

April 29, 2014



Dear Pastors, Pastoral Leaders, Religious Education and School Administrators,

The Department of Education would like to expand upon a few points introduced in Bishop Ricken's letter concerning the high school textbook selection and curriculum.

Catholic high schools require four years of religion curriculum according to the USCCB's Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework. In keeping with the 30-35 hours requested for each grade level in parish based religious education programs, at least 6 semesters (3 years) of content is to be offered in each parish in keeping with the USCCB's Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework.

High School Content has been Outlined as Follows:

- The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture (Recommended Freshmen Year)
- Who is Jesus Christ? (Recommended Freshmen Year)
- Sophomore: The Mission of Jesus Christ (Recommended Sophomore Year)
- Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church (Recommended Sophomore Year)
- Junior: Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ (Recommended Junior Year)
- Life in Jesus Christ (Recommended Junior Year)
- Choice of 5 electives (Recommended Senior Year)
 - Sacred Scripture
 - History of the Catholic Church
 - Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society
 - Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ
 - Ecumenical and Interreligious Issues

Each catechist and teacher is to have their own textbook in order to gain deeper catechetical understanding and if possible, each student receive a textbook according to the means of the parish or school. In addition to the outlined curriculum, the Theology of the Body is to be appropriately taught in the high school curriculum along with parent cooperation and consent. See the accompanying models for ways to incorporate this curriculum appropriately in the pre existing curriculum outlined above. This is an important part of formation in our high school teens.

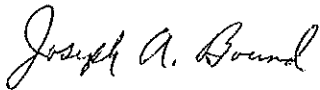
Confirmation preparation will be taught as stand alone classes as separate from the actual required semester courses. For example, six two hour classes, two six hour classes, or five three-hour classes should be devoted to Confirmation preparation exclusively. These classes are to be scheduled near the time of confirmation. See the additional resources that are provided by the Department of Education as to how this can be implemented separately, but always in union with the standard classes outlined above.

Finally, a total approach to the formation of high school students needs to be taken into account. By evaluating current parish and school curriculums, the mission to form disciples should seep into every aspect of parish and school programs. That being said, there are accompanying resources which will aid not only in the intellectual formation of a high school student, but also the spiritual, pastoral, and human formation of a young person.

This high school curriculum including the various textbooks series, theology of the body curriculum, catechist textbooks, confirmation preparation, and discipleship approach will be implemented for the 2015-2016 academic year.

An accompanying question and answer page is provided for further clarification. If questions still arise, please contact Sr. Jacqueline Spaniola, Diocesan Religious Education Director at jspaniola@gbdioc.org or at (920) 272-8288.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Bound".

Joseph A. Bound, Ph.D.
Director of Education
Diocese of Green Bay