

Evaluating a Religious Education Curriculum

Program Name _____

Directions: Respond Yes or No to each statement for each program being evaluated.

The Program

_____ Does the program use a spiral approach that interweaves the pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Sacred Scripture, and the liturgical cycle every year in every grade level?

_____ Does the scope and sequence reinforce doctrines and treat them in greater depth in successive years?

_____ Does the program make ample use of Sacred Scripture in ways that support biblical literacy and promote understanding of important Scripture stories?

_____ Does the series reflect an understanding of the *General Directory for Catechesis*, integrating the challenge to inform, form, and transform young Catholics?

_____ Does the program encourage children to recognize and explore the difference faith can make in their lives?

Student Book

_____ Are separate student books available to meet the needs of parish and school students?

_____ Does the student book assess the child's prior knowledge in every chapter?

_____ Does the student book represent a variety of family groupings (nuclear, single-parent, intergenerational, or blended)?

_____ Is the layout of the student book easy to follow?

_____ Are the student book pages perforated for flexible use?

_____ Does every chapter clearly state a faith focus and faith vocabulary words?

_____ Does the student book teach Catholic practices, saints, and historical facts that help to build Catholic identity?

_____ Does the student book offer examples of ways that the Catholic Church is making a difference in the world?

_____ Are the children directed to examine their actions to determine if they are consistent with Gospel values and Church teaching?

_____ Do the lessons consistently help the students apply and integrate the lesson content into daily living?

_____ Are there varied opportunities for individual as well as group prayer?

_____ Does the student book offer an introduction to the formula prayers and prayer forms of the Church?

Catechist Guide

_____ Are there separate guides available for parish catechists with clear instructions for implementing a weekly session plan?

_____ Is the guide user-friendly and easy to use?

_____ Does the guide follow a consistent instructional method?

_____ Does the guide assist the catechist in planning each lesson with theological background and practical suggestions for teaching?

_____ Does the guide contain reduced student book pages and wraparound lesson plans for ease of teaching?

_____ Are suggestions given to assist in the catechesis of children with special needs?

- _____ Are alternative strategies and optional activities offered to accommodate a variety of learning needs?
- _____ Do the lesson plans clearly state objectives and list the materials catechists will need?

Family Resources

- _____ Does each chapter provide a parent page that can be sent home?
- _____ Do the weekly parent pages parallel and support the themes in the student book?
- _____ Are parent materials available both in print and on a Web site?
- _____ Is a guide available to allow parents to teach children of various ages together at one time at home?
- _____ Are materials available in print and online to connect parish catechesis to the Sunday assembly, including resources for the lectionary readings?

Assessment

- _____ Does the program provide a wide range of formal and informal assessment options?
- _____ Does the program include the pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Sacred Scripture, and references to liturgical year in its developmental assessment?
- _____ Do the questioning strategies help prepare students in the upper grades for national or diocesan standardized testing?
- _____ Do any of the questioning strategies invite a personal faith response to the content that has been learned?
- _____ Does the series allow for the development of an assessment portfolio for each learner?

Supplemental Resources

- _____ Does the series offer a complete class kit for each level with additional activities, prayer resources, and assessment tools?
- _____ Are visual supplements available, including posters, banners, and interactive calendars?

- _____ Does the series offer resources for catechists that include practical tips, crafts, service projects, as well as background on student needs?
- _____ Are grade level videos available to expand and integrate lessons?
- _____ Does the publisher provide support resources for catechist formation, such as introductory information, professional in-service videos, online support, and local representation?

Technology

- _____ Does the program have an integrated Web site, aside from a publisher’s corporate site?
- _____ Does the program offer online resources for children of each level with varied applications, such as games, stories, and activity downloads?
- _____ Does the program provide catechist support online, including professional development, expert problem-solving, and resources for personal spiritual growth?
- _____ Are materials available online for every chapter of the student book fostering at-home parent involvement?

Comments
