

# Catechism Update

Winter 2004

## National Adult Catechism Approved by the U.S. Bishops

For the first time in the history of the Church in the United States, the bishops have approved a national catechism for use with adults. Work on this national adult catechism, titled *The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, first began in June of 2000. The process for the text's development included a consultation of the nation's bishops on a proposed structure and outline, and three subsequent consultations on written drafts. More than 10,000 suggestions were received in response to the consultations on the drafts. These suggestions proved beneficial in shaping the final text.

During the November 2004 General Assembly, Archbishop Alfred Hughes, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, and Bishop Donald Wuerl, chair of the Editorial Oversight Board for the National Adult Catechism, presented the text to the bishops for their approval. In order to be approved, a text such as this needs the approval of two-thirds or 186 bishops. At the November General Assembly, 228 bishops cast a vote on the text. Of these, 218 voted to approve the text.

Before *The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* can be released for use in the United States, it needs to be reviewed and approved by the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome. This Congregation is responsible for oversight of catechesis. The text will be sent to them in early January.

## Founding Committee Member Concludes Service

In late November 2004, Bishop Donald Wuerl submitted his resignation from the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism to Archbishop Alfred Hughes, the Committee Chair. Bishop Wuerl, citing his service on the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Implementation of the Catechism from

Most Rev. Alfred Hughes  
Chairman

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

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



1992 to 1994 as well as the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism from its inception in 1994, commented that after twelve years, he believed it was time for him to step aside. Archbishop Hughes accepted Bishop Wuerl's resignation with reluctance, expressing his profound gratitude for the tremendous contributions Bishop Wuerl had made to the work of the Catechism Committee, including the recently approved *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*.

Members of an Ad Hoc Committee such as the Catechism Committee are appointed by the President of the Conference. Archbishop Hughes will work with Bishop Skylstad, the current President, to help him identify and appoint a new member to the Catechism Committee. It is hoped that this appointment can be made in the very near future.

## Catechism Committee Will Accept Pre-school Materials for Conformity Review

During the summer of 2004, the president of a catechetical publishing house wrote to the Catechism Committee asking the bishops to reconsider their decision not to review pre-school age materials. The publisher pointed out to the Committee that many dioceses have instituted a requirement that all catechetical materials carry a declaration of conformity. Kindergarten texts which are part of an elementary level series can carry such a declaration when they have been submitted as part of a series. Pre-school materials which are prepared independent of a series have not been accepted for review. Committee members made this decision based on the understanding that a declaration of conformity signifies that the teachings of the Church as found in the *Catechism* are authentically and completely present in the material which carries such a declaration. By their very nature, pre-school materials could not present Church teaching completely. The publisher who contacted the Committee pointed out that the present situation gave an unfair advantage to publishers who published Kindergarten texts as part of a basal series. In light of this observation, members of the Catechism Committee reconsidered their practice concerning pre-school materials and made the decision to accept them for review. The review will concentrate only on authenticity of presentation and if a declaration of conformity is granted, the wording of the statement will indicate that the material in question is for pre-school use only.

## Conformity Listing: Addition of Titles

The conformity listing is updated quarterly. After *Catechism Update* has been released, the most current listing is subsequently posted on the conference web site (see <http://uscceb.org/catechism/document/currentlist.pdf>). Once catechetical material has received a declaration of conformity, the publisher is free to announce that information. Often in the time between the granting of a declaration of conformity and the publication of the most recent listing, publishing houses have already noted the declaration of conformity in their advertising. If a question arises about materials which do not appear on the current conformity listing, please feel free to contact staff to the Catechism Committee at (202) 541-3032.

## Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series

As of December 15, 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
Christ Jesus, the Way (7-8)	Benziger	S&P ©2004
Faith First/Legacy Edition (K-8)	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	CM ©2006

### 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 (K-6)	Harcourt	S&TM, P&CM ©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 First/Legacy Edition (K-8)	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	P ©2006
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 ©2004
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
Morality: Our Response to God's Love	Harcourt	S ©2005
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

## Catechism Update

### 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
Una sola fe un solo Señor (7-8)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S&TM ©2003
Unidos en Jesús Primera Eucaristía	Pflaum Publishing Group	S/P&TM ©2004
Unidos en Jesús Primera Reconciliación	Pflaum Publishing Group	S/P&TM ©2004

### 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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