

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
4.1A Jesus Christ Know that Jesus loves and invites every person to be in relationship with him.	4.1A.1 Identify some different names for Jesus (CCC 430-451) 4.1A.2 Know that Jesus has a fully human nature which includes human emotions (CCC 470-478; Jn 11:33-38; Mt 21:12; Lk 4:2) 4.1A.3 Know that Jesus has a fully divine nature. He was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit (CCC 464-469)		
4.1B Sacred Scripture Explain and pray the Creed as an expression of our faith.	4.1B.1 Identify Divine Revelation as God’s self-communication about his plan of creation and salvation (CCC 51-53) 4.1B.2 Know that “testament or “covenant” is a special promise initiated by God who invites his people to respond (CCC 56-64) 4.1B.3 Understand that the Bible is the written story of the covenant relationship between God and the Israelites and God and the Christian community (CCC 128-130) 4.1B.4 Locate books, chapters, and verses in Sacred Scripture 4.1B.5 Understand that Jesus studied and taught the Old Testament (CCC 121-123; Lk 2:41-52, 4:14-22) 4.1B.6 Know that the New Testament is the story and teachings of Jesus and the early Christian community (CCC 124)^		
4.1C Creed Explain and pray the Creed as an expression of our faith.	4.1C.1 Explain that Jesus came to save man (redeem) us from our sins and fulfill the promise of salvation (CCC 561, 620-621)^ 4.1C.2 Explain the incarnation as God becoming Man. God assumed human nature without losing his divine nature (CCC 479, 480, 483)^ 4.1C.3 Explain the Immaculate Conception (CCC 508) and Annunciation (CCC 484)^ 4.1C.4 Explain Mary’s “fiat” as Latin for “let it be” – Mary’s “Yes” to God (CCC 973)		
4.1D Church Structure & History Describe Church structure and history.	4.1D.1 Describe saints and the canonization process: local request; Vatican review; beatification; canonization (CCC 828)		

II. Liturgy and Sacraments

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<p>4.1A Paschal Mystery Explain how the liturgy and sacraments inform, form, and transform us as disciples.</p>	<p>4.2A.1 Know that God shows his love by sending Jesus to save us from sin and death through the Paschal Mystery (CCC 601, 654; 1Cor 15:14)</p>		
<p>4.2B Sacraments Explain the purpose of the sacraments and the centrality of the Eucharist.</p>	<p>4.2B.1 Describe the sacraments within the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism CCC 1274-1284; Confirmation 1316-1320; Eucharist CCC 1407-1417) 4.2B.2 Describe how the special graces of the sacraments of Baptism (CCC 1279, 1266), Confirmation (CCC 1303, 1316), and Eucharist (CCC 1416) help us live a life of faith 4.2B.3 Explain why we baptize children (CCC 1282) 4.2B.4 Describe how adults enter the Church (CCC 1232) 4.2B.5 Describe the essential rite of Confirmation (CCC 1300, 1320) 4.2B.6 Identify the symbols of Confirmation (CCC 1293) 4.2B.7 Explain how the indelible mark relates to Baptism and Confirmation (CCC 1280, 1304, 1317)</p>		
<p>4.2C Liturgical Catechesis Engage in the liturgical life of the Church.</p>	<p>4.2C.1 Identify the four parts of the Mass and the purpose of each (Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word (CCC 1190), Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC 1324, 1326), and Concluding Rites 4.2C.2 Identify the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (CCC 1438) 4.2C.3 Describe how praying the Stations of the Cross helps us reflect on Jesus’ suffering and death^ 4.2C.4 Identify Easter as the most important feast day of the year (CCC 1169) 4.2C.5 Identify the Holy Days of Obligation (CCC 2177) 4.2C.6 Identify the major feasts of Mary in her role as Mother of God, e.g., Annunciation, Visitation, Assumption, Christmas (CCC 1172)</p>		

III. Morality

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<p>4.3A Christian Living Explain Jesus as a model of how to live and love.</p>	<p>4.3A.1 Locate the two Great Commandments in Scripture (CCC 2055) 4.3A.2 Explain how God helps us to understand moral law (CCC 1724) 4.3A.3 Memorize the Ten Commandments 4.3A.4 Retell the story of the Exodus and the Ten Commandments (Ex 7-20) 4.3A.5 Identify the Beatitudes as the heart of Jesus’ teaching (CCC 1716; Mt 5:1-11; Lk 6:20-26) 4.3A.6 Explain how God revealed the Beatitudes (CCC 1716, 1724) 4.3A.7 Describe the actions and attitudes characteristic of Christian life depicted in the Beatitudes (CCC 1716-1717) 4.3A.8 Explain the role of virtues in our life (CCC 1803, 1833) 4.3A.9 Explain the theological virtues (CCC 1813-1829, 1840-1841)</p>		
<p>4.3B Conscience Describe how to make decisions in the light of Jesus’ moral teachings.</p>	<p>4.3B.1 Identify the different types of sin: personal and social (CCC 1852-1869, 1886-1888) 4.3B.2 Identify the effects of Original Sin for humanity (CCC 396-401) 4.3B.3 Know that conscience is God speaking I the heart of each person (CCC 1776; Hos 2:16) 4.3B.4 Identify resources for developing a well-formed conscience (CCC 1783-1785) 4.3B.5 Identify that God gives us gifts of freedom and conscience (CCC 1730-1733, 1743-1744, 1776-1780, 1795-1797) 4.3B.6 Realize that grace helps one to follow one’s conscience (CCC 1776, 1785) 4.3B.7 Know that the Holy Spirit gives one the power and strength to live the Christian life (CCC 1704; 1813, 1830; Jn 14:16-18)</p>		

IV. Prayer

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<p>4.4A Prayer Describe the role of prayer in spiritual growth.</p>	4.4A.1 Explain the 5 basic forms of prayer (CCC 26744)^		
	4.4A.2 Explain the purpose of the Lord’s Prayer (CCC 2774, 2775, 2776, 2798, 2799, 2800)		
	4.4A.3 Describe the 7 petitions in the Lord’s Prayer (CCC 2857)		
	4.4A.4 Describe how praying the Stations of the Cross helps us reflect on Jesus’s suffering and death^		
	4.4A.5 Explain the purpose of and actively pray grade-level prayers ^		

V. Community Life

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<p>4.5A Spiritual Growth Demonstrate ways in which we grow spiritually.</p>	4.5A.1 Recognize that knowledge, study, dedication and practice of one’s faith are integral to growth in holiness		
	4.5A.2 Recognize that one responds to the love of God by growing in relationship with God, others, self, and all creation		
<p>4.5B Relationships and Responsibilities Know that Jesus teaches us how to grow in understanding, compassion and concern for others.</p>	4.5B.1 Explain how the Ten Commandments are guidelines for relationships with God and other people (CCC 1955, 2061-2062)		
	4.5B.2 Explain how the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation restores a healthy relationship with God and others (CCC 1469)		
	4.5B.3 Understand that there are times when we need to sacrifice our wants and desires for the good of others		
<p>4.5C Marriage and Family Life Describe families as the Church of home where we learn to love.</p>	4.5C.1 Explain the concept of the family as the domestic church (a place of faith, hope, and charity) (CCC 2204)		
	4.5C.2 Recognize that God made men and women equal in dignity (CCC 2203)		
	4.5C.3 Know that families cooperate with God’s work of creation in bearing, raising and educating children (CCC 2205)		
	4.5C.4 Know that families are called to witness to the Gospel, to each other and to the larger community (CCC 2207-2210)		
<p>4.5D Faith Communities Describe how Church is both personal and communal.</p>	4.5D.1 Identify the Church as including all those living on earth, those in Heaven, and those in Purgatory (CCC 954)		
	4.5D.2 Define the term “People of God” (CCC 781-782)		
	4.5D.3 Know that the Apostle’s Creed is an expression of the Church’s faith (CCC 194)		
<p>4.5E Nature and Mission of the Church Explain that the Church is the people of God, sent to bring the Good News.</p>	4.5E.1 Know Jesus used parables to teach about the kingdom of God, e.g., the Good Samaritan, the Sower and the Seed, the Unforgiving Servant (CCC 546)		
	4.5E.2 Identify the Four Marks of the Church (CCC 813-865)		
	4.5E.3 Explain that lay people (laity) include all the baptized (not Holy Orders religious) (CCC 898-905, 940-942)		
	4.5E.4 Explain that the laity are called to live a life of holiness, serve others, and evangelize		
	4.5E.5 Explain that some men and women join religious communities to consecrate their lives to God - seeking holiness and describe those religious communities (CCC 925, 927, 944)		
<p>4.5F Ecumenism Explain how we share in promoting the unity of all God’s people.</p>	4.5F.1 Know that all baptized Christians are brothers and sisters in Christ (CCC 838)		
	4.5F.2 Know that the Our Father/Lord’s Prayer is the common prayer of Christians (CCC 2771; Mt 6:9-14)		

VI. Missionary Spirit

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
4.6A Evangelization Evangelize by witness in words and actions.	4.6A.1 Identify evangelization as sharing one’s faith in Jesus with others (CCC 905) 4.6A.2 Know that the sacramental life of the Church empowers the faithful to evangelize the world (CCC 1116, 1122, 2044)		
4.6B Vocation Explain how each of us is called to a particular task in helping to reveal the Kingdom of God.	4.6B.1 Know that “vocation” is a call to love and serve God and others in a special way (CCC 825) 4.6B.2 Identify the different vocations within the Church, e.g., clergy, consecrated religious life, married and single lives (CCC 934-945)		
4.6C Social Action and Transformation Engage in activities that foster the social teachings of the Church.	4.6C.1 Understand the virtue of justice as giving God and others what is due to them (CCC 1807) 4.6C.2 Know why the poor and marginalized have a special place in the teachings of Jesus 4.6C.3 Define the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (CCC 2447; 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