

COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE CATECHETICAL LESSON

THE REVISED CATECHETICAL CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

The Catechetical Curriculum Guidelines embrace the Catechetical Directives of the United States Catholic Bishops and of Bishop D'Arcy. The Curriculum Guidelines are the primary guide for what content the students should receive at each grade level. They also provide formation for the catechist.

THE TEXTBOOK

When chosen from among the texts approved by the United States Catholic Bishops and recommended by our diocese, the textbook is an important tool for teaching the Catechetical Curriculum Guidelines

LESSON PLANS

Using both the Catechetical Curriculum Guidelines and the textbook, the catechist arranges the material into a lesson plan that meets the specific needs of the students and the creative teaching style of the catechist.

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

Interactive activities reinforce the material from the Catechetical Curriculum Guidelines and the textbook, making the content come alive for the students.

THE HIERARCHY OF CATECHETICAL COMPONENTS

Each component should flow from the components that precede it.

- I. REVISED CATECHETICAL
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES**
- II. TEXTBOOK**
- III. LESSON PLAN**
- IV. INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES**

II. LESSON PLAN

- ◆ A lesson plan is an outline of *what* content will be taught and *how* that content will be taught within the specific time frame of a catechetical lesson.
- ◆ A lesson plan may be brief or detailed, but should pinpoint what material is to be taught. This part of the lesson plan is often called the “learning objectives”.
- ◆ After becoming familiar with what should be taught from the Catechetical Curriculum Guidelines and deciding what parts of the textbook are most useful for teaching that material, each catechist should create a lesson plan for each lesson taught.
- ◆ In planning a lesson, the catechist may seek guidance from the textbook, the Catechetical Director, or materials provided by the diocese. However, the lesson plan should ultimately incorporate the specific needs of the students and the creative teaching style of the catechist.

IV. INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

- ◆ After determining from the Curriculum Guidelines what content will be taught during a catechetical lesson and developing learning objectives, the catechist should choose interactive activities that will reinforce the content and make the content come alive. Because activities can incorporate the needs of different learning styles, activities are very important in helping the students understand and remember the content of the lesson.
- ◆ Interactive activities should not be chosen arbitrarily or simply because they look like fun (although they should be fun!). The activities should serve the purpose of teaching the material in the lesson. This is why determining the content of the lesson (based on the Curriculum Guidelines) should precede the choosing of activities.
- ◆ In choosing activities, the catechist may seek guidance from the “Living the Christian Faith” section of the Curriculum Guidelines, the textbook, or the Catechetical Director