

# Catechism Update

Fall 2004

## Catechism Committee Holds Annual Meeting with Publishers

On Thursday, September 9, the bishops on the Catechism Committee gathered in Chicago with representatives from various publishing houses which produce catechetical materials for use in the United States. The purpose of these annual meetings is to provide a face-to-face opportunity for the bishops to share their thoughts and observations with members of the publishing community and to give publishers an opportunity to react and respond as well as raise their own questions and observations. This year, twenty-three publishing houses were represented among the fifty-one people who attended the gathering with the bishops from the Committee.

The meetings generally follow a somewhat established pattern. After a time of prayer, there are introductions followed by a reporting on various items of information. Following the information sharing, the Committee addresses points having to do with conformity reviews which have come to their attention during the preceding year. Then the Committee answers questions both those submitted in advance and questions from the floor.

This year, following the introductions, Archbishop Hughes updated the publishers on the status of the national adult catechism. He then gave Archbishop Buechlein, the chair of the Committee on Catechesis and a consultant to the Catechism Committee, the opportunity to tell the publishers about the work being done by the Committee on Catechesis. Archbishop Buechlein explained the plans of the Committee on Catechesis to prepare doctrinal high school guidelines as well as guidelines for education in human sexuality. He also shared some of the plans of the Committee on Catechesis for the implementation of the *National Directory for Catechesis* once it becomes available.

Following the information section, Archbishop Hughes and the Committee members present addressed various issues related to conformity reviews which had come to their attention during the previous year.

Most Rev. Alfred Hughes  
*Chairman*

Most Rev. Leonard Blair  
Most Rev. Daniel DiNardo  
Most Rev. George Lucas  
Most Rev. Arthur Serratelli  
Most Rev. Donald Wuerl

Consultants:

Most Rev. Daniel Buechlein, OSB  
Rev. John Pollard



The first issue addressed had to do with understanding the nature of catechetical material. In the course of processing reports on materials, it sometimes seems that the root of problems lies in the fact that the material was not truly catechetical in nature. Publishers were reminded that catechesis has a twofold purpose: to teach the elements of the Catholic faith and to inspire the learner to want to grow closer to God and to be transformed by him. It was suggested that they remind their writers and editors to make sure that catechetical materials on which they are working present the doctrine of the faith in a way that is clear, understandable and also unequivocal. Writers and editors should also make sure that the material serves to inspire a young person to want to know God better and to let him guide them in life.

The Committee also decided to take time at this meeting to once again address the impact that pedagogical and/or methodological approaches can have on doctrinal content. The Committee continues to struggle, sometimes unsuccessfully, in helping publishers recognize ways in which they inadvertently present doctrine in a tentative manner. The Committee encouraged the publishers to be careful when crafting discussion and reflection activities. They were cautioned to avoid activities which ask students to agree or disagree with doctrine or Church teaching. It was suggested that instead they ask the students the impact the particular belief or teaching can have on their own lives or the lives of others.

In the past, the Committee had also cautioned publishers against presenting doctrine in any type of manner which implies a certain doctrine or teaching is a matter of opinion. In order to simplify the matter, the Committee had directed publishers to avoid introducing doctrinal teaching with formulas such as “Catholics believe that...” or “The Church teaches that...” However, some argued that the Church herself uses such formulas. Recognizing the truth of that argument, the Committee indicated it would always take into account the context rather than the simple formula. By way of example, the Committee offered two ways of presenting the perpetual virginity of Mary, one acceptable and the second problematic. The publishers appreciated the examples and indicated to the Committee that it would be helpful to provide them with more examples which they in turn could pass on to their writers and editors.

Following this discussion, the Committee offered the publishers suggestions for processing conformity review reports in a more efficient manner. They also distributed to the publishers a summary sheet of various problems they have seen in reviews in the treatment of the Trinity. Additional points covered were in response to the questions previously submitted by the publishers. The Committee addressed the impact of other documents on the conformity review process (no direct impact unless there is an erratum), offered comments on the parameters of the conformity review and explained to the publishers that, while there is an intention to refine the *Protocol*, the process is not on a fast track.

Committee members came away from the meeting as certain as ever that the working relationship between the Committee and catechetical publishing houses is strong and positive. Such a relationship serves to benefit greatly the catechetical efforts of the Church and the recipients of those efforts. The Committee is committed to continuing conformity review work and are grateful for the sense that publishing houses feel the same way.

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**Notice:**

The conformity listing is updated on a quarterly basis. It contains the titles of all series and texts which have a declaration of conformity by the first day of the month in which the issue is prepared. However, conformity reviews are always in process and many reach successful conclusions at various times throughout the year. Materials might have a declaration granted just as a new issue of *Catechism Update* is being prepared or coming out. In such circumstances, the publication will not be included in the conformity listing until the following issue. If you cannot find a publication on the current conformity listing which you have been told has a declaration of conformity, contact the publisher. They have on file the letter granting the declaration of conformity and can use that to prove the material is in conformity.

## Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series

As of September 1, 2004 the following texts and series have been found to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Titles are listed according to copyright date, the latest coming first.

### Key to the Conformity Listing

S=School Student Text      P=Parish Student Text      TM= Teacher Manual      CM= Catechist Manual  
S/P= single edition applicable to both school and parish      S&P= two separate editions, both found to be in conformity

### Titles New to the Listing

| Title                                     | Publisher                            | Specifics    |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Call to Faith (1-6)                       | Harcourt                             | TM&CM ©2005  |
| Faith First/Legacy Edition (K-8)          | RCL - Resources for Christian Living | P ©2006      |
| Morality: Our Response to God's Love (HS) | Harcourt                             | S ©2005      |
| Unidos en Jesús Primera Eucaristía        | Pflaum                               | S/P&TM ©2004 |
| Unidos en Jesús Primera Reconciliación    | Pflaum                               | S/P&TM ©2004 |

### Elementary Series: School and Parish

| Title  | Publisher                            | Specifics                   |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Apostolate's Family Catechism                        | Apostolate for Family Consecration   | S ©2003                     |
| Blest Are We (1-6)                                       | Silver Burdett Ginn                  | S&TM ©2004, P&CM ©2002      |
| Blest Are We Junior High (7-8)                           | Silver Burdett Ginn                  | S&TM ©2005, P&CM ©2003      |
| Call to Faith (1-6)                                      | Harcourt                             | S&P ©2005                   |
| Christ Jesus the Way (K-6)                               | Benziger                             | S&TM, P&CM ©2003            |
| Christ Our Life (K-8)                                    | Loyola Press                         | S/P&TM ©1997&2002, CM ©1999 |
| Come Follow Me (K-8)                                     | Benziger                             | S/P, TM&CM ©1998            |
| Coming to Faith (K-6)                                    | Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)   | S&TM ©1998, P&CM ©1999      |
| Coming to Faith/Keystone Edition (K-6)                   | Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)   | S&TM ©1998, P&CM ©1999      |
| Consecration in Truth                                    | Apostolate for Family Consecration   | S&TM ©2001                  |
| Faith and Life (1-8)                                     | Ignatius Press                       | S&TM ©2003, 2002            |
| Faith and Life (1-8)                                     | Ignatius Press                       | S&TM ©1984-1987             |
| Faith and Witness Program (7-8)                          | Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)   | S&TM, P&CM ©1998-1999       |
| Faith First (K-6)  | RCL - Resources for Christian Living | S&TM, P&CM ©2001, 2000      |
| Faith First Junior High (7-8)                            | RCL - Resources for Christian Living | S&TM, P&CM ©2001            |
| Faith of the Mountain (1-8)                              | St. Maron's Publications             | S&TM ©2000                  |
| Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts (1-6)           | Loyola Press                         | S&TM, P&CM ©2005            |
| Friends of Jesus (7-9)                                   | Legionaries of Christ                | S ©2003                     |
| Image of God (K-8)                                       | Ignatius Press                       | S&TM ©1986-1993             |
| Knowing Our Catholic Faith: Beliefs and Traditions (1-8) | Loyola Press                         | S ©2000                     |
| One Faith, One Lord (7-8)                                | Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)   | S&TM ©2003                  |
| Our Catholic Identity (1-8)                              | RCL - Resources for Christian Living | S ©1998                     |
| Share the Joy (K-6)                                      | Benziger                             | S&TM ©1997                  |
| This is Our Faith (K-8)                                  | Silver Burdett Ginn                  | S&TM ©1998                  |
| The Treasure of My Catholic Faith (1-6)                  | Legionaries of Christ                | S ©2003                     |
| Walking by Faith (K-6)                                   | Harcourt                             | S/P, TM&CM ©1999            |
| We Believe (K-6)   | Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)   | S&TM, P&CM ©2004            |

### High School Texts

| Title   | Publisher                    | Specifics  |
|---|------------------------------|------------|
| The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth                 | St. Mary's Press             | S/P ©2003  |
| Catholic Social Teaching Learning and Living Justice  | Ave Maria Press              | S ©2001    |
| The Church: Our Story                                 | Ave Maria Press              | S ©1999    |
| Encountering Jesus in the New Testament               | Ave Maria Press              | S ©2003    |
| Introduction to Catholicism                           | Midwest Theological Forum    | S&TM ©2003 |
| Journey Through the Old Testament                     | Harcourt Religion Publishers | S ©2002    |
| The Light of Faith                                    | Harcourt Religion Publishers | S ©2005    |
| Living Justice and Peace                              | St. Mary's Press             | S ©2002    |
| The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith and Justice      | Ave Maria Press              | S ©2005    |
| Our Moral Life in Christ                              | Midwest Theological Forum    | S&TM ©2003 |
| Our Sacramental Life: Living and Worshiping in Christ | Ave Maria Press              | S ©2003    |
| Written on Our Hearts (Old Testament)                 | St. Mary's Press             | S ©2002    |
| Your Life in Christ: Foundations of Catholic Morality | Ave Maria Press              | S ©2001    |

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### High School Series

| Title                                | Publisher                            | Specifics       |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| The Apostolate's Family Catechism    | Apostolate for Family Consecration   | S ©2003         |
| Catholicism Series                   | C.R. Publications                    | S&TM ©1996-1997 |
| Consecration in Truth                | Apostolate for Family Consecration   | S&TM ©2001      |
| Dominican Series                     | Priory Press                         | S&TM ©2000      |
| Friends of Jesus/Witnesses of Christ | Legionaries of Christ                | S ©2003         |
| Understanding the Catechism          | RCL - Resources for Christian Living | S/P ©1999       |

### Sacramental Preparation

| Title  | Publisher                            | Specifics         |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Be Sealed  | Pauline Books and Media              | S/P&TM ©1998      |
| Celebrating Our Faith: Confirmation                        | Harcourt                             | S/P&TM ©2000      |
| Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation and Eucharist        | Harcourt                             | S/P&TM ©2000      |
| Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation and Eucharist (S II) | Harcourt                             | S/P&TM ©2002      |
| Christ Our Life: Confirmed in the Spirit                   | Loyola Press                         | S/P&TM ©1997      |
| Eucharist  | RCL - Resources for Christian Living | S/P&TM ©2003      |
| First Reconciliation                                       | Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)   | S/P&TM ©2000      |
| First Eucharist  | Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)   | S/P&TM ©2000      |
| The Gift of Eucharist                                      | Silver Burdett Ginn                  | S/P&TM ©2000      |
| The Gift of Reconciliation                                 | Silver Burdett Ginn                  | S/P&TM ©2000      |
| Image of God (Mass Books and Confirmation)                 | Ignatius Press                       | S/P&TM ©1986-1993 |
| Jesus Brings Us Life                                       | Pauline Books and Media              | S/P&TM ©1996      |
| Reconciliation   | RCL - Resources for Christian Living | S/P&TM ©2003      |
| Send Out Your Spirit                                       | Ave Maria Press                      | S/P&TM ©2003      |
| The Spirit Sets Us Free: Confirmation Prep for Youth       | Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)   | S/P&TM ©2000      |
| Together in Jesus - Eucharist                              | Pflaum Publishing Group              | S&TM ©2004        |
| Together in Jesus - Reconciliation                         | Pflaum Publishing Group              | S&TM ©2004        |

### Materials in Other Languages

| Title   | Publisher                            | Specifics    |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Acercandote a La Fe (K-6)                                   | Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)   | S&TM ©1999   |
| Celebrar nuestro fe: Reconciliación y Eucaristía            | Harcourt                             | S/P ©2000    |
| Celebrar nuestro fe: Reconciliación y Eucaristía (Nivel II) | Harcourt                             | S/P ©2002    |
| Creemos/We Believe (K-6)                                    | Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)   | P ©2005      |
| Christo Jesús, el Camino (K-6)                              | Benziger                             | S&TM ©2003   |
| Eucaristía  | RCL - Resources for Christian Living | S/P&TM ©2003 |
| Nuestra Identidad Católica (1-8)                            | RCL - Resources for Christian Living | S ©1998      |
| Primera Reconciliación                                      | Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)   | S/P&TM ©2000 |
| Primera Comunión  | Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)   | S/P&TM ©2000 |
| Reconciliación  | RCL - Resources for Christian Living | S/P&TM ©2003 |
| The Spirit Sets Us Free: Confirmation Prep for Youth        | Vietnamese Catechetical Committee    | S/P ©2001    |

### Supplemental Material: Elementary Ages

| Title                            | Publisher                 | Specifics                    |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Benziger Family Life (K-8)       | Benziger                  | S ©2001 (3rd printing)       |
| Catholic Vision of Love (5-8)    | Our Sunday Visitor        | S&TM ©1996 (revised edition) |
| Growing in Love (K-8)            | Harcourt                  | S ©2001                      |
| Light of the World (1-6)         | Brightstar Publishing     | S&TM ©1996, 1997             |
| New Corinthians Curriculum (K-8) | Foundation for the Family | TM and Parent Guide ©1996    |
| Project Genesis (K-8)            | Leaflet Missal Company    | S&TM ©1997                   |

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