

## GRADE 8

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### I. Knowledge of the Faith

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God the Son: Jesus Christ   Particular Judgment   The Church   Heaven  
The 10 Commandments   The Last Judgment   Universal Call to Holiness

**(8.1.1 S, M, T)**...recognizes and explains how the Incarnation is the Father's action of salvation for the world through Jesus Christ

Examples: Infancy Narratives, Mary, Joseph, Fiat of Mary, New Eve, CCC 50, 65-67, 456,-460, 464, 470, 461-463, 479, 483, 2824

- Identifies Jesus Christ as the fullest revelation of God the Father
- Provides scriptural references that identify Jesus as the chief mediator between God and man

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**(8.1.2 S, M, T)**...explains the doctrines and dogmas articulated in the Nicene Creed  
Examples: Nicene Creed, Apostles' Creed, Holy Trinity, Incarnation, Mary, Pontius Pilate, The Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus, Communion of Saints, CCC 187, 195, 198-continuing to CCC 865

- Recognizes and explains the Paschal Mystery
- Connects the Particular Judgment of each person to the end of their life on Earth
- Summarizes The Last Judgment as the judgment of all history described in the four gospels and the Creed to occur at the second coming of Christ

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**(8.1.3 S, M, T) ESSENTIAL**...defines Heaven as union with God, the fulfillment of the deepest human longings and the state of eternal happiness

Examples: Eternal life, Paradise, Our Father, Nicene Creed, CCC 325-326, 1023-1032

- Links the Mass to a participation in the reality of Heaven here on Earth
- Contrasts the sustained and fulfilled individual identity of heaven with the loss of identity of other world religions (e.g. Nirvana)
- Summarizes that the Communion of Saints' prayers in Heaven joyfully fulfill God's will for others on earth and all creation

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**(8.1.4 S, M, T)**...recognizes that the Pope is the leader of the Roman Catholic Church  
Examples: Holy Father, Bishop of Rome, Apostolic Succession, St. Peter, Rock, Cardinals, Election, White smoke, CCC 857-860

- Traces the authority of today's bishops back to the original apostles through Apostolic Succession

- Distinguishes that while the Pope leads the Body, Jesus is the Head of the Church (Cf. Col 1:18)
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**(8.1.5 S, M, T)**...explains that the keeping of the 10 Commandments as part of what Jesus says one must do in order to obtain eternal life

Examples: Legalism, Legal Loopholes, The Shema prayer, Jesus' teaching on Divorce, Mt. 19:16-21, Rom. 13:9-10, CCC 2052-2055

- Distinguishes Jesus' interpretation of the 10 Commandments from the legalism of the Scribes and Pharisees
  - Maps the two great commandments of Jesus to the 10 commandments respectively
  - Explains why Love of God and Love of Neighbor are the principal motivators for living the commandments
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**(8.1.6 S, M, T)** **ESSENTIAL**...classifies holiness as a quality unique to God that he invites us to share in so that we might have eternal life with Him

Examples: The Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, Lives of the Saints, "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.", CCC 2012-2029

- Summarizes that all Christians in any state or walk of life are called to holiness
  - Explains there is no holiness without personal renunciation of worldly attachment and participation in the spiritual battle (Cf. 2 Tim. 4)
  - Traces Spiritual progress to a growing intimacy with Christ
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## II. Liturgy and Sacraments

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Anointing of the Sick

The Mass

Eucharist

Confession

Marriage

What is a Sacrament?

**(8.2.1 S, M, T)**...defines sacraments as outward signs of inward grace instituted by Jesus that make God's grace present to us. They are visible and efficacious signs of God's grace

Examples: Signs and symbols of each sacrament, Effects, Manna and Bread, Priest & Sacrifice, Red Sea and Waters of Baptism, formula, God's grace is a free gift we choose to cooperate, Sin impedes grace, CCC 1076-1083, 1111, 1113, 1131, 1150, 1217-1222

- Traces the many signs and symbols of the OT that are used in the celebration of the Sacraments
  - Identifies the sacraments as actions of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church that are *from* the Church and *for* the Church
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(8.2.2 S, M, T) **ESSENTIAL**...recognizes and explains that the Mass is worship of God, and most fundamentally, a sacrifice

Examples: Liturgy of the Word, Proclaiming God's Word in Liturgies, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Col. 1:24, LG 34, present in the Word, in the priest, most especially in the consecrated bread and wine, CCC 1374-1375,1376-1381

- Traces our encounter with the teachings of Christ and his historical revelation to the Liturgy of the Word
  - Identifies the two sacrifices made at every mass: 1) Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross re-presented in an unbloody manner and offered to the Father. 2) the lay faithful's offering of themselves as a Spiritual Sacrifice with Christ to the Father
  - Explains that one should not receive Communion at Mass if he or she has unconfessed mortal sins
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(8.2.3 S, M, T) ...recognizes that the Eucharist is the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus

Examples: Last Supper, Holy Thursday, re-presenting Christ's sacrifice on the cross, the unbloody sacrifice, Good Friday, Scott Hahn's *The Fourth Cup*, Passover, CCC 1366-1367, 1382-1383

- Connects our reception of the Eucharist to the eating of the flesh of the Lamb in the Passover meal
  - Explains how we encounter Christ himself- body, blood, soul, and divinity- in the Liturgy of the Eucharist
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(8.2.4 S, M, T) ...articulates and defends the teaching that Catholics receive the forgiveness of sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Examples: Audible confession, desire to repent, Act of Contrition, Completion of Penance, Absolution, Lev. 5:1-6; Num. 5:5-10; Mk. 2:10, Jn. 20:22-23, CCC 984, CCC 1440-1496

- Summarizes the necessary components of a valid confession
  - Highlights that it is Christ himself who forgives our sins, using the priest as his vicar of mercy and love
  - Outlines the historical development of the sacrament, beginning with priestly confession in the Mosaic law, Jesus' forgiveness of sins in the gospels, and through Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and their successors in John 20
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(8.2.5 S, M, T) ...identifies Anointing of the Sick as a sacrament specifically intended to strengthen those who are being tried by illness

Examples: Receives the sacrament before surgeries, for sickness, mental illness, or high-risk pregnancies, Blessed Chrism (oil), Laying on of Hands, Blessing of Palms, Jas. 5:14-16, CCC 1511-1516, 1520-1523, 1526-1527

- Explains that the sacrament unites our sufferings to the Passion and death of Christ for the good of the Church
- Reviews the necessary elements of the sacrament, namely, the use of blessed oils and the anointing of the head and hands

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**(8.2.6 S, M, T) *ESSENTIAL***...articulates the 4 vocations or vocational states in life and how they all reflect our baptismal call to discipleship: Holy Orders, Religious / Consecrated Life, Marriage, Sacred Single Life

Examples: Priesthood, Matrimony, the call to chastity, CCC 915, 1565, 1578, 1599, 1618, 1625-1628, 2233, TOB 73:3-4, 76:4, 79:8

- Distinguishes how God invites, and does not force, when he calls someone to the vocation of married life, non-ordained consecrated life, or the priesthood, leaving the person free to respond
- Describes Marriage as a covenant between baptized persons, raised to the dignity of a sacrament by Jesus
- Explains that Marriage is ordered by God's design towards the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring

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### III. Life in Christ and Discipleship

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Conscience Formation    Freedom    Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy  
Justification    Love of God & Love of Neighbor    Sin    Precepts of the Church

**(8.3.1 S, M, T)**...reports Freedom as a gift from God that reveals God's image and likeness in humanity to the world

Examples: Man made in God's image and likeness, Addictions, The Passions, Virtue vs. Vice, CCC 1730-1748

- Contrasts "Freedom to choose the good" from "slavery to one's passions and to sin"
- Explains the role of freedom of choice/consent in relation to mortal sin

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**(8.3.2 S, M, T)** ...summarizes the story of The Fall, defines original sin, and describes its lasting effects upon humanity

Examples: Etiology (stories that explain why something in the world is the way it is), Typology (connecting Old Testament stories to New Testament events), Ignorance vs. Knowledge, Cooperation with the sins of others, Grave Matter, CCC 1852-1865

- Reports the story of the Fall in Gen. 3 as an “Etiology” - a story that explains why something in the world is the way it is
  - Differentiates between original sin, venial sin, and mortal sin by way of differences in Gravity, Knowledge, and Consent
  - Explains that sinful behavior creates habits towards vice and sin that cloud the conscience and corrupt our judgment
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**(8.3.3 S, T)**...defines Justification as “the remission of sins, sanctification, and renewal of the inner man”

Examples: Baptism, Conversion, Reconciliation, Faith, Grace, Spiritual adoption, CCC 2019-2020

- Discusses the 2 aspects of Justification: 1) Conversion that is moved by Grace and 2) acceptance of God’s forgiveness and righteousness
  - Identifies Baptism as the sacrament that executes this justification and begins a life of conversion and discipleship
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**(8.3.4 S, M, T)**...explains Conscience Formation as necessary for the lifelong practice of the faith in a world that is filled with negative influences and often tempts us to sin

Examples: CCC 1783-1785, 1798, 1971

- Recognizes a well-formed conscience by judgments made according to reason and in conformity with the true good willed by God
  - Identifies Scripture and prayer as the privileged place of formation of conscience
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**(8.3.5 S, M, T) ESSENTIAL**...distinguishes the Precepts of the Church not as legal standards, but as necessary for continued Spiritual vitality in the life of personal and communal discipleship

Examples: Sunday and Holy Day obligations, Confession at least once a year, reception of Communion at least during the Easter season, observe days of fasting and abstinence, and provide for the needs of the Church; CCC 2041-2048

- Names and explains the five precepts of the Church
  - Explains through analogy or depiction the obligatory nature of the precepts as what is minimal to sustain a life of faithful discipleship and essential for continued growth in love of God and neighbor
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**(8.3.6 S, M, T)**...articulates that every human life is endowed with dignity and is sacred from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death and this is the foundation of Catholic Christian morality

Examples: *Humane Vitae*, Catholic Social Teaching, The Great Commandment, Mt. 22:36-40, the Beatitudes, Dt. 6:1-9, Mt. 25:31-46, Gn. 1:26-31, Ps. 139:13-16, Js. 2:14-17, Lv. 25:35, Pv. 31:8-9, 2 Cor. 9:6-15, CCC 1934-1938, 2258-2282, 2420-2422

- Identifies the Scriptural foundations of the Catholic Church's social teaching
  - Illustrates how injustices are ultimately caused by prejudice and discrimination - treating our neighbor as "other"
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**(8.3.7 S, M, T) ESSENTIAL**...describes how love for riches, or their selfish use, are incompatible with the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Examples: Holy Bible, Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, Mt. 25:31-46, "Least of these ...", Ministry of Charity, Catholic Charities, Catholic Cemeteries, CCC 2443-2447

- Lists ways they can practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Traces the call to love one's neighbor in a variety of ways back to the teaching on Love of God and Love of Neighbor in Matthew 25

#### IV. Prayer and the Life of Prayer

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Expressions of Prayer

The Battle of Prayer

What is Prayer?

**(8.4.1 S, M, T) ESSENTIAL**...explains that all prayer, including meditation, is oriented toward knowledge of the love of Jesus Christ and union with him

Examples: CCC 2558, 2697, 2726, 2745, 2753- 2756, PACTS – praise, adoration, contrition, thanksgiving, supplication, the Mass, Mary, Saints, 1 Thes. 5:17

- Summarizes Prayer as essential to the "life of the new heart" in the believer where without it, one's faith will surely die
  - Engages in prayer as a conversation with God in which a person not only speaks but also listens
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**(8.4.2 S, M, T)**...describes Vocal Prayer as an essential element of Christian life that corresponds to a need both from our human nature as well as a divine requirement

Examples: Rote Prayers, Heart Prayer, *Lectio Divina*, Bible Study, Eucharistic Adoration, Contemplative Prayer, CCC 2700-2724

- Illustrates the connection between how what we read in Meditation helps us to make it our own by confronting it with ourselves
  - Paraphrases that Contemplative prayer is a silent form of prayer wherein we hear the Word of God and lovingly seek to know God more deeply
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**(8.4.3 M, T) ESSENTIAL**...summarizes common objections to prayer

Examples: Prayer is "useless or ineffective", Failure to Pray, CCC 2725-2728 Difficulties Temptations

- Describes vigilance and continuing conversion as remedies to distraction and dryness in prayer

- Points out that distractions in prayer reveal what we are attached to vs. what God is calling us to
- Summarizes humility, trust, and perseverance as remedies to the difficulties in, and objections to, prayer

**(8.4.4 S, M, T)**...recalls and can participate in various forms of personal and communal prayer

Examples: Prayer journals, Liturgy of the Hours, *Lectio Divina*, The Mysteries of the Rosary, CCC 971, 2568, 2585, 2623-2625, 2663-2691

- Writes a prayer on their own about a Catholic theme or doctrine (God as Trinity, Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist, Universal nature of the Church), Liturgical Season, Saint, Thanksgiving, or Petition
- Demonstrates how to pray using the Scriptures through various devotions
- Recalls the role of the Holy Spirit as one who motivates us to pray from within and intercedes constantly on our behalf to the Father

## V. Community Life and Missionary Initiation

Fruits of the Holy Spirit    Theological Virtues    What is Virtue?    Use of Scripture  
 Social Justice    Liturgical Year

**(8.5.1 S, M, T)**...names and defines each of the 12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Examples: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Modesty, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control, Chastity, Gal. 5:22-23, CCC 736, 1832

- Describes the fruits of the Holy Spirit as evidence of our habitual cooperation with the Holy Spirit in our daily lives
- Traces the manifestation of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit to the use of the 7 Gifts of the Spirit

**(8.5.2 S, M, T)** **ESSENTIAL**...establishes that attained virtues make self-mastery possible and makes living a morally good life easier and more joyful

Examples: The Imitation of Christ, The lives and writings of the saints, (e.g. St. Gregory of Nyssa), Wis. 8:7, CCC 1803-1811

- Recounts "the goal of a virtuous life is to become like God"
- Recognizes by name and definition the virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude

**(8.5.3 S, M, T)**...classifies the Theological Virtues as the foundation of Christian moral activity and the source of the human virtues

Examples: The Letters of Paul, The Epistles, The Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, CCC 1812-1829

- Compares and contrasts the supernatural character of Faith, Hope, and Love to the common/worldly definitions of faith, hope, and love
- Explains that the Theological Virtues are from God, lived out for God, and are directed by us back to God

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**(8.5.4 S, M, T) ESSENTIAL**...concludes that Scripture teaches the truth of God without error, even if ancient historical details are inaccurate or contradictory

Examples: The Fall and Tower of Babel as Etiologies, Global flood stories, Allegories, Parables, Historical-Critical Method, Senses of Scripture, CCC 101-114

- Demonstrates a basic grasp of the historical-critical method of Biblical Exegesis
- Explains how the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of each book of Scripture and thus God is the author of Scripture as a whole

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**(8.5.5 S, M, T)**...distinguishes Easter's pride of place in the Liturgical Year as "Feast of Feasts" and "Solemnity of Solemnities"

Examples: Triduum, Holy Week, Octave of Easter, Feast of the Assumption, Feast of the Annunciation, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Holy Days of Obligation, CCC 1168-1173, 1195

- Traces the celebration of Marian Feast Days to Mary's perfect obedience and unique role in the saving work of her Son
- Explains the celebration of set days in the Liturgical Year for saints and martyrs as evidence of Christ having accomplished his salvation in these members of the Church

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**(8.5.6 S, M, T)**...illustrates the dignity of human work as both a duty and honor of the creator's gifts and talents received from God

Examples: Catholic Social Teaching, Jubilee year, obligation to tithe, timely payment of laborers, Parable of the Talents, Gen. 1-2, CCC 2420-2463

- Connects the Church's tradition of love and care for the poor to both Old and New Testament teachings
- Connects the dominion that God gave humanity over the universe to humanity's corresponding responsibilities to be good and just stewards over all the universe's resources

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## VI. Christian Anthropology

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(8.6.1 S, M, T)...proposes that creation should be received as a gift and not manipulated, dominated, and/or controlled

Examples: cf. TOB 13:3-4, 59:3; CCC 358, 373

- Appraises examples of modern manipulation, domination, and control in society today
  - Proposes alternative means of receiving creation that contrast manipulation, domination, and control
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(8.6.2 S, M, T) **ESSENTIAL**...evaluates the beatitude: “Blessed are the pure in heart, because they will see God”

Examples: cf. Mt. 5:8 and TOB 43:5, 50, 54, 57:3; CCC 2518-2519, 2530-2533

- Defines “Pure in Heart” as when a person perceives and respects others as a gift and seeks to make a gift of himself/herself to others
  - Gives examples of how a person is pure in heart
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(8.6.3 M, T) **ESSENTIAL**...describes the idea of a vocation and how it is the way one makes a total gift-of-self

Examples: TOB 73:3-4, 76:4-6, 78, 79:8, 86; CCC 915-916, 929, 932, 1578-1579, 1599, 1603, 1605, 1618-1621, 1625-1628, 2233)

- Explains how God invites, and does not force, when he calls someone to the vocation of married life, consecrated life, or the priesthood, leaving the person free to respond
  - Compares and contrasts the sacrament of marriage with celibacy for the sake of the kingdom
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(8.6.4 S, M, T)...compares how the loving communion of man and woman is like that of the Trinity, a communion of persons who are love and who in giving and receiving are fruitful

Examples: Cf. Eph. 5, TOB 9:1-3, 10:4, 14:6, 15:1-5, 81:6, 87:9; CCC 355-357, 915-916, 922-923, 926, 1601, 1604, 1640, 1646

- Explains that living out the spousal meaning of the body can be through marriage or virginity for the sake of the kingdom
  - Explains that when God calls two people to the vocation of marriage, he is inviting them into a special sacrament of his love
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(8.6.5 S, M, T)...describes how responding to the call of the consecrated life is a radical imitation of the life of Christ, and it is done in order to work for the kingdom of God on Earth

Examples: TOB 75:1, 75:4, 76:3, 79:2, 79:9, 81:4; CCC 915-916, 929, 932, 1579, 1618

- Traces the vows of poverty, chastity, & obedience to the life of Christ in Scripture
- Illustrates the foundational role religious vocations played in the formations of charities, hospitals and schools throughout history

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(8.6.6 S, M, T)...explains what will happen to the body at the Resurrection of the Dead

Examples: Cf. Lk 24:39, 1 Cor. 15:35-37, 42, 52-53; 1 Thess 4:16, TOB 64-72; CCC

997-1001

- Exemplifies the glorified body of Christ in the Scriptures for what will happen to our bodies at the Resurrection of the Dead
- Recalls that the Resurrection of the Dead will occur at Christ's second coming