

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>8.1A Jesus Christ Know that Jesus loves and invites every person to be in relationship with Him.</p>	<p>8.1A.1 Know that the goal of all faith formation is a relationship with Jesus Christ (CCC 426-427)</p> <p>8.1A.2 Explain the meaning of “all things are redeemed in Christ” (CCC 616; Col 1:20)</p> <p>8.1A.3 Know that Christ’s resurrection confirms all his works and teachings and the truth of his divinity (CCC 651; 1 Cor 15:14)</p>		
<p>8.1B Sacred Scripture Recognize Sacred Scripture as the living word of God, a story of the covenant, and a guide for life today.</p>	<p>8.1B.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>8.1B.2 Show understanding that Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture are entrusted to the teaching ministry of the Church, the Magisterium, make up a single deposit of the faith (CCC 84-85)^</p> <p>8.1b.3 Describe how the stories of the early Christian movement help us to understand the beginnings of the Church</p>		
<p>8.1C Creed Explain and pray the Creed as an expression of our faith.</p>	<p>8.1C.1 Define faith as the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us (CCC 166, 176, 179, 180,183, 1814)</p> <p>8.1C.2 Explain the relationship between faith and morality (Matthew 19:16-17)</p> <p>8.1C.3 Explain why the relationship between faith and the Church is vital and indispensable because we experience the life of faith through the Church (CCC 169, 181)</p> <p>8.1C.4 Explain the implications of our faith in one God (CCC 223-227; Mt 5:29-30; Mt. 16: 24-26)</p> <p>8.1C.5 Articulate common challenges and obstacles in remaining faithful to the teachings of the Church</p> <p>8.1C.6 Discuss the ways we can preserve and grow our faith</p>		
<p>8.1 D Church History Describe Church history.</p>	<p>8.1D.1 Explain the impact of Paul on the spread of Christianity</p> <p>8.1D.2 Describe the experience of early Christians during the Roman empire (until AD 313)</p> <p>8.1D.3 Describe the impact of the Edict of Milan on the Church</p> <p>8.1D.4 Explain the role of the Church Fathers (CCC 78, 688)</p> <p>8.1D.5 Explain the purpose of an ecumenical council (CCC 884)</p> <p>8.1D.6 Describe the purpose and outcomes of early ecumenical councils, e.g., Nicaea, Chalcedon, etc.</p> <p>8.1D.7 Explain the theological disagreement between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches that led to the East-West Schism in 1054</p> <p>8.1D.8 Describe the lasting significance of the First Vatican Council (AD 1869) on the Church (CCC 889-891)</p> <p>8.1D.9 Distinguish how the purpose of the Second Vatican Council was distinct from other ecumenical councils</p> <p>8.1D.10 Describe the impact of the Second Vatican Council on the Church. (AD 1962) ^</p> <p>8.1D.11 Explain the intention of the changes made to the Liturgy during the Second Vatican Council</p> <p>8.1D.12 Identify some significant outcomes of the Second Vatican Council</p>		

II. Liturgy and Sacraments

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
8.2A Paschal Mystery	8.1A.1 Explain how the Paschal Mystery “transcends all times while being made present in them all” (CCC 1085)		
8.2 B Sacraments Explain the purpose of the sacraments and the centrality of the Eucharist.	Marriage 8.2B.1 Identify the characteristics of Catholic marriage (CCC 1664) 8.2B.2 Explain the implications of the characteristics of Catholic marriage for married life (CCC 1664) 8.2B.3 Describe the nature and role of the domestic church (CCC 1666)^ Confirmation 8.2B.4 Explain the purpose of Confirmation (CCC 1316) 8.2B.5 Explain the requirements for Confirmation (CCC 1319) 8.2B.6 Know that in the Sacrament of Confirmation one receives the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1302-1305) 8.2B.7 Explain the relationship between the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1830-1832; Is 11:1-5; Gal 5:22)		
8.2C Liturgical Catechesis Engage in the liturgical life of the Church.	8.2C.1 Describe what it means to say the Eucharistic Liturgy is “the summit and source” of a Christian life (CCC 1324) 8.2C.2 Define “transubstantiation” (CCC 1376) 8.2C.3 Identify the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (CCC 1229-1233) 8.2C.4 Explain the purpose of the diverse liturgical traditions or rites (CCC 1208)^		

III. Morality

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
8.3A Christian Living Explain Jesus as a model of how to live and love.	8.3A.1 Explain why the Ten Commandments are still relevant for living a moral life (CCC 1716-1717) 8.3A.2 Identify the characteristics of a disciple as outlined in the Beatitudes (CCC 1716-1717) 8.3A.3 Name and practically apply the Theological and Cardinal Virtues (CCC 1813, 1834-1838 1812-1813, 1840-1841) 8.3A.4 Explain the relationship between the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1830-1832; Is 11:1-5; Gal 5:22) 8.3A.5 State the importance of Christians taking an active part in public life and promoting the common good (CCC 904-907) 8.3A.6 Describe how we can help others through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy^		
8.3B Conscience Describe how to make decisions in the light of Jesus’ moral teachings.	8.3B.1 Know that in the Sacrament of Confirmation one receives, the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1302-1305) 8.3B.2 Explain that the context of moral decision-making within the Catholic Christian tradition is human dignity, God’s grace, and the virtues and the Holy Spirit (CCC 1780-1782, 1783-1788, 1798-1800) 8.3B.3 Describe free will as the ability to choose the good and how this choice leads to growth and maturity (CCC 1730-1742) 8.3B.4 Explain how “a well-formed conscience” uses human reason, instructed by faith, to freely make good choices (CCC 1783- 1785) 8.3B.5 Know that a life of virtue enables us to make good choices and form the conscience properly (CCC 1834) 8.3B.6 Know that one has a responsibility to follow a well-formed conscience (CCC 1706, 1790-1794)		

IV. Prayer

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<p>8.4A Prayer Describe the role of prayer in spiritual growth.</p>	<p>8.4A.1 Describe the 3 expressions of prayer (CCC 2721)^</p> <p>8.4A.2 Explain the sources of prayer (CCC 2662)</p> <p>8.4A.3 Describe the 2 main difficulties in the practice of prayer (CCC 2754)</p> <p>8.4A.4 Explain who guides us in prayer (CCC 2661, 2683, 2684, 2693, 2694, 2695)</p> <p>8.4A.5 Explain the purpose of and actively pray grade-level prayers ^</p> <p>8.5A.6 Know that the Mass, the seven sacraments, and the Liturgy of the Hours comprise the official public prayer of the Church (CCC 1113, 1175)</p>		

V. Community Life

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
<p>8.5A Spiritual Growth Demonstrate ways in which we grow spiritually.</p>	<p>8.5A.1 Describe how the Holy Spirit’s action in the Sacrament of Confirmation supports spiritual growth in both the individual and the community (CCC 1316)</p> <p>8.5A.2 Understand that Confirmation is not a graduation from the faith, but a deeper commitment to a life of discipleship and spiritual growth</p> <p>8.5A.3 Know that we grow in virtue and discipleship through education, deliberate actions and perseverance in the good (CCC 1810)</p>		
<p>8.5B Relationships and Responsibilities Know that Jesus teaches us how to grow in understanding, compassion and concern for others.</p>	<p>8.5B.1 Describe how Christian values and virtues are foundational in forming, strengthening and maintaining healthy relationships</p> <p>8.5B.2 Identify how the virtue of chastity perfects our expression of love</p> <p>8.5B.3 Discuss how the power of the Holy Spirit can help one practice the virtues in our relationships with others and in our responsibility to care for all persons and creation</p>		
<p>8.5C Marriage and Family Life Describe families as the Church of home where we learn to love.</p>	<p>8.5C.1 Explain the roles of consent, permanence, and fidelity in Christian marriage (CCC 1625-1629, 1638, 1646-1651)</p> <p>8.5C.2 Describe the important roles of mutual love, respect, and the responsibilities of spouses toward each other and toward their children is an example of the love of the Trinity (CCC 1604, 1631)</p> <p>8.5C.3 Identify attitudes and behaviors that go against the virtue of chastity in family life (CCC 2351-2359, 2380-2381, 2389, 2400)</p>		
<p>8.5D Faith Communities Describe how Church is both personal and communal.</p>	<p>8.5D.1 Know that the sacraments are the work of Christ and benefit both the community and the individual person (CCC 1140)</p> <p>8.5D.2 Understand that Confirmation binds one more closely to the Church (CCC 1303)</p>		
<p>8.5E Nature and Mission of the Church Explain that the Church is the people of God, sent to bring the Good News.</p>	<p>8.5E.1 Identify the different bodies that carry out the teaching, sanctifying, and governing roles of the Church e.g., Roman Curia, USCCB, Local Archbishops and Bishops, priests (CCC 888-896)</p> <p>8.5E.2 Explain what it means to say that the Magisterium is both servant and custodian of Scripture and Tradition (CCC 85-87)</p> <p>8.5E.3 Explain what it means that the Church is the Body of Christ (CCC 805-809, 796)^</p> <p>8.5E.4 Describe the two components of the Church as both human and divine (CCC 779, 770)</p> <p>8.5E.5 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>		
<p>8.5F Ecumenism Explain how we share in promoting the unity of all God’s people.</p>	<p>8.1F.1 Explain that ecumenism promotes the restoration of unity among all Christians (CCC 816, 820-822)</p> <p>8.5F.2 Name some of the ways Catholics can respond to the call of Ecumenism (CCC 821) ^</p>		

V. Community Life

Application & Instructional Focus	Standards	Unit	Notes
8.6A Evangelization Evangelize by witness in words and actions.	8.6A.1 Understand that the Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens one to live as a disciple (CCC 1303)^		
8.6B Vocation Explain how each of us is called to a particular task in helping to reveal the Kingdom of God.	8.6B.1 Understand that the gifts of the Holy Spirit help one discern God’s unique invitation to service of the Church^		
8.6C Social Action and Transformation Engage in activities that foster the social teachings of the Church.	8.6C.1 Recall the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching 8.6C.2 Know that the Sacrament of Confirmation completes one’s initiation into the life and mission activity in the Church		

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