

Catechism Update

Summer 2004

Third Draft of Adult Catechism Released for Consultation

During the month of May, the bishops of the United States received copies of the latest draft of the national adult catechism. This third draft, currently titled the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, reflects changes made as a result of the consultation in the summer of 2003 as well as the result of work done on the text by theological and catechetical editors. For those who have read earlier drafts, refinements to the text will be evident.

Along with copies of the draft manuscript, each bishop also received a copy of chapter seven formatted in a way in which it might look in a finished text. The bishops on the Editorial Oversight Board decided to include this sample chapter in order to give the bishops some idea of how different aspects of the text, such as the sidebars, could appear in the finished text.

The current consultation is scheduled to conclude on August 15. Since this is the third consultation on the text, the bishops on the Editorial Oversight Board have asked that responses be limited to matters dealing with theological or catechetical issues rather than preferences of style, capitalization and punctuation. This request was made in order to expedite the process of preparing the final text for the anticipated vote of approval in November.

Some Parameters of Conformity Reviews

In light of recent inquiries, it might be helpful to explain some aspects of the Catechism Committee's positions toward the types of catechetical materials which they accept for conformity review as well as types of materials which the Committee declines to review.

The primary purpose of conformity reviews is to work with catechetical publishers in the creation of materials for religious instruction which

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authentically and completely communicate the content of the Catholic Faith in a way that is easily accessible for the student to learn both in the classroom as well as on their own. Therefore, the Committee looks for the completeness of doctrinal content in a text which the student would have in his or her possession.

The Committee declines to accept catechetical programs in which the doctrinal content appears in the teacher or catechist manual rather than in the student materials. The Committee will review and grant declarations of conformity to teacher or catechist manuals but only when they complement student materials that either already have a declaration of conformity or are already under review. In taking this position, the Committee does not pass judgment on pedagogical approaches, such as the Montessori method, which do not rely on student materials, but does judge that it can only reliably evaluate materials for comprehensiveness if those catechetical instruments will be in the hands of students.

Another type of catechetical material which the Committee has declined to accept for review involves the publication of ongoing materials often related to the Church year. The reason for this decision is practical. Since these types of materials are in constant development, these materials would require ongoing review. Since the Committee relies on the work of volunteer reviewers, there could be no guarantee of timeliness, something that publications of a periodic nature require. Once again, this position is not intended to pass judgment on the acceptability of a such an approach to catechesis.

Developments in Regard to High School Materials

Recently, Saint Mary's Press sent a letter to high school Theology or Religion Chairpersons informing them that they will no longer develop new high school materials or revise current material until they can reach a "rapprochement" with the bishops on the Catechism Committee over various requirements the Committee has for granting a declaration of conformity. The bishops on the Committee were saddened but not surprised by this announcement. They will continue to work at finding some solution to this impasse. It is also important to note that the bishops on the Catechism Committee are encouraged by the fact that other publishers of high school age materials understand the Committee's positions and have been able to work within the Committee's guidelines and create materials which are in conformity to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

New Look to Conformity Listing

In this issue of *Catechism Update*, the conformity listing is presented in a new format designed to be more user-friendly. Previously, series and texts were listed according to the name of the publishing house. In the new format, entries are listed according to the settings and levels the materials were created to serve. It is hoped that grouping entries by category will enable people using the list to identify materials for use within a diocese, parish or school to clearly see the various options available to them.

Comments on the new format are welcome. Please address such comments to *Catechism Update* editor, Office for Catechesis, 3211 4th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017.

Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series

As of June 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

The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith and Justice	Ave Maria Press	S ©2005
Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts (1-6)	Loyola Press	S&TM ©2005
Together in Jesus - Reconciliation	Pflaum Publishing Group	S&TM ©2004
Together in Jesus - Eucharist	Pflaum Publishing Group	S&TM ©2004
Creemos/We Believe (K-6)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	P ©2005

Elementary Series: School and Parish

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

Sacramental Preparation

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

Materials in Other Languages

Title	Publisher	Specifics
Christo Jesús, el Camino (K-6)	Benziger	S&TM ©2003
Eucaristía	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	S/P&TM ©2003
Reconciliación	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	S/P&TM ©2003
Una sola fe un solo Señor (7-8)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S&TM ©2003
Celebrar nuestro fe: Reconciliación y Eucaristía (Nivel II)	Harcourt	S/P ©2002
Celebrar nuestro fe: Reconciliación y Eucaristía	Harcourt	S/P ©2000
Primera Reconciliación y Primera Comunión	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S/P ©2000
The Spirit Sets Us Free: Confirmation Prep for Youth	Vietnamese Catechetical Committee	S/P ©2001
Acercandote a La Fe (K-6)	Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	S&TM ©1999
Nuestra Identidad Católica (1-8)	RCL - Resources for Christian Living	S ©1998

Supplemental Material: Elementary Ages

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

High School Series

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

High School Texts

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

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