

Catechism Update

Spring 2005

National Directory for Catechesis and the Catechism of the Catholic Church

The *National Directory for Catechesis*, which is expected to be available by May 1, 2005 reiterates the important role which the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* serves in catechetical efforts in the United States. The unbreakable bond between the principles of catechesis and the content of catechesis is evident in the manner in which the *Catechism* is referenced throughout the *Directory*. The chapter in the *Directory* which treats of the content of catechesis from a general point of view reminds us that the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is one of the “normative instruments” for catechesis. As the directory states, the *Catechism* is a “beautiful collection of the truths of the Catholic faith” which serves not only as a reference tool for the development of catechetical material but also as an instrument of catechesis itself. The *Catechism* is also firmly grounded in Scripture, one of the other normative instruments for teaching the faith, and contains citations from the Church’s treasury of the writings from some of the saints, doctors and Church Fathers.

Another chapter in the *Directory* deals with resources used for catechesis. In this chapter, the criteria for catechetical textbooks include the stipulation that the content should be in conformity to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism is an example of what makes this *Directory* uniquely applicable to and reflective of the Catholic Church in the United States, since ours is the only country to have developed a formal process for reviewing catechetical texts and materials which is based upon the *Catechism*.

Both the *National Directory for Catechesis*, which gives guidelines and principles for catechesis of everyone in many and varied circumstances and settings, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which gives us a clear and solid reference tool for the content of catechesis, will be indispensable guides for the foreseeable future.

Most Rev. Alfred Hughes
Chairman

Most Rev. Leonard Blair
Most Rev. Daniel DiNardo
Most Rev. George Lucas
Most Rev. Arthur Serratelli
Most Rev. Allen Vigneron

Consultants:

Most Rev. Daniel Buechlein, OSB
Rev. John Pollard



New Member Appointed to the Catechism Committee

In late December, Bishop William Skylstad, the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, filled the vacancy on the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism created by the resignation of Bishop Donald Wuerl by appointing Bishop Allen Vigneron to the Committee. Bishop Vigneron, the Bishop of Oakland, is already quite familiar with the work of the Committee having regularly served as the bishop chair of conformity review teams. His experience as well as his expertise will be a valuable asset to the work of the Catechism Committee.

FAQ's: Teacher Manuals and the Conformity Review Process

Catechetical publishers frequently ask questions about submitting teacher or catechist manuals. Do they have to be submitted? Can a publisher submit a program or series made up of only teacher or catechist manuals? When should they be submitted? Are they to be submitted along with the student texts or after the student text has been granted conformity? Are they submitted for a full conformity review? Does a self-completed *Protocol* need to be submitted with teacher or catechist manuals?

The Catechism Committee does not require or demand that teacher or catechist manuals be submitted. Manuals are accepted for a conformity review but only when student materials have also been submitted to the Committee. The concern of the members of the Committee is first and foremost the texts or materials which the student has in hand. However, catechetical publishers need to remember that some dioceses require that both the student materials and the teacher or catechist manuals carry a declaration of conformity.

If publishers decide to submit teacher or catechist manuals, the timing of the submission is their decision. Some publishers decide to wait until the student texts are finalized to complete the production of catechist or teacher manuals, so the manuals are not submitted until after the conformity review process on the student texts is complete. Others decide to submit the teacher or catechist manuals at the same time as the student materials understanding that if changes have to be made to the student materials, changes will also have to be made in the manuals.

Teacher or catechist manuals are reviewed by a full team. For this reason it is sometimes easier for reviewers when the teacher and catechist manuals are submitted separately from student texts, especially in the case when a series has been submitted. Doubling the number of books to be reviewed can lengthen the review process. For teacher or catechist manuals, a publisher-completed *Protocol* does not need to be submitted. Teacher and catechist manuals are always reviewed for authenticity of the presentation of doctrine but not necessarily for completeness, since the completeness is already established in the successful conformity review of the student texts.

Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series

As of March 1, 2005 the following texts and series have been found to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Titles are listed according to copyright date, the latest coming first.

Key to the Conformity Listing

S=School Student Text P=Parish Student Text TM= Teacher Manual CM= Catechist Manual
S/P= single edition applicable to both school and parish S&P= two separate editions, both found to be in conformity

Titles New to the Listing

Title	Publisher	Specifics
The Church: Our Story	Ave Maria Press	S ©2006
Confirmed in a Faithful Community: Candidate's Handbook	Saint Mary's Press	S/P ©2006
Creemos/We Believe (K-6)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	CM ©2004
Our Catholic Faith: Living What We Believe	Ave Maria Press	S ©2005
Un Llamado a la Fe (Level A-D)	Harcourt Religion Publishers	P&CM ©2005
Understanding the Scriptures	Midwest Theological Forum	S ©2005

Elementary Series: School and Parish

Title	Publisher	Specifics
The Apostolate's Family Catechism	Apostolate for Family Consecration	S ©2003
Blest Are We (1-6)	Silver Burdett Ginn	S&TM ©2004, P&CM ©2002
Blest Are We Junior High (7-8)	Silver Burdett Ginn	S&TM ©2005, P&CM ©2003
Call to Faith (K-6)	Harcourt Religion Publishers	S&TM, P&CM ©2005
Christ Jesus, the Way (K-6)	Benziger	S&TM, P&CM ©2003
Christ Jesus, the Way (7-8)	Benziger	S&P ©2004
Christ Our Life (K-8)	Loyola Press	S/P&TM ©1997&2002, CM ©1999
Come Follow Me (K-8)	Benziger	S/P, TM&CM ©1998
Coming to Faith (K-6)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S&TM ©1998, P&CM ©1999
Coming to Faith/Keystone Edition (K-6)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S&TM ©1998, P&CM ©1999
Consecration in Truth	Apostolate for Family Consecration	S&TM ©2001
Faith and Life (1-8)	Ignatius Press	S&TM ©2003, 2002
Faith and Life (1-8)	Ignatius Press	S&TM ©1984-1987
Faith and Witness Program (7-8)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S&TM, P&CM ©1998-1999
Faith First (K-6)	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	S&TM, P&CM ©2001, 2000
Faith First Junior High (7-8)	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	S&TM, P&CM ©2001
Faith First/Legacy Edition (K-8)	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	P&CM ©2006
Faith of the Mountain (1-8)	St. Maron's Publications	S&TM ©2000
Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts (1-6)	Loyola Press	S&TM, P&CM ©2005
Friends of Jesus (7-9)	Legionaries of Christ	S ©2003
Image of God (K-8)	Ignatius Press	S&TM ©1986-1993
Knowing Our Catholic Faith: Beliefs and Traditions (1-8)	Loyola Press	S ©2000
One Faith, One Lord (7-8)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S&TM ©2003
Our Catholic Identity (1-8)	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	S ©1998
Share the Joy (K-6)	Benziger	S&TM ©1997
This is Our Faith (K-8)	Silver Burdett Ginn	S&TM ©1998
The Treasure of My Catholic Faith (1-6)	Circle Press	S ©2003
Walking by Faith (K-6)	Harcourt Religion Publishers	S/P, TM&CM ©1999
We Believe (K-6)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S&TM, P&CM ©2004

High School Texts

Title	Publisher	Specifics
The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth	Saint Mary's Press	S/P ©2004
Catholic Social Teaching: Learning and Living Justice	Ave Maria Press	S ©2001
The Church: Our Story	Ave Maria Press	S ©1999
Encountering Jesus in the New Testament	Ave Maria Press	S ©2003
Introduction to Catholicism	Midwest Theological Forum	S&TM ©2003
Journey Through the Old Testament	Harcourt Religion Publishers	S ©2002
The Light of Faith	Harcourt Religion Publishers	S ©2005
Living Justice and Peace	Saint Mary's Press	S ©2002
Morality: Our Response to God's Love	Harcourt Religion Publishers	S ©2005
The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith and Justice	Ave Maria Press	S ©2005
Our Moral Life in Christ	Midwest Theological Forum	S&TM ©2003
Our Sacramental Life: Living and Worshiping in Christ	Ave Maria Press	S ©2003
Written on Our Hearts (Old Testament)	Saint Mary's Press	S ©2002
Your Life in Christ: Foundations of Catholic Morality	Ave Maria Press	S ©2001

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High School Series

Title	Publisher	Specifics
The Apostolate's Family Catechism	Apostolate for Family Consecration	S ©2003
Catholicism Series	C.R. Publications	S/P&TM ©1996-1997
Consecration in Truth	Apostolate for Family Consecration	S&TM ©2001
Dominican Series	Priory Press	S&TM ©2000
Friends of Jesus/Witnesses of Christ	Legionaries of Christ	S ©2003
Understanding the Catechism	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	S/P ©1999

Sacramental Preparation

Title	Publisher	Specifics
Be Sealed	Pauline Books and Media	S/P&TM ©1998
Celebrating Our Faith: Confirmation	Harcourt Religion Publishers	S/P&TM ©2000
Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation and Eucharist	Harcourt Religion Publishers	S/P&TM ©2000
Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation and Eucharist (S II)	Harcourt Religion Publishers	S/P&TM ©2002
Christ Our Life: Confirmed in the Spirit	Loyola Press	S/P&TM ©1997
Eucharist	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	S/P&TM ©2003
First Reconciliation	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S/P&TM ©2000
First Eucharist	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S/P&TM ©2000
The Gift of Eucharist	Silver Burdett Ginn	S/P&TM ©2000
The Gift of Reconciliation	Silver Burdett Ginn	S/P&TM ©2000
Image of God (Mass Books and Confirmation)	Ignatius Press	S/P&TM ©1986-1993
Jesus Brings Us Life	Pauline Books and Media	S/P&TM ©1996
Reconciliation	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	S/P&TM ©2003
Send Out Your Spirit	Ave Maria Press	S/P&TM ©2003
The Spirit Sets Us Free: Confirmation Prep for Youth	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S/P&TM ©2000
Together in Jesus - Eucharist	Pflaum Publishing Group	S&TM ©2004
Together in Jesus - Reconciliation	Pflaum Publishing Group	S&TM ©2004

Materials in Other Languages

Title	Publisher	Specifics
Acercandote a La Fe (K-6)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S&TM ©1999
Celebrar nuestro fe: Reconciliación y Eucaristía	Harcourt Religion Publishers	S/P ©2000
Celebrar nuestro fe: Reconciliación y Eucaristía (Nivel II)	Harcourt Religion Publishers	S/P ©2002
Creemos/We Believe (K-6)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	P ©2005
Christo Jesús, el Camino (K-6)	Benziger	S&TM ©2003
Eucaristía	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	S/P&TM ©2003
Nuestra Identidad Católica (1-8)	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	S ©1998
Primera Reconciliación	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S/P&TM ©2000
Primera Comunión	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S/P&TM ©2000
Reconciliación	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	S/P&TM ©2003
The Spirit Sets Us Free: Confirmation Prep for Youth	Vietnamese Catechetical Committee	S/P ©2001
Una sola fe un solo Señor (7-8)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S&TM ©2003
Unidos en Jesús Primera Eucaristía	Pflaum Publishing Group	S/P&TM ©2004
Unidos en Jesús Primera Reconciliación	Pflaum Publishing Group	S/P&TM ©2004

Supplemental Material: Elementary Ages

Title	Publisher	Specifics
Benziger Family Life (K-8)	Benziger	S ©2001 (3rd printing)
Catholic Vision of Love (5-8)	Our Sunday Visitor	S&TM ©1996 (revised edition)
Growing in Love (K-8)	Harcourt Religion Publishers	S ©2001
Light of the World (1-6)	Brightstar Publishing	S&TM ©1996, 1997
New Corinthians Curriculum (K-8)	Foundation for the Family	TM and Parent Guide ©1996
Project Genesis (K-8)	Leaflet Missal Company	S&TM ©1996

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