

Religious Education Curriculum **for the Catholic High School**



Office of Religious Education

Diocese of Lincoln

Revised 2002

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SOURCES CITED

- GE *Declaration on Christian Education*, an official document of the Second Vatican Council, 1965.
- GDC *General Directory for Catechesis*, issued by the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy, 1997.
- TJD *To Teach as Jesus Did*, a pastoral message on Catholic education issued by the National Conference on Catholic Bishops, 1972.
- EN *On Evangelization in the Modern World*, the apostolic exhortation issued by Pope Paul VI in response to the third general assembly of the synod of Bishops, 1975.
- CT *On Catechesis in Our Time*, the apostolic exhortation issued by Pope John Paul II in response to the fourth general assembly of Bishops, 1979.
- SLF *Sharing the Light of Faith*, the National Catechetical Directory for the Catholics of the United States, 1979.
- RDE *The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School*, issued by the Congregation for the Catholic Education, 1988.

SOURCE

THE SOURCE FOR CATECHESIS IS THE WORD OF GOD, WRITTEN DOWN IN SACRED SCRIPTURE AND HANDED DOWN IN SACRED TRADITION, AS IT IS TAUGHT BY THE MAGISTERIUM OF THE CHURCH, CELEBRATED IN THE CHURCH'S LITURGY, AND WITNESSED IN THE LIVES OF THE CHURCH'S LITURGY, AND WITNESSED IN THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS AND THE JUST.

“Catechesis will always draw its content from the living source of the word of God transmitted in Tradition and the Scriptures, for sacred Tradition and sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the word of God, which is entrusted to the church.” (CT. No 27)

“To speak of Tradition and Scripture as the source of catechesis is to draw attention to the fact that catechesis must be impregnated and penetrated by the thought, the spirit and the outlook of the Bible and the Gospels through assiduous contact with the texts themselves; but it is also effective for reading the texts with the intelligence and the heart of the Church and for drawing inspiration from the 2,000 years of the Church's reflection and life.” (CT. No. 27)

“The word of God, contained in Sacred Tradition and in Sacred Scripture:

- is meditated upon and understood more deeply by means of the sense of faith of all the people of God, guided by the Magisterium which teaches with authority;
- is celebrated in the Sacred Liturgy, where it is constantly proclaimed, heard, interiorized and explained;
- shines forth in the life of the Church, in her two-thousand-year history, especially in Christian witness and particularly in that of the saints;
- is deepened by theological research, which helps believers to advance in their vital understanding of the mysteries of faith;
- is made manifest in genuine religious and moral values, which, as ‘seeds of the word,’ are sown in human society and diverse cultures” (GDC. No. 95)

“Tradition, Scripture and the Magisterium, all three of which are closely connected, are “each according to its own way,” the principal sources of catechesis. ... Catechesis is a living tradition of such documents [of the faith]: biblical excerpts, liturgical texts, patristic writings, formulations of the Magisterium, creeds, testimonies of the saints and theological reflections.” (GDC. No. 96)

“Hence, when catechesis transmits the mystery of Christ, the faith of the whole people of God echoes in its message throughout the course of history: the faith received by the Apostles from Christ himself and under the action of the Holy Spirit; that of the martyrs who have borne witness to it and still bear witness to it by their blood; that of the saints who have lived it and live it profoundly; that of the Fathers and doctors of the Church who have taught it brilliantly; that of the missionaries who proclaim it incessantly; that of theologians who help to understand it better; that of pastors who conserve it with zeal and love and who interpret it authentically. In truth, there is present in catechesis the faith of all those who believe and allow themselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit.” (GDC. No. 105)

AIM

THE AIM OF CATECHESIS IS TO TEACH THE FULL MESSAGE OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH IN AN ORDERLY AND SYSTEMATIC WAY, AS THE CENTRAL PART OF EVERY LESSON, WITH THE HOPE OF LEADING THE STUDENTS TO MATURE FAITH AND MAKING THEM AS MUCH LIKE CHRIST AS POSSIBLE.

“A means of evangelization that must not be neglected is that of catechetical instruction. The intelligence, especially that of children and young people, needs to learn through systematic religious instruction the fundamental teachings, the living content of the truth which God has wished to convey to us and which the Church has sought to express in an ever richer fashion during the course of her long history. No one will deny that this instruction must be given to form patterns of Christian living and not to remain only notional.” (EN. No. 44)

“The primary and essential object of catechesis is...the mystery of Christ.” (CT. No. 5)

“The specific character of catechesis, as distinct from the initial conversion-bringing proclamation of the Gospel, has the two-fold objective of maturing the initial faith and of educating the true disciple of Christ by means of a deeper and more systematic knowledge of the person and message of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (CT. No. 19)

“It is useless to play off orthopraxis against orthodoxy: Christianity is inseparably both. Firm and well-thought-out convictions lead to a courageous and upright action; the endeavor to educate the faithful to live as disciples of Christ today calls for and facilitates a discovery in depth of the mystery of Christ in the history of salvation.” (CT. No. 22)

“...we need a catechesis which trains the young people and adults of our communities to remain clear and consistent in their faith, to affirm serenely their Christian and Catholic identity, to ‘see him who is invisible’ and to adhere so firmly to absoluteness of God that they can be witnesses to Him in a materialistic civilization that denies Him.” (CT. No. 57)

ADOLESCENT CATECHESIS

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OF ADOLESCENTS, IN PARTICULAR, AIMS AT DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES THEY FACE BY PROVIDING A RATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE FAITH AND TEACHING VALUES WITH WHICH THEY CAN ORDER THEIR LIVES.

“The Church, while regarding young people as ‘hope,’ also sees them as ‘a great challenge for the future of the Church’ herself. The rapid and tumultuous socio-cultural change, increase in numbers, self-affirmation for a consistent period before taking up adult responsibilities...the pressures of consumer society—all contribute to make of youth a world in waiting, not infrequently a world of disenchantment, of boredom, of angst and of marginalization. Alienation from the Church, or a least diffidence in her regard, lurks in many as a fundamental attitude. Often this reflects lack of spiritual and moral support in the family and weaknesses in the catechesis which they have received. On the other hand, many of them are driven by a strong impetus to find meaning, solidarity, social commitment and even religious experience.” (GDC. No. 182)

“Well organized group action, membership of valid youth associations and personal accompaniment of young people, which should also include spiritual direction as an important element, are useful approaches for effective catechesis.” (GDC. No. 184)

“Generally youth catechesis should be proposed in new ways which are open to the sensibilities and problems of this age group. They should be of a theological, ethical, historical and social nature. In particular, due emphasis should be given to education in truth and liberty as understood by the Gospel, to the formation of conscience and to education for love. Emphasis should also be placed on vocational discernment, Christian involvement in society and on missionary responsibility in the world. ... One of the difficulties to be addressed and resolved is the question of ‘language’ (*mentality, sensibility, tastes, style, vocabulary*) between young people and the Church (*catechesis, catechists*). A necessary ‘adaptation of catechesis to young people’ is urged, in order to translate into their terms ‘the message of Jesus with patience and wisdom and without betrayal.’” (GDC. No. 185)

“(Adolescence) is the time of discovering oneself and one’s own inner world, the time of generous plans, the time when the feeling of love awakens, with the biological impulses of sexuality, the time of desire to be together, the time of particularly intense joy connected with the exhilarating discovery of life. But often it is also the age of deeper questioning, of anguished or even frustrating searching, of a certain mistrust of others and dangerous introspection, and the age sometimes of the first experiences of setbacks and disappointments. Catechesis cannot ignore these changeable aspects of this delicate period of life. A catechesis capable of leading the adolescent to reexamine his or her life and engage in dialogue, a catechesis that does not ignore the adolescent’s great questions...can be decisive.” (CT. No. 38)

“Catechesis then takes on considerable importance, since it is the time when the Gospel can be presented, understood and accepted as capable of giving meaning to life and thus of inspiring attitudes that would have no other explanation, such as self-sacrifice, detachment, forbearance, justice, commitment, reconciliation, a sense of the Absolute and the unseen.” (CT. No. 39)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM OF A CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CHRIST, HIS CHURCH, AND HOW CHRISTIANS LIVE THEIR LIVES. RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION TEACHES THE ESSENTIALS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF THE STUDENTS IN ORDER TO BETTER PREPARE THEM FOR LIVING THEIR FAITH. TOWARDS THIS END, A RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM NOT ONLY TEACHES CATHOLIC DOCTRINE, BUT ALSO HOW THE FAITH IS CELEBRATED IN THE CHURCH'S LITURGY, AND HOW IT IS DESIGNED TO INFLUENCE THE CHOICES OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

“The Church’s involvement in the field of education is demonstrated especially by the Catholic school . . . It aims to create for the school community an atmosphere enlivened by the gospel spirit of freedom and charity. It aims to help the adolescent in such a way that the development of his own personality will be matched by the growth of the new creation which he became by baptism. It strives to relate all human culture eventually to the news of salvation, so that the light of faith will illumine the knowledge which students gradually gain of the world, of life, and of mankind.” (GE, No. 8)

“The special character of the Catholic school, the underlying reason for it, the reason why Catholic parents should prefer it, is precisely the quality of the religious instruction integrated into the education of the pupils.” (CT, No. 69)

“Here, therefore, students are instructed in human knowledge and skills, valued indeed for their own worth but seen simultaneously as deriving their most profound significance from God’s plan for creation. Here, too, instruction in religious truth and values is an integral part of the school program. It is not one more subject alongside the rest, but instead it is perceived and functions as the underlying reality in which the student’s experiences of learning and living achieve their coherence and deepest meaning.” (TJD, No. 103)

“The aim of catechesis, or handing on the Gospel message, is maturity: spiritual, liturgical, sacramental and apostolic; this happens most especially in a local Church community. The aim of the school, however, is knowledge. While it uses the same elements of the Gospel message, it tries to convey a sense of the nature of Christianity, and of how Christians are trying to live their lives . . . religious instruction cannot help but strengthen the faith of a believing student, just as catechesis cannot help but increase one’s knowledge of the Christian message.” (RDE, No. 69)

AN EXPLANATION OF WORD, MEMORIAL AND WITNESS

The objectives written for each course are structured according to three aspects of catechesis: word, memorial and witness. These three aspects of catechesis were first designed as such in the document issued at the end of the fourth general assembly of the synod of Bishops held in October 1977. They gathered to discuss the theme of catechesis, uniting knowledge of the Word of God with celebration of the faith and the profession of faith in daily life.

This terminology was taken up again by Pope John Paul II in his apostolic exhortation, *Catechesis Tradendae*, issued in 1979. In that document he referred to these same three aspects as doctrine, celebration and commitment in living. (No. 47)

These terms were adopted here in order to facilitate the composition of more integral objectives for the various courses in the high school religious education curriculum. Employing the terms word, memorial and witness represents the attempt to insure that each course presents Catholic doctrine, shows how the assent of faith is meant to lead to a response in personal and liturgical prayer, and examines the duties and responsibilities of a disciple that are made clear when Catholic doctrine and worship are applied to daily life in the world. Again, these are not three separate objectives, but rather three expressions of the one aim of catechesis: to understand and experience the importance of Jesus Christ in daily life.

COURSE TITLES AND SEQUENCE

9a. Old Testament

9b. New Testament

10a. Church History

10b. Catholic Worship

11a. Catholic Moral Life

11b. Catholic Social Justice

12a. Catholic Apologetics

12b. Catholic Vocations

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS
for Catholic High Schools

9a. Old Testament

Understanding the Scriptures: A Complete Course on Bible Study
The Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum

9b. New Testament

Understanding the Scriptures: A Complete Course on Bible Study
The Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum

10a. Church History

The History of the Church: Semester Edition
The Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum

10b. Catholic Worship

The Sacraments: Source of Our Life in Christ Semester Edition
The Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum

11a. Catholic Moral Life

Our Moral Life in Christ: A Complete Course or Semester Edition
The Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum

11b. Catholic Social Justice

The Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church: Semester Edition
The Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum

12a. Catholic Apologetics

Faith, Science & Reason: Theology on the Cutting Edge
Midwest Theological Forum

12b. Catholic Vocations

Creating a Christian Lifestyle
St. Mary's Press, publisher

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE/OLD TESTAMENT

WORD

This course will introduce the students to an understanding of the nature and organization of Sacred Scripture as a component of Divine Revelation. Through the study of the Old Testament, the students will become acquainted with the story of creation, the Fall, and the unfolding of salvation history as the people of the Old Testament prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Through this study the students will be introduced to historical figures with whom they can identify, events which will illustrate the dynamics of decision-making, and themes which will help define and interpret their response to the experience of God in their lives.

MEMORIAL

The study of the Old Testament will provide the foundation of worship due to God, and will demonstrate the importance of having a personal relationship with God. The students will be made familiar with the different types of prayer found in the Old Testament, and how these become a part of Christian prayer. The students will be invited to participate fully in private and public prayer.

WITNESS

This course will attempt to make the study of the Old Testament relevant to the students by drawing on examples from its many historical figures to illustrate right living, and by relating its main themes to contemporary issues. The students will be led to a deeper understanding of how the Christian religion not only entails a personal relationship with God, but also a social relationship with others, involving certain duties and responsibilities, and accountability for their stewardship of material goods.

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE/OLD TESTAMENT

COURSE CONTENT

I. Introduction to Scripture study

- A. Divine Revelation
 - 1. Definition
 - 2. Source
 - 3. Components
 - 4. Purpose
- B. Divine inspiration
 - 1. Definition
 - 2. Human authorship
 - 3. Inerrancy
- C. Canonicity
 - 1. Definition
 - 2. Development
 - 3. Catholic vs. Protestant Bible
- D. Interpretation
 - 1. Role of the Magisterium
 - 2. Literal vs. fundamental interpretation
 - 3. Different literary forms
- E. Tools for study
 - 1. Locating book, chapter and verse
 - 2. Identifying the books of the Bible
 - 3. Use of index and footnotes
 - 4. Use of commentary, Bible dictionary

II. Old Testament

- A. Creation
 - 1. God creates all out of nothing
 - 2. God creates all things as good
 - 3. Creation of man and woman is high point of creation
 - 4. God created humanity according to His image and likeness
 - 5. God created according to His divine plan
- B. The Fall
 - 1. Humanity endowed with free-will
 - 2. Nature of original sin: abuse of free-will
 - 3. Consequence: loss of original justice
 - 4. All humanity is born with original sin
- C. Patriarchs
 - 1. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
 - 2. Covenants with the patriarchs
 - 3. The Joseph stories
- D. The Exodus
 - 1. Oppression of the Israelites
 - 2. Story of Moses
 - a. Birth
 - b. Call of Moses
 - c. God reveals His name
 - 3. Passover
 - a. Ten plagues
 - b. Ritual meal
 - c. Fleeing Egypt through the Red Sea

4. Journey to Sinai
 - a. Murmuring of the people
 - b. Constancy of God's mercy
 - i. God's presence (fire by night, cloud by day)
 - ii. Quail, manna, water from the rock
 5. Sinai covenant
 - a. Role of the Law
 - b. The Ten Commandments
 - c. Israel's worship of God
- E. Charismatic Leadership
1. Joshua
 2. Judges
 - a. Gideon
 - b. Samson
 3. Samuel
 - a. Last judge/first prophet
 - b. Establishment of a monarchy
 4. Israel's kings
 - a. Saul
 - b. David
 - i. Selection
 - ii. Rules over a kingdom
 - iii. David's sin and repentance
 - iv. The line of David
 - c. Solomon
 - i. Construction of the temple
 - ii. Divided Monarchy
 5. Heroes and heroines
 - a. Judith
 - b. Esther
 - c. Maccabees
- F. Wisdom literature
1. Psalms
 - a. Public prayer
 - b. Private prayer
 2. Sirach
 3. Job
- G. Prophetic era
1. Definition of prophecy
 2. Elijah/Elisha
 3. Amos
 4. Hosea
 5. The exile
 - a. Isaiah
 - b. Jeremiah
 - c. Ezekiel
 - d. Daniel
 6. The return
 - a. Ezra and Nehemiah
 - b. Haggai and Zechariah

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE/OLD TESTAMENT

RESOURCES

The following list of resources is by no means complete, but is constantly being updated. The number preceding the titles of the videos is from the Diocesan Video Library catalog. The number following the title, in parentheses, is the publication date, when available.

A Father Who Keeps His Promises, Scott Hahn, Servant Publications, Ann Arbor, MI, 1998

Hebrew Scriptures, published by the Center for Learning, Villa Marie, PA

How to Read the Old Testament, by Etienne Carpenter, published by Crossroad, New York, New York

VIDEOS

163		Journey to Easter
183		Through the Eyes of the Poor
190		O'Shea
203-	01	Sinai (1984)
212-	01	Noah (1987)
212-	02	Moses (1987)
212-	03	David and Goliath (1987)
212-	04	Esther (1987)
212-	05	Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar (1987)
287-	06	What Catholics Believe-Faith of Our Old Fathers
320		Story of the Old Testament (8 videos)
340		Salvation History, Scott Hahn (2 videos)
356		The Bible: Old Testament
472-	01	Meeting with Christ: Sacraments, Scripture, Service
520		Our Father's Plan (3 videos)
534		The Great Adventure (2 videos)
540-	01	Therese and Scripture
549		Archaeology of Jerusalem (2 videos)
559		Catholics Read the Bible (7 videos)

NEW TESTAMENT

WORD

The study of the New Testament will present an overview of the physical and cultural geography of the Holy Land at the time of Jesus, as well as a look at the historical context in which he lived. This course will discuss the types of literature contained in the New Testament, and probe the meaning of its lessons. The students will be led to a deeper understanding of the person and mystery of Jesus. This course will involve reading the Gospel account of His life and ministry, and studying the Church's interpretation of these in light of Sacred Tradition. The student will examine the birth, growth, nature and mission of the Church as seen in the Acts of the Apostles, and in the letters and ministry of St. Paul. The students will also read and study selections from the "catholic epistles" and the Apocalypse of St. John.

MEMORIAL

In the course of this semester, the students will be made familiar with Catholic devotional practices which are rooted in the New Testament events. They will be acquainted with various types of prayer found in the New Testament, and will be required to know the common prayers. This study will provide a deeper insight into the sacramental life of the Church, oriented toward a full participation in and love for the Mass.

WITNESS

The students will be challenged to live fully the commitment of their baptism, through which they are called to live a holy and Gospel-centered lifestyle, as active members of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. They will be presented with the universal call to holiness and discipleship in which all are asked to live according to the spirit of the evangelical counsels - poverty, chastity and obedience. They will also be acquainted with the vocations in the Church which embrace these counsels in spirit and in fact.

NEW TESTAMENT

COURSE CONTENT

I. Introductory material

- A. Geography of the Holy Land
- B. Persons, places and things in the New Testament era
- C. The historical context of Jesus' life
- D. The names, order and number of the New Testament books
- E. The literary forms of the New Testament
 - 1. Brief review of first semester outline, point I, letters A-E
 - 2. Gospels
 - 3. History (Acts)
 - 4. Epistles
 - 5. Apocalyptic literature
- F. The development of the Gospels
 - 1. Oral stage
 - 2. Author and audience
 - 3. Date of composition
 - 4. Place of composition
 - 5. Reasons for writing the message

II. Jesus

- A. The birth, infancy and hidden life of Jesus
 - 1. Annunciation
 - a. Mary's role in salvation history
 - b. The biblical foundation for the Immaculate Conception of Mary
 - c. The virginal conception of Jesus
 - 2. Doctrinal elements involved
 - a. Incarnation
 - b. Hypostatic union
 - c. Mary, the Mother of God
 - d. The perpetual virginity of Mary
 - 3. Jesus' birth in Bethlehem
 - 4. The exile of the Holy Family into Egypt
 - 5. Residence in Nazareth
- B. Manifestation/Epiphany
 - 1. To the shepherds and magi
 - 2. At the baptism by John in the Jordan
 - a. The birth, life and death of John the Baptist
 - b. The mission of John the Baptist
 - 3. At the wedding feast of Cana
 - 4. During Jesus' temptation in the wilderness
- C. Jesus the teacher
 - 1. His message
 - a. The kingdom of God
 - b. The Sermon on the Mount
 - c. The law of love
 - d. The doctrine of the cross (discipleship)
 - e. God as Father
 - 2. Jesus teaches upon His own authority
 - 3. His manner of teaching (e.g., parables)

- D. Jesus the miracle-worker
 - 1. The definition of a miracle
 - 2. Examples
 - 3. The significance of the miracles Jesus performs
 - E. Jesus the Paschal Mystery
 - 1. His triumphal entry into Jerusalem
 - 2. The Last Supper
 - a. The meaning of the Passover meal
 - b. Jesus – the new Paschal Lamb
 - c. Institution of the Eucharist
 - i. Synoptic institution narratives
 - ii. John 6
 - d. Institution of the priesthood
 - e. Christian service (washing of feet)
 - 3. Arrest
 - 4. Accusation of blasphemy
 - 5. Crucifixion
 - 6. Burial
 - 7. Resurrection accounts
 - 8. The promise of another Paraclete
 - 9. Ascension
 - F. Jesus, the fulfillment of prophecy
- III. The Church: Mystical Body of Christ
- A. Birth of the Church
 - 1. Founded by Christ
 - 2. Pentecost event
 - B. Growth of the Church
 - 1. Preaching and witness
 - a. Peter (Acts 2: 14 – 41)
 - b. Stephen (Acts 7: 1 – 53)
 - 2. Persecution and dispersion
 - C. Mission of the Church
 - 1. Call and sending of the disciples
 - 2. Peter is sent to the Jews
 - 3. Paul is sent to the Gentiles
 - a. Paul's persecution of Christians
 - b. Paul's conversion
 - c. Missionary journeys
 - d. Letters
 - e. Themes
 - D. Nature of the Church
 - 1. Mystical Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12: 12 – 30)
 - 2. Government
 - a. Role of the Twelve
 - b. Role of St. Peter
 - c. Deacons
 - d. Presbyters
 - 3. Worship of the Church
 - 4. Communal life
 - E. Mary, Mother of the Church

IV. Other New Testament literature

A. The “catholic epistles”

1. Identify them
2. Author
3. Meaning of the term “catholic”
4. Themes

B. Apocalypse of St. John

1. Literary form
2. Historical background
3. Purpose

NEW TESTAMENT

RESOURCES

The following list of resources is by no means complete, but is constantly being updated. The number preceding the titles of the videos is from the Diocesan Video Library catalog. The number following the title, in parentheses, is the publication date, when available.

Christian Scriptures, published by the Center for Learning, Villa Marie, PA

How to Read the New Testament, by Etienne Carpenter, published by Crossroads, New York, New York

VIDEOS

43	Acts of the Apostles (10 videos)
62	Jesus of Nazareth (14 videos)
69	Moral Theology
71	My Father's House
86	St. Maria Goretti
110	Dismas
115	Encounter with Garvin Byrne
146	Twice Pardoned
158	Elizabeth Ann Seton
187	The Life of Christ (3 videos)
343- 02	The Bible-What its all about
446	The Passion According to St. Luke
452	The Bible on Video (3 videos)
536	Acts (4 videos)
546	Shroud of Turin, Part 1 -- 3
559	Catholics Read the Bible (11 videos)
568	The Last Supper
569	How Jesus Died
571	Joseph: The Man Closest to Christ
624	Steps into the Holy Land

CHURCH HISTORY

WORD

The students will trace the history of the Church from its foundation by Jesus Christ to the present. They will have a clear understanding of the mandate and the mission of the Church, how far the field of her action has expanded, and under what circumstances and under whose influence she has been hindered or helped. In addition to this, the students will learn the history of the Church in the United States. Throughout the course, the students will be made aware that Christ is the Lord of history, and He has promised that nothing, including the gates of hell, will prevail against the Church.

MEMORIAL

The students will be made aware of the fact that, while history is the presentation of the development of a culture, the history of the Church is also the history of her relationship with God. Therefore, prayer and worship are indispensable to living out God's call to holiness in the Church. Because the Church prays what she believes, the students will be shown how the Church's history is reflected in her prayer. They will be invited to deepen their relationship with Christ, the Lord of their own personal history, and to fully realize that liturgical prayer is the prayer of the Church, by the Church, and for the Church.

WITNESS

Because the history of the Church is comprised of the stories of those who have witnessed to the faith, the students will be taught to follow the examples of those heroes of the faith who followed Christ and His Church in spite of persecution. They will be encouraged to live out their call to discipleship and holiness despite the difficulties they might encounter in the world.

CHURCH HISTORY

COURSE CONTENT

- I. The world in which Christ was born
 - A. Rome's domination
 - B. The situation in Palestine
- II. The Church until 313 A.D.
 - A. Acts of the Apostles
 - 1. Pentecost and St. Peter
 - 2. St. Paul
 - B. Persecution by the Jewish leaders
 - 1. Martyrdom of St. Stephen
 - 2. James
 - C. Persecution by the Romans
 - 1. Nero begins the persecution
 - 2. The persecution through Diocletian
 - D. Apostolic Fathers
 - 1. Clement of Rome
 - 2. Ignatius of Antioch
 - 3. Polycarp of Smyrna
 - E. Heresies
 - 1. Gnosticism
 - 2. Arianism
 - F. Apologists
 - 1. Irenaeus
 - 2. Origen
- III. The Church under imperial protection
 - A. Constantine and the "Edict of Milan"
 - B. Christianity named the state religion
 - 1. Positive consequences
 - 2. Negative consequences
- IV. The Patristic Age
 - A. The great Western Fathers of the Church
 - 1. Jerome
 - 2. Ambrose
 - 3. Augustine
 - 4. Gregory the Great
 - B. The great Eastern Fathers of the Church
 - 1. Basil the Great
 - 2. Athanasius
 - 3. John Chrysostom
- V. The early ecumenical councils
 - A. Council of Nicea (325 A.D.)
 - 1. Condemned Arianism
 - 2. Produced the Nicene Creed
 - B. Council of Constantinople (381 A.D.)
 - 1. Condemned the Macedonian denial of the divinity of the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Confirmed and extended the Nicene Creed
 - C. Council of Ephesus (431 A.D.)

1. Condemned the heresy of Nestorius
2. Declared that Mary is the Mother of God
- D. Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.)
 1. Condemned monophysitism
 2. Affirmed the two natures in the one person of Christ
- VI. The conversion of Western Europe
 - A. The age of monasticism
 1. Benedict
 2. Basil
 3. Role of the monasteries in developing Western civilization
 - E. The invasion of the barbarians
 1. Groths
 2. Vandals
 3. Franks
 4. Angles and Saxons
 - F. Islam
 - D. Missionary activity
 1. England: Augustine of Canterbury
 2. Ireland: Patrick
 3. Germany: Boniface
 4. The Irish missionary monks
 - E. The “dark ages” and the reconstruction of civilization
 1. Pope Leo the Great
 2. Pope Gregory the Great
 3. Charlemagne
 4. Cyril and Methodius
- VII. The Middle Ages
 - A. The crusades: causes and effects
 - B. The formation of the mendicant orders
 1. Francis and the Friars Minor
 2. Dominic and the Friars Preachers
 - C. The Inquisition
 1. Need and implementation
 2. Explaining it to the Church’s protagonists
 - D. The Eastern Schism
 - E. The Western Schism
 1. The Avignon papacy
 2. Catherine of Siena
 3. Anti-popes
 - F. The influence of the “black death” on the Church
- VIII. The Renaissance
- IX. The Protestant Reformation
 - A. Problems
 1. Lay investiture
 2. Simony
 3. Indulgences
 4. Relics
 5. Clergy

- B. The reformers: background, thought and errors
 - 1. Martin Luther
 - 2. John Calvin
 - 3. Henry VIII
- C. Consequences among the faithful
- X. The Counter Reformation
 - A. Council of Trent
 - B. Age of the saints
 - 1. Ignatius of Loyola
 - 2. Robert Bellarmine
 - 3. Charles Borromeo
 - 4. Philip Neri
 - 5. Teresa of Avila
 - 6. John of the Cross
 - 7. Vincent de Paul
- XI. New Missionary effort
 - A. Asia
 - B. Africa
 - C. The “new world”
 - 1. French missionaries to the North
 - 2. Spanish and Portugese missionaries to the South
- XII. The First Vatican Council (1869 – 1870)
 - A. The Nature of the Church’s hierarchy
 - B. *Pastor Aeternus*
 - 1. Infallibility of the Church
 - 2. Infallibility of the Pope
- XIII. The Modern World
 - A. Leo XIII: *Rerum Novarum*
 - B. Darwin and the theory of evolution
 - C. Karl Marx and communism
- XIV. The 20th Century
 - A. The Popes of the 20th Century
 - B. The Church and the World Wars
 - C. The spread of communism into Catholic countries
- XV. The Second Vatican Council
 - A. The reasons given for calling the Council
 - 1. Completing the work of Vatican I
 - 2. The Church addressing the world experiencing dramatic societal changes
 - B. The guidance of Pope John XXIII
 - C. The guidance of Pope Paul VI
 - D. A brief review of the work of the Council
 - E. The question of dissent
 - F. The crisis in the priesthood and religious life
- XVI. The Church in North America
 - A. The Spanish missions
 - 1. Florida
 - 2. California and the Southwest
 - 3. Junipero Serra

- B. The French missions
 - 1. The North American martyrs
 - 2. Kateri Tekakwitha
- C. Catholics in the New England colonies
 - 1. Maryland
 - 2. The Carroll family
- D. The foundation of the Catholic school system
 - 1. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
 - 2. St. John Neumann
- E. Catholic immigration
 - 1. American Protestant reaction
 - 2. St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
 - 2. Katherine Drexel
- F. Growth of the Church in 20th century America
 - 1. Discrimination decreases
 - 2. The role of Cardinals Cushing and Spellman
 - 3. The first Catholic president
 - 4. American Catholic response to Vatican II

CHURCH HISTORY

RESOURCES

The following list of resources is by no means complete, but is constantly being updated. The number preceding the titles of the videos is from the Diocesan Video Library catalog. The number following the title, in parentheses, is the publication date, when available.

Christ and the Americas, by Anne Carroll, published by TAN

Christ the King, Lord of History, (text and workbook) by Anne Carroll, published by TAN

History of the Roman Catholic Church: A Survey, by Msgr. J. Connelly, published by Kerryman Press, Philadelphia, PA

How to Read Church History, by Etienne Charpentier, published by Crossroads, New York, New York

VIDEOS

29	On this Rock
44	A Man for All Seasons
46	Becket
100	The Catholic Challenge
119	The Homeland of Jesus
157	Cathedral
160	Frances Cabrini
196	The Shroud of Turin
206	The History of the Church (4 videos)
270	Trial and Testimony of the Early Church (2 videos)
298	Catholic Life in America (3 videos)
410	Gregorian Chant
412	The Eternal City
438	St. Patrick
582	Pioneers of the Spirit: Ignatius of Loyola
600	Joan of Arc
615	Apparitions at Fatima

CATHOLIC WORSHIP

WORD

This course is made up of three segments: prayer, Mass and the sacraments. The over-all aim of the course is to assist the students in answering God's call to holiness. They will be taught that their relationship to God is expressed and sustained through personal and liturgical prayer. Through an in-depth study of its parts, the students will come to understand Christ's action and their response in the Mass. In their study of the sacraments, they will study the institution, matter and form of each sacrament, the graces received through the sacrament, and the characteristics unique to each sacrament. They will be taught that each sacrament is an encounter with Christ, and therefore a means to holiness.

MEMORIAL

The very nature of this course provides the impetus for the students to deepen their spiritual lives. Their understanding of Catholic worship will enable them to come closer to God through genuine participation in the Mass and reception of the sacraments, and by developing a relationship with Jesus Christ through their own prayer lives.

WITNESS

The students will be challenged to live out their prayer lives, to be true witnesses of what they have experienced in prayer and worship. They will be taught that their prayer life cannot be reduced to an exclusive relationship between themselves and God, but rather must be lived out concretely in their interaction with others and with society as a whole. Prayer for the knowledge of their vocations will be encouraged.

CATHOLIC WORSHIP

COURSE CONTENT

I. Introduction

- A. Universal call to holiness
 - 1. God calls each individual to holiness
 - 2. The four last things: death, judgment, heaven, and hell
- B. A person's relationship to God
 - 1. Adolescence: physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual change
 - 2. Maturing relationship with God
- C. Aids to holiness
 - 1. Grace
 - 2. Prayer, Mass and Sacraments
 - 3. Penance
 - 4. Life of Virtue

II. Prayer

- A. One's relationship with God expressed through prayer
 - 1. God reveals Himself
 - 2. What Jesus reveals about our relationship with the Father
- B. Response to the presence of God: lifting up the mind and heart to God

III. Purpose of prayer

- A. Adoration
- B. Contrition
- C. Thanksgiving
- D. Petition

IV. Kinds of prayer

- A. Vocal prayer
 - 1. Informal
 - 2. Formal: traditional prayers
- B. Mental prayer
- C. Contemplative prayer
 - 1. Natural and acquired
 - 2. Supernatural and infused
- D. Liturgical
 - 1. Official public prayer of the Church
 - 2. Divine Office
 - 3. The Sacrifice of the Mass
 - 4. The seven Sacraments

V. Developing a personal prayer life

- A. How to pray
- B. When to pray
- C. What to say
- D. Where to pray
- E. Why pray

VI. Sacrament

- A. An encounter with Christ
- B. An outward sign
- C. Instituted by Christ
- D. Gives sanctifying grace

VII. The Sacrament of Baptism

- A. The necessity of baptism for salvation

1. Reason for baptism of infants
 2. The fate of the un-baptized
 - B. The duties of parents and baptismal sponsors
 - C. Institution of baptism
 - D. The form of sacrament
 - E. The matter of the sacrament
 1. Immersion in water
 2. Pouring water over the head
 3. Sprinkling the person with water
 4. Spiritual
 - a. Baptism of desire
 - b. Baptism by blood
 - F. Requirements for reception
 - G. Effects of the sacrament
 1. Washes away the stain of original sin
 2. Bestows the gift of sanctifying grace
 3. Made children of God
 4. Made “temples of the Holy Spirit”
 5. Made members of Christ’s Body, the Church
 6. Bestows a sacramental character
 - H. Brief review of the rite, including the form for emergency baptism
- VIII. The Sacrament of Confirmation
- A. Further initiates one into the life of the Church
 - B. Institution of the sacrament
 - C. The form of the sacrament
 - E. The minister of the sacrament
 1. Ordinary minister: Bishop
 2. Extraordinary minister: Priest
 - a. In danger of death
 - b. Receiving someone into full communion with the Church
 - F. Requirements for reception
 - G. Duties of the confirmation sponsor
 - H. Effects of the sacrament
 1. Bestows the gift of sanctifying grace
 2. Bestows the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
 3. Strengthens the virtues and gifts received at baptism
 4. Bestows a sacramental character
 - I. Brief review of the rite
- IX. The Sacrament of the Eucharist
- A. Institution of the Sacrament
 - B. The form of the Sacrament
 - C. The matter of the Sacrament
 - D. The minister of the Sacrament
 - E. Requirements for reception
 1. Full union with the Church
 2. No impediments
 3. Freedom from mortal sin
 4. The Eucharistic fast
 - F. Effects of the Sacrament
 1. Bestows the gift of sanctifying grace

- 2. Draws the recipient into the greatest possible union with Christ
 - 3. Bestows strength to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of one's state in life
 - 4. Gives strength to the dying for the journey home to heaven
- G. The Eucharist is a great mystery
- H. Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament
 - 1. Reservation of the Eucharist
 - a. To bring the Sacrament to the sick or home bound
 - b. For the purpose of adoration
 - 2. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament
- I. The question of intercommunion with other churches
- J. The sins of sacrilege and desecration
- X. The Sacrament of Penance
 - A. The institution of the sacrament
 - B. The form of the sacrament
 - C. The matter of the sacrament
 - D. The minister of the sacrament
 - 1. Why must we confess our sins to a priest?
 - 2. The seal of confession
 - 3. Reserved sins
 - 4. Forgiveness is not contingent on the sanctity of the minister
 - E. Requirements for reception
 - 1. Sorrow for sins
 - 2. Purpose of amendment
 - 3. Intention to do penance
 - F. Frequency of reception
 - 1. What is required by law
 - 2. The ideal
 - G. Effects of the Sacrament
 - 1. Bestows sanctifying grace
 - 2. Absolves sin
 - H. Is there forgiveness of sin apart from the Sacrament of Penance?
 - I. Brief review of the different rites
 - 1. Private confession
 - 2. Communal penance service with private confession
 - 3. General absolution
- XI. The Sacrament of Anointing
 - A. The institution of the sacrament
 - B. The form of the sacrament
 - C. The matter of the sacrament
 - D. The minister of the sacrament
 - E. Requirements for reception
 - F. Frequency of reception
 - G. Effects of the sacrament
 - 1. Bestows sanctifying grace
 - 2. Bestows physical healing, if it is God's will
 - 3. Bestows spiritual healing
 - 4. Grants the forgiveness of sins
 - H. Brief review of the rite
- XII. The Sacrament of Matrimony
 - A. The institution of the sacrament
 - B. The form of the sacrament

- C. The matter of the sacrament
 - D. The minister of the sacrament
 - E. Requirements for reception
 - 1. No impediments
 - 2. Freedom
 - 3. Fidelity
 - 4. Permanence
 - 5. Openness to children
 - 6. Adequate preparation
 - F. Frequency of reception
 - 1. No remarriage after divorce
 - 2. Declaration of Nullity
 - G. Effects of the Sacrament
 - 1. Bestows sanctifying grace
 - 2. Response to a vocation
 - 3. Supplies means to achieve holiness and salvation
 - H. Brief review of the rite
- XIII. The Sacrament of Holy Orders
- A. The institution of the sacrament
 - B. The form of the sacrament
 - C. The matter of the sacrament
 - D. The minister of the sacrament
 - E. Requirements for reception
 - 1. Male
 - 2. Baptized and Confirmed
 - 3. Free from an irregularities and impediments
 - 4. Seminary training
 - F. Frequency of reception
 - G. Effects of the Sacrament
 - 1. Bestow sanctifying grace
 - 2. Bestows a sacramental character
 - 3. Conforms the man to Christ
 - H. The different orders
 - 1. Deacon
 - 2. Priest
 - 3. Bishop
 - I. Ministry
 - J. The issue of priestly celibacy
 - K. The difference between a religious and diocesan priest
 - L. The question of the ordination of women
 - M. Brief review of the rite
- XIV. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
- A. The roots of the Mass in the Passover celebration
 - B. What happens at Mass
 - 1. Jesus becomes present in His body, blood, soul and divinity
 - 2. The sacrifice of Calvary is re-presented in an unbloody manner
 - 3. Both take place under the sacramental form of bread and wine
 - C. The Mass as a memorial meal
 - D. The scriptural witness
 - 1. The institution narratives

- 2. John 6
 - 3. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (11: 23 – 26)
- E. The witness of the Church Fathers
- F. Brief review of the Mass
 - 1. The different parts of the Mass
 - 2. The people, places and things involved in the Mass
 - 3. The Latin and Eastern rites
- G. Obligation to assist at Mass on Sundays and other holy days
- H. Proper reverence to show at Mass
 - 1. Dress
 - 2. Attitude of silence
 - 3. Participation in the whole Mass
- XV. The Liturgical Year
 - A. The different seasons of the Church year
 - B. The holy days of obligation

CATHOLIC WORSHIP

RESOURCES

The following list of resources is by no means complete, but is constantly being updated. The number preceding the titles of the videos is from the Diocesan Video Library catalog. The number following the title, in parentheses, is the publication date, when available.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Second Vatican Council

On the Mystery and Worship of the Eucharist, Pope John Paul II, published by the Daughters of St. Paul

Reconciliation and Penance, Pope John Paul II, published by the Daughters of St. Paul

Sacraments: A Study Guide, by Fr. Peter Stravinskis published by Twin Circle

Our Father, by Dr. Peter Kreeft, published by Twin Circle

VIDEOS

5	Grandma's Bread (1985)
51	Confirmation: It's Your Choice (1988)
76	Persons, Places and Practices in the Catholic Church
77	Prayer for World Peace, Pope John Paul II
79	Sacrament of Confirmation (1987)
91	Sacrament (1987)
94	Understanding the Liturgy of the Mass (1988)
98	Your Baby's Baptism
180	Sealed Lips
181	The Star Child (1990)
184	To Follow His Way (1990)
287	#15 Through Him, With Him, In Him
369	The Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist
372	50 Years of Thorns and Roses, Padre Pio
420	Prayer: A Way of Life
421	Contemplation (2 videos)
431	Charged with the Grandeur of God
472	Meeting with Christ: Sacraments, Scripture, Service
490	The Lamb's Supper
493	Know Your Rites—Overworked and Underprayed
589	Teresa of Avila: Personality and Prayer (2 videos)

CATHOLIC MORAL LIFE

WORD

In this course the students will learn the rational foundations for a Catholic moral life, with an emphasis on what the Church proposes as a just life, rather than on what they should and should not do. They will learn about God's plan for the whole human race, and each individual. They will learn how true knowledge of self leads to know God's goodness at work in their lives, and also leads to love as the fundamental response to this knowledge. They will learn about the true nature of the conscience, and about the unique role that Jesus and His Church play in the formation of a Catholic conscience. The students will also address specific moral questions and problems pertaining to sexuality and life issues from the perspective of the teachings of Jesus and His Church.

MEMORIAL

The students will learn that to live the just, ordered and integrated life that the Church proposes is primarily a spiritual venture. They will learn the importance of the spiritual life as a source of strength to do good and avoid evil. This course will help them to develop a spiritual program for the life-long process of conversion, which will include personal prayer, reception of the sacraments, participation in the Mass, a balanced practice of penance, association with good people, and service of others.

WITNESS

This course will draw upon the counsel and example of Mary and the saints in order to encourage an heroic response from the students in living a Catholic moral life. They will be challenged to form and follow their consciences, to understand and practice the theological and cardinal virtues, to avoid sin in all its forms, and to be moved to sorrow for sin and confession of sin, if they should happen to give in to temptation.

CATHOLIC MORAL LIFE

COURSE CONTENT

I. The plan of God

A. For the human race

1. Give glory and honor to God
2. Personal sanctification and salvation
 - a. The fullness of Christian life
 - b. The perfection of love
3. Come “home” to heaven

B. For the salvation of the human race

1. Redemption wrought by Christ
 - a. A free act motivated by love
 - b. God does for man what man could not do for himself
2. The effects of justification
 - a. The end of slavery to sin and death
 - b. The gift of grace
 - c. The gates of heaven are opened
 - d. Become children of God
 - e. Co-heirs with Christ
 - f. Temples of the Holy Spirit
 - g. Members of the Mystical body of Christ, the Church
 - h. Solidarity with others

C. For the individual

1. Faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, Savior
2. Reception of Baptism
3. Preserve and perfect the baptismal gift
 - a. Cooperate with God’s grace
 - i. Uncreated grace
 - ii. Sanctifying grace
 - iii. Actual grace
 - b. Direct one’s affections rightly
 - i. A free act aroused by God’s free act of love
 - ii. Infinite human desire only finds “rest” in the Infinite God

II. Knowledge of self and God

A. What man learns about self through reflection on experience

1. Man is nothing in and of himself
2. Man is a creature
3. Man is a sinner
4. Man is weak on account of original sin
5. Man is spiritually impoverished

B. What man learns about God through knowledge of self

1. God’s goodness makes up for every human defect
2. God created man in His image and likeness
3. God redeems man from sin and death
4. God is powerful and strengthens man’s weakness
5. God provides what each needs for sanctification and salvation

C. Response to this knowledge

1. Love
 - a. For God, first and most
 - b. For neighbor, as a means to return love to God
 - c. For self, as one's own most proximate neighbor
2. The Human Act
 - a. Freedom and Responsibility
 - b. Morality of human acts
 - i. The object chosen
 - ii. The end in view or the intention
 - iii. The circumstances of the action
3. Love is a human act
 - a. Object
 - b. Motive (e.g., never do evil to achieve a good end)
 - c. Circumstances
4. Elements affecting responsibility
 - a. Invincible ignorance
 - b. External force
 - c. Fear
 - d. Past habits
 - e. Passion
 - f. Pathology

III. Practical decisions

- A. Fundamental duty: form and follow your conscience
 1. Definition of conscience
 2. Catholics form a Catholic conscience
 - a. Law: objective moral norms
 - i. Divine natural law
 - ii. Divine positive law: the Ten Commandments
 - iii. Ecclesial law: the precepts of the Church
 - b. The teachings and example of Jesus
 - i. Jesus as the principle moral norm
 - ii. Follow His teaching: the Sermon on the Mount
 - iii. Follow His example: What would Christ do?
 - iv. Assume the proper attitude of a disciple
 3. Follow an informed conscience
 - a. Never act on a doubtful conscience
 - b. The ideal: a certain and true conscience
- B. The fulfillment of duty: virtue
 1. The theological virtues: what are they and how are they practiced?
 - a. Faith
 - b. Hope
 - c. Love
 2. The cardinal virtues: what are they and how are they practiced?
 - a. Prudence
 - b. Justice
 - c. Fortitude
 - d. Temperance
 3. The gifts of the Holy Spirit perfect virtue
 4. Develop the habit of virtue

C. The failure in duty: sin

1. Misdirected love
 - a. Opposed to God
 - b. Selfishness
2. Original sin and concupiscence
3. Actual sin
 - a. Venial Sin
 - b. Mortal Sin
 - c. Sins of omission and commission
 - d. Capital sins
 - e. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit
4. Temptation
 - a. The world
 - b. The flesh
 - c. The devil

D. Response to sin

1. Sorrow
 - a. Out of fear of hell, loss of heaven
 - b. Offends God, Who is Love and deserves love
1. Confession

E. Erroneous Moral Principles

5. Situation ethics
6. Proportionalism
7. Consequentialism
8. Subjectivism
9. Moral Relativism

IV. Program for life

- A. Conversion: firm purpose of amendment
 1. Life-long process
 2. Gradual and continuous
- B. Examination of conscience
- C. Frequent confession
- D. Frequent communion
- E. Performance of spiritual and corporal works of mercy
 1. Out of love for God
 2. For the benefit of another
- F. Performance of works of penance
 1. Out of love for God
 2. To learn to say “no” to temptation
 3. To benefit others
 4. To make up for the temporal punishment due to past and forgiven sins
- G. Spend time in prayer each day
- H. Association with good people
- I. Follow the example of Mary and the saints

V. Specific moral questions

- A. Pertaining to Social Life
 1. Authority
 2. The common good
 3. Responsibility and participation
 4. Duties of children and parents
 5. Duties of civil authorities and citizens

B. Pertaining to life issues

1. The problem or question
 - a. Murder vs. killing
 - b. Suicide
 - c. Mercy-killing (Euthanasia)
 - d. Organ donations
 - e. Abortion
- f. Experimentation and destruction of embryos
 - g. Use of extraordinary means to sustain life
 - h. Artificial hydration and nutrition
 - i. Artificial insemination and “in vitro” fertilization
 - j. Mutilation (e.g., elective cosmetic surgery)
 - k. Capital punishment
 - l. War: is there such a thing as a just war?
 - m. Self-defense
 - n. Drug and alcohol abuse
2. Church teaching regarding life and the obligation to sustain life
3. Corresponding virtue(s)
4. Means to attain virtue

C. Pertaining to sexuality

1.

1.	a.	The problem or question
	b.	Fornication
	c.	Adultery
	d.	Rape
	e.	Incest
	f.	Petting
	g.	Masturbation
	h.	Homosexual Acts
	i.	Pedophilia
	j.	Bestiality
	k.	Pornography
	l.	Immodest dress
	m.	Prostitution
	n.	Artificial means of birth control
		Difference between natural and artificial means of contraception
2. Church teaching regarding sexuality
3. Corresponding virtue(s)
4. The means to attain virtue

CATHOLIC MORAL LIFE

RESOURCES

The following list of resources is by no means complete, but is constantly being updated. The number preceding the titles of the videos is from the Diocesan Video Library catalog. The number following the title, in parentheses, is the publication date, when available.

Evangelium Vitae, Pope John Paul II

Veritatis Splendor, Pope John Paul II

A Contemporary Adult Guide to Conscience, by Fr. Richard Rego, published by The Leaflet Missal Company

The Seven Deadly Sins, by George Devine, published by Twin Circle

The Commandments: Reflections on the Law of God, Fr. Peter Stravinskis, published by Twin Circle

The Beatitudes: Meditations on the Way of Jesus, by Dr. Peter Kreeft, published by Twin Circle

A Brief Summary of the Commandments, by the Daughters of St. Paul, published by the Daughters of St. Paul

The Good News About Sex, by Fr. David Knight, published by St. Anthony Messenger Press

The Wonder of Human Sexuality, by Fr. Richard Hogan, published by the Leaflet Missal Company

Following Christ: A Handbook of Catholic Moral Teaching, by Fr. Daniel Lowery, C.S.S.R., published by Ligouri Publications

Catholic Sexual Ethics, by Lawler, Boyle and May, published by Our Sunday Visitor

Declaration on Certain Questions Concerning Sexual Ethics, by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, published by the Daughters of St. Paul

To Live In Christ Jesus, by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, published by the U.S.C.C. Publications Office

Medicine and Christian Morality, by Fr. Thomas J. O'Donnell S.J. published by Alba House Publications

The Language of Love, by Most Rev. James D. Conley, <http://www.lincolndiocese.org/op-ed/bcwriting/1848-the-language-of-love>

VIDEOS (Catholic Moral Life)

4	The Good News About Sex (1984)
11	Reverence for Life (1985)
17	AIDS: A Topic for Life
27	Martin the Cobbler
37	Youth, Sex and Chastity (1986)
63	Just Wait (1988)
65	Life and Work of Paul
69	Moral Theology: Formation, Following One's Conscience
72	Natural Family Planning
103	The Chastity Challenge
116	God's Game Plan
130	Of Wishes and Glass Dishes: High Tech Babies and the Church
143	#1 Talks by Archbishop Sheen
145	Teens and Sex – Deciding for life
148	Vultures
153	Races are Run
167	Matt Talbot
181	The Star Child
184	To Follow His Way
194	Satanism, Witchcraft, the Occult
195	Matter of Life and Death: Morality of Terminal Treatment Decisions
243	Molly Kelly – Face to Face with Teens
259	Life in the Herd – Peer Pressure
282	The Right to Kill
287	What Catholics Believe
298	#1 Catholic Life in America – Dorothy Day: Blessed are the poor
298	#2 Catholic Life in America – John Kennedy
298	#3 Catholic Life in America – John Ryan, Labor Priest
326	Pro-Life Debate – Helen Alvare Vs. Randy Moody
342	Bread of Life – Devotional Life of the Early Church
354	A Day in the Life of Bonnie Consolo – The Woman with No Arms
419	#1 - #2 What to do When Life Doesn't Make Sense
443	Defending Life (4 videos)
515	St. Augustine: His Life and Spirituality
526	The Life of Charles De Foucauld
554	The Abundant Life: Losing a Child to the Homosexual Lifestyle
557	The Procedure: Partial-Birth Abortion
574	Fourteen Flowers of Pardon: Life and Death of St. Maria Goretti

CATHOLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WORD

The students will engage in a more critical study of the catechism, geared to their level of intellectual development, with an emphasis on knowing the reasons behind their faith. This course will also present some of the protests and questions raised by the Church's antagonists, with a view to helping the students defend and explain their faith to others.

MEMORIAL

This course will demonstrate that Catholic faith is more than an intellectual assent to doctrine, but that it also involves entering into a relationship with God and others in worship. Catholics pray what they believe in the Mass, the sacraments, and in personal prayers. The students will address specific questions about the Mass and sacraments. They will learn why it is essential for a Catholic to spend time in prayer. They will also be required to commit certain Catholic prayers to memory and to be familiar with different Catholic devotional practices in order to encourage growth in their spiritual life and to facilitate joining other Catholics in prayer.

WITNESS

The students will also see demonstrated in this course that the Catholic faith is an intellectual assent that leads to worship, and that necessarily has "an effect in our lives." This will be done by studying the goal for which all people are created, namely heaven, the means to attain that goal, and how sin is an obstacle to union with God in heaven. This understanding will hopefully lead to a love for and defense of the Catholic faith, and to putting it into practice in everyday life.

CATHOLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

COURSE CONTENT

I. Doctrine

A. Revelation

1. Mystery
2. Natural revelation
3. Supernatural revelation
4. The gift of faith
 - a. Faith ruled by Scripture and Tradition vs. *sola scriptura*
 - i. Which came first, the Church or the Bible?
 - ii. Difference between Sacred Tradition and traditions
 - b. Understanding Sacred Scripture
 - i. Divine inspiration
 - ii. Inerrancy
 - iii. Canonicity
 - iv. Literal interpretation vs. fundamentalism
 - v. Private interpretation vs. the Magisterium
 - vi. Harmony of faith and science

B. God

1. Arguments for the existence of God vs. atheism
2. Attributes of God
3. The mystery of the Trinity
4. God the Father
 - a. The plan of creation
 - i. God created out of nothing
 - ii. God created freely
 - iii. God created all things good
 - b. God keeps all things in existence
 - c. The mystery of Divine Providence and the problem of evil
 - d. Human beings as the high point of creation
 - i. Made in the image and likeness of God
 - ii. Composed of body and soul
 - iii. Possessing intelligence and freedom
 - iv. Death of the body and immortality of the soul
 - v. Not saved without cooperation with God's grace
 - e. The angelic creation
5. God the Son
 - a. Human need for redemption
 - b. Mystery of the hypostatic union
 - i. Two natures, human and divine
 - ii. One divine person
 - iii. Like us in all things but sin
 - c. Did Jesus know who He was?
 - d. The work of redemption
 - i. The necessity for suffering
 - ii. Jesus as the perfect redeemer
 - e. The bodily resurrection and ascension of Jesus

- i. Resurrection as the sign of the Father's acceptance
 - ii. Does faith in the resurrection depend on an empty tomb?
 - iii. The resurrection of Jesus and that of the just
 - iv. Jesus is in Heaven bodily
 - f. Salvation through Christ
 - i. Christ the High Priest
 - ii. Christ the Mediator with the Father
 - iii. Christ died for all
 - iv. The place of the cross in the life of a Christian
 - 6. God the Holy Spirit
 - a. The indwelling of the Spirit in the hearts of the just
 - b. The gifts of the Spirit vs. the charismata
 - c. The Spirit as the principle of goodness in the believer
 - d. The Spirit's role of sanctifying the Church
 - i. The Spirit as the principle of unity
 - ii. The Spirit guides the Church in the way of truth
 - iii. The Spirit protects the Church from falling into error
 - iv. The Spirit as the "soul" of the Church
- C. The Church
1. The intention of Christ to establish a Church
 - a. Old Testament People of God
 - b. New Testament Church
 2. Different ways to understand the Church
 - a. Mystery
 - b. Mystical Body
 - c. People of God
 - d. Mother and Teacher
 - e. Communion of Saints
 3. The "marks" of the Church
 - a. Unity
 - i. The Church vs. the churches
 - ii...Why are things different in other dioceses? Countries?
 - iii. Major Protestant Fundamental and Evangelical denominations
 - b. Holiness
 - i. The Church is a divine and human institution
 - ii. The witness of the saints and martyrs
 - iii. Never condones evil, always calls to holiness
 - iv. What about a "bad" pope? The Inquisition?
 - c. Universality
 - i. Is there salvation outside the Church?
 - ii. What happens to one who dies having never heard about Christ?
 - iii. ...having never joined the Catholic Church?
 - iv. ...having left the Catholic Church?
 - d. Apostolicity
 - i. Apostles and their successors are the link to Jesus
 - ii. The missionary thrust of the Church
 - iii. The Church that Christ established "subsists" in the Catholic
- Church
4. The Church is necessary for salvation

5. The Magisterium

- a. The Bishops are successors to the Apostles
 - i. Preserve the deposit of faith
 - ii. Authentic teachers of the faith
 - b. The Pope as the successor of Peter
 - i. The Pope as the visible head of the Church
 - ii. The Pope as the Bishop of Rome, Pastor of the universal Church
 - c. Ordinary and extraordinary magisterium
- ## 6. Missionary duty of Catholics
- a. The proper attitude towards the “separated brethren”
 - b. The message to non-Christians
 - a. The message to non-believers
 - b. The message to those in New Age religions

D. The Blessed Virgin Mary

- 1. The Immaculate Conception of Mary and her need for redemption
- 2. The virginal conception of Jesus and Mary’s perpetual virginity
- 3. Mary as mother of Jesus and the Mother of God
- 4. Mary as the spiritual mother of all Christians, mother of the Church
- 5. Mary’s assumption and the future hope of all Christians
- 6. Do Catholics worship or venerate Mary? What is the difference?
- 7. Why ask for Mary’s prayers when Jesus is the mediator?
- 8. What are we to make of the apparitions of Mary?

E. The Last Things

- 1. When does death occur?
- 2. When does the judgment take place?
- 3. Upon what basis will people be judged?
- 4. Who goes to hell? Is there a hell? What is hell like?
- 5. Who goes to heaven? Is there a heaven? What is heaven like?
- 6. Who goes to purgatory? Is there a purgatory? What is purgatory like?
- 7. What about limbo?
- 8. If Christ took away punishment due to sin, what is temporal punishment?
- 9. What is an indulgence? Can you buy your way into heaven?
- 10. Aren’t prayers for the dead just a moneymaking venture for priests?
- 11. Will the earth be destroyed at the end of time?
- 12. How will we know the time for the end of the world?

II. Worship

A. Sacraments

- 1. The practice of infant baptism vs. adult baptism
- 2. If I am baptized, am I saved?
- 3. Must I confess my sins to a priest?
- 4. Can a priest forgive any sin?
- 5. Can a priest leave the priesthood?
- 6. How can a priest be “another Christ” if he is still a man?
- 7. Why call a priest “Father” when the Gospel says not to?
- 8. The priesthood of the faithful vs. the ministerial priesthood
- 9. The ordination of women
- 10. Why does a priest have to live a chaste celibate lifestyle?
- 11. When did Christ institute the sacraments?
- 12. What is the purpose of the penance given in Confession?
- 13. Does the Anointing of the Sick always heal the person? forgive sins?
- 14. The Eucharist as the center of Christian life
- 15. Transubstantiation vs. consubstantiation
- 16. The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist

17. The Church's teaching on divorce and re-marriage
18. What is a "declaration of nullity"?
19. What is the difference between sacraments and sacramentals?

B. The Mass

1. The Mass as the re-presentation of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary
2. If Christ offered sacrifice "once and for all", why is there a need for the Mass?
3. Why must Catholics attend Mass on Sundays and holy days under pain of sin?
4. Who may receive Holy Communion? What about intercommunion?

C. Prayer

1. The universal call to holiness
2. The necessity of prayer in the life of a Christian
 - a. The example of Christ
 - b. The teaching of Christ regarding prayer
3. Types of prayer
 - a. Private: adoration, contrition, thanks, petition
 - b. Liturgical: Mass, sacraments, Liturgy of the Hours
 - c. Why pray if God knows everything and is going to do His will anyway?
4. Commit to memory...
 - a. Apostle's Creed
 - b. Our Father
 - c. Hail Mary
 - d. Glory be
 - e. Act of Contrition
 - f. Prayers before and after meals
 - g. Prayer for the Poor Souls in Purgatory
 - h. Angelus
5. How to pray with Sacred Scripture
6. How to pray the Rosary
7. How to pray the Stations of the Cross
8. How to participate in benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

III. Life

A. Human destiny: what is the goal for which all people were created?

1. Predestination vs. predeterminism
2. Will there only be 144,000 people in heaven?

B. The means to attain that goal

1. Cooperation with the grace of God
2. Frequent use of the sacrament of Penance
 - a. Sorrow for sin
 - b. Firm amendment to try and do better
3. The practice of penance
 - a. Fast and abstain on the appointed days
 - b. Do penance for one's own spiritual good
4. Worthy reception of the Eucharist
5. Perform spiritual and corporal works of mercy
6. What is merit?

CATHOLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RESOURCES

The following list of resources is by no means complete, but is constantly being updated. The number preceding the titles of the AV materials is from the Diocesan Video Library catalog. The number following the title, in parentheses, is the publication date, when available.

Catholic Answers, tracts published by Catholic Answers, P O Box 17490 San Diego, CA 92117

Catholic Source Book, ed. Fr. Peter Klein, published Brown-Roa

Catholicism and Fundamentalism, by Karl Keating, published by Ignatius Press

The Catholic Response, by Fr. Peter Stravinskis, published by Our Sunday Visitor

Catholic Answers Fundamentalist's Questions, Philip St. Romain, published by Ligouri

Fundamentals of the Faith, by Dr. Peter Kreeft, published by Ignatius Press

Catholic Questions, Catholic Answers, Fr. Kenneth Ryan, published by Servant Publications

Theology and Sanity, by Frank Sheed, published Our Sunday Visitor

Answering a Fundamentalist, by Fr. Albert Nevins, MM, published by Our Sunday Visitor

Separated Brethren, by William Whalen published by Our Sunday Visitor

The Last Things, by Dr. Peter Kreeft, published by Twin Circle

The Creed, by Dr. Peter Kreeft, published by Twin Circle

Yes or No, by Dr. Peter Kreeft, published by Ignatius Press

[The following are materials published by non-Catholics who have a special mission to convert Catholics. They may be of interest to learn their plan of attack. You could write them for a catalogue or a sample of their materials, some of which may require a small donation. It goes without saying that you should not identify yourself as a priest, sister, or a Catholic, nor list St. Mary's Church (for example) as a return address.]

Chick Publications, P. O. Box 662 Chino, CA 91710

Christians Evangelizing Catholics, P. O. Box 24758, San Jose, CA 95154

The Conversion Center, Drawer V, Havertown, PA 19083

Mission to Catholics International, P. O. Box 19280, San Diego CA 92119

Jimmy Swaggart Ministries, P.O. Box 2550, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2550

Roman Catholicism, by Loraine Boettner, published by Presbyterian and Reformed Press

VIDEOS (Catholic Questions and Answers)

21	The Church, Living Continuation of Christ
22	#1, #2, A Day in the Life of Mother Teresa
47	Behold Your Mother
57	God in the Dock
59	#1, Holy Rosary – The Joyfully Mysteries
59	#2, Holy Rosary – The Sorrowful Mysteries
59	#3, Holy Rosary – The Glorious Mysteries
76	Persons, Places, and Practices in the Catholic Church
77	Prayer for World Peace
93	To Live Is Christ
100	The Catholic Challenge
105	#1, #2, Christ, the Wisdom and Power of God – Part Two
113	Fiesta
114	The Fourteen Stations of the Cross
134	Prayer in Your Homes
161	Half a Million Strong
184	To Follow His Way
194	Satanism, Witchcraft, the Occult
196	The Silent Witness
199	#11 Mother Angelica Live – Prayer and Forgiveness
199	#14 Mother Angelica Live – Conditions of Prayer
296	The Bible and the Catholic Church
302	Mary and the Saints
314	St. Peter and the Papacy
316	Salvation
368	The Four Last Things
439	In the Company of Angels
478	Splendor of the Church
617	Witnesses of Jehovah

CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE

WORD

This course will present the students with a description of God's design for a just society. It will show them that a rounded view of the Church requires an understanding both of her inner life and her ministry of service to others. Through an examination of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, the students will be introduced to a greater perception of the role and value of Church presence and action in the social, political, economic and cultural spheres of contemporary society. The students will study the Old Testament description of the original justice of God's creation, how that justice was obscured by original sin, and how God guided His people by means of the Law and prophets. They will study the meaning of the Kingdom of God described in the Gospels, and how justice in the Kingdom is practiced by following the example and teachings of Jesus. Finally, the students will learn the Church's reflection on the Scriptures, and how she has tried to live and promote justice.

MEMORIAL

Prayer of supplication for the needs of others is one of the primary aspects of Christian social justice, and so it is an essential aspect of this course. Prayer of supplication will be represented to the students as a means to help others, to touch their hearts and make them sensitive to social injustices. A special emphasis will be placed on the Mass as the prayer of supplication *par excellence*, praying for the spiritual and material needs of others, and for the unity of all. In addition, various saints known for an heroic practice of the virtue of justice will be proposed to the students as a source of inspiration and as models for action.

WITNESS

Through this course the students will learn that wishing people well, without attempting to serve their material and spiritual needs as they are able, results in a lifeless faith. They will be instructed in the proper motivation and means to foster social justice in their families, school, civic community, Church, and in the world. Special emphasis will be given to understanding the meaning and performance of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE

COURSE CONTENT

I. Introduction

- A. The shifting focus of Catholic social teaching
- B. Social justice today - a new global phase
- C. Working definition: social justice as virtue

II. Social Justice in Scripture

A. Old Testament

- 1. The Genesis story of creation
- 2. The story of the Fall through the Tower of Babel
- 3. The Exodus as formative of God's people
- 4. The Mosaic Law as a guide for God's people
- 5. The prophets
 - a. Isaiah
 - b. Amos
 - c. Hosea
- 6. Divine preference for the *anawim*

B. The New Testament

- 1. Jesus establishes the Kingdom of God
- 2. Justice in the Kingdom of God
 - a. The teaching and example of Jesus
 - i. The Sermon on the Mount
 - ii. The parable of the Good Samaritan
 - iii. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus
 - iv. Instruction on the last judgment (Mt. 25:31-46)
 - v. Jesus washes the feet of the Apostles
 - iv. The doctrine of the cross
 - b. Other New Testament passages
 - i. Acts of the Apostles (4:32-45)
 - ii. St. Paul (Gal 3:28)
 - iii. St. James (Jm 2)
 - iv. St. John (1 Jn 3:17)

III. An historical overview

A. The Early Church

- 1. The monastic ideal
- 2. St. Augustine: *City of God*
- 3. St. Lawrence the Deacon, patron saint of the poor

B. The Middle Ages

- 1. St. Thomas Aquinas on possession and use of material goods
- 2. The rise of nationalism and its consequences
- 3. St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of Catholic Action

C. The Age of Reason

- 1. Colonization
- 2. Industrial Revolution
- 3. St. Frances Xavier, patron saint of missions

D. The Modern Era

- 1. Pope Leo XIII: *Rerum Novarum*
 - a. Critique of conditions cause by industrialization
 - b. The rights of workers

2. Pope John XXIII
 - a. *Mater et Magister*
 - b. *Pacem in Terris*
3. The Second Vatican Council: *Gaudium et Spes*
4. Pope Paul VI
 - a. *Populorum Progressio*
 - b. *Humane Vitae*
5. The 1971 Synod of Bishops: *Justice in the World*
6. Pope John Paul II
 - a. *Laborem Exercens*
 - b. *Familiaris Consortio*
 - c. *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*
 - d. *Evangelium Vitae*
7. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
 - a. The Human Community
 - b. Duties of civil authorities and citizens
8. St. Vincent de Paul, patron of charitable groups

IV. Current social justice issues

- A. Abortion
- B. Racism, discrimination, prejudice, and bigotry
- C. Liberation theology
- D. Sexism
- E. Business ethics
- F. Poverty
- G. Housing and health care
- H. Refugees and immigrants
- I. Hunger
- J. Over Population

V. What can be done, and how?

- A. What can be done?
 1. Corporal works of mercy
 2. Spiritual works of mercy
- B. How?
 1. Proper motivation
 2. Proper means

CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE

RESOURCES

The following list of resources is by no means complete, but is constantly being updated. The number preceding the titles of the videos is from the Diocesan Video Library catalog. The number following the title, in parentheses, is the publication date, when available.

Veritatis Splendor, Pope John Paul II

Evangelium Vitae, Pope John Paul II

Catholic Social Teaching, by Peter Henriot, Edward DeBerri and Michael Schultheis, published by the Center of Concern, Washington, D.C. 20017

Proclaiming Justice and Peace, rev., ed. Michael Walsh and Brian Davies, Twenty-Third Publications, 1991

VIDEOS

5	Grandmas Bread
24	Dr. and Mrs. Wilke – Talk on Sex Education
69- 03	Moral Theology – Talk on the Principle Double Effect
100	Catholic Challenge
130	Of Wishes and Glass Dishes – High Tech Babies and the Church
183	Through the Eyes of the Poor
185	The Vine and the Branches
195	Matter of Life and Death: Morality of Terminal Treatment Decisions
199- 03	Mother Angelica Live: Catholic Social Teaching
231	Romero
298-03	Catholic Life in America: John Ryan, Labor Priest
300- 08	I Am Your Voice: The Pope on Human Rights
300- 09	I, Too, Have Been a Worker
329	Political Responsibility
429	Giving Hope to a World of Need
435	Dorothy Day
464	Political Responsibility
583	Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story
605	Talking About the Death Penalty
609	Faithful Citizenship: A Message From the U. S. Catholic Bishops
611	Bring Down the Walls

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS

WORD

The study of Catholic vocations will present an overview of the idea of vocation as a call from God to attain the goal for which all were created: heaven. The students will study the states of life in which the calls to heaven, holiness and the apostolate are lived. They will examine the nature and duties of, and preparation for, the single life, the married life, religious life, and priesthood.

MEMORIAL

The students will learn that prayer, personal and liturgical, is not only an essential element of the call to holiness and of each particular state in life, but also essential for discovering one's vocation. They will be taught that the regular recitation of the Our Father and the Prayer to the Holy Spirit is an effective tool for increasing their desire to know God's will, and their readiness to respond generously. They will also be taught to recognize the interior and exterior signs that God supplies as indicators of a call to a particular state in life.

WITNESS

This course will lead the students to see that the best way to live out their call to holiness and the apostolate is by fulfilling their responsibilities as students: studying the Catholic faith and telling others about it. They will be challenged to live out the Ten Commandments in the spirit of the evangelical counsels as a means to grow in the perfection of charity. By studying the different states in life, and talking to people who live them, they will build a firm foundation for listening to God and choosing their own vocation.

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS

COURSE CONTENT

I. Vocation: a call from God...

- A. To heaven: the goal for which all were created
- B. The means to achieve that goal
 - 1. The universal call to holiness
 - a. 1 Th 4:1-12
 - b. *Lumen Gentium*, No. 40
 - c. Follow the Ten Commandments in the spirit of the evangelical counsels
 - 2. The universal call to apostolate
 - a. All the baptized are part of the Mystical Body of Christ
 - b. All share in the priesthood of Christ to some degree
 - c. To love like Christ
 - d. Evangelization
 - 3. The universal call to love in a particular state in life
 - a. Laity
 - i. Single life
 - ii. Married life
 - b. Religious life
 - i. Sister
 - ii. Brother
 - iii. Priest
 - c. Priesthood
 - d. God's plan for each person's holiness and salvation

II. Responses in life to God's call to love

- A. The lay state
 - 1. It is secular in nature
 - 2. Mission of imbuing the temporal sphere with the spirit of the gospel
 - 3. A leaven in the world
 - 4. Requires a vibrant spiritual life
 - a. Union with Christ in faith, hope and love
 - b. Carrying out responsibilities for the glory of God
- B. The call to be single
 - 1. Who is called to be single?
 - a. Those who choose to live the single life
 - b. Those who choose because of circumstances (See Appendix I):
 - i. the death of a spouse
 - ii. divorce: still married, but live apart from spouse
 - iii. homosexual preference
 - 2. Motivation
 - a. Not out of selfishness
 - b. To be free to serve God and others (1 Cor 7:32-35)
 - 3. Chastity
 - a. No genital expression of one's sexuality
 - b. Is there a place for dating in the single life?
 - i. Incongruous with single life as a chosen vocation
 - ii. Normal practice for single person still discerning a vocation
 - 4. How to deal with the problem of loneliness
- C. The call to be married

1. God's design for marriage
 - a. Procreation
 - b. Unity
2. God's design for use of sexuality
 - a. Procreative
 - b. Unitive
3. Preparing for marriage
 - a. Responsible dating: meeting and enjoying the company of others
 - b. The danger of being too exclusive
 - c. The danger of being too serious too young
 - d. The period of engagement
 - i. A chaste period
 - ii. A time for prayer
 - iii. A time for growth
 - e. The scandal of cohabitation before marriage
4. Marriage as a covenant
 - a. The analogy of Christ and the Church (Rv 19:6-8)
 - b. Total commitment (Eph 5:21-23)
5. Marriage as a sacred union
6. A valid vs. an invalid marriage
7. Marriage as a sacrament
 - a. Valid matter
 - b. Valid form
 - c. Two baptized Christians
 - d. The couple as ministers of the sacrament, but God creates the bond
8. Essentials of marriage
 - a. Freedom from force and impediments
 - b. Fidelity
 - c. Permanence
 - d. Openness to children
9. Family planning
 - a. Pope Paul IV and *Humane Vitae*
 - b. The evils of artificial contraception
 - a. Natural Family Planning: a way of life
 - b. Grieving the death of child from miscarriage or SIDS
 - c. *The Language of Love* by Bishop James D. Conley
10. Mixed marriage
 - a. Discouraged by the Church
 - b. The faith of the Catholic is placed at risk
 - c. The faith of the children is placed at risk
 - d. Valid and sacramental with a baptized person
 - e. Valid but not sacramental with a non-baptized person
 - f. Catholics are bound to the canonical form of marriage
 - g. Catholics must supply just and reasonable cause for a mixed marriage
 - h. Catholics must promise to raise the children as Catholics
11. A review of the Diocesan Marriage Policy
12. Proximate preparation for marriage
 - a. Daily prayer
 - b. FOCUS
 - c. Formal instruction on marriage and basic Church teachings

- d. Engaged Encounter
 - e. Planning for a Christ-centered wedding ceremony
- 13. Married life requires work and sacrifice
 - a. Dealing with the effects of the Fall
 - i. Economic burdens
 - ii. Psychological burdens
 - iii. Health-related burdens
 - iv. Social burdens
 - b. Importance of communication in marriage
 - c. Friendships with Christ-centered couples
 - d. Prayer together
- D. The call to the life of consecration
 - 1. Origins
 - a. Martyrdom
 - i. God only calls some
 - ii. Supreme test of love
 - iii. Greatest witness
 - b. Religious life (*Lumen Gentium*, No. 40)
 - i. Spiritually identical to martyrdom
 - ii. A special call to some
 - iii. Test of the love of an undivided heart
 - iv. A witness to heavenly glory
 - 2. The nature of religious life
 - a. The state of perfection
 - i. Constituted by the public profession of vows
 - ii. Establishes freedom to love God first and most
 - iii. Essential elements removes things that make perfection difficult
 - iv. State of life is perfect; members strive toward perfection
 - b. Profession of vows
 - i. Total dedication to the love of God
 - ii. Made under impulse of the Holy Spirit, freely and out of love
 - iii. A sign pointing to our true home in heaven
 - iv. The habit as an outward mark of consecration
 - v. It is not a sacrament
 - c. Consecrated chastity
 - i. The soul takes Christ as spouse
 - ii. Like Christ: for the sake of the Kingdom (Mt. 19:10-12)
 - iii. No genital expression of one's sexuality
 - iv. Frees one for greater service of God and Church
 - d. Consecrated poverty
 - i. Look for one's treasure in heaven (Mt 6:19-34)
 - ii. A radical following of the poor Christ
 - iii. Renunciation of personal possession and use of material goods
 - iv. Living with and for one's religious community
 - v. Special love and concern for the poor
 - e. Consecrated obedience
 - i. Total offering of the will to God
 - ii. Like Christ: submission to the Father for salvation

- iii. The will of God is found in the will of the superior
 - iv. Requires a spirit of sacrifice motivated by love
 - f. The “fourth vow”
 - i. Ursulines: a vow of instruction
 - ii. Jesuits: a vow of obedience to the Holy Father
 - iii. Missionaries of Charity: a vow to serve the poorest of the poor
 - g. Community living
 - i. A common life bounded by charity
 - ii. A life characterized by simplicity
 - iii. A life strengthened by common prayer
 - iv. A life lived according to a particular rule of life
 - h. Apostolate
 - i. Contemplative: the apostolate of prayer
 - ii. Active: the apostolate of service
 - iii. Apostolate determined by need and historical circumstances
 - iv. All works directed to the glory of God and salvation of souls
- 3. Formation
 - a. Aspirancy
 - b. Postulancy
 - c. Novitiate
 - d. Temporary profession
 - e. Final profession
- E. The call to priesthood
 - 1. Christ is the High Priest
 - 2. The priest is another Christ: *alter Christus*
 - a. Christ calls
 - b. Christ ordains
 - c. Christ sends others to continue the mission
 - i. Preaching and teaching the Word
 - ii. Governing others, having responsibility for them
 - iii. Sanctifying others, offering sacrifice for them
 - 3. Holy Orders confers a share in the priesthood of Christ
 - a. There are three levels to the sacrament
 - i. Bishop: enjoys the fullest share in the priesthood of Christ
 - ii. Priest: a co-worker with the Bishop
 - iii. Deacon: assists the Bishop and the priest
 - b. There are distinct duties for each level of the sacrament
 - i. Deacon
 - (a) Baptize
 - (b) Witness marriage
 - (c) Preach
 - (d) Prepare the altar for Mass
 - (e) Distribute Holy Communion
 - (f) Give viaticum to the dying
 - (g) Lead the rites of burial
 - ii. Priest
 - (a) Can do all the things a deacon can do
 - (b) Offer the Sacrifice of the Mass
 - (c) Absolve sins
 - (d) Confirm (in certain circumstances)
 - (e) Anoint the sick

- iii. Bishop
 - (a) Can do all the things a deacon and priest can do
 - (b) Ordinary minister of Confirmation
 - (c) Ordains deacons, priests, other bishops
 - c. Holy Orders confers a sacramental character
 - i. “A priest forever...”
 - (a) No annulments for priests
 - (b) Dispensation from obligations, but not from who he is
 - ii. Man becomes a sacred person, configured to Christ
- 4. A priest today
 - a. Requirements
 - i. Male
 - ii. Baptized and confirmed
 - b. First encounters
 - i. Pastor
 - ii. Vocation Director
 - iii. Local Bishop
 - c. Bishop accepts him as a candidate, sends him to the seminary
 - d. Seminary formation
 - i. College level studies
 - ii. Theology studies
 - iii. Spiritual direction
 - iv. Training in ministry
 - v. Yearly review and advancement
 - vi. No dating
 - e. Preparation for ordination
 - i. Receive the ministry of Lector
 - ii. Receive the ministry of Acolyte
 - iii. Receive candidacy for Holy Orders
 - iv. Take the “Oath of Freedom”
 - f. Ordination to the transitional Diaconate
 - i. Commitment to celibacy
 - ii. Commitment to pray the Liturgy of Hours
 - iii. Promise of obedience to Bishop and his successors
 - iv. Laying on of hands and prayer of consecration
 - v. Vested with stole and dalmatic
 - vi. Presented with the Book of the Gospels
 - vii. Experience of living in a rectory, working in a parish
 - viii. Back to seminary for one more year of study
 - g. Ordination to the Priesthood
 - i. Renew the promise of obedience
 - ii. Laying on of hands and prayer of consecration
 - iii. Vested in stole and chasuble
 - iv. Hands anointed with Sacred Chrism
 - v. Presented with paten and chalice
 - vi. Given the “faculties” of the diocese
 - viii. Given an assignment by the Bishop

- h. Priestly life
 - i. Part of the worldwide fraternity of priests
 - ii. Lives a simple life in the spirit of poverty
 - (a) Does not take the vow of poverty
 - (b) Wears clerical garb
 - (c) Lives in a rectory
 - (d) Does not engage in profit-making business
 - (e) Avoids behavior that would cause scandal
 - (f) Receives remuneration from the parish
 - iii. Tries to live a holy life
 - (a) Fulfills his duties and responsibilities
 - (b) Prays the Liturgy of the Hours daily
 - (c) Offers the Sacrifice of the Mass
 - (d) Reads and reflects on Sacred Scripture
 - (e) Makes a yearly retreat
 - (f) Personal program for holiness
 - (g) A wide variety of assignments

III. To which particular state in life is God calling you?

- A. Desire to do God's will
- B. Have an openness to God's will
- C. Prayer for the knowledge of God's will
 - 1. The Our Father
 - 2. The Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- D. Searching for God's will
 - 1. Interior signs
 - 2. Exterior signs
- E. Responding to God's will
 - 1. "Yes" as in the spirit of Mary: "Let it be done to me as you say."
 - 2. "No"
 - 3. Is it a sin to say "no" to God's call to a particular state in life?
 - a. It is a sin to say "no" to God's call to heaven, holiness and the

apostolate

- b. It is not a sin to say "no" to God's call to a particular state in life
 - i. To say "no" forfeits the fullness of happiness in this life
 - ii. Also, forfeits the best path to holiness and heaven for you

H. How do I know for sure?

IV. The Theology of the Body by Pope John Paul II

- A. Nuptial Meaning of the Body
 - 1. Communion of Persons and the Primordial Sacrament
 - 2. Original Innocence and Original Sin
 - 3. Questioning the Gift
 - 4. Shame, Lust, Concupiscence
 - 5. Redemption of the Body
 - 6. Purity and Impurity
 - 7. Spiritualization and Divinization of the Body
 - 8. Communion of Saints

- A. Responses to God's Call to Love
 - 1. Celibacy for the Kingdom
 - a. Fulfillment of the Nuptial Meaning of the Body
 - a. Fruitfulness of the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Sacramentality of Marriage
 - a. Sacrament, Mystery, and Sign
 - b. Sacraments of Creation and Redemption
 - c. Love and Fruitfulness
 - d. Self Mastery, Continence, Chastity

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS

RESOURCES

The following list of resources is by no means complete, but is constantly being updated. The number preceding the titles of the videos is from the Diocesan Video Library catalog. The number following the title, in parentheses, is the publication date, when available.

Apostolicam Actuositatem, (Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People), Vatican II

Christus Dominus, (Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church), Vatican II

Lumen Gentium, Chap. 3-6, Vatican II

Optatam Totius, (Decree on the Training of Priests), Vatican II

Presbyterorum Ordinis, (Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests), Vatican II

Sacerdotalis Caelibatus, (Priestly Celibacy), Pope Paul VI

Dabo Vobis Pastoris, (I Will Give You Shepherds), John Paul II

Familiaris Consortio, (On the Role of the Christian Family), John Paul II

Vita Consecrata, (The Consecrated Life), John Paul II

Theology of the Body, John Paul II, Pauline Books and Media, 1997

Naked Without Shame, audio tapes on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, by Christopher West, GIFT Foundation, 2000

The Meaning of Vocation: In the Words of John Paul II, Scepter Publishers, 1997

The Truth Meaning of Human Sexuality, Chap. III "In Light of Vocation", The Pontifical Council for the Family, 1996

The Language of Love, by Most Rev. James D. Conley, <http://www.lincolndiocese.org/op-ed/bcwriting/1848-the-language-of-love>

VIDEOS

44	A Man For All Seasons
139	Silent Life, Holy Life – The Pink Sisters
255- 03	Biblical Foundation of Sacraments: Healing and Vocation
287- 17	What Catholics Believe - The Two Shall Become One
287- 18	What Catholics Believe - Holy Orders
299	The Jeweler's Shop
306	On the Priesthood

456	EWTN: Bishop Bruskewitz on Vocations
491	A Model for Marriage
530	School Sisters of Christ the King
561	The Sacraments: Marriage
562	Mount Saint Mary's Seminary (news brief)
598	Marian Sisters – Is God Calling You?

In the curriculum outline for the senior year course on “Catholic Vocations,” under II, B., 1., b., ii., and iii. The material concerns the call to the single state in life.

First of all, married persons who separate or divorce from their spouses DO NOT return to the single state in life. The bond of marriage lasts until the death of a spouse. For this reason, the Lord Jesus and His Church teach that anyone who divorces his spouse and marries another commits adultery (Luke 16:18). Married persons who are separated or divorced from their spouses must still live chastity as a married person, with fidelity to their spouse, and not as a single person might.

Secondly, a homosexual preference of itself does not necessarily relegate the person to the single state in life. Certainly the person with a homosexual preference would have to live chastity as a single person, but that is distinct from the single state in life.

The following comments should clear up any confusion concerning the single state in life:

1. The single state can be considered a state in life, along with marriage, priesthood and religious life. However, unlike the other states in life, the single state does not enjoy a canonical status in the Church.
1. The single state can only be considered a “state in life” if it is the object of a conscious choice, in response to a perceived call from God, either as a choice opposed to marriage, or after the death of a spouse.
1. A person’s conscious choice to embrace the single state in life is made after much discernment, and requires the help of a regular confessor, spiritual director, and even the external structure of something like a secular institute, in order to preserve in it.
1. The single state in life is distinguished from that condition of being single into which all persons are born and which usually lasts until a person makes a conscious choice, for example, to be married. This is also distinguished from those persons who remain single as a result of circumstances beyond their control, or on account of fear concerning the duties and responsibilities involved in committing themselves to the other states in life.
1. The choice to live in the single state in life is ordered to service of God and neighbor (1 Corinthians 7:32-35).
1. When the single state in life is embraced as a conscious choice in response to a call from God, it necessarily involves living in chaste celibacy as long as the commitment lasts (*Apostolicam Actuositatem*, No. 4).
1. Unlike the other vocations to a state in life it is possible for this vocation to the single life to be either a temporary or a permanent state in life.