



The Faith That Marks God's People

Guidelines for Catechesis

Grade Six

Archdiocese of New York
Revised - 2016

Nihil Obstat: Peter Vaccari, S.T.L.

Censor Librorum

Imprimatur: + Gregory Mustaciuolo, Vicar General,
Archdiocese of New York

Date: June 15, 2015

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2014 Edition
Revisiion Committee

Sr. Joan Curtin, C.N.D., Chairperson
Mrs. Nancy Doran
Mrs. Linda Fitzsimmons
Mrs. Margaret Hoblin
Sr. Teresita Morse, R.J.M.

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
Philip Gorrasi
Lisette Robustelli
Paige Sanchez

1996 Edition
Revision Committee

Monsignor Thomas J. Bergin, Vicar for Education
Ms. Rita Ferrone, Editor

Catechetical Office
Sr. Joan Curtin, C.N.D.
Sr. Mary Elizabeth Kelleher, O.P.
Sr. Teresita Morse, R.J.M.

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
Sr. Dorothy Flanagan, C.N.D.
Dr. Catherine Hickey
Sr. Angela Palermo, R.C.D.

1987Edition
Writing Committee

Bishop Edward M. Egan, Vicar for Education

Catechetical Office
Sr. Anne Connelly, O.P.
Sr. Joan Curtin, C.N.D., Chairperson
Sr. Mary Elizabeth Kelleher, O.P.
Sr. Teresita Morse, R.J.M.
Sr. Eileen Riley, O.P.



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

May 15, 2016
Feast of Pentecost
Year of Mercy

Dear friends in the Lord:

With prayer and confidence in your dedication to the mission of catechesis – to bring everyone closer to Jesus Christ – I promulgate these *Guidelines for Catechesis, Pre-Kindergarten Through Grade Six* in the Catholic school and catechetical programs of the Archdiocese of New York.

This is the third edition of the *Guidelines*. Since they were first promulgated in 1987, the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office and the Office of the Superintendent of Schools found it necessary to revise and update them, particularly in light of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, published in 1995. This update incorporates added scriptural references, protocols on catechesis issued by the bishops of the United States, and the new translation of the *Roman Missal*.

Allow me to thank the leaders of the Guidelines Revision Committee for their efforts: Sr. Joan Curtin, CND, director of the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office and chairperson; Ms. Nancy Doran; Ms. Linda Fitzsimons; Ms. Margaret Hoblin; Sr. Teresita Morse, RJM; Mr. Philip Gorrasi; Ms. Lisette Robustelli; and Ms. Paige Sanchez.

Just a few months after his election, Pope Francis spoke to catechists attending the International Congress on Catechesis in Rome, and thanked them for their commitment. He said:

Catechesis is a pillar of faith education and we need good catechists! Thank you for your service to the Church and in the Church. Even if at times it may be difficult and require a great deal of work, and although the results are not always what we hope for, teaching the faith is something beautiful! It is perhaps the best legacy we can pass on: the faith! To educate in the faith, to make it grow. To help children, young people and adults to know and love the Lord more and more is one of the most exciting aspects of education. It builds up the Church!

Permit me to add my own heartfelt thanks. I count on you, your knowledge of and faithfulness to Church teaching, and your pedagogical skills to assist me in sharing the faith that we were given at baptism and enriched by years of living and learning. Hopefully, you know that I could not carry out this sacred duty without you.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim. Carol. Dolan." with a cross symbol to the left.

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York



The Faith That Marks God's People

The Faith That Marks God's People is developed according to the following format in grades one through six:

1. Each grade level is introduced by a statement of the year's doctrinal theme.
2. The pedagogical objective of the year follows the theme statement.
3. The **Guidelines** are to be read across the page, following the delineated bands.

The basic teachings of the faith are contained in the first two columns: "Core Content" and "Christian Living."

The "Core Content" column presents the faith concepts; the "Christian Living" column explains how these concepts are to be lived out by Catholics. The issues of morality, including respect for life and concern for justice and peace, form the substance of this column.

The "Sacred Scripture" column includes several passages in the Old or New Testament where the core content is imaged or taught.

The "Prayer and Worship" column suggests prayer and liturgical experiences for the child.

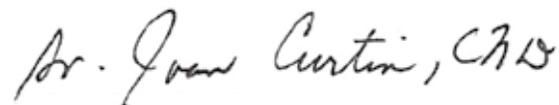
4. Throughout the Guidelines, from grades one through six, there is a developmental presentation of the major concepts.
5. On the final page of each grade level, there is a listing of vocabulary, prayers, and liturgical symbols and liturgical gestures to be taught. This page also includes the portion of the Creed that is to be taught or reviewed, and prayers to be encouraged.
6. After each entry in the **Guidelines**, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd edition, 1997*, is cited in support of the concept expressed. These citations are intended to deepen the catechist/teacher's understanding, on an adult level, of the content being taught.

The **Guidelines** are addressed to the catechist/teacher, not to the students. Nonetheless, throughout the **Guidelines**, the language has been kept as simple and straightforward as possible without sacrificing theological and doctrinal accuracy. It is hoped that the language used to present each concept will help the catechist/teacher to teach the concept according to the capacity of the student.

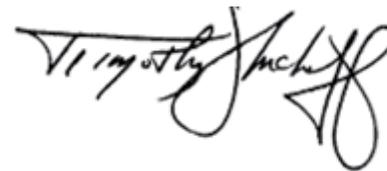
These **Guidelines** are not to be considered a substitute for the textbook. It is recommended that each parish select a single textbook series found to be in conformity with the US. Bishop's Protocol, for use in grades one through six for the school and parish programs, and that these **Guidelines** be used in conjunction with that textbook series. The **Guidelines** have been designed to assist the catechist/teacher in the use of the textbook by providing the essential content to be taught at each grade level.

To implement these **Guidelines** effectively, the catechist/teacher must be committed to give time and talent not only to catechizing others, but also to growing personally in faith and understanding. For this reason, an extensive Archdiocesan **Catechist Formation Program** in all counties of the Archdiocese is offered both online and on site to ensure ongoing theological, spiritual and pedagogical formation of all catechists/teachers.

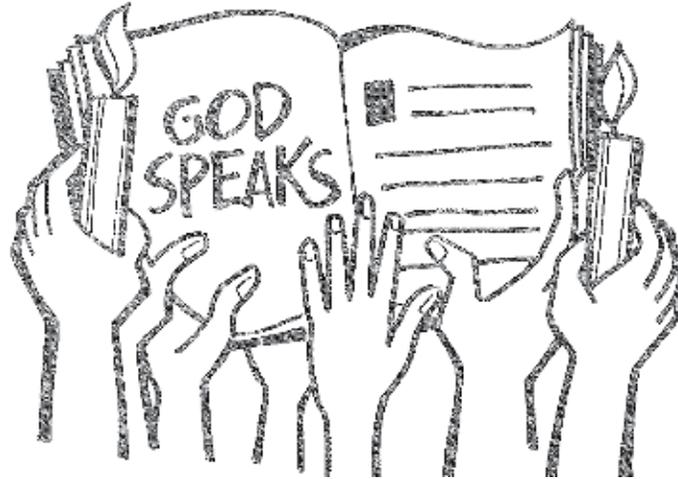
Through this endeavor, it is hoped that the whole Church of New York will continue to grow in the faith that marks God's people.



Sr. Joan Curtin, C.N.D.
Director, Catechetical Office



Dr. Timothy J. McNiff, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools



THEME:

*God's saving actions are found throughout history.
The Bible, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit,
records God's plan of salvation.*

OBJECTIVE:

To understand the Old Testament as the revelation of God in the history of a people, a revelation fulfilled in the New Testament.

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>Sacred Scripture, also called the Bible, is the written Revelation of God. It is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">81, 105-08, 120</p>			
<p>Sacred Scripture is an important guide for living as Christians. It should be a regular source for study and prayer in order to grow in the understanding of ourselves and of God's loving will for us.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">94-95, 111-14, 131-33</p> <p>The Word of God in Sacred Scripture is proclaimed at Mass for our spiritual nourishment. This is called the Liturgy of the Word.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1100-02, 1349</p>	<p>The Church encourages our prayerful study of Sacred Scripture so that we can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - learn about God, - develop a loving relationship with God, - hear God's message of love and forgiveness, - live the way God desires us to live. <p style="text-align: right;">131-33</p>	<p>Scripture: The Word of God</p> <p>2 Timothy 3:15-17 1 John 1:1-4</p>	<p>During each lesson have the Sacred Scriptures in a place of honor. Teach the children to use them reverently.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">103-04, 132, 141</p> <p>Provide opportunities for prayer based on Sacred Scripture.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1101, 2653-54</p> <p>Prepare the children to be lectors at children's liturgies and class prayer services.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1100, 1143-44</p>
<p>Sacred Scripture is the inspired Word of God. Inspiration means that the authors were guided by God in their writing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">105-06</p> <p>These authors used many different literary forms to convey God's message. Some of these are historical accounts, parables, poetry, letters, allegories and proverbs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">109-10</p> <p>One way that the Catholic Christian community gains deeper understanding of revelation is through documents of the Councils, encyclicals of the Popes and pastoral letters of the bishops.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">85-86, 66</p>		<p>Scripture: The Word of God</p> <p>John 16:25 2 Timothy 3:16-17 2 Peter 1:19-21</p>	

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>The Old Testament begins with the Book of Genesis. Some important stories in this book are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the story of creation, which emphasizes that from nothing God made all things good, to reveal God's goodness and to form a single web of life. The story of creation also shows that man and woman were formed in God's image and likeness. 54, 289, 296, 299, 340, 344, 355 - the story of the fall of Adam and Eve, which conveys the truth of our sinfulness and recounts God's promise of redemption. 55, 70, 408, 410 - the story of Noah and the flood, which illustrates the destructiveness of sin and God's determination to save us. 56, 71 	<p>We appreciate and respect all of God's visible creation. We recognize the goodness of every living creature, and we respect the integrity of the whole of creation. We treat each human life as sacred because human beings are created to share by knowledge and love in God's own life. 294, 299, 339, 356, 2258, 2415</p> <p>We are to use our gift of free will to make choices which are good. Jesus offers us his Spirit who assists us in making these choices. 908, 1730-34, 1741-42, 2008</p> <p>We experience the destructiveness of sin in our own lives and in the world through the many manifestations of violence, injustice and evil which deprive people of their rights and dignity, and bring about ecological disasters. 1849-51, 1865, 1868-69</p>	<p>Creation Genesis 2:4-7</p> <p>Adam and Eve Genesis 2:15-24 3:1-24</p> <p>Cain and Abel Genesis 4:1-16</p> <p>Noah Genesis 7,8</p>	<p>Dramatize some significant events of Genesis.</p>
<p>The Old Testament is the account of God's saving actions in the history of the Jewish people whom God chose as his own. 218</p>	<p>The Christian people regard the Jewish people of the Old Testament as our ancestors in faith. We also have a unique relationship with the Jewish people of today because of our common spiritual heritage. 60-61,123, 145-46, 839</p>	<p>Genealogy of Jesus Matthew 1:1-17</p> <p>Affirmation of Jesus as Ruler of Israel Matthew 2:5-6</p> <p>Savior foretold Luke 1:68-79</p>	<p>Pray with the children the Canticle of Zechariah, which the Church prays every day at Morning Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours. Explain that this prayer shows how the Christian Church reverently recalls each morning the promises that were made by God to the Chosen People and fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. 523, 1174</p>

Core Content	Basic Teaching Christian Living	Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
<p>Some major figures in the development of God's relationship with the Chosen People are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abraham 59 - Isaac 2571-72 - Jacob 2573 - Joseph 312 - Moses 62, 2575 - David 2579 	<p>Like men and women in the Old Testament, we are called to live by faith and trust in God. God's faithfulness to us is the model of our faithfulness to him and to one another</p> <p style="text-align: right;">145-47, 162, 165, 214, 1814</p>	<p>Abraham and Sarah Genesis 17:1-19 Isaac and Rebecca Genesis 24:42-49 Jacob Genesis 28:10-15 Joseph Genesis 37:3-36 Moses and the Burning Bush Exodus 3:1-10 David 1 Samuel 17:41-51</p>	<p>Pray with the children the Cantic of Mary, the Magnificat, which the Church prays every day at Evening Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours. Explain that the Magnificat, Mary's Song, sings of the great works of God in Mary's life and recalls the eternal promises made to Abraham and his children.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">273, 722, 1174, 2619</p>
<p>God made a Covenant with the Chosen People. The covenant relationship meant that God would be with them, making them his own. The Chosen People were to respond by following the way of life to which God called them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">59-60, 1961, 2060-62</p>		<p>The Covenant Ezekiel 37:26-28</p>	
<p>The central saving event of the Old Testament is the Exodus. It was by the Exodus that God revealed to the Israelites that they were his Chosen People and he was their God.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">62, 203, 207, 2057, 2084</p>	<p>God's presence continues to save us from the sinfulness in our lives.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">430, 734-35, 1846</p>	<p>Moses and the Exodus Exodus 3:1-6</p>	<p>If possible, dramatize the ritual of the Passover seder meal. Explain that Jesus' Paschal mystery is the new Passover event.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1096, 1150, 1334, 1340, 1344</p>
<p>God spoke to the people through judges and kings, priests and prophets, sages and poets.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">62-64</p>	<p>Society needs good leaders to do the works of justice and charity. We therefore have an obligation to develop our leadership qualities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1884, 1917</p>	<p>Judge: Deborah Judges 4:4-5 King: David 2 Samuel 7:1-7</p>	

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>Prophets are people who hear God’s call in their historical situation, proclaim God’s Word with power from God, often in the face of opposition, and call people to conversion.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">61, 64, 218</p> <p>Some of the prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah the Anointed One.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">453, 711-13</p>	<p>In the situations of our societal and personal lives, we need to listen to God’s Word spoken by the prophets. This Word calls us to act with justice and charity even when it is difficult to do so.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">37-38, 65, 1102, 1808, 1810-11</p>	<p>Prophets Jeremiah 2:5-10 Hosea 4:1 Amos 1:1a</p> <p>Messiah Isaiah 11:1-2, 84</p>	<p>Highlight the Sunday scriptural readings that challenge us to proclaim God’s message.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1100-02</p>
<p>The New Testament provides an account of the saving actions of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God, made flesh. It speaks of his life, death and resurrection.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">124-25</p> <p>Jesus, (“Christ the Anointed One”) fulfills the Old Covenant by making a New Covenant with us.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">436, 1093-94</p> <p>He fulfills the Old Testament roles of priest, prophet and king.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">783, 1093-94</p>	<p>We should live with others as Jesus lived, in justice and with compassion. We reach out particularly to those in need, such as the aged, persons with disabilities, the poor, the homeless, the lonely.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">544, 1823, 1932</p>	<p>The hope fulfilled Luke 4:16-21</p> <p>The New Covenant Luke 22:14-20</p>	<p>Dramatize a story which shows Jesus’ compassion.</p> <p>Explain that in infant baptism, the children are anointed on the crown of the head as a sign that they share in Christ’s identity as priest, prophet and king.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1241</p>
<p>The Church is a sign of God’s presence in the world today through the saving actions of Jesus. These are expressed both in the sacraments and in the faith and good works of the community, the Body of Christ.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">763-64, 776</p>		<p>Pentecost Acts of the Apostles 2:1-12</p> <p>The Church Matthew 25:31-46 Ephesians 2:19-22</p>	<p>Emphasize the significance of Pentecost and prepare the children to celebrate the feast.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">726, 731-32, 830, 1076</p>

Basic Teaching		Sacred Scripture	Prayer and Worship
Core Content	Christian Living		
<p>The Church is identified by four marks: one – because the Church has one source: the Trinity, one founder and head: Christ, and one ‘soul’: the Holy Spirit, 813</p> <p>holy - because in union with Christ the Church offers its members sanctification, 823-27</p> <p>catholic – because Christ is present in the Church, and the Church is for all peoples of the world, 830-31</p> <p>apostolic – because the Church is founded on the apostles in three ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. by remaining in communion with the apostles and sharing the mission given to them by Christ, 2. by keeping and handing on the apostles’ teaching with the help of the Holy Spirit, and 3. by being taught, sanctified and guided by the successors to the apostles: the bishops, assisted by the priests, and in union with the Pope, the Vicar of Christ. 857, 863, 936 	<p>Besides the Laws of God, we obey the precepts of the Church which require us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assist at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation - confess at least once a year if we have committed serious sin, - receive Holy Communion during Eastertime, - fast and abstain on the days appointed, - contribute toward the material needs of the Church according to our abilities. 1457, 2041-43 	<p>One John 17:21</p> <p>Holy 1 Corinthians 3:16-17</p> <p>Catholic Matthew 28:19</p> <p>Apostolic Ephesians 2:20</p>	
<p>We understand ourselves to be Catholic Christians. There are a number of different rites within the Catholic Church including Roman Catholic, Byzantine, Syro-Malabar, Maronite and Coptic. 837</p>	<p>As Catholics we respect other religions and pray for the reunion of Christian Churches throughout the world (ecumenism). 847</p>	<p>Reality of Heaven John 14:2</p> <p>All God’s People John 17:21</p> <p>“Christian” Acts 11:26</p>	<p>Introduce the children to the celebration of the Church Unity Week. 820, 822</p>
<p>At the end of time, the Kingdom of God will come in all its fullness. 671, 677, 680, 1042-44, 1060, 2816</p>	<p>In a world threatened by nuclear destruction and the weakening of the moral fabric of society, faith in God’s promise of the Kingdom offers us hope and peace. 1041, 1048-50, 1950, 2314, 2317, 2817-19</p>	<p>The new heavens and the new earth Revelation 21:1-5</p>	<p>Explain the season of Advent as a time to focus on our waiting for the Kingdom of God to come in its fullness.</p> <p>Encourage the children to pray an Act of Hope frequently. 1817-19, 2090, 2657</p>

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Review the Apostles' Creed (Grade 1- Page 6)

WORDS TO BE TAUGHT

Bible 81, 120

Chosen People 62-63, 218

College of Bishops 857, 869

Community 752

Exodus 62, 1221

Incarnation 456, 461

Inspiration 105-07

Lector 1143, 1154

Manna 1334

Magnificat 2619, 2682

Messiah 453, 711-13

Paschal mystery 571, 654

Passover 1164

Prophet 64, 702, 2595

Psalm 2596-97

Revelation 50, 53

Vicar of Christ 882

Worship 1070, 2135

LITURGICAL SYMBOLS AND GESTURES TO BE TAUGHT

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. 103, 132

Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship. 1186, 1199

Foster the children's participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community.
2179, 2226

PRAYERS TO BE TAUGHT

Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

PRAYERS TO BE ENCOURAGED

Act of Hope 2657-58

REVIEW PRAYERS OF THE PREVIOUS GRADES

Sign of the Cross 1235, 2157

The Glory Be (Doxology, Grade 1 – Page 5)

Spontaneous prayer 2590, 2659-60

Stations of the Cross 1674

Morning and evening prayer 2659, 2685, 2698

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament 1380

Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

Our Father 2759

Hail Mary 2676-77

Act of Faith 2656

Sanctus (Grade 4 – Page 7) 1352

Grace at meals 2834, 2698

Act of Contrition (Grade 2 – Page 6)

Simple responses at Mass

Act of Love 2658

Gloria (Grade 5 – Page 7) 333

Acknowledgments:

References obtained through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Website (usccb.org)

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The Apostles’ Creed is taken from the Roman Missal 2010 (International Commission on English in the Liturgy)

The Glory Be is taken from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Website (usccb.org)

The Protocol for Assessing the Conformity of Catechetical Materials with the Catechism of the Catholic Church was used to guide the revision process.