



DIocese OF AUSTIN

Policy on Home Schooling

In order to serve the needs of the people of God in the Diocese of Austin and to be responsible stewards of the gifts given to the diocese, the Diocese of Austin issues the following policy:

- I. Parents are the primary educators of their children in the Catholic faith.
 - A. They have the responsibility of awakening a sense of God, beginning the formation of a sense of conscience and celebrating the loving presence of God in their families.
 - B. They also have the responsibility of participating with their children in their local parish community, "the pre-eminent place for catechesis" (*Catechesi Tradendae* 67).

- II. Children who are home schooled by their parents in academic subjects should participate in their local parish catechetical programs for preparation of and reception of the sacraments and to participate fully in the life of their parish. "The parish is the most important locus in which the Christian community is formed and expressed" (GDC 257).
 - A. At times, parents who home school their children in the faith may request an exception in particular cases.
 1. They should notify the pastor or his designate of their intention to home school the child in religious education and/or sacramental preparation.
 2. The pastor or his designate needs to assess the child's understanding, disposition, and readiness before a sacrament is conferred.
 3. The pastor or his designate should talk with the parents about the value of formal teaching of the faith in a parish setting and the importance of the participation of their children in the life of the parish.
 4. They must use catechetical materials approved by the diocese.
 - B. If the parents wish to supplement the catechetical program with additional resources, the material should be on the list approved by the USCCB.
 1. This list is available from the parish or the diocesan Office of Religious Education and Formation.
 2. The Office of Religious Education and Formation can assist parents who are home schooling their children with questions regarding sacramental preparation.