

High School Faith Formation Curriculum



Diocese of Marquette

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DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

1004 Harbor Hills Drive
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855
www.dioceseofmarquette.org

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
(906) 227-9115
FAX (906) 225-0437

January 25, 2013

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Laudetur Jesus Christus!

It is with profound joy that on this the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, the Apostle, I present to you the curriculum for High School faith formation to be used in parishes throughout the Diocese of Marquette.

This curriculum is the result of many hours of hard work by dedicated members of the Faith Formation Advisory Committee. I am deeply appreciative of their efforts. I am also grateful to the Legacy of Faith Endowment Foundation, whose generosity has enabled the publication and distribution of this document and supporting resources to be done with little or no financial burden to our parishes.

In the last two generations, we have seen a steady decline in knowledge of the Catholic faith. Many grew up in an era that offered very little theological content in faith formation. Those individuals are now raising a generation that is struggling to find their way in the world without an understanding of the faith. I am deeply concerned about the faith formation of our high school youth. Without a Catholic high school in the diocese, the responsibility falls to parishes to support parents in their duty to raise their children in the faith. Parishes and parents must take up this responsibility!

This curriculum will give parishes a tool to direct their efforts. Many will begin high school faith formation anew while others will continue with renewed vigor. One thing is certain; we cannot be complacent in our efforts. The secular world is working hard to pull our youth away from Christ and we must work equally hard to retain those marked with the sign of faith at Baptism. We must reach out to our young people with zeal and love.

This curriculum is mandatory for all parishes in the Diocese of Marquette for their high school faith formation programs.

I place this curriculum in the Immaculate Heart of Mary and ask for her intercession and to place our prayers at the feet of Jesus, her Divine Son.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Alexander K. Sample
Bishop of Marquette



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1004 Harbor Hills Drive
Marquette, MI 49855-8851
ph: 906-225-1141 ♦ fx: 906-225-0437
www.dioceseofmarquette.org

January 25, 2013

Dear Catechetical Leaders,

On this the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, the Apostle with joy and thanksgiving, the *Faith Formation Curriculum for High School* for the Diocese of Marquette is being published and distributed for use in our parishes and missions.

This curriculum provides clear and concrete guidelines for passing on our faith to the youth of the diocese. It is solidly in alignment with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and utilizes the the U.S. Bishops provided in their document, *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*. It is to be used by pastors, parish leaders, faith formation coordinators, youth ministers, and catechists in their work to further the Church's fundamental mission to "make disciples of all nations" (Mt. 28:19) and as the catechetical content of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This curriculum was developed through the work of several members of the Faith Formation Advisory Committee. I would like to express my gratitude to those who worked on this document. Special thanks to Rev. Corey Litzner who served as the theological consultant on this project.

This curriculum will be a vital resource in catechizing our youth so that they can learn the faith and thereby drawing them into more intimate communion with Jesus Christ and his Church.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise M. Foye".

Denise M. Foye
Director of the Office of Faith Formation

High School Faith Formation Curriculum

Diocese of Marquette

Introduction

Welcome to the High School Faith Formation Curriculum for youth in the Diocese of Marquette. The curriculum presented herein is prescribed for use in all parishes, and missions of the diocese beginning in the fall of 2013.

This High School Faith Formation Curriculum document is solidly in alignment with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and utilizes the U.S. Bishops' document, *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*.

The curriculum is organized into twenty-four Pods with each containing four sessions. The sessions were developed so that one session could be presented in an hour timeframe. The Pods are topically based. While some build upon others, most can be taught independently. This curriculum will provide the catechetical content for Confirmation. The sacramental preparation guidelines call for particular Pods to be taught at each grade level, however the format provides flexibility so that each parish and mission can adapt the program to meet their particular community's needs.

Catechesis should be holistic and should compel us to "know, love and serve the Lord." This document endeavors to balance what Catholic youth should know, what they should be able to do, and how they should be living, all of which will allow them to become true disciples of Jesus Christ. The content of the sessions helps them know the Lord; the Defending the Faith sections will assist youth to address the real questions in their life and faith so they can grow in love of the Lord; the Faith in Action portion will give them the opportunity to discover ways to serve the Lord.

The Aim of Faith Formation (Catechesis)

Faith formation is both evangelical and relational. Our faith formation programs and youth ministry activities are called to go beyond instilling mere academic knowledge. They must also provide ongoing opportunities for young people to develop a lifelong personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Catechesis must form youth to be active participants in their faith community and in its celebration of the Liturgy, of the Sacraments, and of Catholic traditions.

This is our mission as catechists. Beginning in early childhood, children should receive the kind of faith formation that equips them with the tools and the hunger to continue to seek deeper faith formation throughout their lives. As truly well-formed Catholics, they are then sent to fulfill the call and promise of their baptism, armed with a spirituality of openness and receptivity to growth and to further faith development.

To foster an environment in which persons can be formed in faith, *religious educators must be open to their own growth and development*. Participation in the sacramental life of the Church (i.e., regular participation in Mass and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation), active study of the Word, ongoing exploration of Church doctrine and tradition, and a full prayer life are indispensable. It has been said that while youth may not remember every detail of what we teach, they will certainly remember who we are as persons of faith and as disciples of Jesus Christ. For this reason, the Diocese of Marquette requires all catechists to fully participate in the diocesan program for formation of catechists and to be exemplary Catholics in their parish and personal lives.

“People listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and when people do listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” (Pope Paul VI)

Parents, of course are the primary educators of their children. They spend much more time with their teens than do catechists. They create the home environment in which the youth develops, and they are daily examples for them of how to live a Christian life. When a child is baptized, parents accept the responsibility to assist the child to know, love, and serve God and to prepare them to celebrate the Sacraments. To fulfill these responsibilities, parents too must grow and develop in their own faith by studying God’s Word, participating in the sacraments (Eucharist and Reconciliation), and prayer. Routinely discussing faith with their teen, with other parents, exploring the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and asking questions of their pastor are all means of helping their faith grow.

How the Curriculum is to Be Used

This curriculum is not a textbook or a lesson plan. It is a compilation of what teens need to know. Faith formation coordinators and youth ministers *are* strongly encouraged to use creative methodologies in formulating and delivering their own lesson plans for teaching the prescribed curriculum.

Regular, on-going sessions are required. The curriculum is designed to present six Pods per year. There is flexibility in how the sessions can be presented. A parish could hold twenty-four one hour sessions or twelve two hour gatherings. Youth Ministry will be a critical vehicle offering experiential methods for youth to apply what they learn.

Intergenerational events are encouraged but only as a supplemental activity. Your sessions should be interactive and engaging; feeling more like a workshop than a classroom, more like a discussion group than a lecture.

The diocesan Offices of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry will serve as a resource for parishes and missions in the implementation of this curriculum in an effective and creative manner.

All catechists and teens must understand that faith is a matter of heart *and* head—both are essential.

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Abbreviations

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| DV | <i>Dei Verbum</i> |
| Compendium | <i>Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> |
| PPL | <i>Popular Piety in the Liturgy</i> |
| CCC | <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> |
| SC | <i>Sacrosanctum Concilium</i> |
| YC | <i>You Cat</i> |
| NMI | <i>Novo Millennio Ineunte</i> |
| LG | <i>Lumen Gentium</i> |
| RCIA | <i>Rite of Christian Initiation</i> |
| VS | <i>Veritatis Splendor</i> |
| PP | <i>Principals, Prophecy, and a Pastoral Response</i> |
| LE | <i>Laborem Excense</i> |
| CST | <i>A Century of Social Teaching, US Catholic Bishops, 1990</i> |
| NA | <i>Nostra Aetate</i> |
| UR | <i>Unitatis Redintegratio</i> |
| USCCA | <i>United States Catholic Catechism for Adults</i> |
| DPM | <i>Divinus Perfectionis Magister</i> |
| PO | <i>Presbyterorum Ordinis</i> |
| DF | <i>Dei Filius</i> |
| CA | <i>Centesimus Annus</i> |
| PF | <i>Porta Fidei</i> |
| PP | <i>Principles, Prophecy, and a Pastoral Response Rev. Ed., USCCB, 2001</i> |
| SCST | <i>Sharing Catholic Social Teaching (www.usccb.org)</i> |
| RM | <i>The Third English Translation of the Roman Missal</i> |
| OE | <i>Orientium Ecclesiarum</i> |
| MWCT | <i>Man and Woman He Created Them: Theology of the Body</i> |