



## **NCEA IFG: ACRE edition** **Available: Fall 2013**

The NCEA ACRE (Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education) is currently undergoing a two-year revision process in which about 30 percent of items will be replaced. The revision began in 2011 and the new faith assessment tool will debut September 2013. ACRE was last revised in 2001, and that edition is still in use today.

The revision of NCEA's popular religious education assessment for students in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs will be known as NCEA Information for Growth: Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education. We will refer to it in its shorter form as **NCEA IFG: ACRE edition**.

Below are some important things for parents, guardians, teachers, parish catechetical leaders, principals, and diocesan leaders to know about the revision:

- Please plan now to put into your 2013-14 budget the cost of new assessment booklets. For NCEA members, booklets will cost \$1.20 each, the same price as now. For non-members, the cost of booklets is \$1.55 each. Costs will remain the same for all revised assessment materials, including booklets, answer sheets and shipping. Answer sheets are \$2.75 for NCEA members and \$3.50 for non-members. The cost of scoring and generating reports is built into the price of the answer sheets. **The same answer sheets will be used for the new NCEA IFG: ACRE edition assessment tool that are now being used for the current NCEA ACRE (2001 edition).**
- **The ability to pre-order materials for the new NCEA IFG: ACRE edition will not be available until July 1, 2013. PLEASE DO NOT PLACE ORDERS FOR THE NEW ASSESSMENT UNTIL THEN. Orders will be shipped beginning in August 2013.**
- NCEA & CA&L understand that budgets can be tight and that some schools and parishes that use the assessments for two or three grades may have difficulty in affording new booklets for all levels in one year. Accordingly, the 2013-14 school year (from September 2013 through June 2014) will be a transitional year, where CA&L will score both the old (2001) and revised (2013) assessment tools. **Beginning July 1, 2014, only the revised assessment tool will be available and scored.** We urge schools and parishes to plan now to adopt the revised assessment in 2013 in at least one level.
- **NOTE: Booklets for the current ACRE (2001 edition) will only be sold through June 30, 2013, for those few institutions planning to delay the use of the new assessment tool for a year.**
- The preferred method for ordering both the ACRE and the NCEA IFG: ACRE edition materials is by going to CA&L's website (<http://ncea.caltesting.org/>). A credit card is not required to order materials online – an invoice can be sent. CA&L will also process orders received by mail and fax.
- For the cognitive section of the revised assessment, the number of domains, or areas of questioning in core faith concepts, will change from eight domains to six domains. These six domains will match the six tasks of catechesis found in both the *General Directory for Catechesis* and the *National Directory for Catechesis*. The six domains are: 1) Knowledge of the

Faith; 2) Liturgical Life; 3) Moral Formation; 4) Prayer; 5) Communal Life and 6) Missionary Spirit.

- ACRE Level 2 and ACRE Level 3 (for eighth- or ninth-graders and eleventh- or twelfth-graders respectively) will align fully with the USCCB document, *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*. The current version already addresses more than 80% of the major areas of the *Framework*.
- The revision will maintain developmentally appropriate expectations of cognitive and affective maturation across the lifespan, so that rigor increases from fifth-grade through twelfth-grade.
- The administration and interpretation manuals will be rewritten to make them more practical and user-friendly. The interpretation manual will include tips for aligning 2001-edition results with 2013-edition results. An updated training video will also be produced in the next year or two.
- A Spanish-language version of the revised assessment tool will be available, as it is now.
- Information for Growth (IFG), NCEA's assessment tool for adults, is not affected by the ACRE revision process. It was revised in 2006 and costs \$6.50/per person for NCEA members and \$8.25 for non members. It is a great tool to help teachers, catechists, parents and other adults understand their own level of religious knowledge.
- An online version of an ACRE-type student assessment tool is still a few years away. IFG for adults is available online now.
- The ordering, processing and generating of reports will continue to be done through Computerized Assessments & Learning (CA&L), located in Lawrence, Kansas.
- NCEA Religious Education Department staff will continue to be available for support.

**To learn more about the newly revised assessment tool, please visit NCEA's website:**  
[http://www.ncea.org/news/pressrelease/article.asp?article\\_id=467](http://www.ncea.org/news/pressrelease/article.asp?article_id=467)