

# Revised September 2010

September 14, 1998

Dear Co-workers:

The ministry of catechesis is vital to enabling the Church to carry out the task that Jesus gave when he challenged his followers to “make disciples of all the nations” and “teach them to carry out all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20) In the Religious Education programs of our parishes and missions many women and men are striving to accomplish this task today.

The Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education, with the dedicated work of a committee, has formulated *Guidelines for Catechist Formation*, to help the catechists of our parishes and missions to hand on the faith of the Catholic Church. These guidelines will enable each catechist to continue to grow in his or her knowledge of the faith, and to develop the skills and methods necessary for teaching the faith to the adults, youth, and children of our diocese.

I have accepted the unanimous recommendation of the Presbyteral Council and I now approve the *Guidelines for Catechist Formation*. All programs of religious education in the parishes and missions of the Diocese of Beaumont must conform to these guidelines. The implementation of these guidelines can only strengthen the faith formation/education programs of our parishes and missions. But, more importantly, they will enable the next generation of the Church in Southeast Texas to grow in relationship with Jesus and knowledge of the Catholic faith, and to be better able to live as Catholics in today’s world.

May God continue to bless and guide you and may Mary assist you in coming to know, love, and live her Son, Jesus.

Fraternally,

Most Rev. Joseph A. Galante, D.D., J.C.D.  
Bishop of Beaumont

# **GUIDELINES FOR CATECHIST FORMATION**

Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education  
Diocese of Beaumont

(Effective September 14, 1998)

# **Revised September 2010**

**APPROVED FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN THE DIOCESE OF BEAUMONT**

**September 14, 1998**

**Most Rev. Joseph A. Galante, D.D., J.C.D.  
Bishop of Beaumont**

# **DIOCESE OF BEAUMONT**

## **Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education**

### **Guidelines for Catechist Formation**

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# I. Introduction

## The Ministry of Catechesis

The ministry of catechesis is vital to enabling the Church to carry out the task that Jesus gave when he challenged his followers to “make disciples of all the nations” and “teach them to carry out all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20) This task is accomplished today in our parishes, missions and Catholic schools through programs of religious formation/education. According to the newly published *General Directory for Catechesis* (1998), the fundamental tasks for catechesis are enabling people “to know, to celebrate and to contemplate the mystery of Christ,” and “initiation and education in community life and to mission.” (Nos. 85, 86.)

## The Ministry of the Catechist

A catechist is a person who responds to a call by God to share his or her faith with others in a formal setting, whether that is the religious education program in a parish or mission or the religion program in a Catholic school. “The vocation of the laity to catechesis springs from the sacrament of Baptism. It is strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation. Through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation they participate in the ‘priestly, prophetic and kingly ministry of Christ’.” (*General Directory for Catechesis*, 231.)

The response to this call includes a willingness to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for this ministry. This **Catechist Formation Process** is designed for all catechists who minister in our parishes and missions, whether in early childhood, primary, intermediate, early/late adolescent, and adult formation programs, including the adult initiation process – the RCIA. (The formation requirements for those catechists who teach religion in Catholic schools is determined by the Office of Catholic Schools, which bases its policy on the program set by the Texas Catholic Conference – Department of Education.)

## The Purpose of Catechist Formation

The propose of catechist formation is threefold:

- To increase the catechist’s theological knowledge
- To expand the teaching skills of the catechist
- To provide for the spiritual growth of the catechist.

Together, these three elements will enable the men and women of our parishes and missions “to transmit the Gospel to those who desire to entrust themselves to Jesus Christ.” (*General Directory for Catechesis*, 235.)

## **II. Requirements for Being a Catechist in the Diocese of Beaumont**

To be a lead catechist, who is the person responsible for teaching a specific class in a parish catechetical program, one must

1. be an active Catholic in good standing with the Church;
2. has reached the age of 21 years;
3. has completed the *Protecting God's Children* training;
4. has successfully passed the background checks;
5. has completed or is enrolled in the diocesan catechist formation program and is working towards certification.

Young adults 18-21 years old may serve as assistants to a lead catechist in a parish catechetical program only after they have completed the *Protecting God's Children* training and have successfully passed the background checks.

Any minor below the age of 18 may assist a lead catechist in a parish catechetical program after completing the Safe Environment Training provided by their parish catechetical program or Catholic school.

### III. General Guidelines for Catechist Formation

- A. To ensure that teaching is faithful to our Catholic heritage and is effectively communicated, all catechists (for early childhood, primary, intermediate, early and later adolescent, and adult, including the adult initiation) are expected to be certified, and if they are not, to enroll in the **Catechist Formation Process** and actively pursue certification by attending classes.
- B. All catechists “must have a solid grasp of Catholic doctrine and worship; familiarity with Scripture; communication skills; the ability to use various methodologies; understanding how people grow and mature and of how persons of different ages and circumstances learn.” (*National Catechetical Directory, No. 211.*)
- C. Pastors and Parish Catechetical Leaders are to assist catechists by encouraging participation in the **Catechist Formation Process** sponsored by the Diocese of Beaumont.
- D. The Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education will provide easy accessibility to the courses it sponsors by offering a variety of scheduling opportunities throughout the diocese.
- E. Classes or learning experiences, other than those offered through the diocese, may be appropriate in specific circumstances, but must be approved by the Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education, and can count for up to one quarter of the required hours for each level of formation. NOTE: Interaction with other catechists in a group setting must be part of this learning.
- F. Catechists come to us with a variety of experiences and with different academic backgrounds; therefore, it is occasionally necessary to waive or substitute some requirements. Please consult with the Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education for this situation.
- G. A catechist who has previously participated in this diocese’s certification sessions may receive credit for that work only when there is documentation of the participation. A catechist who received certification in another diocese should present verification of that certification to the Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education.
- H. Pastors and Parish Catechetical Leaders who choose to offer courses in catechist formation are to follow these guidelines. Course curricula are available through the Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education.
- I. Upon completion of each Level, a Certificate will be presented to the catechist.
- J. This **Guidelines for Catechist Formation**, which was fully implemented in 1999, was revised in September 2010.

# IV. Overview of the Catechist Formation Process

## *Level I, Level II, Level III*

### *Into the Fields*

*Into the Fields* is a comprehensive series by Twenty Third (23<sup>rd</sup>) Publications for Catechist and Teacher Formation. It was produced in partnership with Loyola Pastoral Life Center at the Loyola Institute for Ministry (Loyola University New Orleans). It consists of 30 sessions of which 10 per year are held. Each session is an integration of Spiritual Exercises, Growing Faith, and Tools for Teaching. There is also a music CD included for each year.

Each session is no more than 3 hours (depending on the time allotted for group discussions). Since each session integrates components from Level I, II, and III; the completion of *Into the Fields* \*(along with a choice of 3 of the VLCFF courses listed below, or the completion of *Echoes of Faith* videos) will satisfy the requirements for full catechist certification. (see Page 10)

These sessions can be scheduled flexibly in order to encourage full participation by catechists. However, one session per month (10 per year) may help build a nurturing community of catechists throughout most of the year. Each parish community will need to assess their own potential schedule for the series. We believe this to be a very rewarding series for the Catechist Formation Process.

The following is the outline for the Into the Fields sessions:

#### **Year 1- Basic Catechetical Skills and Attitudes**

Session 1	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	So Great Our Hunger Hunger for God The Call to Be a Catechist or Teacher
Session 2	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	The Story of God in My Life God's Plan for Us Preparing a Learning Space
Session 3	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Teach Me to Be Generous Faith is Response; Faith, Hope, Love Planning the Learning Session

Session 4	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	The Beauty of God Trinity & Liturgy Liturgy as a Teaching Moment
Session 5	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Found by Love The One True God Applying Principles of Development
Session 6	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Nothing is Impossible for God Revelation; Holy Scripture Engaging Scripture Effectively
Session 7	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Walking in God's Presence The Trinity; Social Justice Building a Community of Love
Session 8	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Prepare the Way God, the Creator; Creation Teaching Others as God Teaches Us
Session 9	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	God with Us Sin and Grace; Made for God Moving from Experience to Faith
Session 10	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Companions in Christ The Lord's Prayer Summing Up

### **Year 2 – Styles of Teaching and Learning**

Session 11	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Walking with Jesus Mystery and Marks of the Church Teaching within the Whole Community
Session 12	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Temptations in the Desert The Christian Family Teaching within the Christian Family
Session 13	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	The Harvest is Plenty Encountering God; Prayer Forms Teaching through Apprenticeship
Session 14	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	We Want to See Jesus Ways to Pray Teaching with Faith Sharing

Session 15	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Lord, Make Me Whole Prayer Source; A Life of Grace Mentoring Others in Prayer
Session 16	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Glad Tidings for the Poor Jesus the Messiah Teaching with Stories
Session 17	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Mercy for All The Passion and the Resurrection Making Your Lessons Visual and Active
Session 18	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Community of Love People of the Church Using Technology in Teaching
Session 19	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Recognizing God's Voice Baptism and Confirmation Teaching about Christian Initiation
Session 20	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Love One Another Holy Orders and Matrimony Summing Up

### **Year 3 – Teaching Specific Catholic Topics**

Session 21	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Faith That Does Justice Mary Our Mother <i>plus</i> The Reign of God Teaching About the Church
Session 22	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	God's Word of Hope The Eucharist Teaching about the Sacraments
Session 23	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Faithful to Our Calling Conscience <i>plus</i> Sin Moral Decision Making
Session 24	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	The Feast of Heaven The Holy Spirit The Works of the Spirit
Session 25	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	God So Loved the World Life after Death <i>plus</i> The Magisterium of the Church The Communion of Saints

Session 26	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Waiting with Mary No Strange Gods Before Me <i>plus</i> Keeping Sunday Holy The Commandments and Beatitudes
Session 27	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Daring to Dance Reconciliation <i>plus</i> Anointing The Practice of Virtue
Session 28	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Feed My Sheep Defending Life & Avoiding War The Works of Mercy
Session 29	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	Living in the Spirit Possessions, Greed & Generosity <i>plus</i> Telling the Truth Sharing Catholic Social Teaching
Session 30	Spiritual Exercises: Growing Faith: Tools for Teaching:	The Path Before Us The Lifelong Call to Love & Chastity Summing Up

**\*Select 3 Courses from the following:**

<b>University of Dayton - VLCFF</b>	
Survey of Catholic Doctrine	Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church
Introduction to Scripture	Faith and Human Development
Scripture: New Testament	Spirituality of the Catechist
Scripture: Old Testament	Introduction to Practical Morality
Images of Jesus	Introduction to Prayer
Sacraments	Introduction to Catechesis

**\*Or Completion of the Echoes of Faith Videos**

The Person of the Catechist (*Echoes of Faith*)

Getting Started as a Catechist (*Echoes of Faith*)

Roles of the Catechist (*Echoes of Faith*)

Primary Grade Level Catechists Choose One of the Following:

(*Echoes of Faith*)

- Methods for Grades One and Two
- Methods for Grades Three and Four
- Methods for Grades Five and Six
- Methods for Grades Seven and Eight

I Believe/We Believe – The Creed (*Echoes of Faith*)

Introduction to the Scriptures (*Echoes of Faith*)

Liturgy and Sacraments (*Echoes of Faith*)

Catholic Morality (*Echoes of Faith*)

Prayer and Spirituality (*Echoes of Faith*)

Introduction to the Learner (*Echoes of Faith*)

# Courses for Certification in Formational Ministry and Catechist Formation Process

Listed below are the CEMI Courses in Theology required for Level II and III Certification in Formational Ministry, and the courses from the University of Dayton VLCFF program that can be substituted for the CEMI course and will be accepted towards Formational Ministry Certification. Any 3 courses can be selected to complete the Catechist Formation Process (see page 7). If you take a course through CEMI you must complete the required book work to gain full credit. If you take and complete a course online through the VLCFF program no additional book work is required to gain full credit. If you complete the courses listed in **bold** (in the box) under the VLCFF column you will receive a Certificate in Catechesis from The University of Dayton **and** from the Diocese of Beaumont, with the addition of the course - **A Pastoral Approach to Culture**. If you take courses from CEMI and VLCFF the certificate will come from the Diocese of Beaumont and you will be required to take all the Courses in Theology listed under CEMI.

## CEMI Courses in Theology

(All are required for Certification.)

Foundations of Theology  
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A Survey of the New Testament

A Survey of the Old Testament

Christology

Ecclesiology: Church History and Theology

Sacramental Theology

Psychological and Faith Development

Contemporary Christian Spirituality

Moral Theology and Conscience Formation  
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Comparative Christianity

The Social Justice Teachings of the Church

Liturgy I: Introduction to Liturgy

**AND**

Liturgy II: The Work of the People

Liturgy III: Liturgy as Transforming

The Parables of Jesus -----\*

-----\* Indicates no course substitution at this time

## University of Dayton - VLCFF

(Certificate in Catechesis)

**Survey of Catholic Doctrine**

**Introduction to Scripture**

**Scripture: New Testament**

**Scripture: Old Testament**

**Images of Jesus**

**Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church**

**Sacraments**

**Faith and Human Development**

**Spirituality of the Catechist**

**Introduction to Practical Morality**

**Introduction to Prayer**

**Introduction to Catechesis**

## **A Pastoral Approach to Culture**

*Ecumenism*

*Catholic Social Teaching 1*

**AND**

*Catholic Social Teaching 2*

*Introduction to Liturgy*

*On Bended Knee*  
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## V. Continuing Formation

- A. Catechists are encouraged to be involved in ongoing formation and in-service training during the entire time they serve in the ministry. (General Directory for Catechesis, No. 247.)
- B. After acquiring Level I, Level II, and Level III certificates, to maintain certification, the catechist is expected to participate in a minimum of 4 hours of continuing formation events or programs each year. This formation may include:
  - Diocesan or parish in-service programs
  - Adult education programs
  - Retreats and missions
  - Regional conferences and workshops
  - VLCCFF Classes

## VI. Record Keeping

The following procedure will ensure that parish catechetical staffs and the Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education document a record of each catechist's formation. Catechists are also to maintain a record of the courses and workshops they have attended.

### A. Catechist's Personal Form

1. Each Catechist will receive a form in the handbook distributed at the Orientation Session or can duplicate a copy of the form on pages 13 and 14.
2. For Level I, Level II, Level III, catechists are to record each class or workshop they have attended.
3. Catechists are responsible for informing their Parish Catechetical Leader of other courses completed.

### B. Parish Record of Catechist Formation

1. The Parish Catechetical Leader will keep a record of the formation process of each catechist.
2. The form on pages 13 and 14 included in these guidelines may be duplicated.
3. At the end of each school year, the Parish Catechetical Leader will notify the Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education of all participants who have attended *Into the Fields* courses held at their Parish.

### C. Diocesan Record of Catechist Formation

1. Once a year the Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education will provide the Parish Catechetical Leaders with a list of the catechists who have attended courses.
2. The Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education will maintain:
  - a. Attendance sheets from each diocesan-sponsored course for five years.
  - b. A copy of the completed requirements for Level I, Level II, and Level III for each catechist for five years.

# Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education

## Diocese of Beaumont

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Record of Catechist Formation*

Date Completed Level I: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Certificate Received \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed Level II: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Certificate Received \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed Level III: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Certificate Received \_\_\_\_\_

## INTO THE FIELDS

### Level I - Basic Catechetical Skills and Attitudes

30 Hours

Session 1: So Great Our Hunger; Hunger for God; The Call to Be a Catechist or Teacher

Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Session 2: The Story of God in My Life; God's Plan for Us; Preparing a Learning Space

Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Session 3: Teach Me to Be Generous; Faith is Response; Faith, Hope, Love; Planning the Learning Session

Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Session 4: The Beauty of God; Trinity & Liturgy; Liturgy as a Teaching Moment

Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Session 5: Found by Love; The One True God; Applying Principles of Development

Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Session 6: Nothing is Impossible for God; Revelation; Holy Scripture; Engaging Scripture Effectively

Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Session 7: Walking in God's Presence; The Trinity; Social Justice; Building a Community of Love

Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Session 8: Prepare the Way; God, the Creator; Creation; Teaching Others as God Teaches Us

Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Session 9: God with Us; Sin and Grace; Made for God; Moving from Experience to Faith

Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Session 10: Companions in Christ; The Lord's Prayer; Summing Up

Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Level II – Styles of Teaching and Learning**

**30 Hours**

- Session 11: Walking with Jesus; Mystery and Marks of the Church; Teaching within the Whole Community  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 12: Temptations in the Desert; The Christian Family; Teaching within the Christian Family  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 13: The Harvest is Plenty; Encountering God; Prayer Forms; Teaching through Apprenticeship  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 14: We Want to See Jesus; Ways to Pray; Teaching with Faith Sharing  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 15: Lord, Make Me Whole; Prayer Source; A Life of Grace; Mentoring Others in Prayer  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 16: Glad Tidings for the Poor; Jesus the Messiah; Teaching with Stories  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 17: Mercy for All; The Passion and the Resurrection; Making Your Lessons Visual and Active  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 18: Community of Love; People of the Church; Using Technology in Teaching  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 19: Recognizing God’s Voice; Baptism and Confirmation; Teaching about Christian Initiation  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 20: Love One Another; Holy Orders and Matrimony; Summing Up  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Level III – Teaching Specific Catholic Topics**

**30 Hours**

- Session 21: Faith That Does Justice; Mary Our Mother *plus* The Reign of God; Teaching About the Church  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 22: God’s Word of Hope; The Eucharist; Teaching about the Sacraments  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 23: Faithful to Our Calling; Conscience *plus* Sin; Moral Decision Making  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 24: The Feast of Heaven; The Holy Spirit; The Works of the Spirit  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 25: God So Loved the World; Life after Death *plus* The Magisterium of the Church; The Communion of Saints  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 26: Waiting with Mary; No Strange Gods Before Me *plus* Keeping Sunday Holy;  
The Commandments and Beatitudes  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 27: Daring to Dance; Reconciliation *plus* Anointing; The Practice of Virtue  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 28: Feed My Sheep; Defending Life & Avoiding War; The Works of Mercy  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 29: Living in the Spirit; Possessions, Greed & Generosity *plus* Telling the Truth; Sharing Catholic Social Teaching  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Session 30: The Path Before Us; The Lifelong Call to Love & Chastity; Summing Up  
Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

**3 Courses completed through University of Dayton – VLCFF,  
Or Completion of the Echoes of Faith Videos:**

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## VIII. Catechist Self-Assessment

This Self-Assessment is meant to help you determine your level of understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church in a variety of areas. Only you will know the results of this assessment. It is meant to help you discover the area(s) you need to focus upon **FIRST** as you enroll in the Catechist Formation Process.

For **True/False** choose correct response. Under **Level of Ability/Understanding** choose the number which best describes your level of understanding of the subject.

- 1 = no understanding
- 2 = minimal understanding
- 3 = basic familiarity and some understanding
- 4 = well developed understanding
- 5 = high degree of knowledge, can teach on this subject

### Teaching Skills

	<b>Level of Ability/Understanding</b>
I can handle discipline problems in the classroom.	1 2 3 4 5
I teach in a way that makes it easy for others to understand.	1 2 3 4 5
I am aware that people learn in different ways.	1 2 3 4 5
I know how to create a positive learning environment.	1 2 3 4 5
I understand how culture and ethnic diversity affect learning.	1 2 3 4 5

### Prayer/Spirituality of the Catechist

- |  |      |       |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. Prayer is best described as asking God for help.                    | True | False |
| 2. Prayer is best described as a loving conversation with God.         | True | False |
| 3. Prayer is best described as meditation.                             | True | False |
| 4. I only practice my spirituality when I am alone in prayer with God. | True | False |
| 5. Communal prayer is important to developing one's spirituality.      | True | False |

	<b>Level of Understanding</b>
I understand the importance of a personal prayer life and seeing God working through one's experiences, ministry, and lifestyle.	1 2 3 4 5
I understand the necessity for ongoing spiritual formation.	1 2 3 4 5

## Hebrew and Christian Scriptures

- |  |      |       |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. The main point of the biblical story of creation is that the world was created in a brief period, and Adam and Eve were the first humans. | True | False |
| 2. The four Gospel writers are called the disciples.   | True | False |
| 3. During Jesus' three years of public teaching and ministry, he established Rome as the center of the Catholic Church.                      | True | False |
| 4. Matthew, Ephesians, Amos, and Hebrews are New Testament books.  | True | False |
| 5. The main point of the story of the Prodigal Son is that God always offers us forgiveness.   | True | False |
| 6. The Hebrew people was first formed into a covenant community in the desert journey from Egypt.  | True | False |
| 7. The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the struggles of the early Church.  | True | False |
| 8. The New Law of the Gospel did away with the Ten Commandments.   | True | False |
| 9. The Bible is a collection of many books written at different times under God's inspiration.   | True | False |
| 10. When we say that the Bible is inspired, we mean that every word in it is true since God dictated it word-for-word.                       | True | False |

### Level of Understanding

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| I understand how the Bible was written.                              | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I understand the literary forms found in the Old and New Testaments. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I understand the main message of the Old and New Testaments.         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I know how God is revealed through Scripture.                        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

## Christology – Jesus Christ

- |   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. The theme that was central to Jesus' mission was fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies.                            | True | False |
| 2. Jesus' dying, rising, and sending of the Spirit to continue forever with God's people is called the Paschal Mystery. | True | False |
| 3. The Son of God becoming man is referred to as the Immaculate Conception.   | True | False |

- |  |      |       |
|--|------|-------|
| 4. The great commandment of Jesus is to remember to keep the Sabbath holy. | True | False |
| 5. To say that Jesus is Lord is to confess that Jesus is divine.           | True | False |

**Level of Understanding**

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| I understand Jesus' life, mission, death and resurrection.                           | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I understand that the Church's understanding about Jesus developed through the ages. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

### **Church History and Theology**

- |   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. The special teaching authority of the Pope and bishops together is called "infallibility." | True | False |
| 2. The Church is the body of Christ and the bride of Christ.                                  | True | False |
| 3. The word "catholic" means coming from the apostles.  | True | False |
| 4. Vatican Council II spoke of the Church as the People of God.                               | True | False |
| 5. Vatican Council II changed some of the major beliefs of Catholicism.                       | True | False |

**Level of Understanding**

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| I am aware of the different images/models of Church.                                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I understand what makes the Catholic Church unique.                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I know why the Church made changes since Vatican Council II and what those changes were. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

### **Catholic Doctrine**

- |   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Grace is the gift of God's own life, which gives us peace and strength.                          | True | False |
| 2. Only those in heaven are members of the Communion of Saints.                                     | True | False |
| 3. As Christians, we honor Mary chiefly because she was born without sin.                           | True | False |
| 4. Our hope for union with God after death is based chiefly on the death and resurrection of Jesus. | True | False |

- |   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| 5. On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Catholics celebrate the birth of Jesus.                 | True | False |
| 6. Christian belief in the Trinity means that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one divine Person. | True | False |
| 7. Human beings are a unity of body and soul. The immortal is created by God.                         | True | False |
| 8. Hell's principal punishment is eternal fire.   | True | False |

**Level of Understanding**

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| I know the basic beliefs of the Catholic religion.                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I understand the historical development of Catholic doctrine and belief. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I understand the difference between dogma and doctrine.                  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

### Sacraments

- |  |      |       |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. According to Catholic teaching, Christian marriage exists primarily for husbands and wives to share love and create families.         | True | False |
| 2. Love, patience, and joy are among the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit received at Confirmation.  | True | False |
| 3. The Church celebrates Christian Initiation in the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist.                               | True | False |
| 4. The Eucharistic celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus was foreshadowed in the Old Testament by the Passover and Exodus.  | True | False |
| 5. As Catholics, we believe that when we receive Holy Communion we receive Christ truly present under the appearances of bread and wine. | True | False |
| 6. The sacraments are effective because they give the grace they signify.  | True | False |
| 7. Permanent deacons receive ordination.   | True | False |

**Level of Understanding**

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I understand the theological and historical development of the seven sacraments, and their place in the life of the Church. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I can explain the meaning and purpose of the symbols and actions of the seven sacraments.                                   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

## Moral Theology and Decision-Making

- |  |      |       |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. Catholicism understands morality as based on universal moral laws that governs the way we act.                                  | True | False |
| 2. Mature Christians live morally when, after learning what the Church teaches on a particular issue they follow their conscience. | True | False |
| 3. When we speak of following one’s “conscience” we mean a person’s feeling of guilt after doing something wrong.                  | True | False |
| 4. Erroneous judgements made out of ignorance or poorly formed conscience are always free of guilt.                                | True | False |
| 5. We are not responsible for the sins of others, even though we may cooperate in them.  | True | False |

### Level of Understanding

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I understand what the Church teaches concerning Catholic morality.                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I understand the scriptural and traditional foundations of Catholic morality.         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I understand the Church’s teaching on conscience formation and moral decision-making. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

## Liturgy and the Liturgical Year

- |   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. The color purple used during Advent shows that it is a season of penance and fasting.  | True | False |
| 2. Ordinary Time during the Liturgical Year celebrates nothing in particular.   | True | False |
| 3. Christmas is the highpoint of the Liturgical Year.   | True | False |
| 4. The Sacred Triduum takes place during Lent.  | True | False |
| 5. Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament developed as devotions because people believed they were not worthy to receive the Eucharist. | True | False |

**Level of Understanding**

I understand the rhythm and flow – the seasons of the Liturgical Year.	1	2	3	4	5
I understand the meaning and purpose of the symbols and actions of the Liturgical Year.	1	2	3	4	5
I understand the meaning of the different devotions in the life of the Church, and their historical development.	1	2	3	4	5

**Social Justice Teachings of the Church**

1. The Beatitudes replace the Ten Commandments.	True	False
2. The Corporal Works of Mercy includes feeding the hungry.	True	False
3. In keeping with the Seventh Commandment, business leaders are responsible for the ecological effects of their business.	True	False
4. A theory that makes profit the exclusive norm and the ultimate end of economic activity is morally unacceptable.	True	False
5. A just wage should be based on the dignity of the person, rather than the contribution one makes in the employed arrangement.	True	False

**Level of Understanding**

I have an understanding of the basic social teaching of the Church.	1	2	3	4	5
I have an understanding of the scriptural basis for Catholic Social Teaching.	1	2	3	4	5
I understand the historical development of Catholic social teaching.	1	2	3	4	5