

Guidelines for Catechesis

Grades 1-8

Implemented in the Diocese of Beaumont - July 1, 1998

- A. In order to cover what is contained in the *Guidelines for Curriculum* for the Diocese of Beaumont, in each parish/mission the time requirement for the religious education program for Grades 1 - 8 is a **minimum of 45 hours** per year.
- B. Parishes are expected to reach the goal of **45 hours** by the fall of **2000**. If necessary, this can be done gradually by lengthening the class time and number of sessions each year.
- C. The **45 hours** includes a minimum of **30 hours** spent in classroom catechetical instruction and additional formative activities, such as liturgical prayer, retreats and service that may take place outside of the instructional time.
- D. To insure that the students have been able to grasp and understand the beliefs of the Catholic faith contained in our *Guidelines for Curriculum*, each parish should implement a process of evaluation and testing throughout the year.
- E. Since the curriculum for each grade builds upon and adds to that learned in the previous grade, students are expected to attend class every year between Grades 1 and 8. During those years that parents choose not to send their child to the parish program of religious education, they must assume the responsibility to cover the curriculum contained in the *Guidelines for Curriculum*. Parents will be provided books and material by the parish, and bring their child in for periodic evaluation and testing.
- F. Parishes should use the texts designated as acceptable for use by the Office of Lifelong Catholic Formation/Education, which have been taken into account in the formulation of *Guidelines for Curriculum*. (Appendix I, *Guidelines for Curriculum*)
- G. It is acceptable for smaller parishes that have programs with combined grades to implement the *Curriculum Guidelines* in an alternative way. (Appendix II, *Guidelines for Curriculum*)
- H. Since the Catholic faith is built upon Sacred Scripture as well as Tradition, age appropriate bibles are to be used in the classroom for all grade levels.
- I. To enable the catechists to effectively implement the *Guidelines for Curriculum*, the catechist must be involved in his or her own growth in knowledge of the faith and teaching methodology, by participating in the Catechist Formation Process established by the diocese.