catechism update

Fall 2003

New Timeline for *National Adult Catechism*

Approximately fifty responses have been received as a result of the consultation this summer on the second draft of the *National Adult Catechism*. They contain more than four thousand suggested amendments. Because of this level of response, the bishops on the Catechism Committee quickly recognized that it would not be physically possible for the Editorial Oversight Board to process all these responses and implement any necessary or desirable changes in a manner timely enough to have a final draft ready for review prior to this November's General Assembly. Consequently, the decision was made to delay the vote of approval until the next time such an action is possible - November of 2004.

This extra year will give the bishops on the Editorial Oversight Board and the Catechism Committee more time to work on refining the book into its final draft form. The added time will also allow for the possibility of hiring someone to act as theological editor. Among the responsibilities of this theological editor would be identifying additional terms to be defined, assuring a consistent presentation of the Sacraments and other topics, and offering suggestions for language that would express doctrine in both a concise and precise manner. This work will not be undertaken until changes based on the amendments have been incorporated.

It is planned that the work of incorporating accepted amendments and the subsequent review by the theological editor will take place this coming fall and winter. Upon completion of this work, the new text will go to print. Looking ahead to a vote of approval at the November 2004 General Assembly, the bishops on the Catechism Committee are considering seeking permission to send out the document during the summer of 2004 to allow sufficient time for each bishop's review.

Most Rev. Alfred Hughes
Chairman
Most Rev. Robert Banks
Most Rev. Daniel DiNardo
Most Rev. George Lucas
Most Rev. Donald Wuerl
Most Rev. Leonard Blair

Consultants:
Most Rev. Daniel Buechlein, OSB
Rev. John Pollard

A publication of the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Bishop Gregory Appoints New Member to the Catechism Committee

In late June, Bishop Wilton Gregory, as President of the USCCB, appointed Bishop George Lucas of Springfield in Illinois as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism. Bishop Lucas fills the vacancy left on the Committee following Archbishop Levada's resignation in April. Prior to his appointment to the Catechism Committee, Bishop Lucas had already acted as chair for several conformity reviews, so he is already familiar with much of the Committee's work and responsibilities.

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Committee Holds Annual Meeting with Publishers

On September 4, the members of the Catechism Committee held their annual meeting with publishers of catechetical materials. Thirty-five individuals representing nineteen companies were present. Initially, the publishers heard updates on various projects including the *National Directory for Catechesis* and the *National Adult Catechism*. Then, as has been the case each year since 1996, the bishops on the Committee shared with publishers insights they had gained through conformity reviews that have taken place over the past year.

Much of the information shared this year was gleaned from working with materials for secondary school age students. One concern the bishops addressed was the tendency to present the Church and its teaching in a relativistic manner. This can be seen in the language used to present doctrine, which can be interpreted to infer that Church belief is based on personal opinion rather than revealed truth. It is also seen in how the Church is treated and presented. Very often, references to the Church imply that she is one among equals. In some instances, this implication is seen in the use of "Christian" when it is more correct to say "Catholic." Other materials, stressing the importance that to be happy one should have some set of beliefs, present Catholic teaching as one set of beliefs among many in which the students may choose to believe. Another problem that reviewers are beginning to bring to the Committee's attention is the tone in which some high school materials is being written. Various reviewers have described the tone as critical, cynical and even sarcastic.

While writers and editors might defend these approaches as acceptable methodologies designed to appeal to adolescents, the Committee and its reviewers see these as having a definite negative impact on the teaching and understanding of the nature of doctrine. Because of this, the Committee will not grant a declaration of conformity to catechetical materials on any level which display these or similar approaches.

Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series

SUGGESTIONS FOR READING THIS LIST:

Verify copyright date—an edition in use may not be an edition found to be in conformity.

Verify title and edition—e.g., a School text may carry a conformity declaration while its Parish counterpart does not.

ST= student text TM= teacher manual CM= catechist manual BL=bilingual

S=School P=Parish S/P= single edition applicable to both S&P= two separate editions, both found to be in conformity

As of September 15, 2003 the following texts and series have been found to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Apostolate for Family Consecration		
Consecration in Truth ©2001	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	1-8
The Apostolate's Family Catechism ©2003	ST, doctrinal content of TM	high school
Ave Maria Press		
Catholic Social Teaching: Learning and Living Justice ©2001	ST	high school
Encountering Jesus in the New Testament © 2003	ST	high school
Our Sacramental Life: Living and Worshiping in Christ © 2003	ST	high school
Send Out Your Spirit © 2003	ST, doctrinal content of TM	high school sacramental prep.
The Church: Our Story ©1999	ST	high school
Your Life in Christ: Foundations of Catholic Morality ©2001	ST	high school
Benziger		
Benziger Family Life ©2001 (3rd printing or later)	STs	K-8
Christ Jesus, The Way!, S&P © 2003	STs, doctrinal content of CM and TMs	K-6
Come Follow Me, S/P ©1998	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	K-8
Share the Joy ©1997	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	K-6
Brightstar Publishing		
Light of the World ©1996(TM/1-3) ©1997(4-6)	student booklets, doctrinal content of TMs	ages 9-13
C.R. Publications		
Catholicism Series ©1996-1997	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	high school
Foundation for the Family		
The New Corinthians Curriculum ©1996	teacher curriculum guide, parent-to-child guide	K-8
Harcourt Religion Publishers		
Celebrating Our Faith: Confirmation ©2000	ST, doctrinal content of TM	sacramental prep.
Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation & Eucharist ©2000	English STs, BL STs, doctrinal content of TMs	sacramental prep.
Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation & Eucharist, Level II ©2002	English ST, BL ST, doctrinal content of TM	sacramental prep.
Growing in Love ©2001	STs (3-8), student lessons (K-2)	K-8
Journey Through the Old Testament ©2002	ST	high school
Walking By Faith, S/P ©1999	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	K-6
Ignatius Press		
Faith and Life © 1984-1987	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	1-8
Faith and Life © 2002 (grades 1-2), © 2003 (grades 3-8)	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	1-2, 3-8
Image of God © 1986-1993	STs, doctrinal content of TMs and resource books	K-8, Confirmation, Mass Books
Leaflet Missal Company		
Project Genesis ©1997	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	K-8
Legionaries of Christ		
The Treasure of My Catholic Faith © 2003	ST	1-6
Friends of Jesus © 2003	ST	7-9
Witnesses of Christ © 2003	ST	10-12

Loyola Press

Christ Our Life, S/P ©1997(P TM©1999)	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	K-8
Christ Our Life, S/P ©1997/2002(P TM©1999)	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	K-8
Christ Our Life: Confirmed in the Spirit©1997(P TM©1999)	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	sacramental prep.
Knowing Our Catholic Faith: Beliefs & Traditions ©2000	student worktexts	1-8

Midwest Theological Forum

Introduction to Catholicism © 2003	ST	high school
Our Moral Life In Christ © 2003	ST	high school

Our Sunday Visitor

Catholic Vision of Love © 1996, revised edition	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	5-8

Pauline Books & Media

Be Sealed ©1998	ST, doctrinal content of TM	sacramental prep.
Jesus Brings Us Life ©1996	ST, doctrinal content of TMs	sacramental prep.

Priory Press

Dominican Series © 2000	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	high school

RCL ♦ Resources for Christian Living

Eucharist © 2003	ST, doctrinal content of TM	sacramental prep.
Eucharistía © 2003	ST, doctrinal content of TM	sacramental prep.
Faith First ©2000, 2001 (TM, 3rd printing)	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	K-6
Faith First Junior High ©2001	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	junior high
Nuestra Identidad Catolica ©1998	student workbooks	1-8
Our Catholic Identity ©1998	student workbooks	1-8
Reconciliation © 2003	ST, doctrinal content of TM	sacramental prep.
Reconciliación © 2003	ST, doctrinal content of TM	sacramental prep.
Understanding the Catechism ©1999	4 STs	high school

Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)

Acercandote a La Fe/Coming to Faith ©1999	BL STs,doctrinal content of 1-6 TMs	K-6
Coming to Faith/Keystone Edition, S ©1998 & P ©1999	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	K-6
Faith and Witness Program, S & P ©1998-1999	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	junior high
One Faith, One Lord © 2003	English ST, BL ST, doctrinal content of English and BL TMs	junior high
Sacrament Program: First Reconciliation & Eucharist©2000	English STs, BL STs, doctrinal content of TMs and director's guide	sacramental prep.
Sadlier We Believe , S & P © 2004	STs, doctrinal content of S TMs	K-6
The Spirit Sets Us Free: Confirmation Prep for Youth©2000	English ST, BL ST, doctrinal content of English and BL TMs	sacramental prep.

St. Maron's Publications

Faith of the Mountain ©2000	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	1-8

St. Mary's Press

Living Justice and Peace © 2002	ST	high school
The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth ©2003	ST	high school
Written on Our Hearts (Old Testament) ©2002	ST	high school

Silver Burdett Ginn

Blest Are We, P © 2002, S © 2004	STs, doctrinal content of CM and TMs	1-6
Blest Are We Junior High, P © 2003	STs, doctrinal content of CMs	7-8
The Gift of Eucharist ©2000	ST, doctrinal content of TM	sacramental prep.
The Gift of Reconciliation ©2000	ST, doctrinal content of TM	sacramental prep.
This Is Our Faith, S ©1998	STs, doctrinal content of TMs	K-8

Vietnamese Catechetical Committee

The Spirit Sets Us Free: Confirmation Prep for Youth ©2001	BL Vietnamese/English ST	sacramental prep.

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