Archangel	St. Michael the Archangel	St. Michael the Archangel	St. Michael the Archangel
				Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	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