

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>6.1A Jesus Christ</p>	<p>6.1A.1 Know that Jesus is a divine person with both a divine and human nature (CCC 479-483)</p> <p>6.1A.2 Describe Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of God’s promises in the Old Testament (CCC 2763)</p>		
<p>6.1B Sacred Scripture</p>	<p>6.1B.1 Recognize the Holy Spirit as central to opening the eyes of those who read Scripture and moving them to have faith in God (CCC 109-119)^</p> <p>6.1A.2 Explain that the Magisterium interprets the “deposit of faith” (scripture and tradition) handed down by the apostles</p> <p>6.1B.3 Know that Catholic Bibles contain 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament (CCC 120)</p> <p>6.1B.4 Recognize that there are different translations of the Bible</p> <p>6.1B.5 Identify the major division of the Old Testament: Pentateuch, historical books, wisdom literature, and the prophets (CCC 707)</p> <p>6.1A.6 Identify the Old Testament themes which are central to Salvation History (Creation, Covenant, Exodus, People of God)</p> <p>6.1B.7 Show familiarity with the role of the patriarchs in the unfolding of God’s revelation to his people (CCC 59-64)^</p> <p>6.1B.8 Describe the events of the Book of Exodus and its significance in the history of the Chosen People of Israel (CCC 203-219)</p> <p>6.1B.9 Show understanding of redemption and salvation through the revelation of God’s Word in Sacred Scripture (54-67)</p>		
<p>6.1 B Creed Explain and pray the Creed as an expression of our faith.</p>	<p>6.1C.1 Explain that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit so he could be continually present in the Church (CCC 852)^</p> <p>6.1C.2 Identify and explain the 4 Marks of the Church (one, holy, catholic and apostolic (CCC 866-869)^</p> <p>6.1C.3 Explain the mission of the Apostles and apostolic succession (CCC 871-896)</p> <p>6.1B.4 Explain the mission of the Pope and the infallibility of the Magisterium (880-892)^</p> <p>6.1B.5 Explain that Jesus died to save us from our sins and fulfill God’s promise (covenant) of salvation (CCC 592, 620-621, 629)^</p> <p>6.1B.6 Distinguish between the Marian dogma of the Immaculate Conception and the Feast of the Annunciation (CCC 491, 484, 494)</p>		
<p>6.1 D Church History Describe Church structure and history.</p>	<p>6.1A.1 Explain that the role of the Church in God’s plan is to unite all people with Christ for the salvation of mankind (CCC 778, 780)</p>		

II. Liturgy and Sacraments

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
6.2A Paschal Mystery	6.2A.1 Know that Christ’s redemptive suffering gives meaning to all human suffering (CCC 1521)		
6.2 A Sacraments Explain the purpose of the sacraments and the centrality of the Eucharist.	6.2B.1 Explain why Holy Orders and Matrimony are identified as Sacraments of Service (Holy Orders CCC 1591; Matrimony CCC 1660-1666)^ Holy Orders 6.2B.2 Distinguish the common priesthood and ministerial priesthood (CCC 1591, 1592) 6.2B.3 Identify who can receive Holy Orders (CCC 1598) 6.2B.4 Identify the three degrees of Holy Orders (CCC 1593) 6.2B.5 Distinguish between the three degrees of Holy Orders (CCC 1594-1596) 6.2B.6 Describe the rite of the Sacrament of Holy Orders (CCC 1597) 6.2B.7 Identify who can administer each sacrament (Canon Law 871, 882, 900, 9656, 1001, 1012, 1055)^		
6.2B Liturgical Catechesis Engage in the liturgical life of the Church.	6.2C.1 Explain the connection between liturgy in heaven and the liturgy on earth (CCC 1140, 1187) 6.2C.2 Know the different parts of the Mass (CCC 1348-1355) 6.2C.3 Name the three celebrations of the Easter Triduum (CCC 1168-2183)		

III. Morality

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
6.3A Christian Living Explain Jesus as a model of how to live and love.	6.3A.1 Know that the Ten Commandments are meant to free God’s people from a life of sin (CCC 2057, 2062, 2077) 6.3A.2 Explain the relationship between human dignity, equality, and solidarity (CCC 1933, 1938, 1944, 1945, 1948) 6.3A.3 Describe how we can help others through the Corporal Works of Mercy^ 6.3A.4 Describe how we can help others through the Spiritual Works of Mercy^ 6.3A.5 Explain the role of public authority in society (CCC 1907, 1908, 1909, 1921, 1927) 6.3A.6 Show an understanding that we have a responsibility to work for the common good of society, and illustrate ways that we each can work for the common good (CCC 1910-1912)		
6.3B Conscience Describe how to make decisions in the light of Jesus’ moral teachings.	6.3B.1 State how Original Sin makes Christian living more difficult, but that Christ overcame sin and also helps us to do so 6.3B.2 Define “sin of omission” (CCC 1853) 6.3B.3 Identify the elements used to determine the morality of an action (CCC 1750) 6.3B.4 Know that grace is the free gift of God, which introduces one into the life of the Trinity and helps one avoid sin (CCC 2021)		

IV. Prayer

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
6.4A Prayer Describe the role of prayer in spiritual growth.	6.4A.1 Describe the 3 expressions of prayer (CCC 2721)^ 6.4A.2 Explain the sources of prayer (CCC 2662) 6.4A.3 Describe the 2 main difficulties in the practice of prayer (CCC 2754) 6.4A.4 Explain who guides us in prayer (CCC 2661, 2683, 2684, 2693, 2694, 2695) 6.4A.5 Explain the purpose of and actively pray grade-level prayers ^		

V. Community Life

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
6.5A Spiritual Growth Demonstrate ways in which we grow spiritually.	6.5A.1 Know that prayer and study are essential for growth in discipleship (CCC 2744)		
6.5B Relationships and Responsibilities Know that Jesus teaches us how to grow in understanding, compassion and concern for others.	6.5B.1 Know the Christian responsibility to promote the common good (CCC 1905-1912) [^] 6.5B.2 Identify how the virtue of chastity helps us live in right relationship with ourselves and others		
6.5C Marriage and Family Life- Domestic Church Describe families as the Church of home where we learn to love.	6.5C.1 Identify the two purposes for marriage: mutual benefit of the spouses; and procreation and education of children (CCC 2201) 6.5C.2 Know that married love is life-long, exclusive, open to children and is an image of Trinitarian love (CCC 2205) 6.5C.3 Understand that human sexuality is a gift from God and is expressed in our identity as man or woman (CCC 2361-2362, 2337; CFCL I.A.2, 24)		
4.5D Faith Communities Describe how life in the Church is both personal and communal.	6.5D.1 Identify key stories in the Old Testament that exemplify God’s forming the Hebrews/Israelites into his people, e.g., Abraham, Moses, David (CCC 762)		
6.5E Nature and Mission of the Church Explain that the Church is the people of God, sent to bring the Good News.	6.5E.1 Know that the Church continues Christ’s mission of salvation for all through her ministries of teaching, healing, and service to others (CCC 763) 6.5E.2 The Church is the Bride of Christ and the mother of all God’s children (CCC 796-808) 6.5E.3 Understand that the mission of the Catholic Church is to unify all people in Christ (CCC 810, 813-822) 6.5E.4 Define “infallibility” (CCC 890-892)		
6.5F Ecumenism Explain how we share in promoting the unity of all God’s people.	6.5F.1 Know that all Christians are united in their belief in the Trinity, and in Jesus as the Son of God who came to save humanity from sin		

VI. Missionary Spirit

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<p>4.6A Evangelization Evangelize by witness in words and actions.</p>	<p>6.6A.1 Know that evangelization is sharing in the mission of Jesus (CCC 905)</p>		
<p>4.6B Vocation Explain how each of us is called to a particular task in helping to reveal the Kingdom of God.</p>	<p>6.6B.1 Describe the difference between “career” and “vocation”[^] 6.6B.2 Describe the role of prayerful discernment in the life of the disciple when discerning a vocation</p>		
<p>4.6C Social Action and Transformation Engage in activities that foster social teachings of the Church.</p>	<p>6.6C.1 Know that Catholic Social Teaching is the way one applies the virtues of charity and justice in the world (CCC 2446)[^] 6.6C.2 Describe how the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy are expressions of Catholic Social Teaching (CCC 2447)[^]</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