

Dear Catechetical Leaders,

This document is a reflection of the dedicated work and collaboration of teachers, catechists, and faith formation leaders at all levels from our diocese who have all sought to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the members of our community using a dynamic and holistic approach. This curriculum is designed to guide catechesis following the framework set forth by the various directories for catechesis, written over the last 50 years. The tasks of Catechesis are a longstanding tradition of the Catholic Church, tracing their origins to Christ himself. At its core, this curriculum seeks to facilitate a model of accompanying discipleship that brings about an encounter with Christ, as well as provides ongoing formation and opportunities for conversion.

The first five pillars of this curriculum reflect the five tasks of Catechesis identified in the directories for catechesis. The sixth pillar reflects the legacy of John Paul II's work on human anthropology, *The Theology of the Body*, which contains an invaluable treasure that our world sorely needs. The mission of Christ began with the affirmation of his identity at his baptism, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Mt. 3:17). So too, our work to form disciples to follow the Son of God must also begin with identity, discovering who God created us to be and for whom we were created. Therefore, our sixth pillar of the curriculum is dedicated to Christian Anthropology (understanding the human person in the light of Christ), which connects our embodied experience to each of the tasks of Catechesis.

The overall purpose of this document is to provide a tool for all who labor to form disciples of Christ throughout the diocese. Each pillar has a number of standards that reflect the breadth of the teachings of our faith and are written to follow the developmental stages of the human person. For each standard, examples have been provided to offer tools and strategies to help our catechists in this most important work. Textbooks, similarly, are best understood as tools to be used to facilitate the tasks of Catechesis, not the end in of themselves. This curriculum seeks to share the diversity of the treasures of our faith, as well as facilitate the work towards the unity Christ prays for within his bride, the Church. May we always continue to pray for and rely upon the Spirit's unceasing guidance to fulfill the Great Commission Jesus gave us:

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" Mt. 28:19-20

Sincerely,
The Office of Catechesis
Diocese of Evansville