

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
7.1 A Jesus Christ	7.1A.1 Explain that Jesus Christ is the fullness of God’s self-revelation and the fulfillment of his promises (CCC 51-53, 65; Heb 1:1-4)		
	7.2A.2 Describe what it means to say that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine		
7.1B Sacred Scripture	7.1B.1 Know how the canon of Scripture was determined (CCC 80-83)		
	7.1B.6 State that the Church identifies 73 books in the canon of Scripture (120, 138)		
	7.1B.2 Understand that the Magisterium has the authority to interpret Sacred Scripture authentically (CCC 84-87)^		
	7.1B.3 Understand that the epistles were written to address questions and concerns in the early Church		
	7.1B.4 Identify the themes of Salvation History that are fulfilled in the New Testament (Covenant, Redemption, Resurrection, Communion)		
	7.1B.7 Describe the major themes in the Gospel of Luke		
	7.1B.8 Describe the Infancy Narrative in Luke and its difference from Mathew’s account		
	7.1B.9 Recognize in Luke’s Gospel Jesus’ teaching ministry during his journey to Jerusalem as authoritative and prophetic, particularly in the material unique to Luke in chapters 9-19		
	7.1B.11 State that the Gospel of Luke shows the universal mission of Jesus extending from Old Testament promises to the Jews to include the Gentiles		
7.1 C Creed	7.1C.1 Describe what happens in death (CCC 1016, 1056, 1057)		
	7.1C.2 Distinguish between Jesus’ Resurrection and our resurrection (CCC 1016, 1060)		
	7.1C.3 Describe what it means to die to Christ (CCC 1054)		
	7.1C.4 Describe Eternal Life and the particular judgment immediately after death (CCC 1051)		
	7.1C.5 Describe Heaven (CCC 1023-25)		
	7.1C.6 Describe Purgatory (CCC 1054, 1030-32)		
	7.1C.7 Describe the reality of Hell and how we can reconcile the existence of hell with the infinite goodness of God (CCC 1035, 1037, 1056, 1057)		
	7.1C.8 Explain the Assumption as the Most Blessed Virgin Mary taken up body and soul into Heaven (CCC 974)^		
7.1 D Church History	7.1D.1 Explain the significance of Pentecost (CCC 731-732, Act 2:1-36)		
	7.1D.2 Summarize the story of Saul’s conversion (Acts 9)		
	7.1D.3 Explain the impact of the Council of Jerusalem on the development of the Church (Acts 15)		

II. Liturgy and Sacraments

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
7.2A Paschal Mystery	7.2A.1 Describe how the liturgy and the sacraments strengthen one to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ (CCC 1108)		
	7.2A.2 Know that participation in the Eucharist is an actual participation in the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ (CCC 1068, 1088, 1090, 1104)		
7.2 A Sacraments Explain the purpose of the sacraments and the centrality of the Eucharist.	7.2B.1 Articulate how sacraments help us live a life of faith (CCC 1134)^		
	7.2B.2 Cite sources in the New Testament that show the sacraments derived from Jesus’ life and mission (CCC 1114-1116)		
	7.2B.3 Recall that Confirmation is the sacrament which completes Christian Initiation (CCC 1285)		
	7.2B.4 Know that the sacraments are the action of the Church and an integral part of her public prayer (CCC 1071-1140)		
7.2B Liturgical Catechesis Engage in the liturgical life of the Church.	7.2C.1 Explain the presence of the Trinity in the liturgy (CCC 1110, 1111, 1112)		
	7.2C.2 Know that participation in the Eucharist is an actual participation in the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ (CCC 1068, 1088, 1090, 1104)		
	7.2C.3 Describe the cycle of the liturgical year and how the celebrations relate to everyday life (CCC 1171)		

IV. Prayer

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
7.4A Prayer Describe the role of prayer in spiritual growth.	7.4A.1 Describe the 3 expressions of prayer (CCC 2721)^ 7.4A.2 Explain the sources of prayer (CCC 2662) 7.4A.3 Describe the 2 main difficulties in the practice of prayer (CCC 2754) 7.4A.4 Explain who guides us in prayer (CCC 2661, 2683, 2684, 2693, 2694, 2695) 7.4A.5 Explain the purpose of and actively pray grade-level prayers ^		

III. Morality

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
7.3A Christian Living Explain Jesus as a model of how to live and love.	7.3A.1 Explain the connection between the Ten Commandments (Decalogue) and Jesus’ Great Commandment (CCC 2052, 2055)^ 7.3A.2 Explain the implications of the Fifth (CCC 2319-2324, 2326), Sixth (CCC 2393-2394, 2396, 2399), Seventh (CCC 2352-2356, 2359, 2462), Ninth (CCC 2529-2530, 2533) and Tenth (CCC 2552-2554, 2556) Commandments for our lives ^ 7.3A.7 Compare the Beatitudes as expressed on the “Sermon on the Mount” and the “Sermon on the Plain” (Mt 5:1-11; Lk 6:2-26) 7.3A.8 Describe how living the Beatitudes expresses the Christian life of discipleship (CCC 1716-1717) 7.3A.9 Name and practically apply the Theological and Cardinal Virtues (CCC 1813, 1834-1838 1812-1813, 1840-1841)		
7.3B Conscience Describe how to make decisions in the light of Jesus’ moral teachings.	7.3B.1 Differentiate between original sin, personal sin and social sin (CCC 1848-1854, 1873-1875) 7.3B.2 Recall that venial sins weaken one’s relationship with God, but mortal sins destroys that relationship (CCC 1855) 7.3B.3 Recall the elements that must be present for a sin to be mortal (CCC 1857) 7.3B.4 Explain how one’s choices have both personal and social consequences (CCC 1730-1738, 1740) 7.3B.5 Know that virtues help to train the conscience to make good choices (CCC 1834) 7.3B.6 Know that properly forming one’s conscience is a life-long task that needs constant prayer, study and grace (CCC 1783)		

V. Community Life

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<p>7.5A Spiritual Growth Demonstrate ways in which we grow spiritually.</p>	<p>7.5A.1 Describe how the gifts of the Spirit, given in the Sacrament of Confirmation foster spiritual growth (CCC 736, 1303, 1316)</p> <p>7.5A.2 Explain how participation in community supports and sustains spiritual growth (CCC 2182)</p>		
<p>7.5B Relationships and Responsibilities Know that Jesus teaches us how to grow in understanding, compassion and concern for others.</p>	<p>7.5B.1 Know that a disciple has a responsibility to participate in “social interchange” that promotes the common good (CCC 1913-1917)</p> <p>7.5B.2 Explain why the Eucharist commits us to service of the poor (CCC 1397-98)</p>		
<p>7.5C Marriage and Family Life- Domestic Church Describe families as the Church of home where we learn to love.</p>	<p>7.5C.1 Identify some responsibilities that parents have towards their children and that children have toward their parents (CCC 2214-2231)</p> <p>7.5C.2 Understand why the Church teaches that sexual activity is reserved for marriage (CCC 2350, 2360-2363, 2390-2391; CFCL I.A.29, 30)</p> <p>7.5C.3 Explain what is meant by the indissolubility of marriage (CCC 1614-1617)</p>		
<p>7.5D Faith Communities Describe how life in the Church is both personal and communal.</p>	<p>7.5D.1 Describe some of the unique characteristics of the Early Church communities (CCC 949-953; Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35; 2Thes 3:6-16)</p> <p>7.5D.2 Examine ways in which adolescents can share in the work of the parish</p> <p>7.5D.3 Define the term <i>sensus fidei</i>, or the “sense of faith” (CCC 92; Jn 16:13; 1 Jn 2:20)</p>		
<p>7.5E Nature and Mission of the Church Explain that the Church is the people of God, sent to bring the Good News.</p>	<p>7.5E.1 Identify some of the New Testament stories of the Church’s mission to share the Good News</p> <p>7.5E.2 Know that the role of the Magisterium is to foster unity by expressing the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church (CCC 890)</p> <p>7.5E.3 Know that the life and mission of the Catholic Church is expressed in different Rites (CCC 814)</p>		
<p>7.5F Ecumenism Explain how we share in promoting the unity of all God’s people.</p>	<p>7.5F.1 Know that Christ desires unity for his Church and calls the faithful to work towards it (CCC 820-822; Jn 17:20-21)</p>		

VI. Missionary Spirit

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
7.6A Evangelization Evangelize by witness in words and actions.	7.6A.1 Define what is meant by the “New Evangelization”		
7.6B Vocation Explain how each of us is called to a particular task in helping to reveal the Kingdom of God.	7.6B.1 Know that a personal apostolate is a means of living out the missionary spirit of the Church 7.6B.2 Reflect and describe how a personal apostolate can be lived out in a vocation and/or career		
7.6C Social Action and Transformation Engage in activities that foster social teachings of the Church.	7.6C.1 Understand that Catholic Social Teaching provides principles for reflection, criteria for judgments, and guidelines for action when building the Kingdom of God (CCC 2423) 7.6C.2 Know that the common good and human dignity are foundational principles for building a better world (CCC 1807, 1928-1933) 7.6C.3 Identify the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching (CCC 1943-1948, 2419-2425)		

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