I. Catechesis Promotes Knowledge of the Faith

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 26-1065; General Directory for Catechesis, 84-85, 87)

A. The Person of Jesus Christ

Jesus loves and invites every person to be in relationship with him

I. A. 1. Define the term “Incarnation” and know that it is a distinctive sign of the Christian faith (CCC 461-463; CFCL I.A.7)

I. A. 2. Know that Jesus is the full revelation of God to humanity (CCC 50, 73, 221)


B. Understand Scripture

Sacred Scripture is the living Word of God, a history of the covenant, and a guide for life today

I. B. 1. Recognize that Sacred Scripture is inspired by God, but written down by human authors (CCC 105-106)

I. B. 2. Know how to find books, chapters, and verses in Sacred Scripture

I. B. 3. Describe how God’s revelation comes through people and events in Sacred Scripture (CCC 69-73)

I. B. 4. Identify the lands of the New Testament on a map

Ch. 1

About the Trinity

Ch. 1; OCH

Ch. 1, 6, 10, 17

Ch. 9; OCH: About Revelation;
The Bible

The Bible

The Bible; Ch. 9

The Bible
C. Creeds and Doctrines of the Church

The Creed expresses the faith of our Church and professes it to the world

I. C. 1. Know that the three persons of the Trinity show us how to love one another unconditionally (CCC 255; CFCL I.A.3)

I. C. 2. Explain the meaning and purpose of a creed (CCC 187)

I. C. 3. Identify the Nicene and Apostles’ Creeds (CCC 194-195)

I. C. 4. Define “Purgatory” (CCC 1030-1032)

I. C. 5. Define particular and final judgment (CCC 1021, 1051, 1060; CFCL I.A.17)

D. Discover the Church’s Tradition and Relevance of Church History

Our Church has a rich heritage which still serves as a guide for us today

I. D. 1. Describe how the Church grew through Paul’s missionary journeys (Acts 13-14, 16-28)

E. Christian Thought and Culture

Our Church’s tradition is based in an appreciation for the gifts of many persons – theologians, saints, artists, teachers and preachers – living as faithful disciples of Jesus

I. E. 1. Identify the process of canonization of saints (CCC 828)

I. E. 2. Explain why we pray to saints for their intercession and look to them as examples of holiness. (CCC 956-957, 2030, 2683; CFCL I.A.31)
II. Catechesis Promotes Knowledge of the Meaning of the Liturgy and Sacraments

(CCC 1066-1690; GDC 84-85, 87)

A. Paschal Mystery Forms and Transforms

The liturgical and sacramental life of the Church informs, forms, and transforms us as disciples of Jesus in the world

II. A. 1. Identify the Easter Triduum as the central celebration of the Paschal Mystery (CCC 1168-1169)

II. A. 2. Understand that through the Paschal Mystery we are redeemed from sin and death (CCC 601-603; Jn 3:16; CFCL I.A.8)

II. A. 3. Recognize that by participation in the Paschal Mystery suffering becomes redemptive (CCC 618; 1Pt 2:21)

B. Sacraments

Sacraments are special celebrations of God’s love for us

II. B. 1. Understand that sacraments are celebrated by and for the community, not just the individual (CCC 1140)

II. B. 2. Define “transubstantiation” (CCC 1376)

II. B. 3. Identify the signs, symbols, rites, and ordinary ministers for each of the seven sacraments

C. Liturgical Catechesis

We are invited into full, active, and conscious participation in the liturgical life of the Church

II. C. 1. Identify the liturgical books used at Mass
II. C. 2. Know that the scriptural readings in the Lectionary follow a three-year cycle for Sunday Masses and a two-year-cycle for daily Masses

II. C. 3. Identify the differences among a solemnity, a feast, and a memorial (CCC 1194-1195)

D. Dimensions of Priesthood: Baptismal and Ordained

Like Jesus, we are called to be priest, prophet, and king

II. D. 1. Know that like Christ, all the baptized are anointed as priest, prophet, and king (CCC 783-786, 1241, 1268)

III. Catechesis Promotes Moral Formation in Jesus Christ

(CCC 1691-2557; GDC 84-85, 87)

A. Commandment to Love

The ‘New Commandment’ of Jesus, to love one another as he, God, has loved us is one of the defining characteristics of the Christian faith

III. A. 1. Know the virtue of charity is Christ’s New Commandment (CCC 1823)

III. A. 2. Know that to love is to will the good of another (CCC 1766; CFCL I.A.1)

III. A. 3. Know that authentic love requires that we treat ourselves and each other with respect and justice (CCC 1825; CFCL I.A.23)
B. Ten Commandments and Beatitudes

The Scriptures, especially in the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount, give us moral guidance.

III. B. 1. Identify the Beatitudes (CCC 1716; Mt 5: 1-11; Lk 6:20-26; CFCL I.A.19)

III. B. 2. Know that the Beatitudes help one live a moral life (CCC 1717; CFCL I.A.19)

III. B. 3. Know that the first three commandments refer to our relationship with God and the last seven refer to our relationship with others (CCC 2067)

C. Sin and Grace

God’s love can overcome the evil of sin in our world.

III. C. 1. Know that original sin is passed on to all generations of human beings (CCC 404; CFCL I.A.4)

III. C. 2. Know that original sin weakens one’s ability to do good, and results in human suffering and ultimately in physical death (CCC 400)

III. C. 3. Know that the sanctifying grace given at baptism frees one from original sin and gifts one with the possibility of living with God forever in heaven (CCC 1263, 1999)

III. C. 4. Know that actual grace refers to God’s intervention at various times in one’s life (CCC 2000)

III. C. 5. Identify “sacramental grace” (CCC 2003)

III. C. 6. Identify some specific graces given at each sacrament (CCC 1131,1279,1316-1317, 1416, 1496, 1532, 1581, 1661)
D. Conscience Formation

The Gospel calls us to ongoing conversion, transforming our ways of thinking and living

III. D. 1. Define “free will” (CCC 1730; CFCL I.A.2)

III. D. 2. Know that the conscience is our ability to use our reason/intellect to make good choices (CFCL I.A.2)

III. D. 3. Understand that temptation is an attraction toward sin we must choose to reject.

III. D. 4. Know that a “well-formed conscience” is based on reason (man's ability to know) and is informed by faith (CCC 1783-1785; CFCL I.A.2)

E. Objective Moral Norms

The Scriptures and Tradition of the Church teach us about right and wrong

III. E. 1. Know that the teachings of the Catholic Church are transmitted through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition (CCC 80)

III. E. 2. Identify the elements of Sacred Tradition (CCC 80-83)

III. E. 3. Know that the teachings of the Church explain objective truths about God, the individual's relationship with God, and with one other

F. Gospel of Life

All life is a gift from God and is to be held sacred

III. F. 1. Know that through the Incarnation all humanity shares in the life and dignity of God (CCC 521)

III. F. 2. Know that God made man and woman equal, but different and complimentary (CCC 2333-2335)
III. F. 3. Know that we relate to the world through our human sexuality (maleness/femaleness) because we are both body and soul (CCC 364-365, 2332; CFCL I.A.2)

III. F. 4. Know that the dignity of the person can be destroyed through prejudice, gossip, lying, slander, stealing, cheating, bullying, etc.

G. Living a Moral Life

As disciples of Jesus, we desire to follow him in his attitudes and actions

III. G. 1. Recall that the Theological virtues aid each person to grow in generous self-giving love (CCC 1812-1844; CFCL I.A.15)

III. G. 2. Recall that the Cardinal virtues guide our reason and order our passions/emotions (CCC 1805-1809; CFCL I.A.14)

III. G. 3. Understand chastity as a virtue related to temperance that allows us to do what is right, good, and loving with our bodies and our sexuality (maleness/femaleness) (CCC 2337-235; CFCL I.A.20 & 23)

III. G. 4. Name the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy (CCC 2447)

III. G. 5. Recall that we need God’s help to live the virtues (CFCL I.A.28)
IV. Catechesis Teaches the Christian How to Pray
(CCC 2558-2865; GDC 84-85, 87)

A. Christian Prayer Tradition

Prayer in all its many forms is a language of love, faith, and hope

IV. A. 1. Name the five forms of prayer (CCC 2626-2649)

B. Personal Prayer

The mystery of God’s action in our lives draws us into a deeper relationship and a deeper desire to respond in prayer

IV. B. 1. Know that prayer and the Christian life are inseparable (CCC 2744-2745)

IV. B. 2. Explain how personal prayer and virtuous actions help us grow in our ability to love and serve others (CCC 2744-45; CFCL I.A.24, 28)

IV. B. 3. Know that one will have personal preferences in prayer forms

C. Communal Prayer

We share prayer with others, and worship together as the People of God

IV. C. 1. Know that liturgical prayer is the public prayer of the Church (CCC 1066-1073)

IV. C. 2. Name the three forms of liturgical prayer: the Eucharistic Liturgy, the celebration of the seven sacraments, and the Liturgy of Hours (CCC 1070, 1076, 1175)
D. Popular Piety and Devotions

Our families and friends share with us ways to grow closer to God

IV. D. 1. Identify some types of devotional prayer, e.g., litany, novena, rosary, Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic adoration, etc. (CCC 1674)

V. Catechesis Prepares the Christian to live in Community and to Participate in the Life and Mission of the Church

(GDC 84, 86-87)

A. Spiritual Growth

Our community life is built on the understanding that humans grow and develop physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially as well as spiritually

V. A. 1. Know that the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Love are God’s gifts that enable one to grow in holiness (CCC 1812ff; CFCL I.A.15)

V. A. 2. Know that we grow in holiness as we develop good habits

V. A. 3. Understand the term “self-mastery/self-control” as they relate to a life of virtue and spiritual growth (CFCL I.A.22 & 24)

V. A. 4. Understand that a life of prayer is essential to spiritual growth (CCC 2744-2745)
B. Relationships and Responsibilities

In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that living together in the Kingdom of God, we must grow in understanding, compassion, concern for the least, and mutual charity.

V. B. 1. Describe the nature and responsibilities of Christian friendship (CCC 1829, 1939, 2347)

V. B. 2. Define the “common good” as understood by the Catholic Church (CCC 1905-1909)

V. B. 3. Recall that because our bodies are “temples of the Holy Spirit” and they must be treated with respect. (i.e. physical, emotional and sexual health; and personal identity) (CCC 364, 2519; CFCL I.A.24)

C. Marriage and Family Life—Domestic Church

Our family life is the church of the home, where we learn to love God and care for each other.

V. C. 1. Understand the importance of family life for the individual and for society as a whole (CCC 2207-2213; CFCL I.A.29)

V. C. 2. Know that the mutual self-gift and love of husband and wife is an image of the unconditional love between Christ and his Church (CCC 1612-1617; Eph 5:25-26; 31-33; CFCL I.A.29)

V. C. 3. Know that marriage is a sacrament between one man and one woman (CCC 1601)

V. C. 4. Know that married couples are called to live chastity as an example to the world of authentic love (CFCL I.A.30)
D. Faith Communities

 Participation in the life and mission of the Church is both personal and communal

V. D. 1. Know that married couples are called to live chastity as an example to the world of authentic love (CFCL I.A.30)

E. Nature and Mission of the Church

 The Church is the family of God, sent to bring the Good News of Jesus to all people

V. E. 1. Name the Four Marks of the Church (CCC 811ff)

V. E. 2. Identify the Church as the Body of Christ continuing Christ’s salvific action in the world (CCC 1213; Col 2:24-29)

V. E. 3. Understand that the Church’s participation in the Paschal Mystery is expressed through her liturgical life and her service in the world (CCC 1134)

F. Ecumenism

 We share in promoting the unity of all God’s people as part of our fidelity to the Gospel

V. F. 1. Know that Jesus calls all Christians to work together to build the Kingdom (CCC 820)
VI. Catechesis promotes a Missionary Spirit that prepares the faithful to transform the world
(GDC 84, 86-87)

A. Evangelization

*The Sacraments of Initiation both invite and empower us to live as disciples in the larger society and in the world*

VI. A. 1. Define “evangelization” (CCC 905)

VI. A. 2. Know that the sacramental life of the Church empowers the faithful to evangelize the world (CCC 1116, 1122, 2044)

B. Vocation/Apostolate

*Each is called to a particular task in helping to reveal the Kingdom of God in the service of God’s plan for the world*

VI. B. 1. Know that each person shares responsibility for the mission of the Church (CCC 849; Mt 28:18-20)

VI. B. 2. Explain how the various vocations function to build God’s kingdom and further the mission of the church

VI. B. 3. Know that all people are called to live the virtue of chastity (CFCL I.A.20)

C. Social Action and Transformation

*The Social Teachings of our tradition inspire us to concern and to action aimed at the well-being of all humankind*

VI. C. 1. Know that through the virtues of charity and justice Christians are called to oppose social sin and to transform the world (CCC 1928-1933, 2446; Mt 6:8)
D. Interreligious Dialogue

*We dialogue and work with people of other faiths, to build understanding and to find our common hopes and values for a better world*

**VI. D. 1.** Know that we are bound to all peoples by our belief that God is the source and end of all human life (CCC 842)

**VI. D. 2.** Know that the Church acknowledges the spiritual and moral truths of other religions as a preparation for hearing the Gospel (CCC 842; Nostra Aetate 1-2)