

**AGE-APPROPRIATE SKILLS
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORE CONCEPTS OF
OUR FAITH**

**AN ADDENDUM TO
THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GUIDELINES**

DEVELOPED BY THE

**SUB-COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
of the
CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF KENTUCKY
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I. ULTIMATE PURPOSE:

Learners make their faith in God real, meaningful, and alive through instruction, community experience, liturgical and personal prayer, and social action.

CORE CONCEPTS WITH SPECIFIC CATEGORIES

I. The Mystery of God, Creator of all things.

1. Demonstrates an understanding of God as creator of all things.
2. Understands the human person as imaging God.
3. Recognizes the inter-connectedness of humans with all creation.
4. Recognizes the call to continuing creation by further developing the Kingdom of God.

II. The Mystery of Christ, the Incarnate Word of God.

1. Articulates an understanding of the Incarnation: the Word of God, enfleshed in Jesus Christ.
2. Articulates an understanding of Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the distinctive sign of Christian faith.
3. Recognizes that through Jesus, God established a relationship of particular intimacy with us.

III. The Mystery of the Holy Spirit, the loving presence of God.

1. Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as being the Spirit of God who reveals God and makes Christ known to us.
2. Articulates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the one who awakens us to faith.
3. Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the vibrant presence of God in the Church and the World.

IV. The Mystery of the Church, the People of God.

1. Identifies the covenants revealed in the Scriptures as extending to all creation.
2. Demonstrates an understanding of and an appreciation for active participation in a community of faith.
3. Identifies the context of the Scriptures and their role in the development of the Church.
4. Articulates the nature of Tradition and its role in the development of the Church.
5. Articulates the nature of sacrament and sacramentality and their role in the development of the People of God.
6. Illustrates a basic understanding of the documentary tradition of the universal, national, and local Church.
7. Illustrates a basic understanding of the history of the Church.

V. God Teaches Us How to Live Out Our Salvation.

1. Demonstrates an understanding of the Paschal Mystery and the various ways we encounter it in daily living.
2. Demonstrates the ability to apply the commandment of love by making life decisions within the Christian moral framework.
3. Demonstrates the relationship between faith and culture as it is found in the arts, sciences, and technology.
4. Applies Catholic principles to interpersonal relationships as found in the family, the workplace, society and the Church.
5. Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.
6. Examines the variety of Christian life-styles as ways of responding to the baptismal call to a life of service.

VI. God Invites Us Into Relationship Through Personal Prayer and Through Community Worship.

1. Demonstrates an understanding of and an experience with different ways of relating to God in prayer on a personal level and in community.
2. Demonstrates the importance of Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.
3. Demonstrates recognition of the sacredness of time through the celebration of the hours, the liturgical seasons and special feasts and days.

VII. God Calls Us To Love and Serve Our Neighbor.

1. Engages in activities that demonstrate an understanding of and personal witness to Christ's command to love and serve one another.
2. Engages in service to the community in response to the Gospel call.
3. Critiques societal structures in the light of Catholic social justice principles and applies them to social and personal situations.
4. Acknowledges and affirms the diverse cultural expressions of Catholicism.

SPECIFIC CATEGORIES WITH AGE-APPROPRIATE SKILLS

I

THE MYSTERY OF GOD, CREATOR OF ALL THINGS

	1. DEMONSTRATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AS CREATOR OF ALL THINGS	2. UNDERSTANDS THE HUMAN PERSON AS IMAGING GOD	3. RECOGNIZES THE INTER-CONNECTEDNESS OF HUMANS WITH ALL CREATION	4. RECOGNIZES THE CALL TO CONTINUING CREATION BY FURTHER DEVELOPING THE KINGDOM OF GOD
EARLY CHILDHOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Names God as maker of all elements of nature. †Recognizes all creation as a gift of God's love. †Recognizes self as gift of God's creation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes self as unique, lovable, and having personal worth. †Recognizes and expresses personal feelings. †Demonstrates the need for familial love and unity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes how all created life is intended to live together. †Practices kindness toward others, animals, and nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Demonstrates personal ability to make choices for good. †Develops a sense of belonging to many groups. †Illustrates respect and care for one's environment.
PRIMARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies how God's love is like the unconditional love of a caring parent. †Indicates that God is always willing to forgive us through Jesus. †Identifies God as the creator of all things. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Indicates that God created each of us to share in God's love and truth. †Recognizes moments of shared love as a reflection of God's love. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies all of creation as gift. †Recognizes all of creation as interdependent. †Recognizes that the innate value of things and persons comes from being created by God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Demonstrates choices for the good of all.
INTERMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes God as faithful, merciful, and forgiving. †Explains goodness and love as coming from God. †Recognizes God as always present in creation. †Recalls that God continues to create for our enjoyment, respect, and stewardship. †Defines God as a God of freedom. †Identifies how God teaches and heals us through Jesus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Explains our call from God to love and respect ourselves and others. †Describes the gift of grace as God's presence in the human person. †Explains how we are images of God's love. †Recognizes the sexual dimension of being fully human. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes that all creation is mutually dependent for survival. †Identifies the giftedness of created things. †Recognizes that all creation is a system of inter-related parts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Demonstrates an understanding of the Kingdom of God.

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EARLY ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes God's faithfulness as a sign of trust in all creation. †Defines God as worthy of total trust. †Recognizes the presence of good and evil in the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Explains masculinity and femininity as images of God. †Communicates with adults about sexuality in a Christian values context. †Recognizes the value and source of emotions. †Identifies human differences as gifts. †Demonstrates respect for the dignity of the human person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies ways of responsible use and re-use of resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Explains how Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God.
LATER ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies the attributes of God as all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving...intimately involved in our lives. †Explores images and concepts of God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Explains the Christian view of sexuality and intimacy. †Demonstrates the balance between personal integrity and close relationships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Practices care for the earth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Describes the call to conversion, to live the vision, values, and lifestyle of the Kingdom of God.
ADULT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes the paradox of God's immanence and transcendence. †Critiques the causes of good and evil in the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Integrates the limitations of being human while approving the attainments and possibilities of humanity. †Examines the complementarity of the male and female roles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Practices the responsibility of humans for the rest of creation. †Constructs one's life to preserve the goodness of creation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Distinguishes between the Kingdom of God and the Church. †Illustrates the struggle to bring the Kingdom of God into one's personal life and to bring oneself to the Kingdom of God. †Practices meeting others on their terms.

II
THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST, THE INCARNATE WORD OF GOD

	1. ARTICULATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE INCARNATION: THE WORD OF GOD ENFLESHED IN JESUS CHRIST	2. ARTICULATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF CHRIST'S LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION AS THE DISTINCTIVE SIGN OF CHRISTIAN FAITH	3. RECOGNIZES THAT THROUGH JESUS, GOD ESTABLISHED A RELATIONSHIP OF PARTICULAR INTIMACY WITH US
EARLY CHILDHOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies that God sent Jesus to God's people as a very special gift of love. †Recognizes that Jesus was sent to show God's people how to love one another. †Explains that Jesus first came to people as a baby in Bethlehem. †Expresses that Jesus is God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies Jesus as the greatest teacher. †Illustrates that Jesus gave his life for all people. †States that Jesus brought new life and hope. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Names Jesus as a model of how people are to love one another. †Recognizes that Jesus loves children. †States that God sent Jesus to God's people as a special gift.
PRIMARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Names Jesus as a person like us who grew up in a holy family with Mary and Joseph. †Understands that Jesus came to bring us God's word. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Describes the events of Jesus' life and ministry. †Explains that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to save us and give us new life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recalls Jesus as being God's most special gift and present to us today. †Identifies Jesus as the son of God, savior, friend, and brother. †Recognizes that Jesus lived a life of prayer and served people in need. †Recognizes that Jesus offers everyone God's forgiveness.
INTERMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recalls that Christ is fully human and fully divine. †Describes Christ as the sacrament of God and greatest sign of God's love. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies Jesus as the example of Christian life and love. †Discusses how Jesus was tempted and overcame temptation through God's grace. †Recognizes Jesus as teacher, storyteller, and prophet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Illustrates how Jesus teaches us to live according to the greatest commandment, the beatitudes and the ten commandments. †Recalls that God offers forgiveness to everyone through Jesus.

	1. ARTICULATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE INCARNATION: THE WORD OF GOD ENFLESHED IN JESUS CHRIST	2. ARTICULATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF CHRIST'S LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION AS THE DISTINCTIVE SIGN OF CHRISTIAN FAITH	3. RECOGNIZES THAT THROUGH JESUS, GOD ESTABLISHED A RELATIONSHIP OF PARTICULAR INTIMACY WITH US
EARLY ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Explores one's relationship with Jesus--who Jesus is, his values, his intentions, motives and attitudes--as well as what he proclaimed and how this relates to one's own life. †Describes the historical and social world of Jesus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Demonstrates how Jesus' life and teaching gave human form to God's compassion. †Explains that Jesus shares the power of his resurrection with us by sending the Spirit. †Recalls that Jesus preached and practiced obedience to God's will. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes Jesus as the perfect sign of God's presence. †Identifies Jesus as: the center of God's plan for the world; the mediator between God and his church; and the world's liberator.
LATER ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Evaluates Jesus as the model of a completely faithful person. †Explores ways of relating to Jesus today. †Describes Jesus as a person of prayer. †Relates Jesus' teachings on prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Relates key themes of Jesus' life, mission and message. †Outlines Jesus' death, resurrection and ongoing presence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Explains Jesus' relationship with his Father and his image of God. †Explains ways to develop a richer, more mature relationship with Jesus.
ADULT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Integrates Jesus as savior and friend into one's life. †Assesses Jesus' message as transformational. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Integrates the Paschal Mystery into one's life. †Recognizes the risen Christ as present in the body of Christ, the Church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Practices an intimate relationship with Jesus, modeled after one's experience of human relationships.

III
THE MYSTERY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LOVING PRESENCE OF GOD

	1. DEMONSTRATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE SPIRIT OF GOD WHO REVEALS GOD AND MAKES CHRIST KNOWN TO US	2. ARTICULATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE ONE WHO AWAKENS US TO FAITH	3. DEMONSTRATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A VIBRANT PRESENCE IN THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD
EARLY CHILDHOOD	†Indicates the presence of God as like parents who are there, but cannot always be seen.	†Develops a sense of belonging to the church family. †Recognizes personal feelings about God.	†Recognizes peace, joy and hope as signs of God's presence.
PRIMARY	†Recognizes that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. †Illustrates an understanding of the Spirit as God's presence in our lives.	†Explains that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples on Pentecost. †Describes the Holy Spirit as the one who inspires and strengthens us to live a good life. †States how the Holy Spirit gifts us with strength and joy and the help to live together in peace.	†Names the special gifts of the Spirit. †Illustrates ways these special gifts are evident in the life of the Church. †Illustrates ways these special gifts are evident in the world.
INTERMEDIATE	†Describes the Trinity of God as Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. †Explains that Jesus sent the Spirit to be present in our lives.	†Recognizes the Holy Spirit as helper, guide and inspiration. †Identifies the Holy Spirit as the one who helps us to pray. †Recalls that the Holy Spirit helps us live by Jesus' example. †Explains the role of the Spirit on Pentecost. †Explores the gifts of the Spirit in relation to one's own life.	†Identifies the Spirit as the force that draws Jesus' followers into one Christian family. †Recalls the role of the Spirit, giving life to the Church. †Identifies the symbols of the Spirit--wind, breath, fire.
EARLY ADOLESCENCE	†Explains the Trinity as a community of three persons.	†Distinguishes the role of the Spirit in moral decision making. †Lists the gifts and fruits of the Spirit for living a life of faith. †Explains the role of the Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation.	†Identifies specific signs of the presence of the Spirit in the Church and in the world. †Names the different ministries in the Church and in the world as a response to a call from the Spirit.
LATER ADOLESCENCE	†Explores multiple images of God.	†Identifies the tools of the process of discernment. †Traces the movement of the Spirit in one's own life.	†Identifies the Spirit in the Church throughout history.

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ADULT	†Demonstrates the reality of the presence of the Spirit in the world. †Critiques the role of the Spirit in ongoing discernment.	†Explores the role of the Spirit in one's personal coming-to-faith. †Integrates the celebration of Pentecost and the effects of one's personal coming-to-faith.	†Assesses the work of the Holy Spirit and the accomplishments of the Church both globally and locally.

IV
THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH, THE PEOPLE OF GOD (PART I)

	1. IDENTIFIES THE COVENANTS REVEALED IN THE SCRIPTURES AS EXTENDING TO ALL CREATION	2. DEMONSTRATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF AND AN APPRECIATION FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH	3. IDENTIFIES THE CONTEXT OF THE SCRIPTURES AND THEIR ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCH
EARLY CHILDHOOD	†Recognizes that God loves all people.	†Recognizes the relationship of home and family activities to Church activities. †Recognizes self as a member of the family of God.	†Recognizes the Bible as a special book. †Recognizes that God does wonderful things for people.
PRIMARY	†Explains how Jesus was the Messiah promised to free all people.	†Recognizes that the people of God are the Church. †Illustrates the work of the Church as continuing the work of Jesus through community building, preaching the Word, worship, and service. †Identifies God's presence everywhere, especially in and through other people and the Church.	†Illustrates that the Bible was written by different people under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. †Recognizes the Bible as the story of God's love for all of us. †Identifies the major divisions of the Bible. †Recognizes the New Testament as telling us about Jesus as God and man
INTERMEDIATE	†Identifies promise as the basis of all relationships. †Identifies covenant as a relationship. †Defines the conditions for a covenant. †Relates faithfulness to promise and covenant. †Illustrates fidelity in the experiences of God's people throughout history.	†Recalls the Catholic church as the community of God's people. †Describes the Church's method of welcoming new members as a process of initiation. †Identifies the Church community as the light of Christ and as servant to the world. †Recalls the Church as the body of Christ. †Recognizes the presence of the risen Christ in the Church. †Relates the mission of the church to Jesus' ministries of community, word, worship and service.	†Lists the organization of the Bible--books, chapters, verses. †Names the Scripture as revealing God. †Recognizes prayer in the Scriptures, especially the Psalms, as the prayer of the Church. †Recalls the biblical teaching about God's goodness in us and all of creation. †Identifies the biblical teaching about moral choice. †Explains the structure of the Bible: number of books, general types of writing, and main divisions. †Recalls the authorship of the Bible as several and varied people. †Identifies the purpose of the Bible as telling God's story and the story of God's people.

	1. IDENTIFIES THE COVENANTS REVEALED IN THE SCRIPTURES AS EXTENDING TO ALL CREATION	2. DEMONSTRATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF AND AN APPRECIATION FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH	3. IDENTIFIES THE CONTEXT OF THE SCRIPTURES AND THEIR ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCH
EARLY ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies the Hebrew and Christian covenants revealed in Scripture. †Relates how God's covenants extend to all creation. †Names ways God is faithful in one's life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Names ways people actively participate in a community of faith. †Identifies Church as a group of people with a distinctive spirit, sharing their talents in various roles to achieve a common goal. †Explains the marks of the Church as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. †Identifies one's own personal gift for active participation in a community of faith. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Lists the characteristics of the early Christian communities using the Acts of the Apostles. †Lists the Christian Scripture passages which the Church uses to describe herself. †Describes the context and setting of Paul's letters as the early Church communities. †Outlines Paul's missionary journeys, sufferings and trials.
LATER ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Practices faithfulness to the covenant. †Relates the meaning and experience of revelation and of God's actions in learners' lives. †Names the covenants found in the relationships of one's life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Reflects on present faith growth and struggles. †Develops skills for reflection. †Integrates Catholic Christian beliefs into one's personal identity. †Distinguishes the terms "faith," "religion," "theology," and "belief." †Describes faith as a personal response to God's call and as leading to active discipleship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Defines the three stages of gospel development. †Defines revelation, inspiration, and biblical interpretation.. †Recognizes the writing styles of the evangelists and the structure of the gospels. †Outlines the unique presentations of Jesus and the good news in the gospels. †Explores in depth one particular synoptic gospel. †Outlines the growth, composition, historical development, writing styles, methods, and structure of the Hebrew Scriptures. †Relates the reading and interpreting of the Hebrew Scriptures. †Explores the major themes and life questions of the Hebrew Scriptures and their relevance to today. †Identifies the major practical and pastoral problems to which Paul responded. †Relates the major theological themes of Paul's letters, especially Galatians and Romans.
ADULT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Practices the concept of covenant in one's personal life and personal relationships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Articulates the value of community for personal growth and for growth in faith. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Applies the inner meaning of the Scriptures in one's personal and communal life. †Relates the scriptural bases for the various models of the Church.

IV
THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH, THE PEOPLE OF GOD, PART II

	4. ARTICULATES THE NATURE OF TRADITION AND ITS ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCH	5. ARTICULATES THE NATURE OF SACRAMENT AND SACRAMENTALITY AND THEIR ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD	6. ILLUSTRATES A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE DOCUMENTARY TRADITION OF THE UNIVERSAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL CHURCH	7. ILLUSTRATES A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH
EARLY CHILDHOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes self as a member of the family of God. †Recites traditions in one's family of origin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies basic signs. †Practices simple rituals. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Repeats stories of people in the history of the Church.
PRIMARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Names the principal elements of the Creed. †Relates family traditions to Church Tradition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies signs of God's love in the universe. †Identifies sacraments as celebrations of Jesus' love. †Recognizes the meanings of the signs and symbols used in the sacraments. †Names grace as God's life in us. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes that church leaders communicate with the faithful through writings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Relates an understanding of how the first Christians were followers of Jesus and formed the earliest Christian communities. †Recalls stories of saints and other famous Christians.
INTERMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Describes Tradition as referring to the living transmission of all that the church is and believes. †Describes the sources of Church teaching as Scripture and Tradition. †Defines statements of belief in the Creed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies the Church as the sacrament of Christ in the world. †Explains the unifying power of using signs and symbols. †Relates that Jesus' presence and work in our lives is celebrated in the seven sacraments. †Recognizes grace as God's life in us. †Identifies the sacraments of Initiation, Healing and Commitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes the different types of writings used by Church leaders to communicate with the faithful. †Articulates how these writings have built upon one another through the ages to express understanding of truth and practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes that the roots of Christianity are Jewish. †States that Catholicism is one form of Christianity. †Identifies the four marks of the Church as one, catholic, holy and apostolic.

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EARLY ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Explores the elements of faith so as to develop a religious identity rooted in the community's ways and understandings. †Traces the meaning behind different religious words and concepts. †Names the four signs of God's presence: natural, liturgical, scriptural, and ecclesial. †Recites the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. †Distinguishes the roles of Scripture and Tradition in the life of the Church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies ritual in everyday activities. †Integrates signs and symbols into ritual. †Describes evidence of the presence and power of grace in the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Derives religious information from a variety of sources. †Identifies the documents of the Second Vatican Council. †Identifies the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a major resource. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Names the various rites within the Catholic Church. †Describes how the Church developed from Pentecost to the present. †Describes the structure of the ordained ministry of the Catholic Church. †Traces the historical development of the ministries and lifestyles within the Church.
LATER ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Explains the basic tenets of faith as expressed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. †Develops a personal creed. †Identifies Tradition as the doctrine, life, and worship of the Church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies the Eucharistic liturgy as the expression of our faith in ritual action. †Explains the role of symbols and signs in human culture. †Demonstrates one's faith in ritual action. †Relates the communal nature of the sacraments. †Defines sacraments as signs which effect what they symbolize. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Defines the various levels of consultation within the Church. †Differentiates among dogma, doctrine, and the hierarchy of truths. †Identifies the basic organization of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Describes the beliefs and faith traditions of the major Christian churches--their uniqueness and what they share in common with the Catholic Christian Church. †Articulates that the communion of saints reminds us that the Church transcends both time and space.
ADULT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Explores the value of Tradition in supporting and furthering one's faith-life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Interprets the mystery of sacramentality and recognizes God's ability to penetrate humanity individually and communally through sacramental rites. †Recognizes that "secular" and "sacred" are two dimensions of the same reality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Demonstrates how the Church uses its documents to systematically reflect growth in faith. †Integrates the hierarchy of truths into one's theological reflection. †Differentiates between official Church teaching and theological opinion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Demonstrates how Tradition is carried forward through the history of the Church. †Demonstrates a knowledge of the principal events of Church history. †Assesses the nature of Church as pilgrim, open to change and further growth.

V
GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LIVE OUT OUR SALVATION, PART I

	1. DEMONSTRATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PASCHAL MYSTERY AND THE VARIOUS WAYS WE ENCOUNTER THIS IN DAILY LIVING	2. DEMONSTRATES THE ABILITY TO APPLY THE COMMANDMENT OF LOVE BY MAKING LIFE DECISIONS WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN MORAL FRAMEWORK	3. DEMONSTRATES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND CULTURE AS IT IS FOUND IN THE ARTS, SCIENCES, AND TECHNOLOGY
EARLY CHILDHOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †States that Jesus brought new life and hope. †Identifies heaven as a place of happiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Names ways of showing love and being loved. †Recognizes the need to express sorrow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Practices self-expression through drama, art, song, and gesture.
PRIMARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Compares the new life that is ours after death to the many things in nature that grow and change into a new life. †Explains that we each have a special part in God's plan, and in God's plan, dying is not the end of life; heaven is forever. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Illustrates how God gives us freedom to make choices. †Recognizes the need to express sorrow for choices made or missed and not in accord with the Christian moral framework. †Illustrates the ten commandments as guides for loving God and loving neighbor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies examples of Christian teaching as found in our present culture. †Names examples of cultural faith expressions through drama, art, song, and gesture. †Names the contributions of various cultures to expressions of faith. †Recognizes faith values as experienced through art, science and the use of technology.
INTERMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes that the Paschal Mystery consists of the death and resurrection of Christ. †Identifies the Paschal Mystery as God's saving action accomplished once and for all. †Names the reality of good and evil in the world. †Demonstrates how Jesus' death and resurrection are the atonement for evil in the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies selfishness as the basis of evil. †Identifies sin as unloving choices which turn us away from God and creation. †Identifies the conditions for serious sin. †Recognizes Jesus' commandment as the summary for all other commandments. †Recalls the ten commandments as guides for loving God and others. †Explains the Church's teaching of the true dignity and worth of each person. †Identifies the beatitudes as guides for living happily. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Relates aspects of culture to gospel values. †Produces examples of cultural faith expressions through drama, art, song and gesture. †Applies knowledge of faith to the arts, sciences, and use of technology.

	1. DEMONSTRATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PASCHAL MYSTERY AND THE VARIOUS WAYS WE ENCOUNTER THIS IN DAILY LIVING	2. DEMONSTRATES THE ABILITY TO APPLY THE COMMANDMENT OF LOVE BY MAKING LIFE DECISIONS WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN MORAL FRAMEWORK	3. DEMONSTRATES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND CULTURE AS IT IS FOUND IN THE ARTS, SCIENCES, AND TECHNOLOGY
EARLY ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Explains Jesus as the source for the meaning of life's mysteries. †Relates the virtue of hope to daily living. †Relates that God judges each of us at death and all people at the end of time. †Explains the biblical understanding of heaven and hell. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Applies techniques to control one's impulses. †Applies Christian values and decision-making skills to moral judgment questions. †Identifies signs of grace and sin. †Utilizes a specific process for making decisions that reflect one's religious values. †Distinguishes between right and wrong. †Distinguishes emotions and their value. †Demonstrates appropriate emotional response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Discusses the impact of something read in the Bible on one's life. †Relates sacred and cultural symbols to religious concepts. †Identifies spiritual themes in different stories. †Recognizes the positive and negative messages in media.
LATER ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes that life is a constant process of dyings and risings. †Names the stages of death and dying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Explains the value and dangers of dating. †Traces the development of a sexual identity. †Utilizes Catholic Christian moral principles emphasizing responsibility for one's moral values, actions and lifestyle. †Relates the need for moral values and principles. †Evaluates moral dilemmas and their resolution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Develops skills to critically reflect on youth culture and societal values in the light of Catholic Christian moral values. †Extrapolates religious information and values from the arts, sciences and technology.
ADULT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Integrates one's personal life around the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. †Explains suffering and loss in the context of the Paschal Mystery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Integrates the commandment of love into making life decisions. †Organizes a Christ-like vision of life as life-lived-for-others. †Develops a healthy sexual life based on the enfleshment of Christ's love for others above self. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Formulates moral values and Christian vision in the enjoyment of the arts and sciences. †Measures the value of technology as an aid to a more Christ-centered life. †Recognizes one's gifts as gifts from God to the community.

V
GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LIVE OUT OUR SALVATION, PART II

	4. APPLIES CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES TO INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AS FOUND IN THE FAMILY, THE WORKPLACE, SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH	5. EXERCISES RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP TOWARD ALL CREATION	6. EXAMINES THE VARIETY OF CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLES AS WAYS OF RESPONDING TO THE BAPTISMAL CALL TO A LIFE OF SERVICE
EARLY CHILDHOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Defines self through the experience of relationship. †Distinguishes types of relationships in one's experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Illustrates how to care for people, pets, plants, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Names vocations to service. †Identifies the ritual of Baptism.
PRIMARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Associates our beliefs with our shaping of the way we relate to our family and friends. †Describes that Christ's love and teachings are for all people, regardless of individual needs, nationality, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Demonstrates the responsibility to respect all of God's creation. †Defines the role of steward. †Recognizes the value of time as a gift given and received. †Identifies the value of one's talents as given by God and shared through service. †Demonstrates the concept of tithing and sharing treasures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes that followers of Jesus are called Christians through Baptism. †Indicates that Baptism calls us to the service of others through the married, ordained, vowed religious, or single life. †Recognizes saints as people who lived the call of the gospel.
INTERMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Associates one's relationship to others with one's relationship to Jesus. †Identifies the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies the need to care for and respect all creation. †Indicates the biblical roots of stewardship. †Recalls the role of steward. †Compares the concepts of steward and owner. †Recalls one's talents and the use of these talents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Names different vocations. †Defines the service element of each vocation.
EARLY ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Names the precepts of the Church. †Identifies how people today can relate to Mary. †Applies the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy to contemporary social and spiritual problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Examines the concept of stewardship. †Identifies scriptural passages referring to stewardship. †Determines one's talents for Christian ministry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Explains how Jesus calls disciples today to continue his mission. †Explains how people today live the spirit of the beatitudes. †Traces the service aspect of various vocations identified in family and friends.

	4. APPLIES CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES TO INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AS FOUND IN THE FAMILY, THE WORKPLACE, SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH	5. EXERCISES RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP TOWARD ALL CREATION	6. EXAMINES THE VARIETY OF CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLES AS WAYS OF RESPONDING TO THE BAPTISMAL CALL TO A LIFE OF SERVICE
LATER ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Describes a system of moral decision-making based on Catholic principles. †Applies that system to traditional and contemporary problems, and to one's own personal choices. †Evaluates elements in modern culture according to gospel values (materialism, racism, promiscuity, etc.) †Evaluates media, social groups, and government using Christian principles. †Defines key elements in the Christian moral life: grace, sin, conversion, redemption, freedom, conscience, personal responsibility, and Jesus as norm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Applies the concept of stewardship to specific situations. †Applies scriptural passages on stewardship to contemporary situations. †Evaluates one's use of time, talents, and treasures as a solution to situations of personal and social injustice. †Examines the need for prayer in a life of stewardship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Differentiates the baptismal vocations within the Church. †Applies one's baptismal call as a call to ministry in one's work in the world. †Relates discipleship to citizenship.
ADULT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Integrates the Christian perspective into all human relationships. †Develops a family life based on recognizing the family as "domestic church." †Seeks ways to incorporate Christian principles and values into the workplace and into the public arena. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Designs Christian stewardship into one's personal stance toward creation. †Plans a life based on time, talent and treasure as a response to one's baptismal call. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Organizes a lifestyle in keeping with the Christian mission. †Tests one's beliefs through service to all creation.

VI
GOD INVITES US INTO RELATIONSHIP THROUGH PERSONAL PRAYER
AND THROUGH COMMUNITY WORSHIP

	1. DEMONSTRATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF AN EXPERIENCE WITH DIFFERENT WAYS OF RELATING TO GOD IN PRAYER ON A PERSONAL LEVEL AND IN COMMUNITY	2. DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF SACRAMENTS, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE CENTRALITY OF THE EUCHARIST, IN THE LIFE OF CATHOLICS	3. DEMONSTRATES RECOGNITION OF THE SACREDNESS OF TIME THROUGH THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOURS, THE LITURGICAL SEASONS AND SPECIAL FEASTS AND DAYS
EARLY CHILDHOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes quiet as appropriate for prayer. †Recites various prayers. †Recognizes "talking to God" as prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies bread as a common food. †Recognizes that celebrations involve food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Names special days and times in family and in Church.
PRIMARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes the Sign of the Cross as our prayer for naming God. †Indicates prayer as addressing God in praise, thanksgiving, contrition, and petition. †Practices praying in song, gesture, movement, art, and drama. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes the Eucharist as Jesus' gift of Himself. †Identifies sacraments as celebrations of Jesus' love. †Recognizes that the sacrament of Reconciliation is a sign of Jesus' love, mercy, and forgiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Identifies Advent as a time of waiting and preparing for the birth of Christ at Christmas. †Names Lent as the period from Ash Wednesday through Holy Thursday and Good Friday where we pray, sacrifice and reach out to others in preparation for Easter. †Identifies Easter as the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.
INTERMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recalls the prayers in our Tradition and selected Psalms. †Identifies various prayer forms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Lists the Sacraments of Initiation. †Identifies the Eucharist as the source and sign of unity in the Church. †Recalls Christ's action in our lives through the sacraments. †Recognizes grace as coming from the sacraments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Traces the cycle of the liturgical calendar.
EARLY ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Distinguishes various elements of prayer including praise, thanksgiving, contrition, and petition. †Composes prayers. †Practices imaginative prayer. †Practices meditative prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Indicates the ritual and rite for each sacrament. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Recognizes the significance of the major events of Christ's life as they apply to daily life.

	1. DEMONSTRATES AN UNDERSTANDING OF AN EXPERIENCE WITH DIFFERENT WAYS OF RELATING TO GOD IN PRAYER ON A PERSONAL LEVEL AND IN COMMUNITY	2. DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF SACRAMENTS, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE CENTRALITY OF THE EUCHARIST, IN THE LIFE OF CATHOLICS	3. DEMONSTRATES RECOGNITION OF THE SACREDNESS OF TIME THROUGH THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOURS, THE LITURGICAL SEASONS AND SPECIAL FEASTS AND DAYS
LATER ADOLESCENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Plans and participates in prayer services and liturgies. †Develops appropriate ministerial skills: reading/lector; server; music; etc. †Plans and participates in retreat experiences. †Organizes personal prayer life including the theme of stewardship. †Defines meditation and contemplative prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Relates the communal nature of the sacraments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Names and describes the seasons and major celebrations of the liturgical calendar.
ADULT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Demonstrates different ways of relating to God in prayer on a personal level and in community. †Practices different methods of prayer, seeking a method compatible with one's spiritual growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Judges the Eucharist as essential to one's growth in faith personally and communally. †Identifies the sacraments as gifts from God for growth in faith personally and communally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Detects God's presence in time and celebrates that presence both individually and communally.

VII
GOD CALLS US TO LOVE AND SERVE OUR NEIGHBOR

	1. ENGAGES IN ACTIVITIES THAT DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF AND PERSONAL WITNESS TO CHRIST'S COMMAND TO LOVE AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER	2. ENGAGES IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL CALL	3. CRITIQUES SOCIETAL STRUCTURES IN THE LIGHT OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE PRINCIPLES AND APPLIES THEM TO SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SITUATIONS	4. ACKNOWLEDGES AND AFFIRMS THE DIVERSE CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS OF CATHOLICISM
EARLY CHILDHOOD	†Recognizes and responds when another is hurting or needs help.	†Practices simple acts of service.	†Names the importance of each person in one's family.	†Identifies children of various cultures and groups.
PRIMARY	†Demonstrates an awareness of learning compassion, loving actions and sharing with others. †Recognizes that Jesus sums up the commandments for us in His commandment of love.	†Understands that as Christians we are called to lead just and peaceful lives in the service of God, others, and by loving ourselves. †Practices acts of service.	†States how the Church works for love, justice, and peace.	†Recognizes that Catholicism extends to people of all races and nationalities.
INTERMEDIATE	†Recognizes holiness as caring about others as Jesus cared about us. †Identifies the Works of Mercy as ways to live out concern for others. †Recognizes the need to reach out to the needy as continuing the work of Jesus.	†Applies the call to love neighbor as self. †Practices acts of service.	†Recognizes the work of the Church as love, peace, justice. †States the Church's teaching to halt the arms race and other injustices.	†Compares cultural expressions of Catholicism as it is lived locally, e.g., Hispanic, African American, Vietnamese, Polish, Ethiopian, Chinese, etc.
EARLY ADOLESCENCE	†Employs acts of service to demonstrate love for others.	†Identifies practical acts of service in family, community, and Church. †Practices acts of service.	†Identifies the principles of social justice. †Determines rules based on fairness for the groups to which one belongs.	†Explores the concept that different is good. †Names the various rites within the Catholic Church. †Identifies the gifts of different cultural expressions of Catholicism.

	1. ENGAGES IN ACTIVITIES THAT DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF AND PERSONAL WITNESS TO CHRIST'S COMMAND TO LOVE AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER	2. ENGAGES IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL CALL	3. CRITIQUES SOCIETAL STRUCTURES IN THE LIGHT OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE PRINCIPLES AND APPLIES THEM TO SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SITUATIONS	4. ACKNOWLEDGES AND AFFIRMS THE DIVERSE CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS OF CATHOLICISM
LATER ADOLESCENCE	†Contrasts acts of service done for others from human motives and acts of service done for love of Christ.	†Explains how scripture is the basis for the Church's teachings on social justice. †Determines a plan of action for one's personal service to others.	†Identifies "social sin." †Applies the Church's social teachings to current situations and problems. †Describes and explains the Church's teachings on life issues such as abortion, capital punishment, war and peace, euthanasia, poverty, etc. †Identifies the key points of the major social encyclicals (Rerum Novarum, Quadragesimo Anno, Pacem in Terris, etc.).	†Describes the impact of concepts such as "global village."
ADULT	†Integrates the message of Christ to love and serve one another.	†Conforms one's life to the great commandment. †Organizes one's life to include service to the community.	†Applies oneself to the solution of injustices wherever found in the world. †Critiques publicly and fearlessly the injustices existing around oneself.	†Plans ways to grow in knowledge and experience of diverse cultural expressions as gifts from God.

SPECIFIC CATEGORIES WITH AGE-APPROPRIATE SKILLS
EARLY CHILDHOOD - AGES 3-5

I. The Mystery of God, Creator of all things.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of God as Creator of all things.***
 - Names God as maker of all elements of nature.
 - Recognizes all creation as a gift of God's love.
 - Recognizes self as gift of God's creation.
2. ***Understands the human person as imaging God.***
 - Recognizes self as unique, lovable, and having personal worth.
 - Recognizes and expresses personal feelings.
 - Demonstrates the need for familial love and unity.
3. ***Recognizes the inter-connectedness of humans with all creation.***
 - Recognizes how all created life is intended to live together.
 - Practices kindness toward others, animals, and nature.
4. ***Recognizes the call to continuing creation by further developing the Kingdom of God.***
 - Demonstrates personal ability to make choices for good.
 - Develops a sense of belonging to many groups.
 - Illustrates respect and care for one's environment.

II. The Mystery of Christ, the Incarnate Word of God.

1. ***Articulates an understanding of the Incarnation: the Word of God, enfleshed in Jesus Christ.***
 - Identifies that God sent Jesus to God's people as a very special gift of love.
 - Recognizes that Jesus was sent to show God's people how to love one another.
 - Explains that Jesus first came to people as a baby in Bethlehem.
 - Expresses that Jesus is God.
2. ***Articulates an understanding of Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the distinctive sign of Christian faith.***
 - Identifies Jesus as the greatest teacher.
 - Illustrates that Jesus gave His life for all people.
 - States that Jesus brought new life and hope.
3. ***Recognizes that through Jesus, God established a relationship of particular intimacy with us.***
 - Names Jesus as a model of how people are to love one another.
 - Recognizes that Jesus loves children.
 - States that God sent Jesus to God's people as a special gift.

III. The Mystery of the Holy Spirit, the loving presence of God.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as being the Spirit of God who reveals God and makes Christ known to us.***
 - Indicates the presence of God as like parents who are there but cannot always be seen.
2. ***Articulates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the one who awakes us to faith.***
 - Develops a sense of belonging to the church family.
 - Recognizes personal feelings about God.
3. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the vibrant presence of God in the Church and the World.***
 - Recognizes peace, joy and hope as signs of God's presence.

IV. The Mystery of the Church, the People of God.

1. ***Identifies the covenants revealed in the Scriptures as extending to all creation.***
 - Recognizes that God loves all people.
2. ***Demonstrates an understanding of and an appreciation for active participation in a community of faith.***
 - Recognizes the relationship of home and family activities to Church activities.
 - Recognizes self as a member of the family of God.
3. ***Identifies the context of the Scriptures and their role in the development of the Church.***
 - Recognizes the Bible as a special book.
 - Recognizes that God does wonderful things for people.
4. ***Articulates the nature of Tradition and its role in the development of the Church.***
 - Recognizes self as a member of the family of God.
 - Recites traditions in one's family of origin.
5. ***Articulates the nature of sacrament and sacramentality and their role in the development of the People of God.***
 - Identifies basic signs.
 - Practices simple rituals.
6. ***Illustrates a basic understanding of the documentary tradition of the universal, national, and local Church.***
7. ***Illustrates a basic understanding of the history of the Church.***
 - Repeats stories of people in the history of the Church.

V. God Teaches Us How to Live Out Our Salvation.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Paschal Mystery and the various ways we encounter it in daily living.***
 - States that Jesus brought new life and hope.
 - Identifies heaven as a place of happiness.
2. ***Demonstrates the ability to apply the commandment of love by making life decisions within the Christian moral framework.***

- Names ways of showing love and being loved.
- Recognizes the need to express sorrow.
- 3. ***Demonstrates the relationship between faith and culture as it is found in the arts, sciences, and technology.***
 - Practices self-expression through drama, art, song, and gesture.
- 4. ***Applies Catholic principles to interpersonal relationships as found in the family, the workplace, society and the Church.***
 - Defines self through the experience of relationship.
 - Distinguishes types of relationships in one's experience.
- 5. ***Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.***
 - Illustrates how to care for people, pets, plants, etc.
- 6. ***Examines the variety of Christian life-styles as ways of responding to the Baptismal call to a life of service.***
 - Names vocations to service.
 - Identifies the ritual of baptism.

VI. God Invites Us Into Relationship Through Personal Prayer and Through Community Worship.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of and an experience with different ways of relating to God in prayer on a personal level and in community.***
 - Recognizes quiet as appropriate for prayer.
 - Recites various prayers.
 - Recognizes "talking to God" as prayer.
2. ***Demonstrates the importance of Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.***
 - Identifies bread as a common food.
 - Recognizes that celebrations involve food.
3. ***Demonstrates recognition of the sacredness of time through the celebration of the hours, the liturgical seasons and special feasts and days.***
 - Names special days and times in family and in Church.

VII. God Calls Us To Love and Serve Our Neighbor.

1. ***Engages in activities that demonstrate an understanding of and personal witness to Christ's command to love and serve one another.***
 - Recognizes and responds when another is hurting or needs help.
2. ***Engages in service to the community in response to the Gospel call.***
 - Practices simple acts of service.
3. ***Critiques societal structures in the light of Catholic social justice principles and applies them to social and personal situations.***
 - Names the importance of each person in one's family.
4. ***Acknowledges and affirms the diverse cultural expressions of Catholicism.***
 - Identifies children of various cultures and groups.

**SPECIFIC CATEGORIES WITH AGE-APPROPRIATE SKILLS
PRIMARY - AGES 6-8**

I. The Mystery of God, Creator of all things.

- 1. *Demonstrates an understanding of God as creator of all things.***
 - Identifies how God's love is like the unconditional love of a caring parent.
 - Indicates that God is always willing to forgive us through Jesus.
 - Identifies God as the Creator of all things.
- 2. *Understands the human person as imaging God.***
 - Indicates that God created each of us to share in God's love and truth.
 - Recognizes moments of shared love as a reflection of God's love.
- 3. *Recognizes the inter-connectedness of humans with all creation.***
 - Identifies all of creation as gift.
 - Recognizes all of creation as interdependent.
 - Recognizes that the innate value of things and persons comes from being created by God.
- 4. *Recognizes the call to continuing creation by further developing the Kingdom of God.***
 - Demonstrates choices for the good of all.

II. The Mystery of Christ, the Incarnate Word of God.

- 1. *Articulates an understanding of the Incarnation: the Word of God, enfleshed in Jesus Christ.***
 - Names Jesus as a person like us who grew up in a holy family with Mary and Joseph.
 - Understands that Jesus came to bring us God's word.
- 2. *Articulates an understanding of Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the distinctive sign of Christian faith.***
 - Describes the events of Jesus' life and ministry.
 - Explains that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to save us and give us new life.
- 3. *Recognizes that through Jesus, God established a relationship of particular intimacy with us.***
 - Recalls Jesus as being God's most special gift and present to us today.
 - Identifies Jesus as the son of God, savior, friend, and brother.
 - Recognizes that Jesus lived a life of prayer and served people in need.
 - Recognizes that Jesus offers everyone God's forgiveness.

III. The Mystery of the Holy Spirit, the loving presence of God.

- 1. *Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as being the Spirit of God who reveals God and makes Christ known to us.***
 - Recognizes that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - Illustrates an understanding of the Spirit as God's presence in our lives.
- 2. *Articulates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the one who awakens us to faith.***

- Explains that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples on Pentecost.
 - Describes the Holy Spirit as the one who inspires and strengthens us to live a good life.
 - States how the Holy Spirit gifts us with strength and joy and the help to live together in peace.
3. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the vibrant presence of God in the Church and the World.***
- Names the special gifts of the Spirit.
 - Illustrates ways these special gifts are evident in the life of the Church.
 - Illustrates ways these special gifts are evident in the world.

IV. The Mystery of the Church, the People of God.

1. ***Identifies the covenants revealed in the Scriptures as extending to all creation.***
- Explains how Jesus was the Messiah promised to free all people.
2. ***Demonstrates an understanding of and an appreciation for active participation in a community of faith.***
- Recognizes that the people of God are the Church.
 - Illustrates the work of the Church as continuing the work of Jesus through community building, preaching the Word, worship and service.
 - Identifies God's presence everywhere, especially in and through other people and the Church.
3. ***Identifies the context of the Scriptures and their role in the development of the Church.***
- Illustrates that the Bible was written by different people under the guidance of the Spirit.
 - Recognizes the Bible as the story of God's love for all of us.
 - Identifies the major divisions of the Bible.
 - Recognizes the New Testament as telling us about Jesus as God and man.
4. ***Articulates the nature of Tradition and its role in the development of the Church.***
- Names the principle elements of the Creed.
 - Relates family traditions to Church traditions.
5. ***Articulates the nature of sacrament and sacramentality and their role in the development of the People of God.***
- Identifies signs of God's love in the universe.
 - Identifies sacraments as celebrations of Jesus' love.
 - Recognizes the meaning of the signs and symbols used in the sacraments.
 - Names grace as God's life in us.
6. ***Illustrates a basic understanding of the documentary tradition of the universal, national, and local Church.***
- Recognizes that church leaders communicate with the faithful through writings.
7. ***Illustrates a basic understanding of the history of the Church.***
- Relates an understanding of how the first Christians were followers of Jesus and formed the earliest Christian communities.
 - Recalls stories of saints and other famous Christians.

V. God Teaches Us How to Live Out Our Salvation.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Paschal Mystery and the various ways we encounter it in daily living.***
 - Compares the new life that is ours after death to the many things in nature that grow and change into a new life.
 - Explains that we each have a special part in God's plan and, in God's plan, dying is not the end of life; heaven is forever.
2. ***Demonstrates the ability to apply the commandment of love by making life decisions within the Christian moral framework.***
 - Illustrates how God gives us freedom to make choices.
 - Recognizes the need to express sorrow for choices made or missed and not in accord with the Christian moral framework.
 - Illustrates the ten commandments as guides for loving God and loving neighbor.
3. ***Demonstrates the relationship between faith and culture as it is found in the arts, sciences, and technology.***
 - Identifies examples of Christian teaching as found in our present culture.
 - Names examples of cultural faith expressions through drama, art, song, and gesture.
 - Names the contributions of various cultures to expressions of faith.
 - Recognizes faith values as experienced through art, science and the use of technology.
4. ***Applies Catholic principles to interpersonal relationships as found in the family, the workplace, society and the Church.***
 - Associates our beliefs with our shaping of the way we relate to our family and friends.
 - Describes that Christ's love and teachings are for all people, regardless of individual needs, nationality, etc.
5. ***Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.***
 - Demonstrates the responsibility to respect all of God's creation.
 - Defines the role of steward.
 - Recognizes the value of time as a gift given and received.
 - Identifies the value of one's talents as given by God and shared through service.
 - Demonstrates the concept of tithing and sharing treasures.
6. ***Examines the variety of Christian life-styles as ways of responding to the baptismal call to a life of service.***
 - Recognizes that followers of Jesus are called Christians through Baptism.
 - Recognizes that Baptism calls us to the service of others through the married, ordained, vowed religious, or single life.
 - Recognizes saints as people who lived the call of the gospel.

VI. God Invites Us Into Relationship Through Personal Prayer and Through Community Worship.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of and an experience with different ways of relating to God in prayer on a personal level and in community.***
 - Recognizes the Sign of the Cross as our prayer for naming God.
 - Indicates prayer as addressing God in praise, thanksgiving, contrition, and petition.
 - Practices praying in song, gesture, movement, art, and drama.
2. ***Demonstrates the importance of Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.***
 - Recognizes the Eucharist as Jesus' gift of Himself.

- Identifies sacraments as celebrations of Jesus' love.
- Recognizes that the sacrament of Reconciliation is a sign of Jesus' love, mercy, and forgiveness.
- 3. ***Demonstrates recognition of the sacredness of time through the celebration of the hours, the liturgical seasons and special feasts and days.***
 - Identifies Advent as a time of waiting and preparing for the birth of Christ at Christmas.
 - Names Lent as the period from Ash Wednesday through Holy Thursday and Good Friday where we pray, sacrifice, and reach out to others in preparation for Easter.
 - Identifies Easter as the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

VII. God Calls Us To Love and Serve Our Neighbor.

1. ***Engages in activities that demonstrate an understanding of and personal witness to Christ's command to love and serve one another.***
 - Demonstrates an awareness of learning compassion, loving actions, and sharing with others.
 - Recognizes that Jesus sums up the commandments for us in His commandment of love.
2. ***Engages in service to the community in response to the Gospel call.***
 - Understands that as Christians we are called to lead just and peaceful lives in the service of God, others, and by loving ourselves.
 - Practices acts of service.
3. ***Critiques societal structures in the light of Catholic social justice principles and applies them to social and personal situations.***
 - States how the Church works for love, justice, and peace.
4. ***Acknowledges and affirms the diverse cultural expressions of Catholicism.***
 - Recognizes that Catholicism extends to people of all races and nationalities.

**SPECIFIC CATEGORIES WITH AGE-APPROPRIATE SKILLS
INTERMEDIATE - AGES 8-10**

I. The Mystery of God, Creator of all things.

- 1. *Demonstrates an understanding of God as creator of all things.***
 - Recognizes God as faithful, merciful, and forgiving.
 - Explains goodness and love as coming from God.
 - Recognizes God as always present in creation.
 - Recalls that God continues to create for our enjoyment, respect, and stewardship.
 - Defines God as a God of freedom.
 - Identifies how God teaches and heals us through Jesus.
- 2. *Understands the human person as imaging God.***
 - Explains our call from God to love and respect ourselves and others.
 - Describes the gift of grace as God's presence in the human person.
 - Explains how we are images of God's love.
 - Recognizes the sexual dimension of being fully human.
- 3. *Recognizes the inter-connectedness of humans with all creation.***
 - Recognizes that all creation is mutually dependent for survival.
 - Identifies the giftedness of created things.
 - Recognizes that all creation is a system of interrelated parts.
- 4. *Recognizes the call to continuing creation by further developing the Kingdom of God.***
 - Demonstrates an understanding of the Kingdom of God.

II. The Mystery of Christ, the Incarnate Word of God.

- 1. *Articulates an understanding of the Incarnation: the Word of God, enfleshed in Jesus Christ.***
 - Recalls that Christ is fully human and fully divine.
 - Describes Christ as the sacrament of God and greatest sign of God's love.
- 2. *Articulates an understanding of Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the distinctive sign of Christian faith.***
 - Identifies Jesus as the example of Christian life and love.
 - Discusses how Jesus was tempted and overcame temptation through God's grace.
 - Recognizes Jesus as teacher, storyteller, and prophet.
- 3. *Recognizes that through Jesus, God established a relationship of particular intimacy with us.***
 - Illustrates how Jesus teaches us to live according to the greatest commandment, the beatitudes and the ten commandments.
 - Recalls that God offers forgiveness to everyone through Jesus.

III. The Mystery of the Holy Spirit, the loving presence of God.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as being the Spirit of God who reveals God and makes Christ known to us.***
 - Describes the Trinity of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.
 - Explains that Jesus sent the Spirit to be present in our lives.
2. ***Articulates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the one who awakens us to faith.***
 - Recognizes the Holy Spirit as helper, guide, and inspiration.
 - Identifies the Holy Spirit as the one who helps us to pray.
 - Recalls that the Holy Spirit helps us live by Jesus' example.
 - Explains the role of the Spirit on Pentecost.
 - Explores the gifts of the Spirit in relation to one's own life.
3. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the vibrant presence of God in the Church and the World.***
 - Identifies the Spirit as the force that draws Jesus' followers into one Christian family.
 - Recalls the role of the Spirit, giving life to the Church.
 - Identifies the symbols of the Spirit: wind, breath, fire.

IV. The Mystery of the Church, the People of God.

1. ***Identifies the covenants revealed in the Scriptures as extending to all creation.***
 - Identifies promise as the basis of all relationships.
 - Identifies covenant as a relationship.
 - Defines the conditions for a covenant.
 - Relates faithfulness to promise and covenant.
 - Illustrates fidelity in the experiences of God's people throughout history.
2. ***Demonstrates an understanding of and an appreciation for active participation in a community of faith.***
 - Recalls the Catholic Church as the community of God's people.
 - Describes the Church's method of welcoming new members as a process of initiation.
 - Identifies the Church community as the light of Christ and as servant to the world.
 - Recalls the Church as the body of Christ.
 - Recognizes the presence of the risen Christ in the Church.
 - Relates the mission of the Church to Jesus' ministries of community, word, worship, and service.
3. ***Identifies the context of the Scriptures and their role in the development of the Church.***
 - Lists the organization of the Bible: books, chapters, verses.
 - Names the Scripture as revealing God.
 - Recognizes prayer in the Scriptures, especially the Psalms, as the prayer of the Church.
 - Recalls the biblical teaching about God's goodness in us and all creation.
 - Identifies the biblical teaching about moral choice.

- Explains the structure of the Bible: number of books, general types of writing, main divisions.
 - Recalls the authorship of the Bible as several and varied people.
 - Identifies the purpose of the Bible as telling God's story and the story of God's people.
4. ***Articulates the nature of Tradition and its role in the development of the Church.***
 - Describes Tradition as referring to the living transmission of all that the Church is and believes.
 - Describes the sources of Church teaching as Scripture and Tradition.
 - Defines statements of belief in the Creed.
 5. ***Articulates the nature of sacrament and sacramentality and their role in the development of the People of God.***
 - Identifies the Church as the sacrament of Christ in the world.
 - Explains the unifying power of using signs and symbols.
 - Relates that Jesus' presence and work in our lives is celebrated in the seven sacraments.
 - Recognizes grace as God's life in us.
 - Identifies the Sacraments of Initiation, Healing, and Commitment.
 6. ***Illustrates a basic understanding of the documentary tradition of the universal, national, and local Church.***
 - Recognizes the different types of writings used by Church leaders to communicate with the faithful.
 - Articulates how these writings have built upon one another through the ages to express understanding of truth and practice.
 7. ***Illustrates a basic understanding of the history of the Church.***
 - Recognizes that the roots of Christianity are Jewish.
 - States that Catholicism is one form of Christianity.
 - Identifies the four marks of the Church as one, catholic, holy, and apostolic.

V. God Teaches Us How to Live Out Our Salvation.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Paschal Mystery and the various ways we encounter it in daily living.***
 - Recognizes that the Paschal Mystery consists of the death and resurrection of Christ.
 - Identifies the Paschal Mystery as God's saving action accomplished once and for all.
 - Names the reality of good and evil in the world.
 - Demonstrates how Jesus' death and resurrection are the atonement for evil in the world.
2. ***Demonstrates the ability to apply the commandment of love by making life decisions within the Christian moral framework.***
 - Identifies selfishness as the basis of evil.
 - Identifies sin as unloving choices which turn us away from God and creation.
 - Identifies the conditions for serious sin.
 - Recognizes Jesus' commandment as the summary for all other commandments.
 - Recalls the ten commandments as guides for loving God and others.
 - Explains the Church's teaching of the true dignity and worth of each person.

- Identifies the beatitudes as guides for living happily.
- 3. ***Demonstrates the relationship between faith and culture as it is found in the arts, sciences, and technology.***
 - Relates aspects of culture to gospel values.
 - Produces examples of cultural faith expressions through drama, art, song, and gesture.
 - Applies knowledge of faith to the arts, sciences, and use of technology.
- 4. ***Applies Catholic principles to interpersonal relationships as found in the family, the workplace, society and the Church.***
 - Associates one's relationship to others with one's relationship to Jesus.
 - Identifies the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.
- 5. ***Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.***
 - Identifies the need to care for and respect all creation.
 - Indicates the biblical roots of stewardship.
 - Recalls the role of steward.
 - Compares the concepts of steward and owner.
 - Recalls one's talents and the use of these talents.
- 6. ***Examines the variety of Christian life-styles as ways of responding to the baptismal call to a life of service.***
 - Names different vocations.
 - Defines the service element of each vocation.

VI. God Invites Us Into Relationship Through Personal Prayer and Through Community Worship.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of and an experience with different ways of relating to God in prayer on a personal level and in community.***
 - Recalls the prayers in our Tradition and selected Psalms.
 - Identifies various prayer forms.
2. ***Demonstrates the importance of Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.***
 - Lists the Sacraments of Initiation.
 - Identifies the Eucharist as the source and sign of unity in the Church.
 - Recalls Christ's action in our lives through the sacraments.
 - Recognizes grace as coming from the sacraments.
3. ***Demonstrates recognition of the sacredness of time through the celebration of the hours, the liturgical seasons and special feasts and days.***
 - Traces the cycle of the liturgical calendar.

VII. God Calls Us To Love and Serve Our Neighbor.

1. ***Engages in activities that demonstrate an understanding of and personal witness to Christ's command to love and serve one another.***

- Recognizes holiness as caring about others as Jesus cared about us..
 - Identifies the Works of Mercy as ways to live out concern for others.
 - Recognizes the need to reach out to the needy as continuing the work of Jesus.
2. ***Engages in service to the community in response to the Gospel call.***
 - Applies the call to love neighbor as self.
 - Practices acts of service.
 3. ***Critiques societal structures in the light of Catholic social justice principles and applies them to social and personal situations.***
 - Recognizes the work of the Church as love, peace and justice.
 - States the Church's teaching to halt the arms race and other injustices.
 4. ***Acknowledges and affirms the diverse cultural expressions of Catholicism.***
 - Compares cultural expressions of Catholicism as it is lived locally, e.g., Hispanic, African American, Vietnamese, Polish, Ethiopian, Chinese, etc.

SPECIFIC CATEGORIES WITH AGE-APPROPRIATE SKILLS
EARLY ADOLESCENCE - AGES 11-to about 15

I. The Mystery of God, Creator of all things.

- 1. *Demonstrates an understanding of God as creator of all things.***
 - Recognizes God's faithfulness as a sign of trust in all creation.
 - Defines God as worthy of total trust.
 - Recognizes the presence of good and evil in the world.
- 2. *Understands the human person as imaging God.***
 - Explains masculinity and femininity as images of God.
 - Communicates with adults about sexuality in a Christian values context.
 - Recognizes the value and source of emotions.
 - Identifies human differences as gifts.
 - Demonstrates respect for the dignity of the human person.
- 3. *Recognizes the inter-connectedness of humans with all creation.***
 - Identifies ways of responsible use and re-use of resources.
- 4. *Recognizes the call to continuing creation by further developing the Kingdom of God.***
 - Explains how Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God.

II. The Mystery of Christ, the Incarnate Word of God.

- 1. *Articulates an understanding of the Incarnation: the Word of God, enfleshed in Jesus Christ.***
 - Explores one's relationship with Jesus--who Jesus is, his values, his intentions, motives and attitudes,-- as well as what he really proclaimed and how this relates to one's own life.
 - Describes the historical and social world of Jesus.
- 2. *Articulates an understanding of Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the distinctive sign of Christian faith.***
 - Demonstrates how Jesus' life and teaching gave human form to God's compassion.
 - Explains that Jesus shares the power of his resurrection with us by sending the Spirit.
 - Recalls that Jesus preached and practiced obedience to God's will.
- 3. *Recognizes that through Jesus, God established a relationship of particular intimacy with us.***
 - Recognizes Jesus as the perfect sign of God's presence.
 - Identifies Jesus as: the center of God's plan for the world, the mediator between God and his church, and the world's liberator.

III. The Mystery of the Holy Spirit, the loving presence of God.

- 1. *Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as being the Spirit of God who reveals God and makes Christ known to us.***
 - Explains Trinity as a community of three persons.

2. ***Articulates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the one who awakens us to faith.***
 - Distinguishes the role of the Spirit in moral decision-making.
 - Lists the gifts and fruits of the Spirit for living a life of faith.
 - Explains the role of the Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation.
3. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the vibrant presence of God in the Church and the World.***
 - Identifies specific signs of the Spirit's presence in the Church and in the world.
 - Names the different ministries in the Church and in the world as a response to a call from the Spirit.

IV. The Mystery of the Church, the People of God.

1. ***Identifies the covenants revealed in the Scriptures as extending to all creation.***
 - Identifies the Hebrew and Christian covenants revealed in Scripture.
 - Relates how God's covenants extend to all creation.
 - Names ways God is faithful in one's life.
2. ***Demonstrates an understanding of and an appreciation for active participation in a community of faith.***
 - Names ways people actively participate in a community of faith.
 - Identifies Church as a group of people with a distinctive spirit, sharing their talents in various roles to achieve a common goal.
 - Explains the marks of the Church as one, holy, catholic, apostolic.
 - Identifies one's personal gift for active participation in a community of faith.
3. ***Identifies the context of the Scriptures and their role in the development of the Church.***
 - Lists the characteristics of the early Christian communities using the Acts of the Apostles.
 - Lists the Christian Scripture passages which the Church uses to describe herself.
 - Describes the context and setting of Paul's letters as the early Church communities.
 - Outlines Paul's missionary journeys, sufferings and trials.
4. ***Articulates the nature of Tradition and its role in the development of the Church.***
 - Explores the elements of faith so as to develop a religious identity rooted in the community's ways and understandings.
 - Traces the meaning behind different religious words and concepts.
 - Names the four signs of God's presence: natural, liturgical, scriptural, and ecclesial.
 - Recites the Apostles' or Nicene Creed.
 - Distinguishes the roles of Scripture and Tradition in the life of the Church.
5. ***Articulates the nature of sacrament and sacramentality and their role in the development of the People of God.***
 - Identifies ritual in everyday activities.
 - Integrates signs and symbols into ritual.
 - Describes evidence of the presence and power of grace in the world.
6. ***Illustrates a basic understanding of the documentary tradition of the universal, national, and local Church.***
 - Derives religious information from a variety of sources.

- Identifies the documents of the Second Vatican Council.
 - Identifies the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a major resource.
7. ***Illustrates a basic understanding of the history of the Church.***
- Names the various rites within the Catholic Church.
 - Describes how the Church developed from Pentecost to the present.
 - Describes the structure of the ordained ministry of the Catholic Church.
 - Traces the historical development of the ministries and lifestyles within the Church.

V. God Teaches Us How to Live Out Our Salvation.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Paschal Mystery and the various ways we encounter it in daily living.***
- Explains Jesus as the source for the meaning of life's mysteries.
 - Relates the virtue of hope to daily living.
 - Relates that God judges each of us at death and all people at the end of time.
 - Explains the biblical understanding of heaven and hell.
2. ***Demonstrates the ability to apply the commandment of love by making life decisions within the Christian moral framework.***
- Applies techniques to control one's impulses.
 - Applies Christian values and decision-making skills to moral judgment questions.
 - Identifies signs of grace and sin.
 - Utilizes a specific process for making decisions that reflect one's religious values.
 - Distinguishes between right and wrong.
 - Distinguishes emotions and their value.
 - Demonstrates appropriate emotional response.
3. ***Demonstrates the relationship between faith and culture as it is found in the arts, sciences, and technology.***
- Discusses the impact of something read in the Bible on one's life.
 - Relates sacred and cultural symbols to religious concepts.
 - Identifies spiritual themes in different stories.
 - Recognizes the positive and negative messages in media.
4. ***Applies Catholic principles to interpersonal relationships as found in the family, the workplace, society and the Church.***
- Names the precepts of the Church.
 - Identifies how people today can relate to Mary.
 - Applies the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy to contemporary social and spiritual problems.
5. ***Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.***
- Examines the concept of stewardship.
 - Identifies scriptural passages referring to stewardship.
 - Determines one's talents for Christian ministry.

6. ***Examines the variety of Christian life-styles as ways of responding to the baptismal call to a life of service.***
 - Explains how Jesus calls disciples today to continue his mission.
 - Explains how people today live the spirit of the beatitudes.
 - Traces the service aspects of various life-styles identified in family and friends.

VI. God Invites Us Into Relationship Through Personal Prayer and Through Community Worship.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of and an experience with different ways of relating to God in prayer on a personal level and in community.***
 - Distinguishes various elements of prayer including praise, thanksgiving, contrition, and petition.
 - Composes prayers.
 - Practices imaginative prayer.
 - Practices meditative prayer.
2. ***Demonstrates the importance of sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.***
 - Indicates the ritual and rite for each sacrament.
3. ***Demonstrates recognition of the sacredness of time through the celebration of the hours, the liturgical seasons and special feasts and days.***
 - Recognizes the significance of the major events of Christ's life as they apply to daily life.

VII. God Calls Us To Love and Serve Our Neighbor.

1. ***Engages in activities that demonstrate an understanding of and personal witness to Christ's command to love and serve one another.***
 - Employs acts of service to demonstrate love for others.
2. ***Engages in service to the community in response to the Gospel call.***
 - Identifies practical acts of service in family, community, and Church.
 - Practices acts of service.
3. ***Critiques societal structures in the light of Catholic social justice principles and applies them to social and personal situations.***
 - Identifies the principles of social justice.
 - Determines rules based on fairness for the groups to which one belongs.
4. ***Acknowledges and affirms the diverse cultural expressions of Catholicism.***
 - Explores the concept that different is good.
 - Names the various rites within the Catholic church.
 - Identifies the gifts of different cultural expressions of Catholicism.

**SPECIFIC CATEGORIES WITH AGE-APPROPRIATE SKILLS
LATER ADOLESCENCE - AGES about 16 TO 19**

I. The Mystery of God, Creator of all things.

- 1. *Demonstrates an understanding of God as creator of all things.***
 - Identifies the attributes of God as all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving; intimately involved in our lives.
 - Explores images and concepts of God.
- 2. *Understands the human person as imaging God.***
 - Explains the Christian view of sexuality and intimacy.
 - Demonstrates the balance between personal integrity and close relationships.
- 3. *Recognizes the inter-connectedness of humans with all creation.***
 - Practices care for the earth.
- 4. *Recognizes the call to continuing creation by further developing the Kingdom of God.***
 - Describes the call to conversion, to live the vision, values and lifestyle of the Kingdom of God.

II. The Mystery of Christ, the Incarnate Word of God.

- 1. *Articulates an understanding of the Incarnation: the Word of God, enfleshed in Jesus Christ.***
 - Evaluates Jesus as the model of a completely faithful person.
 - Explores ways of relating to Jesus today.
 - Describes Jesus as a person of prayer.
 - Relates Jesus' teachings on prayer.
- 2. *Articulates an understanding of Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the distinctive sign of Christian faith.***
 - Relates key themes of Jesus' life, mission and message.
 - Outlines Jesus' death, resurrection and ongoing presence.
- 3. *Recognizes that through Jesus, God established a relationship of particular intimacy with us.***
 - Explains Jesus' relationship with his Father and his image of God.
 - Explains ways to develop a richer, more mature relationship with Jesus.

III. The Mystery of the Holy Spirit, the loving presence of God.

- 1. *Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as being the Spirit of God who reveals God and makes Christ known to us.***
 - Explores multiple images of God.
- 2. *Articulates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the one who awakens us to faith.***
 - Identifies the tools of the process of discernment.
 - Traces the movement of the Spirit in one's own life.
- 3. *Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the vibrant presence of God in the Church and the World.***

- Identifies the Spirit in the Church throughout history.

IV. The Mystery of the Church, the People of God.

1. ***Identifies the covenants revealed in the Scriptures as extending to all creation.***
 - Practices faithfulness to the covenant.
 - Relates the meaning and experience of revelation and of God's actions in learners' lives.
 - Names the covenants found in the relationships of one's life.
2. ***Demonstrates an understanding of and an appreciation for active participation in a community of faith.***
 - Reflects on present faith growth and struggles.
 - Develops skills for reflection.
 - Integrates Catholic Christian beliefs into one's personal identity.
 - Distinguishes the terms "faith," "religion," "theology" and "belief."
 - Describes faith as a personal response to God's call and as leading to active discipleship.
3. ***Identifies the context of the Scriptures and their role in the development of the Church.***
 - Defines the three stages of Gospel development.
 - Defines revelation and inspiration and biblical interpretation.
 - Recognizes the writing styles of the evangelists and the structure of the gospels.
 - Outlines the unique presentations of Jesus and the good news in the gospels.
 - Explores in depth one particular synoptic gospel.
 - Outlines the growth, composition, historical development, writing styles, methods, and structure of the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - Relates the reading and interpreting of the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - Explores the major themes and life questions of the Hebrew Scriptures and their relevance to today.
 - Identifies the major practical and pastoral problems to which Paul responded.
 - Relates the major theological themes of Paul's letters, especially his letters to the Galatians and the Romans.
4. ***Articulates the nature of Tradition and its role in the development of the Church.***
 - Explains the basic tenets of faith as expressed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.
 - Develops a personal creed.
 - Identifies Tradition as the doctrine, life and worship of the Church.
5. ***Articulates the nature of sacrament and sacramentality and their role in the development of the People of God.***
 - Identifies the eucharistic liturgy as the expression of our faith in ritual action.
 - Explains the role of symbols and signs in human culture.
 - Demonstrates one's faith in ritual action.
 - Relates the communal nature of the sacraments.
 - Defines sacraments as signs which effect what they symbolize.
6. ***Illustrates a basic understanding of the documentary tradition of the universal, national, and local Church.***

- Defines the various levels of consultation within the Church.
 - Differentiates among doctrine, dogma, and the hierarchy of truths.
 - Identifies the basic organization of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
7. ***Illustrates a basic understanding of the history of the Church.***
- Describes the beliefs and faith traditions of the major Christian churches--their uniqueness and what they share in common with the Catholic Christian Church.
 - Articulates that the communion of saints reminds us that the Church transcends both time and space.

V. God Teaches Us How to Live Out Our Salvation.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Paschal Mystery and the various ways we encounter it in daily living.***
 - Recognizes that life is a constant process of dyings and risings.
 - Names the stages of death and dying.
2. ***Demonstrates the ability to apply the commandment of love by making life decisions within the Christian moral framework.***
 - Explains the value and dangers of dating.
 - Traces the development of a sexual identity.
 - Utilizes Catholic Christian moral principles emphasizing responsibility for one's moral values, actions and lifestyles.
 - Relates the need for moral values and principles.
 - Evaluates moral dilemmas and their resolution.
3. ***Demonstrates the relationship between faith and culture as it is found in the arts, sciences, and technology.***
 - Develops skills to critically reflect on youth culture and societal values in the light of Catholic Christian moral values.
 - Extrapolates religious information and values from the arts, sciences, and technology.
4. ***Applies Catholic principles to interpersonal relationships as found in the family, the workplace, society and the Church.***
 - Describes a system of moral decision-making based on Catholic principles.
 - Applies that system to traditional and contemporary problems, and to one's own personal choices.
 - Evaluates elements in modern culture according to gospel values (materialism, racism, promiscuity, etc.)
 - Evaluates media, social groups, and government using Christian principles.
 - Defines key elements in the Christian moral life: grace, sin, conversion, redemption, freedom, conscience, personal responsibility, and Jesus as norm.
5. ***Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.***
 - Applies the concept of stewardship to specific situations.
 - Applies scriptural passages on stewardship to contemporary situations.
 - Evaluates one's use of time, talent, and treasure as a solution to situations of personal and social injustice.
 - Examines the need for prayer in a life of stewardship.
6. ***Examines the variety of Christian life-styles as ways of responding to the baptismal call to a life of service.***
 - Differentiates the baptismal vocations within the Church.

- Applies one's baptismal call as a call to ministry in one's work in the world.
- Relates discipleship to citizenship.

VI. God Invites Us Into Relationship Through Personal Prayer and Through Community Worship.

- 1. Demonstrates an understanding of and an experience with different ways of relating to God in prayer on a personal level and in community.***
 - Plans and participates in prayer services and liturgies.
 - Develops appropriate ministerial skills: reading/lector, server, music, etc.
 - Plans and participates in retreat experiences.
 - Organizes personal prayer life including the theme of stewardship.
 - Defines meditation and contemplative prayer.
- 2. Demonstrates the importance of Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.***
 - Relates the communal nature of the sacraments.
- 3. Demonstrates recognition of the sacredness of time through the celebration of the hours, the liturgical seasons and special feasts and days.***
 - Names and describes the seasons and major celebrations of the liturgical calendar.

VII. God Calls Us To Love and Serve Our Neighbor.

- 1. Engages in activities that demonstrate an understanding of and personal witness to Christ's command to love and serve one another.***
 - Contrasts acts of service done for others from human motives and acts of service done for love of Christ.
- 2. Engages in service to the community in response to the Gospel call.***
 - Explains how scripture is the basis for the Church's teachings on social justice.
 - Determines a plan of action for one's personal service to others.
- 3. Critiques societal structures in the light of Catholic social justice principles and applies them to social and personal situations.***
 - Identifies "social sin."
 - Applies the Church's social teachings to current situations and problems.
 - Describes and explains the Church's teachings on life issues such as abortion, capital punishment, war and peace, euthanasia, poverty, etc.
 - Identifies the key points of the major social encyclicals (Rerum Novarum, Quadragesimo Anno, Pacem in Terris, etc.)
- 4. Acknowledges and affirms the diverse cultural expressions of Catholicism.***
 - Describes the impact of concepts such as "global village."

SPECIFIC CATEGORIES WITH AGE-APPROPRIATE SKILLS
ADULT - AGES 20 and on

I. The Mystery of God, Creator of all things.

- 1. *Demonstrates an understanding of God as creator of all things.***
 - Recognizes the paradox of God's immanence and transcendence.
 - Critiques the causes of good and evil in the world.
- 2. *Understands the human person as imaging God.***
 - Integrates the limitations of being human while approving the attainments and possibilities of humanity.
 - Examines the complementarity of the male and female roles.
- 3. *Recognizes the inter-connectedness of humans with all creation.***
 - Practices the responsibility of humans for the rest of creation.
 - Constructs one's life to preserve the goodness of creation.
- 4. *Recognizes the call to continuing creation by further developing the Kingdom of God.***
 - Distinguishes between the Kingdom of God and the Church.
 - Illustrates the struggle to bring the Kingdom of God into one's personal life and to bring oneself to the Kingdom of God.
 - Practices meeting others on their terms.

II. The Mystery of Christ, the Incarnate Word of God.

- 1. *Articulates an understanding of the Incarnation: the Word of God, enfleshed in Jesus Christ.***
 - Integrates Jesus as savior and friend into one's life.
 - Assesses Jesus' message as transformational.
- 2. *Articulates an understanding of Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the distinctive sign of Christian faith.***
 - Integrates the Paschal Mystery into one's life.
 - Recognizes the risen Christ as present in the body of Christ, the Church.
- 3. *Recognizes that through Jesus, God established a relationship of particular intimacy with us.***
 - Practices an intimate relationship with Jesus, modeled after one's experience of human relationships.

III. The Mystery of the Holy Spirit, the loving presence of God.

- 1. *Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as being the Spirit of God who reveals God and makes Christ known to us.***
 - Demonstrates the reality of the presence of the Spirit in the world.
 - Critiques the role of the Spirit in ongoing discernment.
- 2. *Articulates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the one who awakens us to faith.***
 - Explores the role of the Holy Spirit in one's personal coming-to-faith.
 - Integrates the celebration of Pentecost and the effects of one's personal coming-to-faith.

3. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the vibrant presence of God in the Church and the World.***
 - Assesses the work of the Holy Spirit and the accomplishments of the Church both globally and locally.

IV. The Mystery of the Church, the People of God.

1. ***Identifies the covenants revealed in the Scriptures as extending to all creation.***
 - Practices the concept of covenant in one's personal life and personal relationships.
2. ***Demonstrates an understanding of and an appreciation for active participation in a community of faith.***
 - Articulates the value of community for personal growth and for growth in faith.
3. ***Identifies the context of the Scriptures and their role in the development of the Church.***
 - Applies the inner meaning of the Scriptures in one's personal and communal life.
 - Relates the scriptural bases for the various models of the Church.
4. ***Articulates the nature of Tradition and its role in the development of the Church.***
 - Explores the value of Tradition in supporting and furthering one's faith-life.
5. ***Articulates the nature of sacrament and sacramentality and their role in the development of the People of God.***
 - Interprets the mystery of sacramentality and recognizes God's ability to penetrate humanity individually and communally through sacramental rites.
 - Recognizes that "secular" and "sacred" are two dimensions of the same reality.
6. ***Illustrates a basic understanding of the documentary tradition of the universal, national, and local Church.***
 - Demonstrates how the Church uses its documents to systematically reflect growth in faith.
 - Integrates the hierarchy of truths into one's theological reflections.
 - Differentiates between official Church teaching and theological opinions.
7. ***Illustrates a basic understanding of the history of the Church.***
 - Demonstrates how Tradition is carried forward through the history of the Church.
 - Demonstrates a knowledge of the principal events of Church history.
 - Assesses the nature of the Church as pilgrim, open to change and further growth.

V. God Teaches Us How to Live Out Our Salvation.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of the Paschal Mystery and the various ways we encounter it in daily living.***
 - Integrates one's personal life around the celebration of the Paschal Mystery.
 - Explains suffering and loss in the context of the Paschal Mystery.
2. ***Demonstrates the ability to apply the commandment of love by making life decisions within the Christian moral framework.***
 - Integrates the commandment of love into making life decisions.
 - Organizes a Christ-like vision of life as life-lived-for-others.
 - Develops a healthy sexual life based on the enfleshment of Christ's love for others above self.
3. ***Demonstrates the relationship between faith and culture as it is found in the arts, sciences, and technology.***

- Formulates moral values and Christian vision in the enjoyment of the arts and sciences.
- Measures the value of technology as an aid to a more Christ-centered life.
- Recognizes one's own gifts as gifts from God to the community.
- 4. ***Applies Catholic principles to interpersonal relationships as found in the family, the workplace, society and the Church.***
 - Integrates the Christian perspective into all human relationships.
 - Develops a family life based on recognizing the family as "domestic church."
 - Seeks ways to incorporate Christian principles and values into the workplace and into the public arena.
- 5. ***Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.***
 - Designs Christian stewardship into one's personal stance toward creation.
 - Plans a life based on time, talent and treasure as a response to one's baptismal call.
- 6. ***Examines the variety of Christian life-styles as ways of responding to the baptismal call to a life of service.***
 - Organizes a life-style in keeping with the Christian mission.
 - Tests one's beliefs through service to all creation.

VI. God Invites Us Into Relationship Through Personal Prayer and Through Community Worship.

1. ***Demonstrates an understanding of and an experience with different ways of relating to God in prayer on a personal level and in community.***
 - Demonstrates different ways of relating to God in prayer on a personal level and in community.
 - Practices different methods of prayer, seeking a method compatible with one's spiritual growth.
2. ***Demonstrates the importance of Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.***
 - Judges the Eucharist as essential to one's growth in faith personally and communally.
 - Identifies the sacraments as gifts from God for growth in faith personally and communally.
3. ***Demonstrates recognition of the sacredness of time through the celebration of the hours, the liturgical seasons and special feasts and days.***
 - Detects God's presence in time and celebrates that presence individually and communally.

VII. God Calls Us To Love and Serve Our Neighbor.

1. ***Engages in activities that demonstrate an understanding of and personal witness to Christ's command to love and serve one another.***
 - Integrates the message of Christ to love and serve one another.
2. ***Engages in service to the community in response to the Gospel call.***
 - Conforms one's life to the great commandment.
 - Organizes one's life to include service to the community.
3. ***Critiques societal structures in the light of Catholic social justice principles and applies them to social and personal situations.***
 - Applies oneself to the solution of injustices wherever found in the world.
 - Critiques publicly and fearlessly the injustices existing around oneself.

4. *Acknowledges and affirms the diverse cultural expressions of Catholicism.*
- Plans ways to grow in knowledge and experience of diverse cultural expressions as gifts from God.