



Diocese of Joliet

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July 18, 2006

Dear Catechetical Leader

Here is the 2006 edition of *Evaluation of Religious Education Texts*. We hope you find this web-based resource easy to use.

At this time, the original 1999 document and annual updates are only available in printed form. If you cannot locate your parish copy or, if it is worn beyond easy use because of its steadily increasing size and you wish to replace it, please contact the REO.

We have reviewed **primary texts** that were provided to us by publishers. In some cases, texts may be on the market that were not provided to us, and hence, do not appear in the review. Please be aware that the recommendation for parishes in the Diocese of Joliet is to use primary text series that appear on the Bishops' Committee on the Catechism quarterly Conformity Listing, which the REO includes in the Professional each time it is updated. For the latest update of that resource, go to the Bishops' Committee on the Catechism web site: <http://www.usccb.org/catechism/document/Currentlist.pdf>. **Supplementary texts** with an imprimatur and good **resources** to be used within the context of solid Catholic catechesis have also been reviewed.

The pages are provided in the order in which you are to insert them when printed out into your original print copy. Follow the tabs on the right edge and insert each page, alphabetically by publisher, into its category. For example, insert the pages tabbed "Children's Catechumenate" in alphabetical order in the new section created last year before the "Early Childhood" section. Then, insert pages tabbed "Middle Childhood" "Primary", then "Supplementary", then "Resource", alphabetically by publisher, etc. Please see the Index which follows, for assistance.

Special thanks to those who participated in reviewing and providing feedback on the primary texts – Kristin Adsit, Diane Ahlmeyer, Frank Giangregio, catechists from St. Daniel the Prophet, and Paul Mach. Watch the web page for updates as new text series become available for review or as we receive additional feedback.

Wishing you all the best in your catechetical ministry,

Joyce Donahue
Associate Director, Child Catechesis & Curriculum

Publishers of Religious Education Texts

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Kathleen M. Sullivan
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(877) 275-4725 x 6925
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WebSite: www.RCLweb.com
www.faithfirst.com

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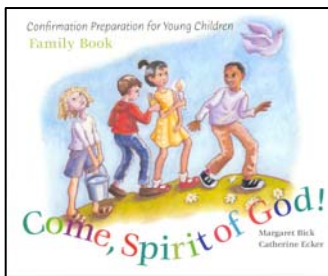
Novalis / Liturgy Training Publications
Come, Spirit of God:
Confirmation Preparation for Young Children

Age Category: Grades 2-3

Authors: Margaret Bick, Catherine Ecker

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur



Suitable as part of Children's Catechumenate or for Restored Order, this is family preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, appropriate when used alongside catechumenal style age-appropriate catechesis for students.

In *Come, Spirit of God!*, the sacraments are understood as revealing the action of God in our lives. Candidates are invited to learn to listen to the call God has made to them since baptism, and to ask for God's help when they live their lives at the Lord's Table. This program:

- uniquely addresses the question about the appropriate age for Confirmation
- is experientially based and ritually centred
- has strong catechesis orientation
- features a user-friendly Leader's Guide to provide catechists with all the tools for success
- connects young Catholics and their families to their local parish
- offers easy faith-enriching activities for busy families to do.

Six sessions, illustrated. Consists of leader book and family book.

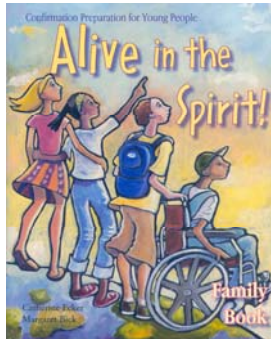
Novalis / Liturgy Training Publications
Alive in the Spirit: Confirmation Preparation for Young People

Age Category: Grades 4-6

Author: Catherine Ecker, Margaret Bick

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur



Suitable as part of Children's Catechumenate or for Restored Order., this is family preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, appropriate when used alongside catechumenal style age-appropriate catechesis for students. Although the publisher recommends this for use for ages 12-14, the level of this book is most appropriate with middle school students.

In *Alive in the Spirit!*, the sacraments are understood as revealing the action of God in our lives. Candidates are invited to learn to listen to the call God has made to them since baptism, and to ask for God's help when they live their lives at the Lord's Table.

- uniquely addresses the question about the appropriate age for Confirmation
- is experientially based and ritually centred
- has strong catechesis orientation
- features a user-friendly Leader's Guide to provide catechists with all the tools for success
- connects young Catholics and their families to their local parish
- offers easy faith-enriching activities for busy families to do.

Six sessions, illustrated. Consists of leader book and family book.

VirTru Powers – *Questions for God*

Age Category: PreK- Grade 1

Author: Peggy Olds

Copyright: 2005

Imprimatur



A catechetical series for 3-6 year olds, this 10-volume storybook set was written by a 30-year catechist, who felt there was a need for solid instruction for preschoolers to introduce them to the richness of the Catholic heritage of faith. Storybook format makes this suitable for the early childhood classroom or for parents to use in the home. Based on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Scripture and Tradition.

Illustrated with watercolors, these books introduce children to the basics of Salvation History. Each book features a prayer at the end, to be incorporated into night prayers with children.

Concerns:

- The texts use formal adult vocabulary and explanations, so catechist/parent may need to “translate” terms for young children.
- Books do not distinguish between what is doctrine and what is Tradition, so a parent or catechist unfamiliar with non-scriptural sources for information also not contained in the Catechism (on the fallen angels, for instance) may find this confusing.

Available from publisher only - 630-986-5262 or visit their website:
<http://www.questionsforgod.info/>

Titles:

- God, Who Are You?
- God, Who Are the Angels?
- God, Tell Me About Creation
- God, How Did You Plan to Save Us?
- God, Who Told Us About Your Plan For Salvation
- God, Who Is the Messiah?
- God, How Did Jesus Save Us?
- God, How Did You Begin Our Church?
- God, Does Jesus Keep Helping Us?
- God, When Will We Be With You?

RCL - *Faith First* – Legacy Edition - Parish

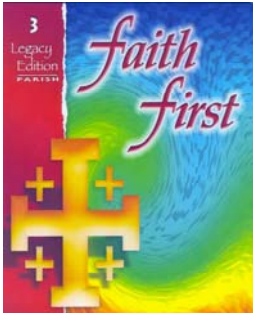
Age Category: Grades K – 6

General Editor: Ed DeStefano

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur

Conformity, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



Revised edition of the *Faith First* program, with new flexible lesson plan respecting the parish's weekly timeframe and allowing volunteer catechists to feel confident and competent as they prepare successful lessons. A spiral approach to learning Catholic faith provides instruction in the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to students in every grade level every year. New parent pages in the student books are designed to be sent home every week to provide ideas for family prayer, faith sharing, and other activities. (Note: K has not been revised from original program)

Components:

- Student text, Catechist Guide, Program Director's Manual
- Online lesson planner, chapter reviews & support, resources for students, families at www.faithfirst.com
- Resource books: Assessment Tools, Additional Activities, Called to Prayer
- Grade Level Videos, Art & Environment Package, At Home Family Guide
- Whole-Community Catechesis support – *Keeping Faith First* (see separate entry)

Major Assets:

- Beautiful artwork, photos, bright and colorful, inclusive of gender, race and age
- Good use of scripture throughout
- Faith living skill in each chapter helps students make connections
- Texts are catechist-friendly, student-friendly, lots of information on doctrine, scripture, community, etc.
- Enrichment activities are suitable for multiple learning styles
- High level of family support
- Technology connection is strong

Concerns:

- Use of music is minimal
- Family structures not always reflective of students' reality
- Web-based materials, though good, may not be readily available to catechists who don't use Internet
- Lots of information included in lessons, maybe more than is possible to cover during class time

Middle Childhood

Primary

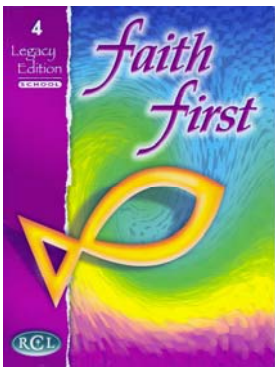
RCL - Faith First – Legacy Edition - School

Age Category: Grades K-6

General Editor: Ed DeStefano

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur
Conformity, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



The *Faith First Legacy Edition* School is a comprehensive program for Catholic schools providing a 5-day lesson plan, cross-curricular activities emphasizing Catholic Social Teaching, technology support and materials for every chapter that parents can use at home.

It features a spiral approach, centered on the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, building students' understanding of faith concepts and reinforces and extends content as children mature. The process of Engage-Teach and Apply-Connect, makes lessons easy to prepare and helps students not only learn about but to also live their faith. Award-Winning Web Site FaithFirst.com supports the *Faith First Legacy Edition* and extends the classroom into the home. (Note: K has not been revised from original program)

Components:

- Student text, Teacher's Guide, Religion Coordinator's Manual
- Online lesson planner, chapter reviews & support, resources for students, families at www.faithfirst.com
- Resource books: Assessment Tools, Additional Activities, Called to Prayer
- Grade Level Videos, Art & Environment Package, At Home Family Guide
- Whole-Community Catechesis support – *Keeping Faith First* (see separate entry)

Major Assets:

- Beautiful artwork, photos, bright and colorful, inclusive of gender, race and age
- Good use of scripture throughout
- Faith living skill in each chapter helps students make connections
- Teacher edition is easy to use, preparation materials for teachers are outstanding
- Enrichment activities are suitable for multiple learning styles
- Technology support is great for in-class work and also for use at home
- Connection to home and family is good

Concerns:

- Use of music is minimal
- Family structures not always reflective of students' reality

Middle Childhood

Primary

Silver Burdett Ginn Religion – *Blest Are We* Summer Program – Leader’s Guide

Age Category: Grades K-8

Author: Janice Santanello, M.A.

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur



Plan for a two-week summer catechetical session, using the texts from *Blest Are We*. 10 daily 3-hour sessions are each based on a catechetical theme, using the same curriculum schools and parishes use during the school year.

This program adaptation plan can be used for community-building, enrichment, catch-up catechesis, or to “jump-start” sacrament-year grade levels in order to leave more time for immediate sacrament preparation.

Components:

- Director’s Guide
- Grade-level books for Parish Edition of *Blest Are We* (purchased separately)
- Grade-level recordings for K-8, the Accompaniment Book, *Blest Are We Songbook* for each student (purchased separately)
- Supplementary materials from blestarewe.com

Major Assets:

- Flexible, easy to use daily plans
- Allows school and parish children to participate together in catechesis
- Families with children who have not participated consistently in REP’s can use the Summer Program to “catch up” to their child’s level.

Middle Childhood

Supplementary

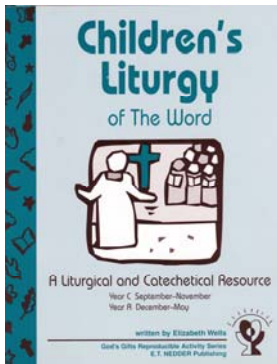
E. T. Nedder – *Children's Liturgy of the Word*

Age Category: Grades 1-3

Author: Elizabeth Wells

Copyright: Annual

Imprimatur



Arranged according to the academic year, starting with the first Sunday in September and concluding with the last Sunday in May, this helpful catechetical supplement was developed for catechists, religion teachers and parents. It will help children prepare for (or review) Sunday Mass and give them a head start on understanding the scriptures.

All pages can be reproduced and handed out during the parish's weekly Children's Liturgy of the Word or can be used in religious education classes or at home. Activities refer to all three readings. Books available cover all three liturgical cycles, adapted to the school year model. (New volume is available in June of each year.)

Middle Childhood

Resource

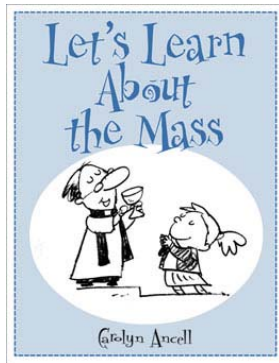
**Liguori Publications/ E.T. Nedder –
*Dime, que es la Misa? / Let's Learn About the Mass***

Age Category: Grades 1-2

Author: Carolyn Ancell

Copyright: 2005

Imprimatur



This bilingual resource will help parents and catechists guide youngsters through learning about their “full, conscious and active participation” in the Mass. The lively material in these handouts is intended to deepen the child’s experience of each moment of the Mass, from the first greeting to the final blessing and beyond. Some of the completed pages (e.g., the Presentation of the Gifts) may be taken to church to be “offered” at the appropriate moments of the Mass.

This resource encourages children to see images of the Mass: to hear the word and sing; to touch sanctuary furniture and vestments; to shake hands and greet people in the name of the Lord; to smell flowers and incense; to taste bread and wine; and to experience ritual gesture.

Middle Childhood

Resource

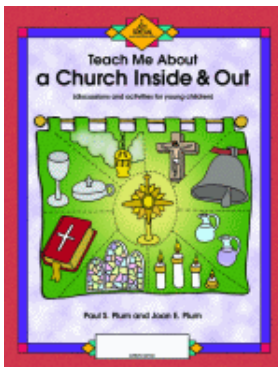
Our Sunday Visitor – *Teach Me About a Church Inside and Out*

Age Category: Grades 2-5

Author: Paul S. Plum and Joan E. Plum

Copyright: 2005

Imprimatur



What are the many parts that make up a parish church building? And what are the names of all the different liturgical and architectural items inside? Take children exploring and lead them in a series of delightful discoveries using fun activities. Useful for children primary through early elementary ages. Ideal for altar server instruction.

(Can be used alongside *Teach Me About the Church*, 2001, also available from OSV by the same authors -- a hands-on model church complete with furniture and objects.)

Middle Childhood

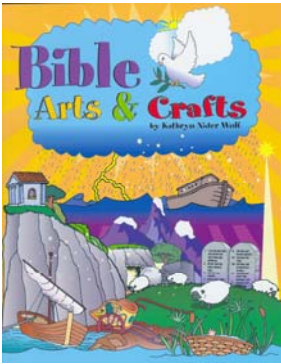
Resource

Pflaum Publishing Group – *Bible Arts and Crafts*

Age Category: Grades 1-3

Author: Kathryn Nider Wolf

Copyright: 2006



Learn traditional Christian beliefs with crafts that enrich each Bible story from the Old and New Testament. With defined learning objectives, these teaching activities are educationally sound, developmentally appropriate and fun for youngsters as they discover their Christian heritage. Teachers and parents will find lists of materials, easy-to-follow directions and guidance in creating meaningful learning activities grounded in Christian tradition.

Ideal for classrooms, group settings and families.

Middle Childhood

Resource

Pflaum Publishing Group – *Faith Activities for Catholic Kids Series*

Age Category: Grades 1-6

Editors: Karen Cannizzo and Cullen Schippe

Copyright: 2005

Imprimatur



Easy-to-use activity books can support any faith formation program. These books reinforce the teachings of the Church with activities that children will find engaging and enjoyable. Each grade level follows recommended catechetical content for that grade. In addition, each level follows and is color-coded to the four “pillars” of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

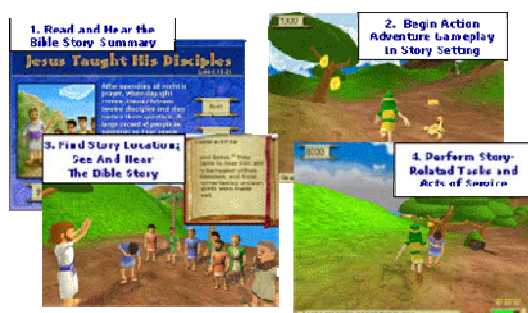
Activities are suitable for classroom use as supplements to lessons, or by families as a regular source of learning prayer and celebration.

Silver Burdett Ginn Religion– *Gospel Champions: A Catholic Action Adventure PC Video Game Series*

Age Category: Grades K-8 (Three skill levels)

Developer: 3rd Day Games in collaboration with SBG Religion

Copyright: 2006



A unique, modern way to reach children and families via their home computers or parish or school computers, this Bible-based subscription game video game series unlocks a new Gospel story each month to link Mass readings to student's daily lives. The game series has three distinct skill levels for grades K-8 and uses a family leaderboard to encourage students to play repetitively with their parents, siblings and friends.

The game reinforces Catholic learning by challenging children with a Faith Focus, which summarizes the Gospel message; a Question of the Week, which challenges them to apply the Gospel message; and a Saint of the Month.

Students complete the Gospel game by finding and reciting traditional Catholic prayers, such as the Sign of the Cross, the Glory Be, the Hail Mary, and the Our Father; or teachings, such as the Seven Sacraments, Marks of the Church, Beatitudes, Commandments, Cardinal and Theological Virtues, Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit and more.

The game itself takes students back to Biblical times by intertwining 3D action/adventure gameplay with sequenced elements of the Gospel story. Students control their character to avoid adversaries and solve puzzles that lead them to an animation of each part of the story. Once they have found all the story elements, they then perform tasks related to the story.

Available in monthly installments by annual subscription. Parish subscription makes it possible to provide families with web address and password for access. It also provides the ability for parishes and schools to send personalized messages to students each time they play the game.

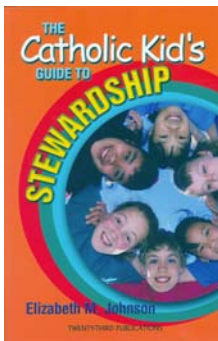
Visit www.gospelchampions.com for information and a sample game.

Twenty-Third Publications (Silver Burdett Ginn Religion) – *The Catholic Kid's Guide to Stewardship*

Age Category: Grades 4 -7

Author: Elizabeth M. Johnson

Copyright: 2004



This 63-page collection of memorable and true stories is put together to show students the real needs of people and how with generosity and creativity, young people their own age are accomplishing great things to help. This book is based on the seven corporal works of mercy and the belief that even the youngest child can make a difference. Each chapter is centered on scriptural stories and teachings of Jesus.

This resource includes idea starters, practical points for parents or catechists, and a Stewardship Prayer. A final chapter on stewardship resources makes this practical and usable.

Middle Childhood

Resource

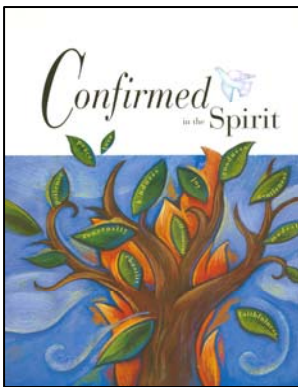
Loyola Press - *Confirmed in the Spirit*

Age Category: Grades 7-8

Author: Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon, Ohio

Copyright: 2007

Imprimatur
Conformity, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



Confirmed in the Spirit integrates with any school or parish curriculum, teaching the faith through a spiral curriculum that correlates with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It is flexible and can be used for any one-year confirmation program or as a primary resource for two-year programs.

Components:

- Student book
- Catechist Guide
- Reflection Journal
- Director's Guide

Major Assets:

- Attractive format appeals to teens
- Connects faith and life
- Clear lesson plans and step by step format for catechists
- "Things Every Catholic Should Know" section in back – prayers, traditions, vocabulary

Concerns:

Sacraments

Confirmation

Primary

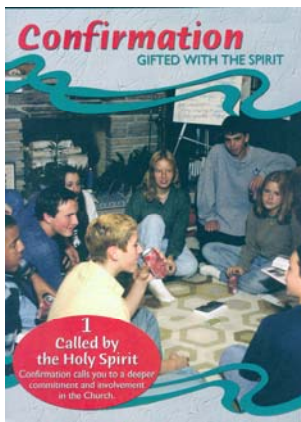
Pflaum Publishing Group - *Gifted with the Spirit*

Age Category: Grades 7-8

Author:

Copyright: 2005

Conformity, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



This revised and improved immediate preparation for Confirmation for junior high emphasizes ways to help young teens participate more fully in the Church, develop their own spirituality and prepare for the Rite of Confirmation. The candidate edition is expanded to eight lessons -- still in the popular booklet format. Catechists can distribute each eight-page lesson as they are ready to use it.

The teacher edition is spiral bound and includes lesson plans wrapped around illustrations of the candidate pages, easy-to-follow directions for sessions of 60 to 90 minutes each, and reproducible handouts for parents, sponsors, and candidates, with copying privileges provided.

Components:

- Candidate Edition consists of eight, 8-page units
- Spiral-bound Teacher Edition

Major Assets:

- Service projects are encouraged in the curriculum, not as an add-on
- Unit 8 would be ideal for use as mystagogy session after the sacrament, with slight adaptation.
- Handout format is attractive, easy to use, avoids the problem of students forgetting their books

Concerns:

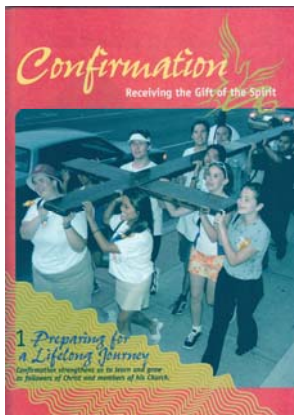
Pflaum Publishing Group - *Receiving the Gift of the Spirit*

Age Category: Grades 9-12

Author:

Copyright: 2005

Conformity, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



This revised and improved immediate preparation course for senior high emphasizes way to help teens participate more fully in the Church, develop their own spirituality and prepare to celebrate the Rite of Confirmation. The candidate edition is now expanded to eight lessons -- in the popular booklet format. Catechists control the timeline and materials, so they may distribute each eight-page lesson as they are ready to use it.

The teacher edition is spiral bound and includes lesson plans wrapped around illustrations of the candidate pages, easy-to-follow directions for lively sessions of 60 to 90 minutes each, and reproducible handouts for parents, sponsors, and candidates, with copying privileges provided.

Components:

- Candidate edition consists of eight, 8-page units
- Spiral-bound teacher edition

Major Assets:

- Service projects are encouraged in the curriculum, not as an add-on
- Unit 7 would be ideal for use as mystagogia session after the sacrament, with slight adaptation.
- Handout format is attractive, easy to use, avoids the problem of students forgetting their books

Concerns:

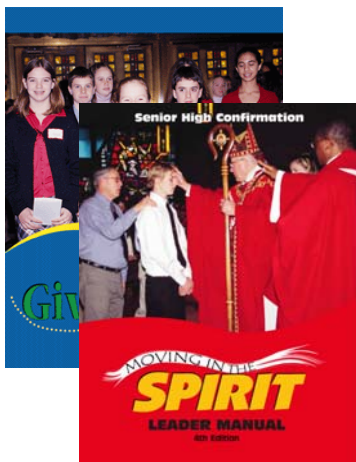
Good Ground Press *Giver of Life (7-8) & Moving in the Spirit (9-12)*

Age Category: Grades 7-8, 9-12

Author: Joan Mitchell, CSJ

Copyright: 2003, Fourth Edition

Imprimatur *NOTE: This resource is NOT approved by Bishop's Committee on Catechism for use as primary curriculum – must be used as a supplementary resource only to a primary religious education text.*



Both these programs, *Giver of Life* for junior high, and *Moving in the Spirit* for senior high provide parish confirmation directors and supporting adult leaders all the basic resources they need for providing junior-high age candidates six two-hour sessions of immediate preparation for receiving the sacrament of confirmation.

Each program has four components: a pack of six session handouts for the confirmation candidates; a journal for the candidates; a handbook for sponsors and mentors; and a leader manual for confirmation directors and the adult leaders that will be involved in the program.

Both are flexible programs that envision alternating whole-group presentation and small-group discussions in each session. In its confirmation catechesis for early adolescents, the *Giver of Life* program offers two-hour sessions.

Both programs provide easy-to-use, hands-on resources for the teens, confirmation director, and adults who will interact in this confirmation preparation program. The six sessions form the backbone of a much fuller process of initiation into the Christian community. This program includes service; conversation with other teens, sponsors, mentors, parents, and parishioners; retreats; and interviews.

Liguori - Confirmation

Age Category: Grades 7-8, Grades 9-12

Author:

Copyright:

Imprimatur *NOTE: This resource is NOT YET approved by Bishop's Committee on Catechism for use as primary curriculum – must be used as a supplementary resource only to a primary religious education text. (Has been submitted for approval)*



This immediate preparation program helps candidates realize how Confirmation allows them to share in Christ's mission as king, priest, and prophet--proclaiming the Good News and serving others. *Confirmation* insures solid catechesis leading to lifelong results for everyone involved.

The Leader's Guide, with a handout for each session, shows student materials in shaded boxes to eliminate the need to juggle both sets of materials.

- CD-Rom Director Resources
- 10 nested student and Leader's Guide handouts for each level.
- Student Service Project Notebook
- Student Memory Book (journal)

Benziger – *Eucharist: We Give Thanks and Praise*

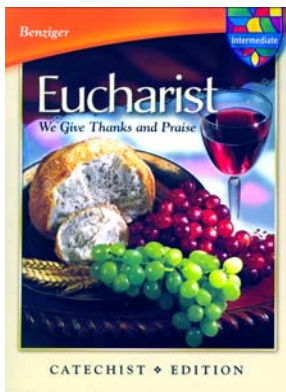
Age Category: Two levels: Primary and Intermediate, also Bilingual

General Editors: Sr. Catherine Dooley, O.P., Msgr. Thomas McDade, Ed.D.

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur

Conformity, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



Based on Scripture stories, the Rites and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, this resource for immediate preparation aims to help children understand membership in the Body of Christ, focuses on prayers and primary symbols of the liturgy as a starting point for preparation and introduces the idea and importance of mystagogy and lifelong reflection. It enables catechists and learners to become familiar with the Rites. In addition, it provides a process for parents and other adults to actively participate in the sacrament preparation of the children, emphasizes service to the community as a way of living out the call of Baptism, and helps children acknowledge the place of Eucharist in the life of the Church.

Components:

- Student text
- Catechist edition

Major Assets:

- Unique final chapter is designed specifically for mystagogy after the sacrament.
- Online support – story bank for each chapter, blackline masters
- Home and Family provides family discussion question, learning activities for each chapter

Concerns:

- Text on facing pages doesn't always correspond exactly in bilingual edition

Harcourt Religion – *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist*

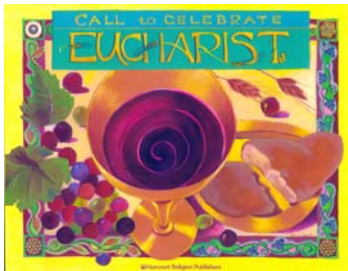
Age Category: Grade 2

Author: Maureen Kelly

Copyright: 2007

Imprimatur

Conformity, Bishops Committee on the Catechism



This immediate preparation program is designed to encourage students to celebrate Eucharist for a lifetime. A two-part process is used: *initiation* in the midst of family, peers and whole community, and *liturgical catechesis* that respects how individuals, both children and adults – come to know the mysteries of faith through participation in symbol and ritual. The scope and sequence combines concentrations on ritual, Scripture, *Catechism*, liturgy and symbol. Each session is developed around an activity strand: Reflect, Share, Respond.

Also provides options for use with Restored Order.

Components:

- Child's book
- Catechists edition
- Family Guide
- My Mass Book
- Stories of Celebration Video and CD
- Sacraments Source Book
- Certificates

Major Assets:

- Strong liturgical catechesis
- Photos and art are very child-friendly, reflect cultural diversity and picture things from a child's viewpoint
- Great support on web page for DRE, catechist children and parents
- The "write a rhyme" feature strengthens language arts connection
- "Catholic Source Book" in back of student book will be very helpful for families
- Correlation to intergenerational resource - *People of Faith: Generations Celebrating the Sacraments: Eucharist*

Concerns:

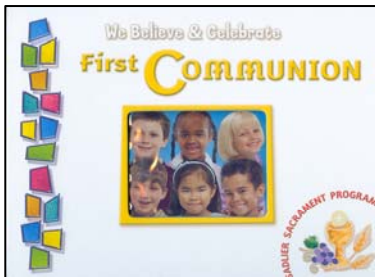
Sadlier – *We Believe and Celebrate First Communion*

Age Category: Grade 2

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur
Conformity, Bishops Committee on the Catechism

Sacraments



This immediate preparation program engages students in age- appropriate catechesis, facilitates the role of parents in sacrament preparation and catechizes the whole community in preparation and celebration of the sacrament. Program interfaces with web resources and with Gather In My Name whole parish events.

All members of the family can participate in the innovative format of the children's edition. Each child's book features a window pocket on the cover for their communion photo, and will become a keepsake that will last a lifetime, recalling the first reception of the sacrament.

Components:

- Student keepsake edition
- Catechist's Guide
- Parish Director's Guide
- Home Lesson Plans
- Certificates
- *With Jesus Always*, Combination children's Mass Book/Reconciliation book
- Music CD

Major Assets:

- Correlated web side www.webelieveandcelebrate.com
- Multi-generational event plans included
- 6 at-home lesson plans in magazine format reaffirm the domestic church and the role of parents as catechists
- Opportunities for students to reflect and share are built into text
- Detailed punch-out altar and sanctuary model in student book helps children make church "real"

Concerns:

Eucharist

Primary

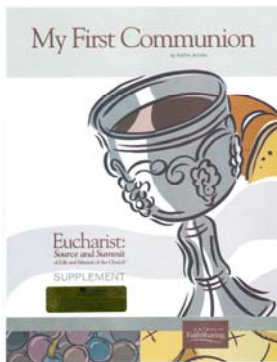
Liturgical Publications, Inc. (LPI)
My First Communion (Supplement to Eucharist: Source and Summit)

Age Category: Grade 2

Author: Kathy Armidei

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur



This supplement is for use with the adult resource “Eucharist: Source and Summit.”. When that is used as a small-faith-sharing resource for all adult family members of children preparing for First Communion, this booklet assists in family preparation for the sacrament.

The "First Communion Family Resource" booklet provides six sessions of family activities and discussion starters to help parents explain the adult material of "Eucharist: Source and Summit" in a way accessible to children preparing for First Communion.

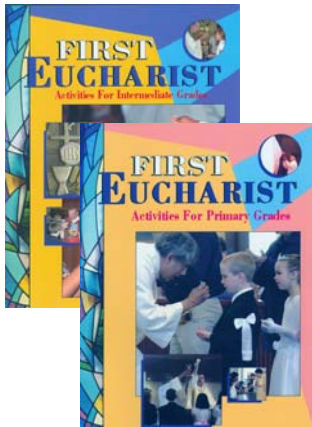
The “My First Communion” booklet focuses on the different parts of the Mass to assist the family in exploring the meaning of the Mass together.

Pflaum Publishing Group – *First Eucharist Activities*

Age Category: Two levels: Primary and Intermediate

Authors: Francine M. O'Connor, Jean Larkin

Copyright: revised, 2005



These books of age-appropriate reproducible activities are suitable as supplements for primary or intermediate-grade children preparing to receive Eucharist for the first time. Games, puzzles and other activities help reinforce their lessons in a way that entertains teaches, and holds their attention.

Each book, with 20-23 reproducibles, follows the progression of most sacramental preparation programs -- yet each activity stands on its own so catechists can decide when to use it. The new books for intermediate grades are also ideal for RCIA programs, or for review with children who have already received First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

For primary grades reproducibles are in six sections: Belonging, Listening and Learning, Caring and Forgiving, Remembering and Thanking, Sustaining Life, Making a Better World.

For intermediate grades reproducibles are in five sections: We Celebrate, We Prepare, We Listen, We Break Bread, We Make a Difference.

Benziger – *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace*

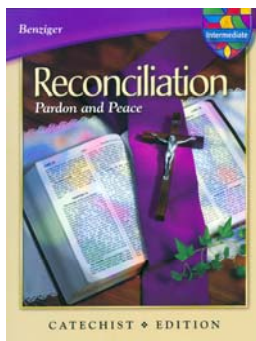
Age Category: Two levels: Primary and Intermediate, also Bilingual

General Editors: Sr. Catherine Dooley, O.P., Msgr. Thomas McDade, Ed.D.

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur

Conformity, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



Based on Scripture stories, the Rites and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, this immediate preparation program aims to help children understand Reconciliation as a sacrament of ongoing conversion focuses on prayers and primary symbols of the liturgy as a starting point for preparation and introduces the idea and importance of mystagogy and lifelong reflection. This immediate preparation text enables catechists and learners to become familiar with the Rites. In addition, it provides a process for parents and other adults to actively participate in the sacrament preparation of the children, emphasizes, challenges Christians to be forgiving, even as they are forgiven, and helps encourage regular celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Components:

- Student text
- Catechist edition

Major Assets:

- Unique final chapter is designed specifically for mystagogy after the sacrament.
- Online support – story bank for each chapter, blackline masters
- Home and Family provides family discussion question, learning activities for each chapter

Concerns:

- Text on facing pages doesn't always correspond exactly in bilingual edition

Harcourt Religion – *Call to Celebrate: Reconciliation*

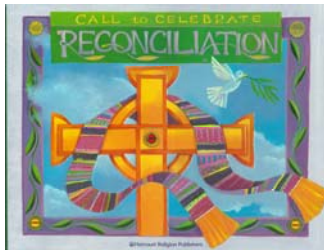
Age Category: Grade 2

Author: Maureen Kelly

Copyright: 2007

Imprimatur

Conformity, Bishops Committee on the Catechism



This immediate preparation program is designed to encourage students to celebrate Reconciliation for a lifetime. A two-part process is used: *initiation* in the midst of family, peers and whole community, and *liturgical catechesis* that respects how individuals, both children and adults – come to know the mysteries of faith through participation in symbol and ritual. The scope and sequence combines concentrations on ritual, Scripture, *Catechism*, liturgy and symbol. Each session is developed around an activity strand: Reflect, Share, Respond.

Also provides options for use with Restored Order.

Components:

- Child's book
- Catechists edition
- Family Guide
- *My Reconciliation Book*
- *Stories of Celebration* Video and CD
- Sacraments Source Book
- Certificates

Major Assets:

- Strong liturgical catechesis
- Photos and art are very child-friendly, reflect cultural diversity and picture things from a child's viewpoint
- Great support on web page for DRE, catechist children and parents
- Celebrate, Remember, Live format in each chapter encourages learning.
- Catholic Source Book in back of student book will be very helpful for families
- Correlation to intergenerational resource - *People of Faith: Generations Celebrating the Sacraments: Eucharist*

Concerns:

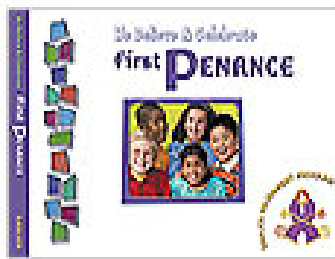
Sadlier – *We Believe and Celebrate First Penance*

Age Category: Grade 2

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur

Conformity, Bishops Committee on the Catechism



This immediate preparation program engages students in age-appropriate catechesis, facilitates the role of parents in sacrament preparation and catechizes the whole community in preparation and celebration of the sacrament. Program interfaces with web resources and with Gather In My Name whole parish events.

All members of the family can participate in the innovative format of the children's edition. Each child's book features a window pocket on the cover for their photo, and will become a keepsake that will last a lifetime, recalling the first reception of the sacrament.

Components:

- Student keepsake edition
- Catechist's Guide
- Parish Director's Guide
- Home Lesson Plans
- Certificates
- *With Jesus Always*, Combination children's Mass Book/Reconciliation book
- Music CD

Major Assets:

- Correlated web side www.webelieveandcelebrate.com
- Multi-generational event plans included
- 6 at-home lesson plans in magazine format reaffirm the domestic church and the role of parents as catechists
- Opportunities for students to reflect and share are built into text
- Detailed punch-out altar and sanctuary model in student book helps children make church "real"

Concerns:

Pflaum Publishing Group – *First Reconciliation Activities*

Age Category: Two levels: Primary & Intermediate

Author:

Copyright: Revised, 2005



These books of age-appropriate reproducible activities are the perfect supplement for primary or intermediate-grade children preparing to receive Reconciliation for the first time. Games, puzzles and other activities help reinforce their lessons in a way that entertains, teaches, and holds their attention.

Each book, with 20-23 reproducibles, follows the progression of most sacramental preparation programs -- yet each activity stands on its own so you can decide when to use it. The new books for intermediate grades are also ideal for RCIA programs, or for review with children who have already received First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

For primary grades reproducibles are in four sections: We Are Family, Sometimes We Fail, We Ask Forgiveness, We Try Harder.

For intermediate grades reproducibles are in five sections: Recognizing Sin, Who Says? (teachings of Jesus and the Church), Seeking Forgiveness, How to Go to Confession, Following Up.

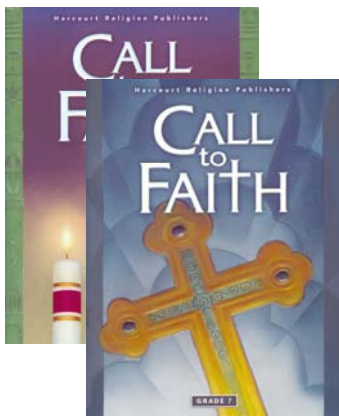
Harcourt Religion – *Call to Faith* Single Volume

Age Category: Grades 7-8

Authors/Advisors: Michael Carotta, Tom East, Jim McGinnis, Rev. Robert Hater

Copyright: 2007

Submitted for approval, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



An All-new religion program, this encourages youth to rely on their faith as they navigate the changes and challenges of life today. This single-volume format is designed primarily for classroom use. Deeply rooted in Scripture and Tradition, this text uses innovative approaches to young adolescent catechesis that are rich with prayer, carefully-crafted activities, and faith at home resources.

Components:

- Student edition
- Teacher edition
- Pastoral Leaders Source Book
- *Faith At Home* magazine
- Lectionary Link: Breaking Open the Word
- Classroom Map Collection: Catholicism Through the Centuries

Major Assets:

- Thorough and clear exposition of faith themes in a format that works for the religion classroom
- Connection to the liturgy is solid
- Teacher books are easy to use
- Online support is good
- Illustrations and layout are attractive, youth-friendly
- Social Justice action page is great

Concerns:

- A great deal of material to cover - non-school catechists may need to focus on “what’s important”

Harcourt Religion – *Call to Faith* Thematic

Age Category: Grades 7-8

Authors/Advisors: Michael Carotta, Tom East, Jim McGinnis, Rev. Robert Hater

Copyright: 2007

Submitted for approval, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



7 thematic booklets feature engaging stories and explorations of relevant topics and words, Scripture and Tradition, meaningful activities, prayer, faith at home resources, and a variety of excellent features that inspire young adolescents to truly explore, understand, and live their faith. The program features innovative approaches to young adolescent catechesis that are rich with prayer, carefully-crafted activities, and faith at home resources.

Components:

- Student Faith Booklet
- Session Leader's Guide
- Coordinator's Manual
- *Faith At Home* magazine
- Lectionary Link: Breaking Open the Word

Major Assets:

- Well-suited for parish youth ministry programs - flexible
- Options for extending the lesson for programs longer than 45 minutes
- Options for outside activities after the session.

Concerns:

- 6 lessons per theme means that if a program uses 3 themes per year, they would need to "create" two more sessions – but 4 themes may be too much if a program incorporates sessions on liturgical year themes, service projects, etc.

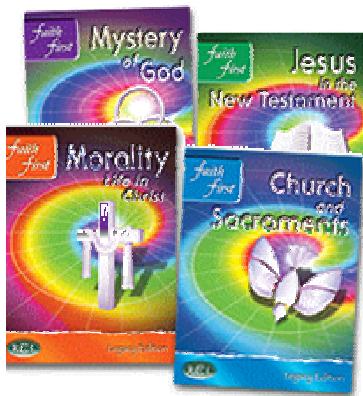
RCL – *Faith First*

Age Category: Grades 7-8

General Editor: Ed DeStefano

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur
Conformity, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



Four individual texts, which can be used interchangeably, have special Scripture study chapters interwoven throughout. Twelve chapters in each text allow the freedom to design a program for a full two-year course of study. Titles include **Mystery of God, Church & Sacraments, Morality: Life in Christ, and Jesus in the New Testament.**

Components:

- Student edition
- Catechist edition
- Junior High Activities and Assessment Tools
- Online lesson planner, chapter reviews & support, resources for students, families at www.faithfirst.com
- Grade Level Videos, Art & Environment Package, At Home Family Guide
- Whole-Community Catechesis support – *Keeping Faith First* (see separate entry)

Major Assets:

- Can be used as semester courses
- Clear use of scripture in each chapter
- Youth and catechist-friendly texts and manuals
- Additional material for catechists enriches the student materials and provides greater depth of knowledge
- Enrichment activities for multiple learning styles
- Excellent prayers, practices and Catholic Tradition sections.

Concerns:

- More material to read than junior high students will readily do.
- Participation in liturgy is assumed, which is not necessarily the case for the majority of students.

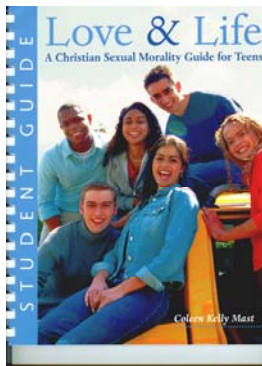
Ignatius Press – *Love and Life*

Age Category: Grades 7-11

Author: Colleen Kelly Mast

Copyright: Revised Edition, 2005

Imprimatur, Bishop Imesch, Diocese of Joliet



Love and Life: A Christian Sexual Morality Guide for Teens is a chastity formation program for adolescents and their parents. It is in a 24-lesson format, for use in religious education or home-based catechesis by parents. The program has as its goals

- To present the virtue of chastity as possible, liveable and good
- To educate and motivate teens to develop, with the help of God's grace, the virtues of Christian charity and chastity
- To guide teens toward Christian maturity
- To provide a framework for parents of teens to share this information with their adolescent, forging a bond of communication regarding the issues of love and life.

Note: This resource fulfills the Diocese of Joliet's policy to include Family Life instruction within the context of parish school and parish religious education programs.

Center for Learning

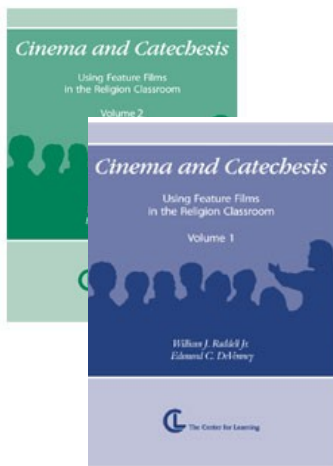
Cinema and Catechesis: Using Feature Films in the Religious Classroom

Age Category: Grades 6-12

Author: William J. Raddell Jr., Edmund C. DeVenney

Copyright: 2005

Imprimatur



Lessons for each film include length and rating of the film, themes, scriptural application, a brief synopsis, notes to the teacher, reflection, prayer, optional activities, and meaningful reproducible handouts to guide student discussion. This volume suggests ways to help students view films critically and to evaluate their messages. It seeks to help adolescents develop standards for judging what they see portrayed and to adopt values and convictions that will help them to live out their baptismal calling in the modern world.

Titles included in **Volume 1** are: *As Good As It Gets*; *Babette's Feast*; *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*; *Contact*; *Dead Man Walking*; *Dead Poet's Society*; *A Few Good Men*; *Gandhi*; *The Lion King*; *A Man for All Seasons*; *The Man Without a Face*; *Pay It Forward*; *Rain Man*; *Regarding Henry*; *Remember the Titans*; *Rudy*; *The Saint of Fort Washington*; *Schindler's List*; *School Ties*; *28 Days*

Titles included in **Volume 2** are: *The Breakfast Club*; *Entertaining Angels*; *Field of Dreams*; *Finding Forrester*; *Gattaca*; *Groundhog Day*; *Hoosiers*; *The Legend of Bagger Vance*; *Les Miserables*; *The Matrix*; *The Mission*; *Philadelphia*; *Romero*; *Saving Private Ryan*; *The Scarlet and the Black*; *Seven Years in Tibet*; *Simon Birch*; *The Spitfire Grill*; *When A Man Loves A Woman*; *With Honors*.

Ave Maria – *Our Catholic Faith: Living What We Believe*

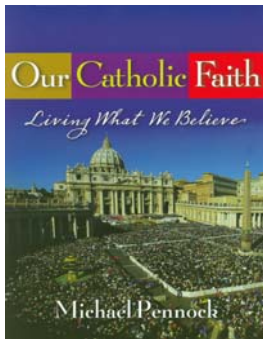
Age Category: Grade 9

Author: Michael Pennock

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur

Conformity, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



This classroom text provides an overview of the Catholic faith using basic principles and teaching contained in the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It offers an in-depth resource for building religious literacy and providing a synthesis of the Catholic faith as outlined in the Catechism. The text and course challenge students to accept Jesus, commit themselves to Him through the Church, and to live lives of loving service.

Components:

- Student text
- Wrap-around teacher text including student text on page

Major Assets:

- Panel activities help foster total learning in hands (service), hearts (prayer), and mind (academic challenges).
- Review questions for each main section.
- Several journal assignments for deeper thought and reflection.
- Key vocabulary terms set off in margin panels
- A Learn by Doing project for each chapter that provides a longer-term assignment
- A Called to Prayer feature offering text from a prayer relevant to the chapter theme

Concerns:

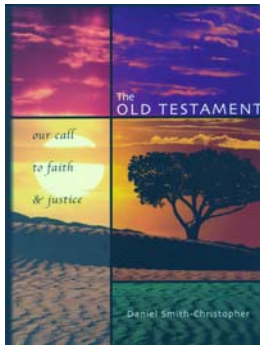
Ave Maria – The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith and Justice

Age Category: High School

Author: Daniel Smith-Christopher

Copyright: 2005

Imprimatur
Conformity, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



This classroom text offers high school students a comprehensive overview of the major themes, lessons, and people of the Old Testament. It covers the story of salvation from many perspectives including both the Catholic understanding of the scripture and how the original hearers of God's Word understood its meaning.

The text shows Jesus prefigured in the Old Testament, especially as Messiah and Savior, and chronicles the role of the Church in interpretation of scripture. It presents the Church as foreshadowed from the beginning of creation and prepared for in a remarkable way through the history of the people of Israel and by means of the Old Covenant.

Components:

- Student text
- Wrap-around teacher text including student text on page

Major Assets:

- Panel activities help foster total learning in hands (service), hearts (prayer), and mind (academic challenges).
- Review questions for each main section.
- Several journal assignments for deeper thought and reflection.
- Key vocabulary terms set off in margin panels
- A Learn by Doing project for each chapter that provides a longer-term assignment
- A Called to Prayer feature offering text from a prayer relevant to the chapter theme

Harcourt Religion –
Journey Through The Old Testament
Journey Through The New Testament
With
GIA/Harcourt A Time to Pray Books and Music

Age Category: High School

Authors: Teresa LeCompte; David Haas

Theological Consultant: Rev. Robert Hater, PhD.

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur

Conformity, Bishops' Committee on the Catechism



Journey Through... books contain 8 chapters each, suitable for 5 topic-based days of religion instruction in the classroom. Texts contain historical maps, annotated visuals of art and artifacts, faith sharing activities and review and discussion opportunities.

Accompanying prayer services in *A Time to Pray* by David Haas correlate to the themes of the texts, and to the liturgical year. CDs of music for the prayer services complete the set.

Components:

- Student text
- Teacher manual
- Prayer Celebrations books
- Music CD's

Major Assets:

- Topic-based lessons break down chapters into manageable sections for daily teaching.
- Daily step-by-step outlines and homework plans
- Optional activities to enrich content
- Masters for chapter tests & reproducible handouts
- Comprehensive online resources include interactive chapter reviews, maps, PowerPoint presentations and assessment tools.
- “Interlocking” prayer services reinforce and celebrate learning

Concerns:

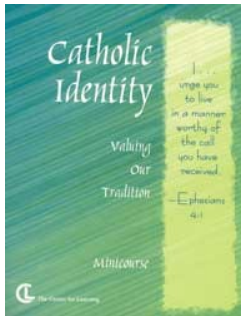
Center for Learning – *Catholic Identity*

Age Category: High School

Author: Kevin McNulty

Copyright: 2006

Imprimatur



Teacher manual generates a mini-course with reproducible blackline masters for handouts for group processes, reflection and more. This is an overview for ninth graders of the foundations of the Catholic faith. It enables a class of students with varied religious formation backgrounds to pursue a unifying study of the Catholic heritage. This is a newly revised version of the previous text.

8 Lessons:

- Beginning with Jesus: Who Was That Man?
- The Mystery of the Catholic Church
- The Catholic Vision of Life
- Morality and Human Living
- Holiness in the World: Sacraments
- Prayer in a Catholic Context
- Scripture in a Catholic Context
- Catholic Church Teaching

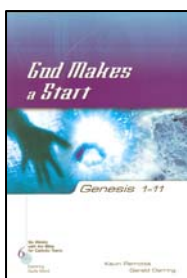
Loyola Press – *Six Weeks with the Bible for Catholic Teens*

Age Category: High School

Authors: Kevin Perrotta, Gerald Darring

Copyright: 2004

Imprimatur



Six Weeks with the Bible for Catholic Teens encourages students to explore Scripture by examining biblical texts. Each booklet in the series introduces one book of the Bible and is divided into six weekly sections. Each section is written as a guided discovery, blending content and application to real life. Series includes:

- Acts: The Good News of the Holy Spirit
- Exodus: God to the Rescue
- Genesis 1-11: God Makes a Start
- John 1-10: I am the Bread of Life
- John 11-21: My Peace I Give You
- Luke: The Good News of God's Mercy
- Mark: Getting to Know Jesus
- Revelation: God's Gift of Hope