

SIX TASKS OF CATECHESIS correlated to the Christ in the Classroom Program

Catechesis, the “echoing” or passing on of our Catholic faith is designed to form disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus formed his disciples through instructing, celebrating, witnessing, praying, living in community with others, and sharing the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Thus, we too are called to share the richness of faith through diverse, yet interrelated tasks (cf. NDC pp. 59-60).

The Six Tasks of Catechesis: Knowledge of the Faith; Liturgical Education; Moral Formation; Learning to Pray; Education for Community Life; and Missionary Discipleship and Service are distinct and also complementary. Each task helps us deepen our personal relationship with Christ. Knowing Jesus calls us to celebrate this relationship and also reminds us of the need for ongoing conversion, which leads to prayer, recognizing the needs of others, and realizing how we are called to share the Good News through word and deed. The Six Tasks of Catechesis provides the framework for the PreK -12 Religion Standards developed by the Office for Catholic Schools and the Religious Education Standards realigned by the Office for Catholic Faith Formation.

Task 1: KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH - Students explore, profess, and reflect on our Catholic faith, which is the content of God’s revelation found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition and lived out in the Creed and Church doctrine.

- Bring people to know, love and obey Jesus Christ as the definitive aim of all catechesis
- Explore the Scriptures so that adults may be hearers and doers of the word
- Study the Church’s creeds and doctrines, their priority of truths-for example, on the mystery of God

Task 2: LITURGICAL EDUCATION - Students recognize the presence of Christ and enter into communion with Him through active, full and conscious participation in the Liturgical celebrations and Sacraments of the Church.

- Understand, live and bear witness to the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus
- Understand Church Doctrine on the Eucharist and the other Sacraments
- Acquire the spirituality, skills and habits of full, conscious, and active participants of liturgy
- Value the dignity and responsibility of our baptism

Task 3: MORAL FORMATION - Students develop a moral conscience that is informed by Church teachings and conformed to Christ, modeled in a personal life of virtue, and demonstrated in service of the Gospel’s demands for society.

- Understand how the entire Law of the Gospel is contained in the commandment of Jesus to love one another as he loved us.
- Study the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the moral teachings of the Church and live in accord with them
- Understand the dignity, destiny, freedom, and responsibility of the human person

Task 4: LEARNING TO PRAY - Students experience and engage in Catholic expressions of prayer to deepen their relationship with God and the Church.

- Become familiar with the diverse forms and expression of Christian Prayer

- Experience and appreciate the richness of the Catholic Tradition
- Develop a regular pattern of personal prayer
- Engaged in shared prayer with others

Task 5: EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE - Students study and participate in the life and mission of the Church—the Body of Christ and the community of believers—as expressed in the Church’s origin, history, ecclesiology, the Communion of Saints and their family, the domestic Church.

- Foster spiritual growth in the community
- Cultivate the human values and Christian virtues that foster growth in interpersonal relationships and civic responsibility
- Church History, Lives of the Saints
- Ecclesiology

Task 6: EDUCATION FOR MISSION - Students acquire and demonstrate skills to recognize their gifts from God and their vocation to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed in the world.

- Cultivate an evangelizing spirit among all the faithful
- Respond to God’s call whether as lay, ordained, or religious
- Motivate and equip the faithful to speak to others about the Scriptures, the tradition and teachings of the Church and about one’s own faith journey.