

## Indicators of the Fundamental Tasks of Catechesis<sup>1</sup>

"All of these tasks are necessary. As the vitality of the human body depends upon proper function of all of its organs, so also the maturation of the Christian life requires that it be cultivated in all its dimensions: knowledge of the faith, the church life, moral formation, prayer, along to community, missionary spirit." (*General Directory For Catechesis*, Paragraph 87)

### Promoting Knowledge of the Faith

Indicator	Examples/Practices
A basal text, in compliance with the <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> , is used	
Diocesan religious education curriculum guidelines are a main reference for teaching/learning	
The religion curriculum includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Scripture</li> <li>✓ Doctrine</li> <li>✓ Morality</li> <li>✓ Sacraments</li> <li>✓ Prayer</li> <li>✓ Liturgy</li> <li>✓ Social Teaching</li> </ul>	
Parish scheduling and space gives evidence that time for religion classes is equal to other parish ministries	
Catechists are certified, or actively working towards certification	
Catechists are active Catholics who serve as models of faith	
Inservice opportunities are provided to update catechists regarding Church teachings	
A variety of methods in religious instruction are observable	
Catechists regularly assess individual and group accomplishment of learning objectives	
There is family life program reflecting church teaching	
Other:	
Other:	
Other:	

<sup>1</sup> Developed by Matthew J. Hayes in 2000 from the following sources:

*Our Hearts Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*, United States Catholic Conference, 1999

"The Distinctively Catholic School," Archdiocese of Indianapolis, 1986

"Professional Growth Plan for Teachers," Archdiocese of Louisville, April 1997

"Catholic Identity Section" of the Certification Process of the Kentucky Non-Public Schools Commission, December 1998

**Liturgical Education**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Examples/Practices</b>
Eucharistic liturgy is given high-priority	
Ample opportunities are provided for participation in the sacrament of Reconciliation	
Liturgical seasons and special church feasts are celebrated and liturgical seasonal decorations visible program/classroom decorations	
Rituals are used to support Catholic values	
Staff involve learners when planning liturgies and prayer experiences	
Formal and informal worship experiences are designed for the age, understanding, and culture of the learners	
Music for worship is included as part of regular music instruction	
Study of symbols and rituals related to liturgy are part of the religion curriculum	
Immediate sacramental preparation programs are based on a partnership with the parent	
Immediate sacramental preparation programs are connected with parish community	
Catechists, learners and parents have opportunities for public group experiences stressing participation in liturgy and sacraments	
Other:	
Other:	
Other:	

**Moral Formation**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Examples/Practices</b>
Students understand the <i>Ten Commandments</i> and the <i>Beatitudes</i> as relevant to age-appropriate life issues	
Students learn the skills of a Gospel-based <i>formation of conscience</i> in personal and social arenas	
Students are taught the <i>dignity</i> , destiny, freedom and responsibility of <i>the human person</i> , together with the <i>reality of sin</i> and the power of <i>God's grace</i> to overcome it	
Catechists and learners give witness to justice, mercy, peace and respect for life in their everyday actions	
Other:	
Other:	
Other:	

**Teaching to Pray**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Examples/Practices</b>
The catechists pray together regularly	
Catechists have a regular retreat or day of recollection	
Catechists participate in prayer with their learners	
Various prayer forms are taught and creatively utilized, including personal prayer, and shared prayer with others	
Meetings and religious education program activities include prayer	
A chapel or other area for prayer is available	
Other:	
Other:	
Other:	

**Education for Community Life**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Examples/Practices</b>
A conscious and deliberate effort is made to develop a faith community within classrooms and the overall program	
The teaching/learning process includes opportunities for learners and catechists to share their own faith life	
Age-appropriate skills and interpersonal relationships are experienced and taught	
Age-appropriate skills in civic responsibility are experienced and taught	
Families are encouraged to take part in parish activities	
The role of the parent as the primary influence in the faith development of the child is recognized	
Regular family faith practices are an expectation of the program	
There is a means of regular communication between parent and catechist	
Program policies and practices are designed with the diversity of families in mind	
Parish practices provide for individual assistance to adults (as catechists or parents) in their personal faith development	
The parish refers families and/or learners for professional guidance when necessary	
Students learn in age appropriate ways the nature and mission of the church, including an understanding of the church's authority and structures as a faith community	
Opportunities for multicultural experiences are a regular part of the program at every age level	
Other:	
Other:	
Other:	

**Missionary Initiation**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Examples/Practices</b>
The seven themes of Catholic social teaching are regularly referenced in curriculum areas: ✓ Life and Dignity of the Human Person ✓ Call to Family, Community, and Participation ✓ Rights and Responsibilities ✓ Option for the Poor and Vulnerable ✓ The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers ✓ Solidarity ✓ Care for God's Creation	
Students understand the application of the church's social teaching in personal, professional, cultural, and social areas	
Social justice concerns are integrated into appropriate areas of the curriculum	
Appropriate service projects are provided at all learner levels	
Students understand both the importance of serving others, and working for the transformation of society according to Gospel values	
The actions and interactions of adult staff members model Christian principles	
A spirit of reconciliation and commitment to conflict resolution is evidenced in everyday practice	
Students are given opportunities to examine various ministries within the church	
Vocation programs are in place at all levels	
And evangelizing spirit, as part of a baptismal calling, is cultivated among all learners and staff	
Other:	
Other:	
Other:	