

catechism update

Summer 2002

OFFICE FOR THE CATECHISM TO BECOME PART OF NEW USCCB OFFICE FOR CATECHESIS

In November of 2000, the bishops of the United States approved the establishment of a standing Bishops' Committee on Catechesis. The present Committee on Catechesis has existed as a sub committee of the Committee on Education. The new independent Committee on Catechesis will be formed later this year following the election of a chair during the November 2002 General Assembly. Both the Committee on Education and the new Committee on Catechesis will be staffed by the USCCB Department of Education.

On July 1, 2002, the Department of Education will be restructured so as to better serve the committees which they will staff. The Department of Education will have two offices: an Office for Schools and an Office for Catechesis. When the restructuring takes place, the present Office for the Catechism will become part of the new Office for Catechesis. This move serves to underscore the fact that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism is closely related to some of the work for which the Committee on Catechesis will be responsible.

When the restructuring takes place, Father Daniel Kutys, currently the Executive Director of the Office for the Catechism, will become the Deputy Secretary for Catechesis. Father William Davis, OSFS, currently the Assistant Secretary for Catholic Schools and Public Policy, will become the Deputy Secretary for Schools. Father Kutys will staff the New Committee on Catechesis along with Sister Glenn Anne McPhee, OP, (Secretary for Education), Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC, (Assistant Secretary for Catechesis & Leadership Formation) and Daniel Mulhall (Assistant Secretary for Catechesis and Inculturation).

Most Rev. Daniel Buechlein, OSB
Chairman

Most Rev. William Levada
Most Rev. Alfred Hughes
Most Rev. Robert Banks
Most Rev. Donald Wuerl
Most Rev. Daniel DiNardo

Consultant:
Rev. John Pollard



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Father Kutys will also continue to staff the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism along with Brian Keane (Coordinator of Assessment) and the other staff members currently working in the Office for the Catechism. The Catechism Committee will continue to be responsible for conducting conformity reviews, copyright reviews and for overseeing the development of the *National Adult Catechism*. Those catechetical publishers and individuals who interact with the bishops on the Catechism Committee for declarations of conformity and copyright permissions should experience no difference in dealing with the Catechism Committee or their staff.

CONSULTATION BEGINS ON NATIONAL ADULT CATECHISM

The development of the *National Adult Catechism*, begun in June of 2000, reached a significant milestone in May of 2002 with the distribution of a first written draft. The release of the draft by the Editorial Oversight Board for the National Adult Catechism marked the beginning of a six month consultation on the draft. Copies of the draft were sent to each bishop in the United States with the request that he take an active role in the development of the text by participating in the consultation. The Editorial Oversight Board did not identify any specific process to be used for this consultation. Rather, the board members decided to leave it up to each individual bishop to determine how he would like to proceed. Therefore, diocesan level personnel and/or parish level personnel will be involved in the consultation only to the degree requested by their bishop.

National organizations involved in adult catechesis as well as catechetical publishers are welcome to take part in the consultation. To request a copy of the draft text and consultation materials, contact Bishop Donald Wuerl, Chair, Editorial Oversight Board for the National Adult Catechism, Office for the Catechism, 3211 4th Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20017.

The consultation is scheduled to conclude October 31. Responses received after that date will not be guaranteed to be taken into consideration. The Editorial Oversight Board will meet in late January of 2003 to review the results of the consultation and decide what revisions might need to be made to the text before presenting it to the full body of bishops for approval.
