

Frequently Asked Questions about the K-8 Religious Education Textbook List

Q. Why did Bishop Ricken establish this list of acceptable textbooks?

A. His purpose in doing this was to choose a select number of catechetical series so that we can ensure the quality of the catechetical content in the Diocese.

Q. What are the five approved textbook series?

A. The five are:

- *Alive in Christ* by Our Sunday Visitor
- *Be My Disciple* by RCL/Benzinger
- *Christ Our Life* by Loyola
- *Faith and Life* by Ignatius Press
- *We Believe* by Sadlier

Q. How did Bishop Ricken select these five series of textbooks?

A. A Task Force composed of professionals from both schools and parishes, formed through the Department of Education, reviewed and evaluated text book materials based on ACRE assessment results, the Bishop's criteria for textbooks, and curriculum standards & benchmarks. Input from participants at a Leadership Day event where publishers described the merits of their series was also considered.

Q. When are we required to begin using one of the series on the list?

A. By the beginning of the academic year 2014-15.

Q. What if we want to use a text series that is not on the list?

A. In the academic year 2014-2015, all schools and parish programs will be required to use one of the five selected text series. Other resources may be used as supplemental materials, but not as the primary texts.

Q. What if we're already using one of these series, but an older edition?

A. No problem. When it becomes necessary to replace texts, you'll be free to use current editions of the same text, or switch to another text on the approved list.

Q. Does every K-8 student need to have a text book?

A. Yes.

Q. What if we can't afford to switch to one of the approved series?

A. Several publishers offer discounted prices depending on purchase quantity as well as other money-saving offers. The Diocese is exploring other funding sources as well that would benefit parishes and schools switching to an approved series.

Q. How does the Green Bay Diocese view Generations of Faith?

A. It is very important to involve the whole family in the parish community. Generations of Faith is an excellent way to involve the family in social, catechetical, and parish life, but Generations of Faith cannot be the main catechetical instruction for our children to learn their Catholic Faith. Besides, Generations of Faith students should receive more hours of instruction. A policy is forthcoming and will be implemented in the 2014-2015 academic year with the approved textbooks.

Q. What about texts for our Spanish-speaking students?

A. Several of the selected text series offer a Spanish language edition. Additionally, the Education Department will be reviewing recommended materials from Spanish-speaking countries.

Q. What about texts for home-schooled students in our parish?

A. Home school families should check to see which of the approved series their parish is using. A policy on religion education home schooling is forthcoming.

Q. For the Second Grade, is it alright to use the First Communion preparation materials instead of the 2nd Grade Text?

A. First Communion materials should be used as a supplement to the 2nd Grade text, not a substitute.

Q. Do all schools/parish programs that are part of a system need to use the same textbook series?

A. That issue is under consideration, but not resolved at this time. Certainly, it would make sense that a single parish and its associated school, or a small school system would use the same text book series, in the event the student were to transfer to or from the Catholic school. All Schools/Parish programs are required to be using materials from the approved list, beginning in 2014-15.

Q. Is there going to be a list of acceptable high school religious education texts?

A. Next year, a new Task Force will be assembled to go through a similar process in the selection of high school religious education text series.