III. The Mission of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery)
Template based on the Six Tasks of Catechesis*

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 Recognize communion with Jesus Christ as the definitive aim of all catechesis.
   I.A.1. Identify in both Scripture and Tradition the primary reasons for the Incarnation (Jn 1:1-5, 10-15; Mt 1:18-25; Lk 2:29-32; 1 John 4:7-12; Rom 8:2-5, 35-39; Rom 14:8-9; Phil 2:5-11; 1 Cor 12:27; 1 Cor 15:20-21; Col 15-20; CCC 456-463, 519-521; CFCL I.A.6-8)
   I.A.2. Describe how Christ’s entire earthly life is a revelation of God’s love and a mystery of both redemption and a recapitulation of God’s covenantal relationship with his people (Eph 1:3-10; Eph 2:4-10; CCC 516-518)
   I.A.3. Know that through the sacrament of Baptism one enters into the Paschal mystery—the life, death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ (Gal 3:27-28; Rom 6:1-11; Col 2:12-13; CCC 537, 1214)
   I.A.4. Understand that it is one’s relationship with Jesus that enables one to witness to the love of God (Jn 15:4-5; Jn 17:18-21; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Gal 1:11-12; Eph 3:14-19; Heb 12:1-3; CCC 426-429, 858-859)

B. Understand Scripture Explore the Scriptures in order to become hearers and doers of the Word.
   I.B.1. Explain the intrinsic unity of the Old and New Testaments and the value of studying each in the light of the other (CCC 128-130)
   I.B.2. Know that the revealed truths in Genesis 1-11 are expressions of religious truth and not precise accounts of human history or scientific proofs (CCC 238-289)
   I.B.3. Provide some examples of the figurative and symbolic language used in Genesis 1-11 (Gen 2:7; Gen 3:1, 23-24; Gen 5:3-5, 32; Gen 7:6-12; Gen 11:1-9; CCC 362, 390, 396)
   I.B.4. Know that the Trinitarian God is the Creator of all, both visible and invisible, so that all creation reflects God’s glory (Wis 11:24-26; CCC 290-295, 350-354)
   I.B.5. Explain why human persons are considered the “summit” of God’s creative action (Gen 1:26-31; CCC 356-358, 369-373, 1700, 1605, 1702, 2331, 2334-2335)
   I.B.6. Know that the first human persons were created to be in harmony with all creation, in a state of original holiness and original justice (CCC 374-379; CFCL I.A.1)
   I.B.7. Understand that creation is the foundation for the unfolding of God’s saving plan, culminating in Christ; and that the mystery of Christ reveals the purpose of creation (Gen 1:1; Rom 8:19-23; CCC 279-281, 287-288, 349, 359)
   I.B.8. Understand how Adam and Eve’s sin of choosing their own desires rather than God’s has marked the whole of human history (Gen 3; Rom 5:12-13, 18-19; 2 Cor 11:3; Heb 9:27; CCC 54-55, 309-314, 324, 385-390, 396-406; CFCL I.A.4, 5)
   I.B.9. Describe God’s promise in response to Adam and Eve’s sin (Gen 3:9, 15; 1 Cor 15:21-22; Rom 5:19-21; CCC 55-56, 410-412; CFCL I.A.6)
   I.B.10 Name some of the Old Testament figures through whom God’s covenant, as a foreshadowing of the Paschal mystery, was renewed and maintained and still continues even today (Gen 9:8-17; Gen 17:1-8, 15-22; Ex 6:8; Ex 19:3-6; 2 Sam 7:8-17; CCC 71-73, 121, 128-129, 140)
I.B.11. Explain the term, “covenant” and how it is different from a contract (a covenant is a solemn, reciprocal relationship [Hebrew, berith] between two or more parties; a contract is simply a legally binding agreement, see G. O’Collins & E. Farrugia. A Concise Dictionary of Theology. Paulist Press, 2000)

I.B.12. Know that God’s promise of redemption is fulfilled in the person of Jesus, through his Paschal mystery—his life, suffering, death, Resurrection and Ascension (Gal 4:4-5; Rom 5:12-21; CCC 422-424, 452, 484; CFCL I.A.7)

I.B.13. Give examples of the gradual unfolding of God’s promise of redemption in the gospel accounts of Jesus’ earthly life (e.g., Lk 3:21-22; Lk 4:1-22; Jn 2:1-11; Mk 1:14-15; Mt 17:1-13; Mk 10:45; Mt 14:22-32; Mt 15:29-31; Lk 7:11-17; Jn 4:25-26; Jn 7:37-39; Jn 11:38-44; Jn 14:15-21; Mt 26:26-30; Jn 20:11-21; Lk 24:13-35)

I.B.14. Understand that Christ’s entire life was a mystery of redemption (1 Jn 4:9; Eph 1:7; Col 1:13-14; 1 Pet 1:18-19; CCC 516-518, 535-550, 554-561, 565-570)

I.B.15. Describe our participation in Christ’s redemptive suffering (Rom 3:23; Mt 25:42-46; 1 Cor 15:3-4; Mt 20:28; Heb 6:4-6; Acts 9:4-5; CCC 597-598, 605-607, 613-614, 619-623)

I.B.16. Explain the meaning of the kenosis, Christ’s pouring out of his life in love, as described by St. Paul in Philippians 2:5-11

I.B.17. Understand that, in the Resurrection of Jesus, redemption is accomplished and God’s promise is fulfilled (Phil 2:5-11; Lk 24:5-6, 33-49; Jn 20:11-18; Acts 10:36-43; 1 Cor 15:3-7; CCC 631, 638; CFCL I.A.8)

I.B.18. Know that the Resurrection of Christ is not simply a resuscitation, or return to earthly life, as was the raising of Lazarus or the widow’s son (1 Cor 15:35-44; 2 Cor 5:17; Lk 24:30-33; Jn 20:14-17, 27-28; Jn 21:4-7; CCC 646-650)

I.B.19. Identify some ways in which Christ’s Resurrection fulfills the past, sheds meaning on the present and gives a foretaste of the future (1 Cor 15:14; Jn 8:28; Acts 13:32-34; Mk 16:7; Lk 24:6-7, 26-28, 44-48; CCC 651-653, 655)

I.B.20. Recognize the two great accomplishments of the Paschal mystery: Christ’s death frees all peoples from sin; Christ’s Resurrection opens the way to new life (Rom 4:24-25; Rom 6:4; Eph 2:1-10; 1 Pet 1:3; CCC 654, 1019, 1708; CFCL I.A.9-9)

I.B.21. Know that the Ascension marks the entrance of Jesus’ humanity into heaven (Mt 28:16-20; Mk 16:9; Acts 1:6-12; CCC 659)

C. Creeds and Doctrines of the Church Become familiar with the great teachings of Christianity and their place in the priority of truths, e.g., the mystery of God and the Trinity, Christ, the Church, the sacraments, human life and ethical principles, eschatological realities, and other contemporary themes in religion and morality

I.C.1. Understand the Paschal mystery as one inseparable event encompassing the life, death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus

I.C.2. Explain why the Church’s teaching on the Incarnation is essential to understanding the redemption of humankind through the Paschal mystery of Christ (Heb 2:14-15; Col 1:22; 2 Cor 8:9; 1 Cor 15:3-5; CCC 457-461, 483, 512, 517-518)

I.C.3. Know that the full meaning of the doctrine of Original Sin is revealed only in light of the Paschal mystery of Jesus (CCC 385-389, 407, 415-421; CFCL I.A.5-7)

I.C.4. Understand the significance of Christ’s Resurrection as both a historical, physical event and a transcendent event beyond time and space that is at the heart of the Paschal mystery (CCC 638-640, 643-646, 656)
I.C.5. Describe the relationship between Christ’s Resurrection and the Church’s teaching on the resurrection of the dead at the end of time (1 Cor 15:12-22; CCC 654-655, 658)

I.C.6. Know that the final judgment reveals the fullness of God’s plan for eternal life for all who are joined in Christ and have “passed over” from death to life in him, through his Paschal mystery (CCC 1019-1044)

I.C.7. Recognize that in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, and especially in the Eucharist, the Paschal mystery of Christ continues to be celebrated—but not repeated (CCC 1067, 1104)

I.C.8. Explain the Church’s teaching on the Assumption of Mary in light of her relationship to her Son in his Paschal mystery (Jn 19:26-27; CCC 964-966, 974)

D. Discover the Church’s tradition and relevance of church history

Learn the richness of the Church’s tradition, explore the theological and cultural heritage in which faith is expressed, and gain perspective on contemporary events and trends through an understanding of church history.

I.D.1. Understand the significance of family stories in passing on life and wisdom through generations, and that just as people tell the stories of their families, so the Church has an important story, that of the Paschal Mystery, to tell through generations of believers (Hughes, Kevin L. Church History: Faith Handed On, in NCCL series, “Catholic Basics: A Pastoral Ministry Series,” Chicago: Loyola Press, 2002, pp. x-xv)

I.D.2. Identify some of the early church councils that developed and determined the teaching on Jesus as both truly God and truly human and thus able to fulfill God’s promise of redemption (CCC 464-469, 475-478)

E. Christian thought and culture

Develop the philosophical and theological foundations of the faith and appreciate expressions of Christian thought and culture.


I.E.2. Understand the term “paschal” as coming from the Hebrew, pesach, or “passover,” and the Greek, pasch, also referring to the Passover of the Jews and then, in Christian thought, the pass-over of Christ in his death, Resurrection and Ascension (1 Cor 5:7, 11:23-26; Rom 6:3-4; CCC 542; see also A Concise Dictionary of Theology, p. 191)

I.E.3. Identify some Christ-like figures in literature (figures who offer their lives for others), e.g., Santiago in Ernest Hemingway’s The Old Man and the Sea; Owen Meany in John Irving’s A Prayer for Owen Meany; Krishna in Margaret Atwood’s A Handmaid’s Tale; Don Quixote in Miguel Cervantes’ Don Quixote; Prince Myshkin in Fyodor Dostoevsky’s The Idiot; Billy Budd in Herman Melville’s Billy Budd; Hazel in Richard Adams’ Watership Down; the priest in Georges Bernanos’ Diary of a Country Priest; Simon in William Golding’s Lord of the Flies, etc.

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** Understand, live and bear witness to the paschal mystery – the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – celebrated and communicated through the sacramental life of the Church.

II.A.1. Know that the “Paschal mystery” is foreshadowed in the Passover story (Ex 1-15) in the Old Testament, the story of the liberation of God’s people and the beginning of a new relationship with God.

II.A.2. Understand that the “mystery” of God lies in God’s plan for the liberation and salvation of all peoples *(CCC 1066, 759)*

II.A.3. Identify the “Paschal mystery” of Christ as God’s loving promise and plan of redemption visibly carried out and fulfilled in the life, death, Resurrection and Ascension – the “pass-over” – of Jesus the Christ *(Eph 1:9-10, 3:9-11; 1 Cor 5:7, 11; 23-26; Rom 6:3-4, 16:25-27; CCC 388, 421, 571, 638, 1067-1068, 1085; LG 3 [Lumen Gentium, Vatican II]; see also SC 5 [Sacrosanctum Concilium, Vatican II])*.

II.A.4. Know that Christ’s Paschal mystery continues to be celebrated (but not repeated) in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist *(CCC 1067, 1104)*.

II.A.5. Understand that those who take part in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church also take part in the mystery of life in Christ and of redemption through him – the Paschal mystery *(Gal 2:19b-20; Eph 2:4-6; Col 3:3-4; CCC 1066-1068)*.

II.A.6. Explain how the Paschal mystery of Christ is not merely a one-time event in the past but continues to be present to the faithful in the present *(CCC 1085)*.

II.A.7. Know that it is through participation in the liturgy and sacraments of the Church that we are formed and transformed in Christ *(Jn 1:29b; Jn 12:32; Rom 6:4-6; Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:13, 27; 2 Cor 5:17; Eph 4:15-16; Phil 3:20-21; Col 2:12; CCC 562, 1074, 1694; Heb 12:1-3; LG 7)*.

B. **Sacraments** Learn and embrace in one’s life church doctrine on the eucharist and other sacraments.

II.B.1. Know that the mysteries of Christ’s life announced and prepared the way for the sacraments of the Church *(CCC 1114-1116)*.

II.B.2. Explain how, in the sacraments, Christ is acting in his Church through the power of the Holy Spirit *(CCC 1116)*.

II.B.3. Identify Baptism as the sacrament by which a person enters into the Paschal mystery of Jesus *(Gal 3:27-28; Rom 6:1-11; Col 2:12-13; CCC 537, 628, 1214, 1694)*.

II.B.4. Identify the Eucharist as the sacrament through which Christ both signifies and makes present his Paschal mystery in the life of the Church *(CCC 610-611, 1085)*.

C. **Liturgical Catechesis** Acquire the spirituality, skills and habits of full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy, especially the eucharistic liturgy.

II.C.1. Understand and be able to define the term, “liturgy” *(CCC 1069-1072)*.

II.C.2. Know that in the liturgy the Church celebrates, above all else, the Paschal mystery by which Christ accomplishes the work of salvation *(CCC 1067; Eph 3:4, 9)*.
II.C.3. Understand that the cycle of feasts throughout the liturgical year unfolds the Paschal mystery, which in its many aspects is one continuous act of God’s redeeming love (CCC 1171, 1193-1195)  

II.C.4. Recognize that, in the liturgy, the faithful directly encounter Christ in his Paschal mystery (CCC 1074, 426)  

II.C.5. Explain why the liturgy is considered a “privileged place” for the catechesis of God’s people (CCC 426-429, 1694-1698; SC 10; see also National Directory for Catechesis, #20: Since Christ is present in the sacraments, the believer comes to know Christ in the liturgical celebrations of the Church and is drawn into communion with him...Catechesis should promote “an active, conscious genuine participation in the liturgy of the Church” [NDC 20])  

D. Dimensions of Priesthood: Baptismal and Ordained Value the dignity of the baptismal priesthood and of the ordained priesthood and value their respective roles in liturgical celebration and Christian mission.  

II.D.1. Understand that the liturgy is celebrated by the whole community, the entire Body of Christ, and therefore is not a “private” prayer or function (CCC 1136, 1140, 1187; 1 Pet 2:5, 9)  

II.D.2. Know that within the Body of Christ there are different and specific roles or functions among persons in the celebration of the liturgy (CCC 1141-1144, 1188)  

II.D.3. Distinguish between the common priesthood of all the baptized and the ordained priesthood (CCC 1141-1142)  

III. Catechesis promotes Moral Formation in Jesus Christ (CCC #1691-2557; GDC #84-85, 87)  

A. Commandment to Love Understand how the entire law of the Gospel is contained in the ‘new commandment’ of Jesus, to love one another as he has loved us.  

III.A.1. Know that by Baptism into Christ’s life—into his Paschal mystery—a person becomes responsible for growing both in personal holiness and in service to others, i.e., for growing in love (CCC 520-521, 562, 1694 2028; Phil 2:5; Jn 13:15)  

III.A.2. Identify some relevant aspects of Christ’s Paschal mystery inherent in his command to love one another as he has loved us, e.g., desire for unity; ready to be at the service of others; specifically caring for the poor; unafraid to suffer for another person, even an enemy; willing to die, for another person to have life; etc. (CCC 1825)  


III.A.4. Explain why St. Paul calls love “the fulfillment of the law” (Rom 13:8-10; see 1 Jn 4:18; CCC 1823-1824, 1970, 2055)  

B. Ten Commandments and Beatitudes Study the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the moral catechesis of the apostolic teachings, and live in accord with them.  

III.B.1. Know that in his life and teachings, Jesus faithfully followed the Old Law of his Jewish faith and, through his Paschal mystery, both fulfilled and surpassed it (Mt 5:17-18; CCC 1967-1968)
III.B.2. Understand that the Ten Commandments (from the Old Law) are still valid moral norms for living as a disciple of Jesus (CCC 1962-1964)


III.B.4. Explain the significance of the Beatitudes for one who has been baptized into the Paschal mystery of Christ (Gal 3:27; CCC 1716-1717)

C. Sin and Grace Understand the reality and nature of sin and the power of God’s grace to overcome it.

III.C.1. Recognize sin as the disruption of the relationship between God and his people, with whom he desires to share eternal life and happiness (CCC 1691-1696; CFCL I.A.4)

III.C.2. Know that the sin of Adam and Eve’s choice to break their relationship with God, which from that day forward would mark all of human history, was the occasion of God’s initial promise of redemption (Gen 3:15; Gal 3:19, 4:4; CCC 388-390, 1850; CFCL I.A.4, 6)

III.C.3. Understand that the church’s teaching on Original Sin is best understood in light of Christ’s Paschal mystery—the fulfillment of God’s promise of redemption (CCC 389, 402-411, 415-421; Rom 5:12, 17, 19)

III.C.4. Know that the Paschal mystery of Christ brings the light of redemptive grace to the mystery of evil and the reality of sin in the world (CCC 309-314, 324; Rom 5:15-18, 8:10-11)

III.C.5. Know that God’s grace has the power to overcome sin and evil (Rom 5:20-21)

III.C.6. Understand that the grace of the Holy Spirit comes to us through our baptism into the Paschal mystery of Christ (Rom 6:8-11; CCC 1987-1997)

III.C.7. Realize that, while God offers the grace of redemption, it is the responsibility of the individual person to accept it and to grow in living a virtuous life

III.C.8. Know that one’s acceptance or refusal of God’s grace and love will be revealed at the time of the Last Day (Mt 25:40, 45-46; Jn 5:27-29; CCC 678-679, 682)

III.C.9. Understand that our bodily death is a consequence of sin (CCC 1007-1008, 1018)

III.C.10. Know that Christ, through the Paschal mystery of his death and Resurrection, has overcome death and opened to all the possibility of salvation (CCC 1009, 1019, 1026; 1 Cor 15:26, 42-44)

III.C.11. Know that we who “die in Christ” sacramentally—as we are baptized into his Paschal mystery—and die bodily in his grace, shall also rise with Christ as we are completely incorporated into his redeeming act (2 Tim 2:11; Phil 1:23; CCC 1010-1014)

III.C.12. Explain our Christian belief in the resurrection of the body (Jn 5:28-29; Phil 3:21; 1 Cor 15:20-24, 35-38, 42, 51-56; CCC 994-1005)

III.C.13. Distinguish between the particular, or immediate, judgment at one’s death and the Last Judgment at the end of time (Lk 16:22-23, 23:42-43; Heb 9:27-28; CCC 1021-1022; 2 Cor 5:10; Jn 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; Mt 25:31-32, 46; CCC 677-682, 1038-1039)

III.C.14. Know the Church’s teaching on Heaven (CCC 1023-1029); Hell (CCC 1033-1037); and Purgatory (CCC 1030-1032)

D. Conscience Formation Learn how to acquire and follow a well-formed conscience in personal and social life, clarifying current religious and moral questions in the light of faith, and
cultivating a Christian discernment of the ethical implications of developments in the socio-cultural order.

III.D.1. Explain what it means, to say that human beings are “created in the image of God” (Gen 1:27; 2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:15; CCC 1701-1705, 1710-1712; CFCL I.A.1-2)

III.D.2. Recognize that the moral law is implanted in our hearts by the God in whose image we are created (CCC 1702-1706)

III.D.3. Know the meaning and the role of “conscience” (CCC 1776-1778)

III.D.4. Identify some of the elements crucial to the development of an informed conscience (CCC 1783-1785)

III.D.5. Understand that the human person has the freedom either to choose what is good or to turn away from it (CCC 1706-1707)

III.D.6. Know that one is strengthened and empowered to seek and choose what is good, guided both by God’s grace and by the power of the Holy Spirit acting in one’s life (CCC 1704, 1709, 1711, 1997)

III.D.7. Understand that through his Paschal mystery, Christ restores our wounded human nature and opens to us a new life in the Holy Spirit (CCC 1699, 1708, 1715, 1999; CFCL I.A.8-10)

E. Objective Moral Norms Recognize, defend, and live by the truth of objective moral norms as taught by the Church’s magisterium in its moral and social teaching.

III.E.1. Know that all law finds its first and ultimate truth in the eternal moral law established by God (CCC 1950-1951)

III.E.2. Identify the several different but interrelated expressions of the moral law (CCC 1952)

III.E.3. Understand that the natural law, written in the heart of each human being, expresses the original, God-given ability of the person to discern good and evil (CCC 1954)

III.E.4. Know that the Ten Commandments, or Decalogue, of the Old Testament express the basic principles of the natural law (CCC 1955; see Ex 31:18, 20:1-17)

III.E.5. Understand that the natural law provides objective norms which are the foundation for all moral and civil law as taught by the Church’s Magisterium (CCC 1955-1960)

III.E.6. Know that, while the application of the natural law may vary with the time and the culture, the basic, objective norms remain constant (CCC 1957-1958)

III.E.7. Know that it is in the person of Jesus that the moral law finds its fullness and its unity (CCC 1953, 1965-1968, 2054-2055)

F. Gospel of Life Promote a thorough catechesis on the Gospel of Life so that respect for life from conception until natural death is honored in personal behavior, in public policy, and in the expressed values and attitudes of our society.

III.F.1. Know that every human being is created in God’s image and every human life is sacred, from conception to natural death (CCC 2258, 2258-2262, 2270, 2277, 2319, 2320-2324, 1701; CFCL I.A.1)

III.F.2. Understand that baptism into Christ and his Paschal mystery calls us to choose his way of love and life (CCC 1693-1696; Jn 14:6; Rom 6:5, 11; Phil 2:5; Eph 5:1-2; Col 2:12)
G. Living a Moral Life  Live a lifestyle reflecting scriptural values of holiness, simplicity, and compassion.

III.G.1. Understand that by baptism into Christ, one is called to a life of holiness and service (1 Thes 4:7; Gal 3:27; CCC 1694, 2013, 2017, 2028, 2045-2046, 2813)

III.G.2. Know that in the mysteries of his life, Jesus Christ is the model of holiness (CCC 459; Mt 5:43-48, 11:29; Mk 8:34-35; Jn 15:12-14; Jn 14:6; CFCL I.A.10-11)

III.G.3. Understand that one grows in holiness in and through Christ’s Body, the Church (CCC 823-825, 1248, 2014, 2030-2031, 2045-2048)

III.G.4. Identify some essential characteristics of a person growing in holiness, e.g., Mt 5:44, 48; Mt 6:1-6; Mt 7:12; Mt 19:21; Jn 13:35; CCC 1779, 2014-2015, 2443-2444

III.G.5. Recognize the power of the Holy Spirit and the gift of God’s grace in one’s relationship with Jesus Christ as the sources which enable one to live a moral and holy life (CCC 1692, 1704, 1708-1709; CFCL I.A.17)

IV. Catechesis Teaches the Christian how to Pray (CCC #2558-2865; GDC #84-85, 87)

A. Christian Prayer Tradition Become familiar with the diverse forms and expressions of Christian prayer, with special attention to the Our Father, the prayer which Jesus taught his disciples and which is the model of all Christian prayer. Experience and appreciate the richness of the Catholic tradition of mysticism and contemplation as it has taken from across the centuries in diverse historical and cultural settings.

IV.A.1. Know that Christian prayer must be rooted in our communion in Christ and in his Body, the Church (CCC 2564-2565)

IV.A.2. Understand that, in prayer, God’s invitation to a loving encounter first comes to us and then we respond, seeking to answer that call and receive the gift of prayer (CCC 2558, 2566-2567)

IV.A.3. Describe the central role of prayer in developing intimacy and communion with Jesus in the life of a disciple (CCC 2560-2561; Jn 4:1-30; Jn 15:1-5)

IV.A.4. Identify some figures in the Scriptures who model prayer and teach us about it, e.g., the psalms of King David; Solomon in 1 Kings 3:5-15; Mordecai & Esther in Est C; Job in Job 42:1-6; Mary in Lk 1:46-55; Jesus in Lk 6:12, 9:28, 11:5-13, 18:9-14, 22:39-46; and Jesus in Mt 6:9-14, Lk 11:1-4; (CCC 2590-2598)

IV.A.5. Know that Scripture, the word of God, is a rich source and reliable guide for prayer; and identify some familiar prayers with scriptural roots, e.g., the Lord’s Prayer/Our Father; the Hail Mary; canticles and psalms in the Mass and Liturgy of Hours, etc.


IV.A.7. Explain how the Lord’s Prayer is fundamental to the Church’s understanding of the nature and value of prayer (CCC 2759-2761)

B. Personal Prayer Develop a regular pattern of personal prayer and spiritual reflection, recognizing vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplative prayer as basic and fruitful practices in the life of a disciple of Jesus.
IV.B.1. Explain why prayer is an essential aspect of the life of a disciple (Jn 15:4-5; Lk 11:9-10; Mk 9:25-29)

IV.B.2. Know that God calls every individual to a vital relationship with him, a relationship that is rooted, nurtured and experienced in prayer (Rom 6:5; Eph 3:14-21; CCC 2591, 2560, 2564-2565)

IV.B.3. Value and develop a personal discipline of prayer as a means for growing in intimacy and communion with Jesus Christ (GDC 80-81; NDC 19B; CCC 2560, 2564-2567)

IV.B.4. Identify some ways that vocal prayer, meditation and contemplative prayer nurture and sustain the life of a disciple of Jesus (CCC 2722-2724, 2701-2712, 2705-2706, 2709, 2712)

IV.B.5. Describe the place of prayers of blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise (CCC 2626-2628, 2631-2633, 2634-2635, 2637-2639, 2644-2649)

C. Communal Prayer In addition to the Eucharistic liturgy, learn to appreciate the Liturgy of the Hours and engage in shared prayer with others, especially family prayer, as well as at parish meetings and in small communities of faith.

IV.C.1. Identify some of the means by which the Church invites the faithful to regular, communal prayer as the Body of Christ (CCC 2720)

IV.C.2. Understand that each celebration of the Eucharist is a proclamation of the Paschal mystery of Christ (CCC 1344)

IV.C.3. Know that the Eucharist both contains and expresses all forms of prayer (CCC 2643)

IV.C.4. Explain how living a life of prayer, worship and service in a communal setting can provide greater opportunities to live the Paschal mystery of Jesus (CCC 562, 914-916, 1816, 1823, 1986, 2346-2347, 2443-2447)

D. Popular Piety and Devotions Recognize and encourage practices of popular piety and devotion that help believers express and strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ.

IV.D.1. Recognize that, in addition to hearing God's Word and sharing in the Paschal mystery, disciples receive many opportunities from the Holy Spirit to respond in prayer to the events of daily life (CCC 2659-2660)

IV.D.2. Know that personal and liturgical prayer is expanded and strengthened through devotional prayer, e.g., devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Rosary, various litanies, the Way of the Cross, etc.

IV.D.3. Identify some ethnic/cultural devotions that support the faith of believers, e.g., the Posadas, the Jesus Prayer, various Marian devotions, etc.

V. Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in Community and to participate in the life and mission of the Church

(GDC #84, 86-87) Heb 12:1-3

A. Spiritual Growth Pursue personal and spiritual growth in human and Christian maturity.

V.A.1. Understand that Christ's whole earthly life—words, deeds, silences, sufferings—was a process of growing into the Paschal mystery of his life, death and resurrection (CCC 516-518)
V.A.2. Know that a disciple of Jesus, baptized into his Paschal mystery, is called to follow him by growing in a life of holiness and service (Rom 1:11-12; Rom 6:3-5; Rom 8:14-17; CCC 459-460, 537, 542, 2045-2046; CFCL I.A.12)

B. Relationships and Responsibilities Cultivate the human values and Christian virtues that foster growth in interpersonal relationships and in civic responsibility.

V.B.1. Identify some of the values and virtues in one’s behavior toward others that are signs of the disciple’s growth in Christ (2 Pet 1:3-8; 1 Pet 3:8-12; Jas 3:17-18; Jas 4:11; 1 Jn 3:16-18; 1 Tim 6:11; 1 Thes 5:11-22; 1 Thes 4:3-8; Col 3:12-17; Phil 2:1-4; Eph 4:25-5:5)

V.B.2. Explain how one’s participation in the Paschal mystery demands charity and justice toward others, on both the personal and civic levels of relationship and responsibilities (Mt 25:31-46; CCC 1397; 2443-2448; 1905-1916; 1924-1927)

C. Marriage and Family life—Domestic Church Nurture marriage and family life to build up the Church of the home.

V.C.1. Explain how the Christian family, as a “communion of persons,” is a “sign and image” of the life of the Holy Trinity (CCC 2205; 2250; CFCL I.A.3)

V.C.2. Identify the specific attributes of Christ that should mark the members of the Christian family as participants in his Paschal mystery (CCC 2205; 2251-2253)

D. Faith Communities Share actively in the life and work of the parish, and foster the potential of small communities to deepen the faith and relationships of members, to strengthen the bonds of communion with the parish, and to serve the Church’s mission in society.

V.D.1. Understand that, beginning with one’s family, one’s parish and finally the universal Church, baptism into the Paschal mystery of Christ draws one ever deeper into communion at all levels with God and with others (CCC 752)

E. Nature and mission of the Church Learn the church’s teaching on the nature and mission of the Church, including an understanding of the Church’s authority and structures and of the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful.

V.E.1. Know that the Church is born out of Christ’s Paschal mystery—his life death, Resurrection and Ascension—and continues to make present that Mystery in the life of all the faithful (CCC 763, 766, 768)

F. Ecumenism Support the ecumenical movement and promote the unity of God’s people as a constitutive dimension of fidelity to the Gospel.

V.F.1. Know that God’s plan, as revealed in his covenant with the ancient Hebrews and made manifest in the Paschal mystery of Christ, is for the redemption and salvation of all peoples (CCC 759, 769, 778, 781; CFCL I.A.6-9)

VI. Catechesis promotes a Missionary Spirit that prepares the faithful to transform the world (GDC #84, 86-87)

A. Evangelization Cultivate an evangelizing spirit among all the faithful as an integral element of their baptismal calling, of the Church’s nature and mission, and of a Catholic way of life.

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VI.A.1. Understand that the very nature and the purpose of the Church is to proclaim the Good News to all peoples (CCC 425, 830-831, 850; Mt 28:18-20)

VI.A.2. Know that, from the beginnings of the Church, the person of Jesus Christ is at the heart of all evangelization and catechesis (CCC 426-427; 1 Jn 1:1-4)

VI.A.3. Know that it is the disciple’s personal relationship with Jesus in his Paschal mystery that impels one to share that experience with others (CCC 428-429; 2 Cor 5:14-15)

B. Vocation/Apostolate Respond to God’s call whether as lay, ordained, or vowed religious, and develop a personal apostolate in family, Church, and society.

VI.B.1. Know that, by virtue of baptism into the Paschal mystery of Christ, every Christian is called to a personal response of service to others at every level of relationship (Gal 3:27; CCC 1269-1270, 1877-1879, 1882)

C. Social Action and Transformation Explore and promote the applications of the Church’s moral and social teaching in personal, family, professional, cultural, and social life.

VI.C.1. Describe how the Church’s teaching on the dignity of the person and the common good forms the framework for the Christian’s living out the Paschal mystery, particularly in the social areas of one’s life (CCC 1905-1917, 1924-1926)

D. Interreligious Dialogue Appreciate the value of interreligious dialogue and contacts, and promote the Church’s mission ad gentes in the local and universal Church.

VI.D.1. Understand that, in God’s plan, all peoples are included in the mystery of God’s love revealed in Jesus Christ (Mt 28:18-20; CCC 849-856; CFCL I.A.6)

VI.D.2. Explain the significance of the following passage from Gaudium et Spes, the “Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World” from the documents of Vatican II:

1) The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community of people united in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit in their pilgrimage towards the Father’s kingdom, bearers of a message of salvation for all of humanity. That is why they cherish a feeling of deep solidarity with the human race and its history.

Sources

- The Holy Bible, NABRE edition