

# Diocese of Richmond

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Office of the Bishop

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to introduce the diocesan catechetical curriculum for Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade for use in Parish Religious Education. This curriculum is designed to support parents, parishes and catechists in handing on the faith to children and youth. It corresponds closely to the curriculum plan used by our diocesan Catholic Schools.

Formal catechesis in a religious education program is only one aspect of a young person's lifelong faith formation. The formative process begins at birth. In the Rite of Baptism, parents are given the profound privilege and responsibility of being their child's first teachers in the faith. Most of the religious attitudes and values that children acquire come from their parents and home life. This curriculum plan based on scripture and the teaching of the church seeks to support families in their mission as "primary educators in the faith" (GDC 255). Parent Pages are provided for each grade level, with developmental descriptions and appendix pages of age-appropriate prayers and teachings of the faith.

The curriculum is presented as learning outcomes organized according to the six tasks of catechesis, and alternatively, the liturgical year. This provides parishes with flexibility in choosing a textbook series or other resources to fulfill the curriculum plan. Use of this systematic curriculum, with textbooks and resources in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, helps ensure a structured and comprehensive presentation of Catholic teaching. Catechist pages for each grade level provide a list of key teachings and methodologies suited to each grade level.

In directing the preparation of this diocesan curriculum and now mandating its use, it is my hope that parishes, pastors, parents and catechists will become more effective in reaching the minds, hearts and souls of children and youth in our church today. Beginning July 1, 2011, all parishes will use this diocesan curriculum plan to provide access to a systematic presentation of Catholic teaching. By using this curriculum, based on scripture and the teaching of the church, parishes can more effectively support families in their mission as "primary educators in the faith" (GDC 255).

With sincere thanks for all that you do to promote the Gospel.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis X. Di Lorenzo". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Most Reverend Francis X. DiLorenzo  
Bishop of Richmond

"Family catechesis therefore precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis."  
(*Catechesi Tradendae* 68)