

Introduction

The Office of Religious Education is in the process of responding to the call for new Religion Curriculum Guidelines for Grades K-8 in parish religious education programs and Catholic Schools and to meet the 2015 Catholic Identity goal for SACS Accreditation. This process of establishing and implementing these new Curriculum Guidelines will be completed within a five year period.

The Religion Curriculum Guidelines for Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade were completed in the Fall of 2015. The guidelines for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth grades were completed in the early 2017. The guidelines for Grades 6-7-8 will be updated.

Process

The process for establishing the new Religion Curriculum Guidelines included researching Religion Curriculum Guidelines in other Catholic Dioceses across the United States and studying the scope and sequence of several religion textbook series. The format of the new Religion Curriculum Guidelines was written in alignment with the Six Tasks of Catechesis GDC (*General Directory for Catechesis*) and NDC (*National Directory for Catechesis*) and the vocabulary and prayers were developed from expectations from the NCEA ACRE, the Mobile Archdiocese and other dioceses. A draft of the guidelines was given to a core group of Catholic school religion teachers and ORE staff members for proofreading of content and structure of the guidelines.

What are Curriculum Guidelines?

The new Religion Curriculum Guidelines state the concepts of what should be taught on a certain grade level. The catechist/teacher uses these guidelines alongside the religion textbook and writes in the dates when the material was covered. This tracking will ensure that the catechist/teacher is meeting the expectations for that grade level. The Curriculum Guidelines include *indicators* that are suggested possible activities of how the student displays knowledge/understanding of the concepts.

The Religion Curriculum Guidelines are followed by a religion vocabulary list, a list of prayers to be introduced, prayers to be memorized, and prayers for student participation for each grade.

The Religion Curriculum Guidelines, vocabulary, and prayers will be disseminated to all Catholic School Principals. The Religion Curriculum Guidelines will be given to Archbishop Rodi and Miss Gwen Byrd for their reference when they visit the Catholic schools.

The guidelines will also be posted on the ORE website, www.mobilefaithformation.org under Resources.