

# Religion

## Eighth Grade

### Program Goal:

The learner will study the Catholic faith and be able to apply these beliefs in their actions through various service, prayer, and decision making opportunities.

### Grade Level Goal:

The learner will have a deeper understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in the formation of the Church in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

### Content Criteria:

#### I. Beliefs

- The learner will analyze the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church.
- The learner will utilize the Acts of the Apostles to analyze the role of the Holy Spirit in building the early Church.
- The learner will analyze how the Holy Spirit organized the Church through the use of Church Councils.
- The learner will utilize the lives of the Saints as a model of the Holy Spirit in action.
- The learner will synthesize Church doctrine and daily life.
- The learner will examine Catholic Social Teaching and how it applies to daily life.
- The learner will examine how using the Gifts of the Spirit enables the manifestation of the Fruits of the Spirit.

- The learner will describe how the Holy Spirit is alive in the Church, bringing about changes through out Church history.

## **II. Actions**

- The learner will demonstrate how the roles the Holy Spirit influence the life of the student as a member of the Body of Christ.
- The learner will choose a saint as a personal model of the Holy Spirit.
- The learner will demonstrate an understanding of Catholic Social Teaching through acts of service within the community.
- The learner will demonstrate how fulfilling the precepts of the Catholic Church show their commitment to the Catholic faith.

## **III. Worship**

- The learner will explain how Confirmation is one of the sacraments of initiation.
- The learner will explain the ritual used in the sacrament of Confirmation and its connection to Sacred Scripture.
- The learner will investigate how confirmed members of the Church are called to take an active role in the life of the Church.

## **IV. Prayer**

- The learner will examine various forms of prayer in preparation for Confirmation.
- The learner will demonstrate reverence and respect accorded to community prayer.

## Instructional Criteria:

- The learner will share in prayer opportunities using various Catholic prayers.
- The learner will take an active role in their faith by participating in the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- The learner will incorporate various religious vocabulary when appropriate.
- The learner will plan and participate in liturgies.
- The learner will participate in daily classroom faith based discussions.
- The learner will plan and participate in service projects.
- The learner will complete a project involving their saint.
- The learner will choose a sponsor as a personal model.

## Scope:

### I. Beliefs

- A. Analyze the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church
  1. Creation - Gen. 1:2 "mighty wind"
  2. Annunciation - Luke 1:26-38
  3. Jesus' Baptism - Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3: 21-22, John 1:31-34
  4. Pentecost - Acts 2:1-4
    - a. Fulfillment of Christ's promise
    - b. Birth of the Church
    - c. Enabling the disciples to carry out Christ's mission
- B. The learner will utilize the Acts of the Apostles to analyze the role of the Holy Spirit in building the early Church.
  1. Acts is an early account of the Church
    - a.) Luke as an author
  2. Examine the time period in which Acts of the Apostles takes place
  3. Examine geographic significance
    - a.) Jerusalem
    - b.) Antioch
    - c.) Ephesus

- d.) Corinth
  - e.) Rome
  - f.) Alexandria
4. Examine major events in Acts
- a.) Pentecost Acts 2:1-4
  - b.) Missionary activities of the Apostles
  - c.) Martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 6:8-15)
  - d.) Conversion of Paul/Saul - (Acts 9:1-19)
  - e.) Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15)
- C. The learner will analyze how the Holy Spirit organized the Church through the use of Church Councils
- 1. Jerusalem (c50)
    - a.) Gentiles are accepted
    - b.) Dietary laws and circumcision are not necessary for membership in the Church
  - 2. Nicea - (325 AD)
    - a.) Nicene Creed
    - b.) Arian Heresy
    - c.) Jesus is Divine
  - 3. Constantinople - (381 AD)
    - a.) Arian Heresy
    - b.) Holy Spirit's divinity
    - c.) Nicene Creed
  - 4. Ephesus - (431 AD)
    - a.) Nestorian Heresy
    - b.) Jesus is one divine person
    - c.) Mary is the mother of God (Theotokos-God Bearer-Greek)
  - 5. Trent - (1545 AD)
    - a.) Protestant Reformation
    - b.) Catholic/Counter Reformation
  - 6. Vatican I - (1870 AD)
    - a.) Infallibility of the Pope

7. Vatican II - (1962 AD)

- a.) Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy)
  - 1.) Changes to the Mass
  - 2.) Changes in church architecture
  - 3.) Changes in the participation of the laity
  - 4.) Holy Spirit's influence on contemporary Church
- b.) *Nostra Aetate* (In Our Time)
- c.) *Lumen Gentium* (Light to the Gentiles)
- d.) *Gaudium et Spes*

D. The learner will utilize the lives of the Saints as a model of the Holy Spirit in action.

- 1. Church Fathers
  - a.) St. Augustine
  - b.) St. Athanasius
  - c.) St. John Chrysostom
- 2. Church Doctors
  - a.) St. Thomas Aquinas
  - b.) St. Catherine of Siena
- 3. Martyrs
  - a.) St. Stephen
  - b.) St. Maximilian Kolbe
- 4. Modern Saints
  - a.) Process of Canonization
  - b.) John Paul II canonized more saints than any previous pope

E. The learner will synthesize church doctrine and daily life.

- 1. Precepts of the Church
- 2. Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- 3. Theological Virtues
- 4. Cardinal Virtues
- 5. Four marks of the Church

F. The learner will examine Catholic Social Teaching and how it applies to daily life.

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person
  - a.) *Humane Vitae* (Of Human Life)
2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation
  - a.) *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth)
3. Rights and Responsibilities
4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
  - a.) *Rerum Novarum* (On the Condition of Labor)
  - b.) *Laborem Exercens* (Of Human Work)
6. Solidarity
7. Care for God's Creation

G. The learner will examine how using the Gifts of the Spirit enable the manifestation of the Fruits of the Spirit.

1. Gifts of the Spirit
  - a.) Wisdom
  - b.) Understanding
  - c.) Counsel
  - d.) Fortitude
  - e.) Knowledge
  - f.) Piety
  - g.) Fear of the Lord
2. Fruits of the Spirit
  - a.) Charity
  - b.) Joy
  - c.) Peace
  - d.) Patience
  - e.) Kindness
  - f.) Goodness
  - g.) Generosity
  - h.) Gentleness
  - i.) Faithfulness
  - j.) Modesty
  - k.) Self-control
  - l.) Chastity

- H. The Holy Spirit brings about changes throughout history
  - 1. Apostolic Age
  - 2. Early Church
    - a.) Roots in Jerusalem
    - b.) Council of Jerusalem
  - 3. Growth of the Church
  - 4. Christendom (Conversion of Constantine)
  - 5. East-West schism
  - 6. Middle Ages
    - a.) Mystics
    - b.) Mendicants
    - c.) Scholastics
  - 7. Age of Reform
    - a.) Renaissance
    - b.) Reformation
  - 8. Missionary Age
    - a.) Missionaries in Asia, Africa, South America, North America
    - b.) Missionary orders
      - 1. Franciscans
      - 2. Dominicans
      - 3. Jesuits
  - 9. Modern Church
    - a.) Church in North America
      - 1. Fr. Isaac Hecker - Founder of the Paulists
      - 2. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Founder of The Sisters of Charity
    - b.) Local History
      - 1. Grand Rapids Diocese
      - 2. Parish

## II. Actions

- A, The learner will demonstrate how the roles the Holy Spirit influence the life of the student as a member of the Body of Christ.
  - 1. Spirit Helper - Romans 5:3-5
  - 2. Counselor - John 14:26; Luke 12:11-12

3. Advocate - John 14:15-18
  4. Comforter - Ezekiel 36:24-28; Acts 2:36-36
  5. Fire of God - Luke 3:16; Acts 2:3-4
- B. The learner will demonstrate the role of the Holy Spirit in their life as modeled by a saint.
- C. The learner will demonstrate an understanding of Catholic Social Teaching through acts of service within the community.
1. Perform and reflect on service to the community and how it relates to Catholic Social Teaching
  2. Matthew 25: 31-46 "whatever you do to the least of my people"
- D. The learner will demonstrate how fulfilling the precepts of the Catholic Church show their commitment to the Catholic faith
1. To worship God by participating in Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation in order to keep holy the day of the Lord's Resurrection, and to rest from servile labor on these days. (2042 CCC)
  2. To receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year; this continues the work of conversion in preparation for reception of the Eucharist (2042 CCC)
  3. To receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season; this guarantees reception of the Body and Blood of the Lord at the Paschal time, which is the heart of the Church's liturgy (2042 CCC)
  4. To observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church. These penitential acts prepare us for the feasts of the liturgical year, as well as strengthen us spiritually (2043 CCC)
  5. To help to provide for the needs of the Church. This means that the faithful are to assist with the material needs of the Church, according to their ability. (2043 CCC)

### III. Worship

- A. The learner will explain how Confirmation is one of the sacraments of initiation
  - 1. Baptism
  - 2. Confirmation
  - 3. Eucharist
- B. The learner will explain the parts of the sacrament of Confirmation and their connection to sacred scripture.
  - 1. Presentation of candidates - Acts 2:37-39
  - 2. Renewal of Baptismal promises - John 3:5; Romans 6:8-11
  - 3. Laying on of hands - Numbers 27:18-23; Acts 19:4-6; Hebrews 6:2
  - 4. Anointing with Chrism - 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Acts 8:15-17
- C. The learner will investigate how confirmed members of the Church are called to take an active role in the life of the Church as lay or religious members.
  - 1. Laity
    - a.) Church
      - 1.) Lector
      - 2.) Extraordinary minister of the Eucharist
      - 3.) Catechist
    - b.) Community services
      - 1.) Service to the poor
      - 2.) Service to the sick
      - 3.) Service to the vulnerable
  - 2. Religious vocations
    - a.) Ministry of service
    - b.) Ministry of sacraments

#### **IV. Prayer**

- A. The learner will examine guidelines for various forms of prayer in preparation for Confirmation.
  - 1. Sustained prayer - novena
  - 2. Spontaneous prayer
  - 3. Active prayer through service
  
- B. The learner will demonstrate reverence and respect accorded to community prayer.
  - 1. Reflections of respect
    - a.) Participation
    - b.) Posture
    - c.) Countenance
  - 2. Signs of reverence
    - a.) Projecting a sense of humility in the presence of God; the perfect, the Almighty, the Divine

## **Textbook Recommendations:**

**First Choice:** (due to the inclusion of Confirmation this will require two books)

***Faith First ~ Church History***      **RCL**

**Strengths:** Fits well with the curriculum and is logically organized. Assessment tools are available. The website is available for free access to parents, students, and teachers for supplemental information.

**Weaknesses:** Soft cover student books that will be easily worn out.

***Faith First ~ Confirmation***      **RCL**

**Strengths:** Fits well with the curriculum and is logically organized. Website support for parents, teachers, and students is great. There is an available book for confirmation sponsors to help support in-class learning. Good section with key teachings of the Church for easy reference.

**Weaknesses:** Soft cover student books will be easily worn out. There are few materials for assessment.

**Second Choice:**

***Christ Our Life***      **Loyola**

**Strengths:** Fits well with the curriculum and is logically organized. Assessment tools are available.

**Weaknesses:** Not all pages in the student book are found in the teachers guide. No web support is available. Soft cover student books will be easily worn out.

***Christ Our Life ~ Confirmed in the Spirit***      **Loyola**

**Strengths:** Fits well with the curriculum and is logically organized. Includes a student journal.

**Weaknesses:** Soft cover student books will be easily worn out. There are few materials for assessment.

## Appendix to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum

### **Faith Formation Through Retreats**

Consideration of a retreat experience to evangelize the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at the beginning of the year is suggested. Many parishes provide retreat opportunities for their members. The NET Ministries is a national Catholic organization offering retreat experiences specifically focused on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade age group. The thought process supporting the retreat concept suggests that young Catholics need inspiration to motivate their desire to learn more about their faith. This also gives purpose to the whole curriculum. Contact the Diocesan Office for Family, Youth and Young Adults for more information.

### **Suggested print resources to be available for catechist use:**

Bible - N.A.B.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)*

*General Directory for Catechesis 1997*

*National Directory for Catechesis 2005*

*Where the Star Came to Rest* by Monsignor Gasper Ancona  
(history of Diocese of Grand Rapids)

*The Catholic Source Book* - Harcourt Religion Publishers

### **Web Sites**

The Holy See - [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

United States Catholic Conference of Bishops - USCCB.org  
(also has Bible, daily readings)

Diocese of Grand Rapids - [dioceseofgrandrapids.org](http://dioceseofgrandrapids.org)

Catholic Encyclopedia - [newadvent.org](http://newadvent.org)

Catholic Online - [Catholic.org](http://Catholic.org) (also has saints resource)

Resources for Christian Living - [FaithFirst.com](http://FaithFirst.com)

## **Vocabulary**

blasphemy  
canonized  
cardinal virtue  
conversion  
divine  
heretic, heresy  
humility  
infallibility  
manifestation  
martyr  
mendicant  
monastic  
mystic  
paraclete  
precept  
Reformation  
solidarity  
theological virtue  
virtue

## **Greek/Latin**

*Theotokos*  
*Nostra Aetate*  
*Lumen Gentium*  
*Humanae Vitae*  
*Rerum Novarum*  
*Laborem Exercens*  
*Sacrosanctum Concilium*