



Diocese of
Green Bay

Additional Information Sheet - Questions and Answers High School Religious Education

1. Why so much emphasis on specific textbooks? Isn't the teacher or the catechist the most important piece in catechesis as they form disciples, not the textbook?

A quality, prayerful, and knowledgeable teacher or catechist is an invaluable witness to high school students. Special intentionality should be employed when choosing teachers or catechists as they have the ability to walk with, form, and inspire disciples. However, although a textbook may not initially intrigue a young person or prove to be the catalyst in starting a relationship with Christ, quality content feeds, enlivens, and gives reason for our hope in Christ Jesus. The content is not empty doctrines nor boring, out of touch rules, but is rather beautiful truths which allow young people to know Jesus intimately, understand and embrace his Church and her teachings, and fall in love with the vast wisdom which the Holy Spirit has been pouring upon the faithful for over 2000 years. Dogma and doctrines are life-giving because truth is life-giving and transformative, so textbooks chosen need to be carefully selected so that the content contained may rightly transform our youth. Quality content combined with a quality catechist or teacher makes all the difference.

2. Are the semester topics outlined by the USCCB required to be in that specific order?

According to the introduction to the framework, it is strongly recommended that the core courses be covered in the order in which they appear in this framework. The sequence in which the core curriculum appears reflects a systematic point of view in which each course builds on a foundation laid by those that precede it." Although it is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that the courses be taught in this order.

3. The Bishop's curriculum does not mention Theology of the Body specifically. How can we include this into the curriculum?

In the 6th semester (recommended at junior year semester 2), Theology of the Body is mentioned in the curriculum as well as in two of the senior electives. Although it is not expanded upon specifically, the Diocese of Green Bay sees the need to teach teenagers all throughout their high school career about the goodness of their bodies and souls in the teaching which has renewed our outlook on the human person. We find it especially important in the current culture to reclaim what is true, good, and beautiful in the world. Sample high school discipleship models are to follow which gives examples of how theology of the body can be taught (unit model, retreat model, ongoing classes). In addition, Grade Level Recommendations are given through the Theology of the Body Diocesan trainings. These can all be accessed on the diocesan education resource page at www.gbdioc.org/youth-ministry/resources.

4. What about Lifeteen, the YouCat, and T3 Bible Timeline? Can I still use these resources?

As long as an approved textbook provides the content and curriculum outline of topics for the respective age levels, these programs and texts can be used to supplement and expand upon the content in the approved textbook. As it is stated in the General Directory for Catechesis, a "variety of methods is a sign of life and richness." These resources can be helpful in building

disciples through prayer and encounter with Christ. For example, one could use the T3 Bible Timeline offered through Ascension Press to supplement or give an engaging perspective on the textbook curriculum concerning the Old and New Testament (Curriculum recommended during the first year “Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture” and “Who is Jesus Christ?”). Those who are currently using LifeTeen can use its content and activities to supplement and enrich the already existing content in one of the approved textbooks.

5. My parish does mini-series of 6 or 8 week classes. Can we still do these classes?

Absolutely. As long as the content follows the Bishop’s curriculum, approved textbooks are used, and each class is able to cover the necessary content, than mini-series can be maintained. A DRE or CRE might need to be creative in dividing the Bishop’s curriculum for each mini-series.

6. What if my parish confirms before we are able to teach 6 semesters of religious education classes (For example, we are confirmed in January of our junior year leaving the final 6th semester of information).

Parish classes are to run for the entire 6 semesters. If your teens are confirmed at the end of semester 5, they are expected to complete the 6th semester even after their confirmation. This is an expectation and should be strongly enforced for the sake of the valuable content shared in that last semester. It is highly encouraged to have a senior theology course or catechetical youth group/Bible study held at the parish for those who have been confirmed.

7. Explain the confirmation preparation again. If we confirm junior year, do my students have to go to the regular classes in addition to the confirmation-specific classes?

Yes. The idea is to continue with the content in whatever USCCB semester you are on yet pay close attention to Confirmation specifically. These specific confirmation classes can be offered in a variety of ways and over a variety of time (six classes of two hours, 3 classes of 4 hours, two classes of 6 hours). This allows for specific focus on the rite of confirmation, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost, the Bishop’s Guide, patron saints, letter to the Bishop, prayer, personal encounters with the Holy Spirit, and other Confirmation specific topics.

8. My parish does not have a senior religious education program. Do we need to start one?

According to the letter, parish religious education programs are only required to run through junior year. However, a senior program is highly encouraged using the senior electives, in a mentoring capacity to younger students, or in a youth group structure. Although it is not required to have a senior program, the parish staff should pray and dialogue about how to engage all high school students authentically challenging them to remain close to the Church. In Catholic schools, four years of theology instruction are required according to the USCCB framework.

9. What resources are we to use for Confirmation preparation? Is there an approved list for Confirmation preparation?

There is no approved diocesan list for Confirmation resources. However, on our online resource page (www.gbdioc.org/youth-ministry/resources), there is a list of recommended resources that can be used according to your parish Confirmation program.

10. How does youth ministry and campus ministry play into high school religious education/theology classes? Formal catechesis is only one part of forming disciples.

Absolutely. Catechesis must be coupled with meaningful encounters with Christ in the sacraments, in personal relationships with faithful mentors and friends, meaningful retreats, personal prayer, participation in serving the community at large, and in human formation. The Diocese of Green Bay aims to form young people in four ways which allow for a genuine disciple to mature and evangelize - intellectual formation, spiritual formation, human formation, and pastoral formation. All four areas are important and must be lived and taught in individual families, Catholic schools, religious education programs, and youth ministry. Catechetical formation, which is a “constitutive part of youth ministry programs” is a vital component to the intellectual formation of a teen. All must work together to cultivate authentic disciples who know, love, and serve Jesus.

11. How can I access the USCCB High School Framework directly?

You can access all of the documents, letters, and resources from our Diocesan resource page at www.gbdioc.org/youth-ministry/resources. Directly, you can access the USCCB’s Framework here:

- Parish and Youth Ministry programs have an adapted version which can be accessed at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/upload/high-school-curriculum-framework-adaptation-of-preamble-2.pdf>.
- Framework for the Catholic schools can be accessed at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/upload/high-school-curriculum-framework.pdf>