

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
<p>5.1A Jesus Christ</p>	<p>5.1A.1 Define “Incarnation” and know that it is a distinctive sign of the Christian faith (CCC 461-463) 5.1A.2 Know that Jesus is the full revelation of God to humanity (CCC 50, 73, 221) 5.1A.3 Know some New Testament titles for Jesus (CCC 430-451)</p>		
<p>5.1B Sacred Scripture Recognize Sacred Scripture as the living word of God, a story of the covenant, and a guide for life today.</p>	<p>5.1B.1 Recognize that Sacred Scripture is inspired by God, but written down by human authors (CCC 105-106)^ 5.1B.2 Know how to find books, chapters and verses in Sacred Scripture 5.1B.3 Describe how God’s revelation comes through people and events in Sacred Scripture (CCC 69-73) 5.1B.3 Understand meaning of Gospel (CCC 124-127, 139)^ 5.1B.4 Understand meaning of evangelist as the name given to the four writers of the New Testament Gospels (CCC 124-127, 139)^ 5.1B.5 Know that the whole of Christ’s life continually teaches us (CCC 512-521; 561-562) 5.1B.9 Identify significance of the Transfiguration of Jesus (CCC 444, 544-556) 5.1B.10 Explain the significance of Jesus’ last meal of the Passover with his disciples (CCC 1093-1098)</p>		
<p>5.1C Creed Explain and pray the Creed as an expression of our faith.</p>	<p>5.1C.1 Explain that Jesus died to redeem (save) us from our sins and fulfill God’s promise (covenant) of salvation (CCC 592, 620-621, 629)^ 5.1C.2 Explain why Jesus descended to hell after His Crucifixion (CCC 637) 5.1C.3 Explain how the Resurrection is both a historical (Jesus rose from the dead – body and soul) event and a mystery (no one physically witnessed his Resurrection) (CCC 647, 656)^ 5.1C.4 Explain the significance of the Ascension (CCC 659, 665, 666, 667)^ 5.1C.5 Explain what will happen when Christ comes again (CCC 682, 1033, 1038, 1056, 1057, 1059, 1060)</p>		
<p>5.1D Church Structure and History Describe Church structure and history.</p>	<p>5.1D.1 Explain that the role of the Magisterium is to preserve the Church in the purity of the faith instituted by Christ (CCC 84, 85, 96, 97, 98, 888-892, 935) 5.1D.2 Explain that the Magisterium interprets the “deposit of faith” (scripture and tradition) handed down by the apostles 5.1D.3 Identify who is part of the Magisterium (CCC 888-892) 5.1D.4 Explain the process for papal election</p>		

II. Liturgy and Sacraments

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;">5.2A Paschal Mystery</p>	<p>5.2A.1 Explain the Paschal Mystery (CCC 1067, 1069, 1070)[^]</p> <p>5.2A.2 Identify the Easter Triduum as the central celebration of the Paschal Mystery (CCC 1168-1169)</p> <p>5.2A.3 Understand that through the Paschal Mystery we are redeemed from sin and death (CCC 601-603; Jn 3:16)</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">5.2B Sacraments</p> <p>Explain the purpose of the sacraments and the centrality of the Eucharist.</p>	<p>5.2B.1 Explain why Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are identified as Sacraments of Healing (Penance CCC 1486-1498; Anointing of the Sick CCC 1527-1532)</p> <p>5.2B.2 Describe how the special graces of the sacrament of Reconciliation help us live a life of faith (CCC 1496)</p> <p>5.2B.3 Describe how the special graces of the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick help us live a life of faith (CCC 1134)</p> <p>5.2B.4 Identify proper times for Anointing of the Sick (CCC 1528, 1529)</p> <p>5.2B.5 Identify who can give the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick (CCC 1530)</p> <p>5.2B.6 Describe the rite of Anointing of the Sick (CCC 1531)</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">5.2C Liturgical Catechesis</p> <p>Engage in the liturgical life of the Church.</p>	<p>5.2C.1 Identify the liturgical books used at Mass</p> <p>5.2C.2 Identify the differences among a solemnity, a feast, and a memorial (CCC 1194-1195)</p> <p>5.2C.3 Explain the purpose of the Liturgical Year (“unfolds the whole mystery of Christ from his Incarnation and Nativity through his Ascension, to Pentecost and the expectation of the blessed hope of the coming of the Lord” (CCC 1194)</p> <p>5.2C.4 Describe how praying the Stations of the Cross helps us reflect on Jesus’ suffering and death[^]</p> <p>5.2C.5 Explain how celebrating the memorials of the saints supports the purpose of the liturgical year (CCC 1173, 1195)</p> <p>5.2C.6 Explain how the Sunday cycle for the Liturgy of the Word supports the purpose of the liturgical calendar</p>		

III. Morality

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;">5.3A Christian Living</p> <p>Explain Jesus as a model of how to live and love.</p>	<p>5.3A.1 Know that through the Incarnation all humanity shares in the life and dignity of God (CCC 521)</p> <p>5.3A.2 Know the first three commandments refer to our relationship with God and the last seven refer to our relationship with others (CCC 2067)</p> <p>5.3A.3 Identify the eight Beatitudes as Jesus’ teaching about the Kingdom of God and moral goodness (CCC 1716-1724)</p> <p>5.3A.4 Describe the actions and attitudes characteristic of Christian life depicted in the Beatitudes. (CCC 1716, 1717)</p> <p>5.3A.5 Explain the 5 precepts of the Church (CCC 2041-2043; 2047, 2048)</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">5.3B Conscience</p> <p>Describe how to make decisions in the light of Jesus’ moral teachings.</p>	<p>5.3B.1 Explain the reality of sin (CCC 386-387, 407, 1847-1848)</p> <p>5.3B.2 Explain Original Sin and its consequences for all humanity (CCC 1714)</p> <p>5.3B.3 Understand the difference between a mortal and venial sin (CCC 1854-1864)</p> <p>5.3B.4 Explain the impact of the repetition of sins (CCC 1876)</p> <p>5.3B.5 Explain how to determine if a human act is morally good (CCC 1757, 1760)</p> <p>5.3B.6 Define “free will” (CCC 1730)</p> <p>5.3B.7 Know that the conscience is our ability to use our reason/intellect to make good choices</p> <p>5.3B.8 Identify some Gospel stories that show the power of God’s love and forgiveness</p> <p>5.3B.9 Understand that grace and the Holy Spirit are God’s gifts to help in the formation of conscience (CCC 1776, 2008)</p>		

IV. Prayer

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
5.4A Prayer Describe the role of prayer in spiritual growth.	5.4A.1 Explain the 5 basic forms of prayer (CCC 26744)^		
	5.4A.2 Explain the purpose of the Lord’s Prayer (CCC 2774, 2775, 2776, 2798, 2799, 2800)		
	5.4A.3 Describe the 7 petitions in the Lord’s Prayer (CCC 2857)		
	5.4A.4 Describe how praying the Stations of the Cross helps us reflect on Jesus’s suffering and death^		
	5.4A.5 Explain the purpose of and actively pray grade-level prayers ^		

V. Community Life

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
5.5A Spiritual Growth Demonstrate ways in which we grow spiritually.	5.5A.1 Know that the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Love are God’s gifts that enable one to grow in holiness (CCC 1812ff)		
	5.5A.2 Know that we grow in holiness as we develop good habits		
	5.5A.3 Understand that a life of prayer is essential to spiritual growth (CCC 2744-2745)		
5.5B Relationships and Responsibilities Know that Jesus teaches us how to grow in understanding, compassion and concern for others.	5.5B.1 Describe the nature and responsibilities of Christian friendship (CCC 1829, 1939, 2347)		
	5.5B.2 Define “common good” as understood by the Catholic Church (CCC 1905-1909)^		
	5.5B.3 Recall that our bodies are “temples of the Holy Spirit” and must be treated with respect (CFCL I.A.24)		
5.5C Marriage and Family Life Describe families as the Church of home where we learn to love.	5.5C.1 Understand the importance of family life for the individual and for society as a whole (CCC 2207-2213)		
	5.5C.2 Know that the mutual self-gift and love of husband and wife is an image of the unconditional love between Christ and his Church (CCC 1612-1617; Eph 5:25-26; 31-33; CFCL I.A.29)		
	5.5C.3 Know that marriage is a sacrament between one man and one woman as well as the conditions of the Sacrament of Marriage (CCC 1601; 1625-1632)		
	5.5C.4 God chose to enter family life when Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary		
5.5D Faith Communities Describe how Church is both personal and communal.	5.5D.1 Know that the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church is both personal and communal (CCC 1134)		
5.5E Nature and Mission of the Church Explain that the Church is the people of God, sent to bring the Good News.	5.5E.1 Name the Four Marks of the Church (CCC 811ff)		
	5.5E.2 Identify the Church as the Body of Christ continuing Christ’s salvific action in the world (CCC 1213; Col 2:24-29)		
	5.5E.3 Understand that the Church’s participation in the Paschal Mystery is expressed through her liturgical life and her service in the world (CCC 1134)		
5.5F Ecumenism Explain how we share in promoting the unity of all God’s people.	5.5F.1 Know that Jesus calls all Christians to work together to build the Kingdom (CCC 820)		

VI. Missionary Spirit

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<p>5.6A Evangelization Evangelize by witness in words and actions.</p>	<p>5.6A.1 Define “evangelization” (CCC 905) 5.6A.2 Know that the sacramental life of the Church empowers the faithful to evangelize the world (CCC 1116, 1122, 2044)</p>		
<p>5.6B Vocation Explain how each of us is called to a particular task in helping to reveal the Kingdom of God.</p>	<p>5.6B.1 Know that each person shares responsibility for the mission of the Church (CCC 849; Mt 28:18-20) 5.6B.2 Explain how various vocations function to build God’s kingdom, and further the mission of the church 5.6B.3 Know that all people are called to live the virtue of chastity</p>		
<p>5.6C Social Action and Transformation Engage in activities that foster social teachings of the Church.</p>	<p>5.6C.1 Know that through the virtues of charity and justice Christians are called to oppose social sin and transform the world (CCC 1928-1933, 2446; Mi 6:8) 5.6C.2 Describe 7 themes of Catholic Social Teaching (CCC 1943-1948, 2419-2425)</p>		

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