Catechetical Guidelines: Faith Formation across the Life Cycle
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia

Catechetical Guidelines at a Glance
List of Documents Cited

Introduction

Design of the Guidelines, the Six Tasks of Catechesis
Catechesis within the Church's Mission of Evangelization
The Vision of the Diocese
Developing a Catechetical Plan

Catechesis

Section One: Overview
Section Two: Models
Section Three: Methodology
Section Four: Content
Section Five: Sacraments

The Six Tasks of Catechesis across the Life Cycle

To promote Knowledge of the Faith
To promote participation in Liturgical Worship and Sacramental Life
To integrate Moral Formation into a Christian way of life
To teach how to Pray
To initiate into Life of the local Community
To promote a Missionary Spirit

Catechesis and Culture

West Virginia: Multicultural Communities
Catechesis in Rural and Small Parishes
Oral Storytelling
The American Family Today

Appendix

Safe Environment Requirements of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Areas of Special Concern for Catechetical and Youth Ministry Leaders
Guidelines for Youth Ministry: Pastoral Response, Ethical and Legal Issues

Liturgical Guidelines of the Diocese
Ministry of Praise: Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Parish Guide

Welcome and Justice: Persons with Disabilities
Forty Developmental Assets
Catechetical Formation Opportunities
Resources

Catechetical Guidelines at a Glance

On a practical level, how does a parish begin to move towards the vision of lifelong faith formation within its existing programs of religious education? It is important to identify and put into action:

- ways to change the perception that catechesis is a program only for children to one of a process of lifelong faith formation;
- methods to move from the "school house model" in which catechesis is presented only as information to be learned in classroom settings;
- approaches to enhance the faith formation of adults of the parish in all gatherings and settings;
- the importance of the family and the parish community as valued and assisted role models and mentors for the passing on of the faith;
- the role of catechesis for all ages as a moment of evangelization;
- the selection and presentation of catechetical materials so that faith can be incorporated according to age and ability; and
- sensitivity to the cultures in which we live and receive faith.

But What do We Teach/Learn?

All catechesis should lead us towards the Sunday celebration of Liturgy within our community of faith. This celebration should open our hearts to a deeper understanding of the teachings of the Church and reveal the person and message of Christ. The facts of the faith are contained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

These Guidelines are not meant to be used as a textbook, but to emphasize the priority of faith formation for adults and to encourage the model of the six tasks of catechesis for learners across the life cycle. These Guidelines reflect the directions in catechesis put forth by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in their recent and current documents:

- *General Directory for Catechesis*
- *Our Hearts were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*
- *National Directory for Catechesis*
- *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*

A new resource for adult faith formation is found in the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, issued in 2006. Resources for children and teens are found in the list of textbooks approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Committee for Conformity to the Catechism. Within this list, there are series that are designed with a spiral scope and sequence. This design recognizes that the content of the church teachings are not mastered in a single year, but are taught and grasped each year at a deeper level and with an increased faith commitment. Lifelong catechesis honors our need for ongoing growth in faith.

Frequently Cited Documents

ACCC *Adult Catechesis in the Christian Community*

AG *Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity (Ad Gentes Divinitus)*

BA *The Blessings of Age*

CCC *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

CGGFT *A Catechetical Guide to "Gather Faithfully Together"*

CIGI *Christian Initiation, General Introduction*

CJC *Canon Law of the Catholic Church*

CL *Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and World (Christifideles Laici)*

CSL *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium*

CT *On Catechesis in Our Time (Catechesi Tradendae)*

EN *On Evangelization in the Modern World (Evangelii Nuntiandi)*

FAA *From Age to Age: The Challenge of Worship with Adolescents*

FC *Families at the Center*

FTWL *Follow the Way of Love: A Pastoral Message to Families*

GDC *General Directory for Catechesis*

GNLC *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*

LTM *Living the Mass: How One Hour a Week Can Change Your Life*

NDC *National Directory for Catechesis*

NSC *National Statutes for the Catechumenate*

OHWB *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in United States*

RBC *Rite of Baptism for Children*

RC *Rite of Confirmation*

RCIA *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*

RM *On the Permanent Validity of the Church's Missionary Mandate (Redemptoris Missio)*

RTV Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry

SC *Sacrosanctum Concilium*

SCST *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*

SDL *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry With Young Adults*

USCCA *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*