

**SJN Religious Formation**

# **GRADE 7 ARCHDIOCESAN CURRICULUM GUIDELINES**

***Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization***

8/03/11

© Archdiocese of Washington, Office for Religious Education 2010

---

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Key Element I: PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH</b>	<b>4</b>
• Standard #1: Creed	5-6
• Standard #2: Scripture	6-8
<b>Key Element II: LITURGICAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>9</b>
• Standard #3: Sacraments	10
• Standard #4: Liturgy	11
<b>Key Element III: MORAL FORMATION</b>	<b>12</b>
• Standard #5: Conscience	13-14
• Standard #6: Christian Living	14-15
<b>Key Element IV: PRAYER</b>	<b>16</b>
• Standard #7: Prayer	17
<b>Key Element V: EDUCATION FOR LIVING IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY</b>	<b>18-19</b>
• Standard #8: Catholic Church	20-21
• Standard #9: Ecumenism	21-22
• Standard #10: Catholic Principles and Relationships	22-23
• Standard #11: Vocation	23
<b>Key Element VI: EDUCATION FOR EVANGELIZATION AND APOSTOLIC LIFE</b>	<b>24-25</b>
• Standard #12: Catholic Social Teaching	26
• Standard #13: Inter-religious Dialog	27
• Standard #14: Missionary Witness	28

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

### References:

- CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church
- USCCA = United States Catholic Catechism for Adults
- **Compendium** = Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Relevant **Documents** may also be listed in the gray cell beneath the indicator

### Indicator Numbers:

07.01.01 } **Grade** • **Standard Number** • **Indicator Number**

- **Bold underlined type** indicator numbers = *required mastery* by students
- Regular type indicator numbers = optional, enrichment
- **Bold type** words = required vocabulary

### *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*

#### **Grade 7**

#### **Key Element I: *Promoting Knowledge of Faith (Creed and Scripture)***

"First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth (cf. *Spe Salvi*, 4). This relationship elicits a desire to grow in the knowledge and understanding of Christ and his teaching. In this way those who meet him are drawn by the very power of the Gospel to lead a new life characterized by all that is beautiful, good, and true; a life of Christian witness nurtured and strengthened within the community of our Lord's disciples, the Church." (Address of Pope Benedict XVI to Catholic Educators of the United States, Thursday 17 April 2008, Catholic University of America) Catechesis, must, therefore, lead to "the gradual grasping of the whole truth about the divine plan", by introducing the disciples of Jesus to a knowledge of Tradition and of Scripture, which is "the sublime science of Christ". By deepening knowledge of the faith, catechesis nourishes not only the life of faith but equips it to explain itself to the world. The meaning of the Creed, which is a compendium of Scripture and of the faith of the Church, is the realization of this task. (GDC no.85) The initial proclamation of the Gospel introduces the hearers to Christ for the first time and invites conversion to him. By the action of the Holy Spirit, such an encounter engenders in the hearers a desire to know about Christ, his life, and the content of his message. Catechesis responds to this desire by giving the believers a knowledge of the content of God's self-revelation which is found in the Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, and by introducing them to the meaning of the Creed. Creeds and doctrinal formulas that state the Church's belief are expressions of the Church's living tradition, which from the time of the apostles has developed "in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit." (NDC no. 1)

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

### Key Element I: Promoting Knowledge of the Faith

**Standard #1: CREED** - *Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune and redeeming God as revealed in creation and human experience, in Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture, and as entrusted to the teaching office of the Church. (CCC 1168)*

#### Indicators:

- 7.01.01** Explain what it means to say that God's revelation is "economic" i.e. that God reveals himself over time and in human history (CCC 876, 1066 / Compendium 6, 7, 8, 9)
- 7.01.02** Identify God's revelation as the foundation of our faith as Christians (USCCA 37)
- 7.01.03** Know that the Church continues to interpret the Word of God whether in written form or in the form of **Tradition** (CCC 81-82 / Compendium 14 / USCCA 27, 32)
- 7.01.04 Show understanding that faith is a gift from God helping us to respond to God's revelation to us (USCCA 37-38)
- 7.01.05** Describe how faith is both a personal relationship with God and a free assent to the truth God has revealed (CCC 150 / Compendium 27 / USCCA 37)
- 7.01.06 Identify faith as reasonable and certain (USCCA 38-39)
- 7.01.07 Show understanding that faith is a gift that we receive from God through the Church (USCCA 38-39)
- 7.01.08** State how we as a Church profess our faith together and to the world (USCCA 45-46, 521)
- 7.01.09** Describe the ways of coming to know God: the world and the human person (CCC 32-33 / USCCA 5)
- 7.01.10 List the characteristics of God: **eternal** , **omniscient** , **omnipotent** and **omnipresent** (CCC 268-278 / Compendium 50 / USCCA 61-62)
- 7.01.11** Articulate that the central mystery of the Christian faith is the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (CCC 232-237 / Compendium 44 / USCCA 53, 62)
- 7.01.12** State that the **divine persons** are relative to one another (USCCA 62)
- 7.01.13** State that each of the divine persons is wholly and entirely God (USCCA 62)

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

- 7.01.14** Describe the Trinity as a complete unity without confusing the persons or dividing the substance of God (USCCA 62, 63)
- 7.01.15 State understanding that although God is named Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God has no gender (CCC 239 / USCCA 52)
- 7.01.16** State that the **Catholic faith** is one and the same everywhere and expressed uniquely in many cultures (USCCA 129)
- 7.01.17** Express the belief in the **resurrection of the dead** as essential to Christianity (USCCA 155, 156)
- 7.01.18 State that we have already risen with Christ in Baptism and participate in the life of the **Risen Christ** (USCCA 183-184, 195)
- 7.01.19 Describe how the Holy Spirit worked through Mary to prepare the way for the incarnation (USCCA 143-147)
- 7.01.20** State the belief that all the faithful in Christ, living and dead, form the **Communion of Saints** (CCC 946, 953-960 / Compendium 194 / USCCA 160-161, 507)

**Standard #2: SCRIPTURE** - *Read, comprehend and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Sacred Scripture.*

### Indicators:

- 7.02.01** Show understanding of God's revealing word in Sacred Scripture as unfolding throughout the Old and New Testaments (USCCA 24)
- 7.02.02** State meaning of divine inspiration in relationship to biblical authorship (Compendium 18, 140 / USCCA 24)
- 7.02.03** Differentiate between divinely inspired truth and literal fact when interpreting Sacred Scripture (Compendium 19 / USCCA 27-28)
- 7.02.04** Recognize that the Bible has both divine and human authorship initiated by God to reveal the truths God Intends (USCCA 25-27)
- 7.02.05** State that the Church identifies 73 books in the canon of Scripture (Compendium 20 / USCCA 24)

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

- 7.02.06** Describe the Church as having the authority to teach and interpret Sacred Scripture (USCCA 25-34)
- 7.02.07 Recognize that God’s **covenant** with the Chosen People of the Old Testament was a call to be holy
- 7.02.08 State the meaning of the “**Shema**” of Israel. (Dt. 6:4-5)
- 7.02.09 Describe the significance of the **temple** in Jerusalem to the Jews
- 7.02.10 State the relationship between Jews and **Gentiles** in First Century Palestine
- 7.02.11** Show familiarity with the Gospel of Luke
- 7.02.12** Identify the Gospel of Luke as a **synoptic** gospel
- 7.02.13 Identify how the Gospel of Luke incorporates conflict in the narrative
- 7.02.14 State the differences in the **prologue** of Luke’s gospel from both Mark and Matthew
- 7.02.15** Describe the **Infancy Narrative** in Luke and its difference from Matthew’s account
  - 7.02.16 State the significance of the temple scenes in the Infancy Narrative of Luke
- 7.02.17 Describe how Jesus prepares for his public ministry (USCCA 36)
- 7.02.18 Describe the ministry in Galilee and Jesus’ sensitivity to the needs of others especially the poor
- 7.02.19 Recognize Luke’s gospel as a narrative: Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem
- 7.02.20** Recognize in Luke’s gospel Jesus’ teaching ministry in Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem as authoritative and prophetic particularly in the material unique to Luke in chapters 9-19.
- 7.02.21 Describe the resurrection narrative in the Gospel of Luke as the fulfillment of Old Testament promises and Jewish **messianic** hopes (Compendium 82)
- 7.02.22** Describe major themes of the Gospel of Luke (Salvation is a joyful surprise; salvation includes everyone; special concern for the poor and needy; Mary as the first disciple)
- 7.02.23** Identify the role and significance of women in the Gospel of Luke
- 7.02.24** State the Gospel of Luke as showing the universal mission of Jesus extending from OT promises to the Jews to include the Gentiles

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

- 7.02.25 Recognize how the Gospel of Luke shows Jesus' compassion for Jerusalem and the temple
- 7.02.26 Identify the figure of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke as son of Adam, son of Abraham, son of David, son of God



### *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*

#### **Key Element II: Liturgical Education: Helping to celebrate (sacraments and liturgy)**

In the Church's Liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives. He has loved us first and he continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love. God does not demand of us a feeling which we ourselves are incapable of producing. He loves us, he makes us see and experience his love, and since he has "loved us first", love can also blossom as a response within us. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, no. 17) 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. Christ's saving action in the Paschal Mystery is celebrated in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, where the closest communion with Jesus on earth is possible as Catholics are able to receive his living Flesh and his Precious Blood in Holy Communion. Catechesis should promote "an active, conscious genuine participation in the liturgy of the Church, not merely by explaining the meaning of the ceremonies, but also by forming the minds of the faithful for prayer, for thanksgiving, for repentance, for praying with confidence, for a community spirit, and for understanding correctly the meaning of the creeds." (NDC no 2, p. 60) "Christ is always present in his Church, especially in 'liturgical celebrations'. Communion with Jesus Christ leads to the celebration of his salvific presence in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist. The Church ardently desires that all the Christian faithful be brought to that full, conscious and active participation which is required by the very nature of the liturgy." (GDC no 85)

CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church USCCA=United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

### **Key Element II: Liturgical Education - Helping to celebrate**

**Standard #3: SACRAMENTS** - *Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as effective signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.* (CCC 1117-1119 / Compendium 226)

#### **Indicators:**

- 7.03.01** Describes how Christians participate in the priesthood of Christ especially through sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders (CCC 1591 / Compendium 263 / USCCAS 197-264)
- 7.03.02 Discusses the common Baptism of all Christians as a sign of communion (CCC 1271-1279 / Compendium 263 / USCCA 183-184)
- 7.03.03** Describes the sacrament of Confirmation and the elements of laying on of hands and sealing with oil of **chrism** (CCC 698-701, 1290-1301, 1320 / Compendium 267 / USCCA 203-206)
- 7.03.04** Describe **validity** of Sacrament of Matrimony under following conditions: baptized man and woman, freely **consent**, intention to fulfill **contract** for good of spouses and possibility of children (CCC 1627-1632 / Compendium 321, 344 / USCCA 1601-1666)
- 7.03.05** Recognize spouses as ministers of sacrament of Matrimony through expression of marriage **vows** (CCC 1625-1632, 2101-2103 / Compendium 344 / USCCA 282-284)
- 7.03.06** Describe the validity of the Sacrament of Holy Orders for men who are baptized, prepared through **seminary** education, and called by the bishop to be ordained (CCC 1577-1578 / Compendium 333 / USCCA 267-269)
- 7.03.07** Identify and describe the three ranks of the priesthood: **episcopate, presbyterate, and diaconate** (CCC 1557-1558, 1594-1596 / Compendium 326-329 / USCCA 264-265)
- 7.03.08** Identify priesthood as an apostolic call that comes from Jesus Christ commissioning the apostles to continue to the work of the (CCC 1536 / Compendium 322 / USCCA 215, 262-265)

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

### **Key Element II** *Liturgical Education - Helping to celebrate*

**Standard #4: LITURGY** - *Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.*

#### **Indicators:**

- 7.04.01** Describes why every Catholic has the obligation to attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. (CCC 2177 / Compendium 452 / USCCA 364-369, 514)
- 7.04.02 Compare/contrast another rite with the Latin Rite showing catholicity of the Church (CCC 1580 / Compendium 263 / USCCA 172)
- 7.04.03 Explains that Christ acting through the ministry of the priest offers himself in the Eucharistic sacrifice at every Mass (CCC 1066-1070 / Compendium 218 / USCCA 220-222)
- 7.04.04** Describes that the validity of the Mass requires a bishop or his authorized representative (the priest) to officiate at the Mass (CCC 1348-1411 / Compendium 278 / USCCA 218-228)
- 7.04.05 Describes how feasts of Mary and the saints are incorporated into the liturgical cycle (CCC 1168-1172, 1195 / Compendium 242 / USCCA 173, 177-178)
- 7.04.06** Describes the funeral Mass as a special liturgy of blessing and farewell to the Christian who has died. (CCC1687-1690 / Compendium 350 / USCCA 153-161)
- 7.04.07 Indicate how Catholics are called to **liturgical ministries** (CCC 903-1143 / Compendium 189 / USCCA 134)

### *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*

#### **Grade 7**

#### **Key Element III: *Moral Formation - Promoting Moral Formation in Jesus Christ***

Only if we live in the right way, with one another and for one another, can freedom develop...If we live in opposition to the love and against the truth – in opposition to God - then we destroy one another and destroy the world, (Pope Benedict XVI, homily, December 8, 2005, marking the 40th Anniversary of the closure of the Second Vatican Council). Jesus' moral teaching is an integral part of his message. Catechesis must transmit both the content of Christ's moral teachings as well as their implications for Christian living. Moral Catechesis aims to conform the believer to Christ – to bring about personal transformation and conversion. It should encourage the faithful to give witness - both in their private lives and in the public arena – to Christ's teaching in everyday life. Such testimony demonstrates the social consequences of the demands of the Gospel, (NDC no. 3). Conversion to Jesus Christ implies walking in his footsteps. Catechesis must, therefore, transmit to the disciples the attitudes of the Master himself. The disciples thus undertake a journey of interior transformation, in which, by participating in the paschal mystery of the Lord, "they pass from the old man to the new man who has been made perfect in Christ" (GDC no. 85). Truly, matters in the world are in a bad state: but if you and I begin in earnest to reform ourselves, a really good beginning will have been made," (St. Peter of Alcantara). "Turn now to consider how these words of our Lord imply a test for yourselves also. Ask yourself whether you belong to his flock, whether you know him, whether the light of his truth shines in your minds. I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love; not by mere conviction, but by action," (Pope St. Gregory the Great).

CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church USCCA=United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

### **Key Element III: *Moral Formation - Promoting Moral Formation in Jesus Christ (Conscience and Christian Living)***

#### **Standard #5: CONSCIENCE - *Develop a moral conscience informed by Church teachings.***

##### **Indicators**

- 7.05.01** Describe what is meant by "the dignity of the human person is the foundation of Catholic Christian morality" (CCC 1699-1715 / Compendium 358 / USCCA 422, 423)
- 7.05.02** Explain that we identify moral values in the teachings and life of Jesus (CCC 1949-1951 / Compendium 416 / USCCA 307-309)
- 7.05.03 State the meaning of **natural law** as the ability to know right from wrong as inscribed in the human heart (CCC 886 / Compendium 416 / USCCA 327-328)
- 7.05.04** Differentiate between **original sin, personal sin** and **social sin** (CCC 1852-1853, 1873, 1868-1869 / Compendium 76, 399, 400 / USCCA 523, 528, 331)
- 7.05.05 Identify conscience as a judgment of reason that helps us to see the moral quality of an action (CCC 1777-1780, 1795, 1797 / Compendium 372 / USCCA 530)
- 7.05.06 Describe the lifelong formation of the conscience (CCC 1783-1785, 1799-1800 / Compendium 374 / USCCA 314-315)
- 7.05.07** Name and practically apply the theological and cardinal virtues (CCC 1813 1834-1835, 1812-1813,1840, 1841 / Compendium 379, 384-385 / USCCA 315-317)
- 7.05.08 Identify the **fruits of the Holy Spirit** as signs of the Christian life (CCC 738, 1832 / Compendium 390 / USCCA 108, 513)
- 7.05.09 Engage in moral decision making (USCCA 314-315)
- 7.05.10** Show how the beatitudes provide the foundation for understanding the moral teaching of Jesus (CCC 1716-1717 / Compendium 427 / USCCA 308-309)
- 7.05.11** Analyze the relationship between race, prejudice and institutional **racism** as **social sin** (CCC 1868-1869 /

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

Compendium 399,400 / USCCA 327-331)

- 7.05.12 Identify the seven **Capital sins (deadly sins)** as: pride, avarice, envy, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth (CCC 1866 / Compendium 398 / USCCA 317)

**Standard #6: CHRISTIAN LIVING** - *Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, conversion, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.*

### Indicators:

- 7.06.01** Show understanding that Christian discipleship requires following Jesus Christ as the way, the truth and the life (CCC 2466 / Compendium 126 / USCCA 451-452)
- 7.06.02** Recognize how the Incarnation of Jesus provides a key for understanding the central principal of the dignity of the human person (CCC 464-470,483 / Compendium 87 / USCCA 86)
- 7.06.03** State the importance of Christians taking an active part in public life and promoting the common good 904-907 190 325-327
- 7.06.04 Show understanding that the good of the human person is the purpose of society 1881-1882 402 326
- 7.06.05** Recognize that as members of a parish we have responsibilities that we call stewardship 358 2415-2418 506 451
- 7.06.06 State how stewardship is important to the spiritual life of the parish 450 451
- 7.06.07 State opportunities for a parish to practice stewardship 910-912 191 451-452
- 7.06.08** State the principles of the social teaching of the Church
- 7.06.09 Identify gifts (time, talents, and treasures) that you have received in your family and describe what it means to

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

be a good steward of these gifts in the family 2208-2209 458 376-379

**7.06.10** Describe world peace as the work of justice and the effect of charity 1889 404 517, 506

7.06.11 Understand that Jesus' mission and ministry are continued today through the ministries of the word, worship, community building, and service 904-907 190 451-452

**7.06.12** Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community 2404-2406 505-506 325, 335

7.06.13 Understand that our Church is enriched through diverse cultural expressions; research different cultures to find examples of this diversity 1205-1206 247 129-131

7.06.14 Give examples of how we can model Jesus' life of service in our relationships with others in our lives 124-127 22 450-452

7.06.15 Explain with examples how social justice principles inform and critique personal and societal situations 1886-1889 1895-1899 404 325-327

**7.06.16** Understand that the Scriptures teach us the importance of working for justice, peace, equality, and stewardship in our lives 131-133 139 24 325-327

7.06.17 Discuss how the Beatitudes challenge us to continual conversion in our personal and social lives 1723 359-360 308-309

7.06.18 Engage in service to the community (i.e. family, parish, local, national, and global) in response to the Gospel call 358 2415-2418 506 383

**7.06.19** Understand that Jesus taught us about carrying a cross and living a life of loving service 853 173 453-454, 91-92

7.06.20 Articulate how service is an essential element of discipleship 852 172 451-452

7.06.21 Understand that service is action rooted in and flowing from prayer 1069-1070 219 477

*Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*

**Grade 7**

**Key Element IV: Prayer – Teaching the disciple how to pray with Christ**

The issue is the primacy of God...If a man's heart is not good, then nothing else can turn out good either. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth*, [New York: Doubleday, 2007] pp.33-34).

Catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ. Conversion to Christ and communion with him lead the faithful to adopt his disposition of prayer and reflection, (NDC no.4).

Communion with Jesus Christ leads the disciples to assume the attitude of prayer and contemplation which the Master himself had. To learn to pray with Jesus is to pray with the same sentiments with which he turned to the Father: adoration, praise, thanksgiving, filial confidence, supplication and awe for his glory, (GDC no.85).



## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

### **Key Element IV: Prayer – Teaching the disciple how to pray with Christ**

**Standard #7: PRAYER** - *Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer and acknowledge prayer as the primary way we deepen our knowledge of God in the Community.*

#### **Indicators:**

- 7.07.01** Examine our relationship with God through personal prayer in light of the call of all disciples of Jesus to conversion and repentance
- 7.07.02 Explain how prayer provides a deepening awareness of the covenanted relationship with God (CCC 2562-2564 / Compendium 534 / USCCA 485)
- 7.07.03 Explain what Psalm is your favorite and why (USCCA 258-259)
- 7.07.04** Affirm that worship belongs to God alone (CCC 2096 / Compendium 443 / USCCA 341-343)
- 7.07.05** Recognize the **Eucharistic Liturgy** as the community's central act of **worship** (CCC 1378-1381 1418 / Compendium 286 / USCCA 200-222)
- 7.07.06** Recognize scriptural prayer (CCC 2579, 2585-2589 / Compendium 540 / USCCA 464-467)
- 7.07.07** Identify and examine the elements of the **Lord's Prayer** (CCC 2803-2806 / Compendium 587 / USCCA 485-489)
- 7.07.08** Illustrate how the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary come from **Sacred Scripture** (CCC 2675, 2679 2808-2806 Compendium 580-581 / USCCA 483-484 470-471)
- 7.07.09 Discuss the concept and need for openness and a generous response to God's call in our lives (USCCA 452)
- 7.07.10 Identify how the Gospel affirms and challenges our thought and actions (CCC 2762-2764 / Compendium 579 / USCCA 464-467)
- 7.07.11** Outline the steps for **Lectio Divina** (CCC 2708 / Compendium 570 / USCCA 517-518)

© Archdiocese of Washington, Office for Religious Education 2010

### *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*

#### **Grade 7**

#### **Key Element V: *Education for Living in the Christian Community – Preparing Christians to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church***

Nor has the Lord been absent from subsequent Church history: he encounters us ever anew, in the men and women who reflect his presence, in his word, in the sacraments, and especially in the Eucharist. In the Church's Liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives. He has loved us first and he continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love. God does not demand of us a feeling which we ourselves are incapable of producing. He loves us, he makes us see and experience his love, and since he has "loved us first" love can also blossom as a response within us. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, no.17)

Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church. (NDC, no.5)

Christian community life is not realized spontaneously. It is necessary to educate it carefully. In this apprenticeship, the teaching of Christ on community life, recounted in the Gospel of St Matthew, calls for attitudes which it is for catechesis to inculcate:

- the spirit of simplicity and humility ("*unless you turn and become like little children...*" Mt18,3);
- solicitude for the least among the brethren ("*but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin...*" Mt 18,6);
- particular care for those who are alienated ("*Go and search of the one that went astray...*" Mt 18,12);
- fraternal correction ("*Go and tell him his fault...*" Mt 18,15);
- common prayer ("*if two of you agree on earth to ask about anything...*" Mt18,19);
- mutual forgiveness ("*but seventy times seven...*" Mt 18,22).

Fraternal love embraces all these attitudes ("*love one another; even as I have loved you...*" Jn 13,34).

In developing this community sense, catechesis takes special note of the ecumenical dimension and encourages fraternal attitudes toward members of other Christian churches and ecclesial communities. Thus catechesis in pursuing this objective should give a clear exposition of all the Church's doctrine and avoid formulations or expressions that might give rise to error. It also implies "a suitable knowledge of other confessions", with which there are shared elements of faith:

- "the written word of God,
- the life of grace, faith, hope and charity,

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

- and the other interior gifts of the Holy Spirit".

Catechesis will possess an ecumenical dimension in the measure in which it arouses and nourishes "a true desire for unity", not easy irenicism, but perfect unity, when the Lord himself wills it and by those means by which he wishes that it should be brought about. (GDC no. 86)

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

**Key Element V:** *Education for Living in the Christian Community – Preparing Christians to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church*

**Standard #8: CATHOLIC CHURCH** - *Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ, the community of believers, as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charisms, members and the communion of saints.*

### Indicators:

- 7.08.01 Show understanding that the Catholic Church gradually is formed in the Christian era in keeping with God's plan (CCC 751-780 / Compendium 147-152 / USCCA 113-115)
- 7.08.02** Recognize that the Church is missionary by nature (CCC 852-856 / Compendium 173 / USCCA 117-115, 125-126)
- 7.08.03** State that the Church has a special mission to the poor (CCC 2443-2449, 2462-2463 / Compendium 520 / USCCA 421,423, 427, 449, 456)
- 7.08.04** Show understanding that all the living and dead together form the Communion of Saints in the Church (CCC 954-959, 961-962 / Compendium 195 / USCCA 160-161)
- 7.08.05** Locate the part of the Nicene Creed that describes the church as holy and catholic (CCC p.49 / Compendium p.16 / USCCA 129-138)
- 7.08.06** Recognize that the Church names Mary as Mother of the Church (CCC 963-964 / Compendium 196 / USCCA 146,148)
- 7.08.07** State the belief that the Church has the power to forgive sins through the Sacraments (CCC 981-983, 986-987 / Compendium 201 / USCCA 236, 244-245)
- 7.08.08 Articulate understanding of the Rites of the Catholic Church as an expression of diversity (CCC 1200-1209 / Compendium 247-249)
- 7.08.09** State that the Rites of the Catholic Church derive from one profession of faith, celebration of the seven sacraments and one hierarchy (CCC 1200-1209 / Compendium 247-249)

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

- 7.08.10** Show understanding that a Catholic may fully participate in the liturgies of all the Rites of the Catholic Church
- 7.08.11 State that the pope is the head of patriarchs, primates, metropolitans and bishops (CCC 880-896 / Compendium 182-187 / USCCA 133)

**Standard #9: ECUMENISM** - *Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with others.*

### Indicators:

- 7.09.01 State how the Roman Catholic Church respects all faith traditions (CCC 817-819, 839-845 / Compendium 163, 169-170 / USCCA 22)
- 7.09.02** List the Lutheran, Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist, and Apostolic churches as some of the churches evolved from the time of the Protestant Reformation
- 7.09.03** Defend the Pope as the leader of the Catholic Church throughout the world, the successor of the Apostle Peter and a sign of our unity (CCC 880-882, 936-937 / Compendium 182 / USCCA 130, 266)
- 7.09.04 State that the church is a community of God's people called to continual reform and renewal
- 7.09.05** Explain that Catholics are called to work and prayer for unity in the Church because Jesus also prayed "that they all may be one" (John 17:20-22). (CCC 820-822, 866 / Compendium 164 / USCCA 127-129, 136, 193)
- 7.09.06 Develop a prayer service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25)
- 7.09.07** Explain that our respect for other Christians and faiths does not mean we deny the fullness of the faith Christ taught is found in the Catholic Church (CCC 816, 870 / Compendium 162 / USCCA 127-129, 136, 193)
- 7.09.08** State that our respect for other Christians means that we can both recognize what we share in common but that we also need to be honest about how we differ (CCC 817-822 / Compendium 163-164 / USCCA 129-130)

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

7.09.09 Identify that the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Churches call their diocese an "eparchy" (CCC 832-835 / Compendium 167 / USCCA 130)

**7.09.10** Identify that the Eastern Catholic Churches call their sacraments "mysteries" and Confirmation, "chrismation" (CCC 1289, 1328-1332 / Compendium 266, 275)

### **Standard #10: CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS** – *Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.*

#### **Indicators:**

**7.10.01** Recognize that human rights are based on the equality of all persons resting on their dignity as human persons created in the image and the likeness of God (CCC 2273 / Compendium 408, 411-412, 416, 463, 512 / USCCA 7, 66-68, 71)

**7.10.02** State meaning of human sexuality as a gift of God and meant for married love between a man and a woman (CCC 1643-1654, 2360-2363 / Compendium 487-489, 490, 495 / USCCA 408)

**7.10.03** Describe human sexuality as being all that makes a person male or female.( physical characteristics and responses, psychological characteristics and emotional responses, social relationships and need for intimacy, intellectual aptitude and attitude, spiritual) (CCC 1605, 2203, 2331-2336, 2392-2393 / Compendium 487 / USCCA 405-416)

7.10.04 Identify the elements of our human sexuality as physical, mental, social, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual (CCC 2337-2359 / Compendium 487-489, 495-496 / USCCA 405-416)

7.10.05 Connect how one's decisions positively or negatively affect the elements of their human sexuality (CCC 2337-2359 / Compendium 487-489, 495-496 / USCCA 406-407)

**7.10.06** Analyze what is needed to live a chaste lifestyle (CCC 2520-2527 / Compendium 488-496 / USCCA 405)

**7.10.07** Define and differentiate between abstinence, chastity, and celibacy (CCC 2337-2359, 2348, 1658 / Compendium 488-496 / USCCA 405-416)

7.10.08 Integrate the meaning of Christian morality with Jesus' teaching, the dignity of the human person and the

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

Incarnation (CCC 1780, 1794 / Compendium 367-369 / USCCA 7, 66-68, 71)

- 7.10.09** Understand that sexual attraction is part of God's plan to continue in married life (CCC 2333 / Compendium 370-371 / USCCA 408-416)
- 7.10.10** Recognize that every baptized person is called to lead a chaste life no matter what their state in life (CCC 2337 / Compendium 488-496 / USCCA 405)
- 7.10.11** Recognize that Christian response to life is that human life has inherent dignity and respects life in all its stages (CCC 364, 1699-1715 / Compendium 358 / USCCA 389)

**Standard #11: VOCATION** - *Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ responding in faith by participating in the Mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church. 452, 137, 126, 269*

### Indicators:

- 7.11.01** State the call to religious life in the Church is identified in two forms: active and contemplative (CCC 916, 925-927 / Compendium 192-193 / USCCA 135, 139, 144, 413, 525)
- 7.11.02 Describe how apostolic religious orders provided teachers and catechists for parishes in the United States for over 150 years (CCC 916, 925-927 / USCCA 125-135)
- 7.11.03** Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call (CCC 900 / Compendium 337-350, 322-336 / USCCA 452, 137, 126, 269)
- 7.11.04 Understand that religious life is a special type of discipleship (CCC 916, 925-927 / Compendium 192-193 / USCCA 135)

### *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*

#### **Grade 7**

**Key Element VI:** *Education for Evangelization and Apostolic Life – Promoting a missionary spirit and vocation that prepares disciples to be present as Christians in society*

"..salvation has always been considered a “social” reality. Indeed, the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of a “city” (cf. 11:10, 16; 12:22; 13:14) and therefore of communal salvation. Consistently with this view, sin is understood by the Fathers as the destruction of the unity of the human race, as fragmentation and division. Babel, the place where languages were confused, the place of separation, is seen to be an expression of what sin fundamentally is. Hence “redemption” appears as the reestablishment of unity, in which we come together once more in a union that begins to take shape in the world community of believers. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi* no.17)

Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into human situation and seeking to transform individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself (*Go and Make Disciples* no.15). When Baptized, you have received the Spirit of Christ Jesus, which brings salvation and hope; your lives are a witness of faith. As sharers through Baptism in the priestly mission of Jesus, we are called to live our faith fully, share our faith freely and transform the world through the power of the Gospel. We have a story of faith to share.

#### ***Missionary initiation***

Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society. The ‘world’ thus becomes the place and the means for the lay faithful to fulfill their Christian vocation. Catechesis seeks to help the disciples of Christ to be present in society precisely as believing Christians who are able and willing to bear witness to their faith in words and deeds. In fostering this spirit of evangelization, catechesis nourishes the evangelical attitudes of Jesus Christ in the faithful: to be poor in spirit, to be compassionate, to be meek, to hear the cry of injustice, to be merciful, to be pure of heart, to make peace, and to accept rejection and persecution. Catechesis recognizes that other religious traditions reflect the “seeds of the Word” that can constitute a true “preparation for the Gospel.” It encourages adherents of the world’s religions to share what they hold in common, never minimizing the real differences between and among them. “Dialogue is not in opposition to the mission ad gentes.” (NDC no. 6)



## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

- a) Catechesis is also open to the missionary dimension. (269) This seeks to equip the disciples of Jesus to be present as Christians in society through their professional, cultural and social lives. It also prepares them to lend their cooperation to the different ecclesial services, according to their proper vocation.
- b) In educating for this missionary sense, catechesis is also necessary for interreligious dialogue, if it renders the faithful capable of meaningful communication with men and women of other religions. Catechesis shows that the link between the Church and non-Christian religions is, in the first place, the common origin and end of the human race, as well as the "many seeds of the word which God has sown in these religions". Catechesis too helps to reconcile and, at the same time, to distinguish between "the proclamation of Christ" and "inter-religious dialogue". These two elements, while closely connected, must not be confused or identified. Indeed, "dialogue does not dispense from evangelization." (GDC no.86)

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

### Key Element VI: *Evangelization and Apostolic Life*

**Standard #12: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING:** Know critique and apply social justice and stewardship principles to societal situations in a way that acknowledges and affirms the dignity of the human person and community. (CCC 1898-1899, 1941 / Compendium 411-414 / USCCA 326-337, 420-421 / *Compendium on the Social Doctrine of the Church* 67)

#### Indicators:

- 7.12.01 Debate that human rights are based on the equality of all persons resting on their dignity as human persons created in the image and the likeness of God (CCC 225, 356-361 / Compendium 42, 411 / USCCA 67-68)
- 7.12.02** State that the Scriptures teach us the importance of working for justice, peace, equality, and stewardship in our lives (CCC 908 / Compendium 191, 404, 410 / USCCA 417ff / *Gaudium et Spes*)
- 7.12.03 Define "Common Good" as the sum total of conditions which allow people as groups or individuals, to reach fulfillment more easily (CCC 1906 / Compendium 407 / USCCA 417)
- 7.12.04 Show understanding that the good of the human person is the purpose of society (CCC 1877 / Compendium 358, 401 / USCCA 387)
- 7.12.05** Recognize that Christian response to life is that human life has inherent dignity and respects life in all its stages (CCC 2258, 2330 / Compendium 466 / USCCA 387)
- 7.12.06 State how natural law expresses the dignity of the person and is the basis for fundamental rights and duties (CCC 1718 / Compendium 361 / USCCA 327-328)
- 7.12.07** Show understanding that the Christian life requires preferential love for the poor (CCC 2443 / Compendium 520 / USCCA 343)
- 7.12.08** State the conditions for abortion being a grave sin and the need for reconciliation and healing (CCC 2258 / Compendium 466 / USCCA 387)

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

**Standard #13: INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE** - *Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with Jews, Muslims, and all faith traditions.*

### Indicators:

- 7.13.01** State how the Church respects all faith traditions
- 7.13.02** Articulate why other religions must be respected
- 7.13.03 Show understanding that Judaism is a major world religion
- 7.13.04** The Catholic Church also acknowledges her special relationship to the Jewish people. The Second Vatican Council declared regarding Jewish people that "this people remains most dear to God, for God does not repent of the gifts he makes nor of the calls he issues." (CCC 839-840 / Compendium 169 / USCCA 130 / Lumen Gentium no. 16)
- 7.13.05 Describe culture and family life of the Jewish people during the time of Jesus
- 7.13.06 Describe roles in family life and culture in First Century Judaism
- 7.13.07** Describe the role of the rabbi in Jewish education
- 7.13.08 State the significance of Jerusalem as the center of Jewish worship, Levite priesthood, sacrifice, temple life, and worship
- 7.13.09** Show understanding that Jews express their faith in observing the commands of the covenant, reading Sacred Scripture, synagogue worship and family culture
- 7.13.10** Show understanding that Islam is a religion that expresses faith in the one God

## Grade 7 Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines

---

**Standard #14: MISSIONARY VOCATION** - Demonstrate an appreciation for Catholic missionary and evangelization efforts through our parish community, its culture, worship, sacramental life, and service. *849-856 172-173 117-118,125-1126*

### Indicators:

- 7.14.01** Explain why the example of our lives as Christians is as important as what we say about the Gospel of Jesus (CCC 783-786 / Compendium 155 / USCCA 502 / Declaration Dominus Iesus, 5)
- 7.14.02 Justify why understanding what others believe might help you to share the Good news in a more meaningful and respectful way (Redemptoris Missio #55)
- 7.14.03** Recognize that Jesus gave us the Catholic Church that is modeled in union with the Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (CCC 113-114 / Compendium 165 / USCCA 132-134)
- 7.14.04 Summarize what Christ is asking of His disciples when He said: "teach them to observe all that I have commanded you," (Mt 28:20). (CCC 849-851 / Compendium 172 / USCCA 502)
- 7.14.05 Identify special missionary vocations in the lives of the Saints. (For example, St. Isaac Jogues, St. Therese of Lisieux, Mother Cabrini and others) (CCC 811, 962 / Compendium 160 / USCCA 132, 195, 207)
- 7.14.06** Recognize that the church is missionary by nature (CCC 811, 962 / Compendium 160 / USCCA 207)
- 7.14.07** State that the Church has a special mission to the poor (CCC 2443 / Compendium 520 / USCCA 343)
- 7.14.08 Identify within Communities and provide appropriate service to help meet those in need (CCC 176 / Compendium 360 / USCCA 427-428)
- 7.14.09** Recognize the theology of stewardship as it relates to distribution and use of resources for missionary work (CCC 25-34 / Compendium 531 / USCCA 450-454)
- 7.14.10 Cite from the media of how discrimination and prejudice lead to events of war and injustice