**Assessment of Total Religious Education in Parishes**

Parish Catechetical Leaders are encouraged to spend time reading the major catechetical documents, especially the General Directory of Catechesis and the National Directory for Catechesis before beginning an assessment. In the development of this assessment, particular focus was given to the object of catechesis, which is “communion with Jesus Christ” (GDC 80, NDC 19) as well as the six tasks of catechesis (GDC 84-87). This assessment also draws on the 2016 Diocesan Pastoral Plan, “Called to Missionary Discipleship and Conversion” and the Diocesan Curriculum “Forming a People of Faith.”

**Missionary Discipleship**

Does the program promote a personal encounter with Jesus Christ for each participant? In what ways is that encounter encouraged? Does the program seek to equip disciples of Jesus to live as Christians in society in their professional, cultural and social lives so that they can continue the mission of Jesus Christ in the world today?

**Faith Development**

Is the parish offering appropriate catechesis for each stage of faith development at primary, middle grades, adolescence, and adult levels? Are intergenerational faith formation opportunities incorporated? Does the program give participants formation to live a moral life?

**Religious Education/Message**

Does the parish use quality, age appropriate materials from pre-school through adult levels? Do the Parish Catechetical Leader and catechists strive to teach the standards set forth in the Diocesan Curriculum, “Forming a People of Faith,” for each grade level? Are the materials being used in line with diocesan curriculum expectations? Is there a regular review of materials?

**Worship/Prayer**

Does the parish offer quality liturgies, prayer experiences, sacramental catechesis and celebration of the sacraments? Are the faithful prepared to be full, active and conscious participants in liturgy? Are learners encouraged to grow in their life of prayer with Jesus? Are various prayer styles used in classes and meetings?

**Service/ Stewardship**

Does the program promote care for the poor and marginalized? Does the parish have attitudes and practices that promote engagement of all members in the mission and ministry of the parish?

**Community**

Are parishioners taught how to live as a Christian in community with others? Are attitudes of humility, care for others, forgiveness and love nurtured within the learner? Is there a sense of respect toward other Christian churches? Is there a good relationship between the religious education program and the total parish and its organizations (includes the school and personnel, parish council, parish staff, religious education commission, etc.)?

**Parental Involvement**

To what extent is there a partnership with the home in religious education? Are parents given resources and ideas to use? Are parents encouraged in their role as the primary educators of their children?

**Philosophy/Mission Statement**

Does the parish and/or religious education program have a mission statement?

Does the religious education program have annual goals and assessment of those goals?

**Leadership of the Parish Catechetical Leader**

Are the vision and goals clearly defined and communicated to parish and staff? Are relationships between catechists, parents, parishioners and parish staff effective and productive?

**Students**

Is there evidence that each student is known by name, treated with care and respect , challenged to develop and nurture their faith? What is done to accommodate those with special needs?

**Catechists**

Are catechists trained to teach effectively, fulfilling the six tasks of catechesis? Are catechists growing academically, spiritually, and in teaching skills? Do they participate in formation opportunities offered through the diocese? Is there an annual assessment of catechists’ performance?

**Physical Environment**

Is the space for religious education sessions conducive to effective learning and group interaction? Is the space welcoming? Is the facility handicap accessible?

**Goal Worksheet for Parish Catechetical Leaders**

After completing the assessment, choose two goals and state strategies for each goal.

Goal #1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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State action steps to meet this goal. Choose specific and measurable action steps.

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Goal #2 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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State action steps to meet this goal. Choose specific and measurable action steps.

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(Signature of Parish Catechetical Leader) (Date)

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(Signature of Pastor) (Date)