

# Diocesan Catechetical Policy



**Archdiocese of Saint Boniface**  
**June 2013**

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# Letter from our Archbishop

Dear faithful of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface,

In the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), an image that comes forward repeatedly to speak of the relationship between God and the people of Israel is that of the journey. The People of God experience a constant call to walk with God as a pilgrim people to the Promised Land under his guidance and protection.

In the New Testament, continuing this theme, Jesus assures his disciples: “*I am the way, the truth and the life*” and also “*I send you out to the ends of the earth but know I will be with you always*”. Since then, countless saints and faithful of the Church have lived their baptism as a journey, an ascent to holiness, to an intimate and concrete communion of love with God and their neighbour.

In setting forth this Diocesan Catechetical Policy, more specifically for children and their families, the intent is to foster a life-long journey of faith amongst all the faithful from early infancy to the last stage of life, i.e. from cradle to grave. A person is never too young, nor too old to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to grow in their participation in the life of the Church, to grow in their understanding, celebration and living out of their Catholic Christian faith.

On this journey, there are many people with whom we walk, who help us on this journey of growing in our faith: parents, siblings, friends, pastors, catechists and co-parishioners. We in turn are called to share with them our growing friendship with Jesus.

Engaging the whole community of faith in implementing this Diocesan Catechetical Policy, we will experience a common journey that has integrity and the promise of truly handing on the Good News of Jesus Christ, of growing together in holiness, service, charity and justice.

I therefore encourage all of you to embrace this Diocesan Catechetical Policy with joy and hope. Resolutely set yourself in each of the parishes to study it more fully and to see how to put it into effect according to your local needs and possibilities.

May God bless us all as we journey together with Him and with all other baptised to the fullness of His love.

*+ Albert LeGatt*

†Albert LeGatt  
Archbishop of Saint Boniface

# Introduction

## **Adoption of the five main diocesan catechetical guidelines**

On November 14th, 2012, the Assembly of diocesan priests adopted five main guidelines with regard to Catechetics for children (0 – 18 years of age) and their parents. This consensus among priests reveals a common will and an awareness of the importance of transforming our vision and our diocesan catechetical practices in order to bring Christians to a living faith, thereby ensuring the vitality of the Church of Saint Boniface.

(See the guidelines – Appendix 1)

## **Development of the main guidelines**

Afterwards, an *ad hoc* committee for the development of a *Diocesan Catechetical Policy*, made up of priests and diocesan and parish coordinators of Catechetics was established. This committee prepared a working document which offered recommendations for the development of these five main guidelines to priests and parish life directors who had the opportunity to study the document and respond. The *ad hoc* committee compiled the responses which served as the basis for the development of this policy.

# Guidelines and Procedures

This document is divided in three categories to facilitate consultation:

1. Ongoing program of Catechesis
2. Sacramental Catechesis
3. Catechesis for parents

## **Our socioreligious context**

*Catechesis seeks to form disciples of Christ. To be a disciple of Christ, you need to know him and this takes time. And yet, in certain areas, for various reasons, children still continue to receive sacraments of initiation with only minimal sacramental preparation. This preparation is in no way sufficient to initiate the child to the full Christian life and to make him a disciple of Christ. This is why we ask that all children asking for sacraments have first completed a required period in an ongoing program of catechesis.*

## **1. Ongoing program of Catechesis**

### **a. Definition**

**Ongoing program of Catechesis** is defined as the catechetical sessions for school-aged children, in the form of regular systematic catechesis in a parish, school, or home (homeschooling) setting. These sessions assist in initiating the children into the fullness of Christian life.

### **b. Duration**

The ongoing program of catechesis consists of a minimum of twenty (20) hours per year.

### **c. Setting**

The ongoing program of catechesis takes place in a school, parish or home (homeschooling) setting but must be linked to a parish community through the pastor, the parish life director, the parish coordinator of catechesis or a catechist.

In areas that do not offer an ongoing catechetical program in a school or parish setting, it will be the responsibility of the family to provide this program. If a number of families find themselves in this situation, they may group the children in order to share the responsibility. The program will consist of a minimum of twenty (20) hours per year as recommended. The pastor, the parish life director or a designated catechist will meet the family/families a minimum of twice (2) a year to assist with this task and assure the link to the parish.

## ***Our pastoral practices***

- **In some of the rural areas there are centres that provide a catechetical service to a small cluster of parishes. How will this affect the centre setting in which Catechetics is currently being delivered?**

*Established centres are invaluable and a wonderful way of utilizing the gifts of all the communities to provide a catechetical service. These centres, linked to the parishes they serve, will continue to be collaborative and essential in providing services for the catechetical needs while respecting the new diocesan catechetical policy. Thus, this policy will not adversely affect these centres.*

### **i. Home school setting**

Families that home school their children will offer an ongoing catechetical program consisting of a minimum of twenty (20) hours per year as recommended. The pastor, the parish life director or a designated catechist will meet the family/families a minimum of twice (2) a year to assist with this task and ensure the link to the parish.

In regards to immediate sacramental preparation, the recommended six (6) hours will take place in the parish setting. In circumstances where the number of children cannot sustain a sacramental catechesis program in a parish setting, the parents will provide the recommended six (6) hours at home using the recommended resources. (See Appendix 2-c, p.20) Once again, this immediate preparation will be linked to the parish through the pastor or his designate.

### **d. Ongoing catechesis in relation to sacramental preparation**

#### **i. Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist**

Before receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist, the child must complete a minimum of twenty (20) hours in an ongoing program of catechesis. These twenty hours should be completed in the year prior to the reception of the sacrament.

#### **ii. Confirmation**

As for the sacrament of Confirmation, the child must complete a minimum of forty (40) hours in an ongoing program of catechesis. These forty hours should be completed in the two years prior to the reception of the sacrament.

## ***Our pastoral practices***

- **What approach should be taken when youth (ages 13 to 17) request the sacrament of Confirmation without having completed the required 40 hours of ongoing catechesis?**

*Taking into account the different needs and human and spiritual maturity of the individual, it is recommended that he or she be integrated into the ongoing parish catechesis with the other youth preparing for the sacrament. He or she could follow the ongoing catechesis and prepare for the sacrament with this group. Additional catechesis, by a catechist or parent, would be necessary to fulfill the requirement of the present policy. As with all catechesis, this additional formation must be linked to the youth's parish.*

### **e. Recommended resources for ongoing catechesis**

It is recognized that certain parishes have special pastoral situations (language, special needs, handicap, etc.). Any programs, other than the recommended resources, should be chosen in consultation with the Diocesan Service of Catechetics.

#### **i. In school setting**

The Diocesan Service of Catechetics recommends materials and resources for catechesis in the school setting. These recommendations respect the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops document "Criteria for Catechesis" (See Appendix 2-a, p. 17)

#### **ii. In a parish or home setting**

The Diocesan Service of Catechetics recommends materials and resources for catechesis in the parish or home setting. These recommendations respect the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops document. "Criteria for Catechesis" (See Appendix 2-b, p. 18)

## ***Our pastoral practices***

- **What should be our pastoral response to children with special needs?**

*Canon Law 777 states : « as far as their condition allows, catechetical formation is given to the mentally and physically handicapped ». This formation will be given by the parent and/or catechist from the parish or school, but always linked to the parish. Please contact the Diocesan Service of Catechetics for resources.*

*« The love of the Father for the weakest of his children and the continuous presence of Jesus and His Spirit give assurance that every person, however limited, is capable of growth in holiness. (GDC #189)*



## 2. Sacramental Catechesis

### a. Definition

**Sacramental Catechesis** is defined as the catechetical sessions offered specifically to prepare for the sacraments. This catechesis is referred to as immediate catechesis because the child/youth engages in this process during the time just prior to the reception of the sacrament. The preparation for the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation consists of a minimum of six (6) hours of catechesis specific to the sacrament the child is preparing to receive.

### b. Prior to celebration of sacraments

#### i. Participation in an ongoing program of catechesis

All school-aged children (7 years of age or older) requesting the sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) as well as the sacrament of Reconciliation, must be in an ongoing program of catechesis (See #1-a, p. 6) and must have completed the required period according to the sacrament for which they are preparing. (See #1-d, p. 7)

#### ii. Immediate preparation

The child must also have completed immediate preparation for the sacrament requested. (See #2-a) This preparation is to take place in the geographical or adopted parish of the child.

### *Our pastoral practices*

- **When new families arrive requesting the sacraments, how can we verify their previous catechetical formation?**

*When a new family arrives, we can ask for the name of the school or parish where the child has received previous catechetical formation. In rare circumstances, when it is impossible to verify, we should assess the child's religious development. If we question that the child may not have the necessary development, we should integrate the child in the ongoing catechesis program, at the age-appropriate level and offer, with the help of the parents or another catechist, the additional needed catechesis. We should always try to be sensitive the family's needs, all the while respecting the guidelines we have given ourselves, so that the child's catechetical needs are met.*

### c. As part of the ongoing program of catechesis

In recognition of the busy lifestyle of families today, we recommend – in a parish or home setting – that the minimum six (6) hours of immediate sacramental preparation may be integrated into the ongoing program of catechesis. This means that the year a child is preparing for a sacrament, he would have to complete fourteen (14) hours of ongoing program of catechesis and 6 hours of immediate sacrament preparation for a minimum of twenty (20) hours in total.

#### d. Ages for celebration of sacraments

##### i. In parishes with Confirmation celebrated after First Communion

In parishes where the sacraments are celebrated as follows : Reconciliation – Eucharist – Confirmation, the children will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at age 7-8 (or Grade 2), the sacrament of Eucharist at age 8-9 (or Grade 3) and the sacrament of Confirmation at age 11-12 and older (Grade 6 and older).

##### ii. In parishes with restored order

In parishes which have already adopted the Restored Order of Sacraments of Initiation (where the sacraments are celebrated as follows: Baptism – Confirmation – Eucharist) the children must still complete the required eighteen (18) hours of sacramental catechesis. The minimum required preparation for Reconciliation at age 7-8 (grade 2) is six (6) hours. For Eucharist and Confirmation, in this restored order, at age 8-9 (grade 3) the minimum required preparation is a combined six (6) hours. The final six (6) hours to fulfill the required total eighteen (18) hours of sacramental catechesis is at age 12-13 (grade 7). At this adolescent stage, these final six (6) hours are intended to deepen the child's understanding and knowledge of all three sacraments. The final six (6) hours should be accompanied by a celebration of a solemn profession of faith in the Christian community.

### *Our pastoral practices*

- **What are the benefits of preparing for the sacraments at specific ages/grade levels?**

*One of the benefits of preparing for the sacraments at a specific age level is to reflect the visible unity of our Church. On a practical level, preparing for only one sacrament in a pastoral year allows the family to focus more fully and grow in their understanding of the sacrament for which they are preparing.*

#### e. Setting for the preparation and celebration of sacraments

Every child must prepare for and celebrate the sacraments in their own parish. Parents must therefore request sacraments for their children in their geographical parish or their parish of adoption. The **geographical parish** is the parish situated closest to one's residence. The **parish of adoption** is a parish other than one's geographical parish, which has been adopted by reason of language, culture or some other reasonable basis. It is therefore a parish which we adopt, and in which we actively participate regularly. The pastor or parish life director must therefore redirect families who belong to another parish – or who do not have a parish – to their geographical parish, all the while helping them to journey in a better understanding of the parish and of the sacraments.

## ***Our pastoral practices***

- **What should we do when a young person wishes to prepare for sacraments with his schoolmates, in a parish other than his own?**

The young person should be redirected to his geographical parish or parish of adoption. All the while recognizing the value of his friendships, the young person should be helped to understand that the sacraments are meant to be celebrated within a parish community. To avoid these situations, parishes should inform parents upon registration in their child's catechetical program that the preparation and the celebration of sacraments will take place in the parish.

## ***Our pastoral practices***

- **Why should we redirect the families to their geographical parish rather than receive them in our own parish?**

« The parish is, without doubt, the most important locus in which the Christian community is formed and expressed. This is called to be a fraternal and welcoming family where Christians become aware of being the people of God [...] The parish is also the usual place in which the faith is born and in which it grows. » (GDC#257)

Unfortunately, some of the faithful have reduced the parish to merely a dispenser of services (liturgies, sacraments, etc.) on whom they call without ever attending or supporting it. They select a parish, in order to obtain the required service, for the sake of ease and convenience. The practice of offering the sacraments to these families simply encourages a false conception of what a parish is. Since most of these cases concern the reception of sacraments, it is also perpetrating a false understanding of the sacraments themselves. Redirecting assists them in gaining a better understanding of the communal aspect of our faith.

The Second Vatican Council indicates the necessity for pastors « to form genuine Christian communities » and for catechumens « [to] learn to cooperate actively in building up the Church and its work of evangelization ». (GDC#86)

#### f. Recommended resources for sacramental catechesis

It is recognized that certain parishes have special pastoral situations (i.e. language, special needs, handicap, etc.) In these circumstances the use of any programs other than the recommended resources may certainly be necessary and should be chosen in consultation with the Diocesan Service of Catechetics.

#### i. Resources for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation

Please refer to Appendix 2c of this document for recommended programs for preparing children and youth for the sacraments (Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation). There are also many additional resources available at the diocesan resource library and online that may be recommended by contacting the Diocesan Service of Catechetics.

(Appendix 2-c, p. 19)

#### g. Baptism of school-aged children

School-aged children, that have reached the age of reason (age 7 and over), requesting the sacrament of Baptism should follow the catechumenal model. The child and family should be directed towards the person in charge of parochial or diocesan catechumenal services. This preparation should be in collaboration with the child's parish through the priest, parish life director and/or catechist. (Appendix 2d, p. 20)

In areas where the catechumenal model is not possible, the child must have completed the required 20 hours in an ongoing catechesis program as well as a minimum of six hours of baptismal preparation. The child can then celebrate the sacrament of Baptism and continue with ongoing and sacramental catechesis, thus receiving the other sacraments with his peers. This however is an interim measure in response to our current situation. As a Church we must strive to offer the full catechumenal model for children of catechetical age.

### ***Our pastoral practices***

- **What must we do in order for the baptism of a child, age 7 or older, who is not in danger of death, to be permissible?**

*The general rules are that the parents (at least one of them) or those legitimately taking their place give their consent to the baptism, that they present the child, or that the child himself/herself makes the request with his/her parents' consent. Also, it is required that the child be sufficiently prepared and his/her faith and conscience sufficiently developed.*

- **What if the parents are opposed to their child's baptism?**

*Unless there are special circumstances, if the parents are opposed to their child's baptism, it should not be administered against the parents' wishes until the child has reached majority or is lawfully emancipated in accordance with the civil law.*

*(4.1.2 Canonical and Pastoral Guides for Parishes Canadian Edition, 2006)*

#### **h. Catechetical resources recommended for Baptism of school-aged children**

It is recognized that certain parishes have special pastoral situations (language, special needs, handicap, etc.). Any programs, other than the recommended resources, should be chosen in consultation with the Diocesan Service of Catechetics.

##### **i. Resources for children ages 7 to 12 requesting baptism**

As the child prepares, the pastoral notes of the rite book should be consulted throughout the process. For the preparation for Baptism of children we recommend “Journey of Faith for Children” by Liguori. (Appendix 2-d, p. 20)

##### **ii. Resources for youth ages 13 and over requesting baptism**

As the child prepares, the pastoral notes of the rite book should be consulted throughout the process. For the preparation for Baptism of children we recommend “Journey of Faith for Teens” by Liguori. (Appendix 2-d, p. 20)

### **3. Catechesis for parents**

#### ***Our socioreligious context***

*Most parents today have only received catechesis as children. Their faith formation often ended at Confirmation, in the pre-adolescent stage. This explains their feelings of inadequacy in regards to their role as spiritual guides of their children. These feelings are often expressed when they approach the Church for their child’s catechesis. Many of these parents voice a sincere desire to share their faith with their child but feel they do not have the knowledge and the aptitude to do so. This is why offering catechesis to parents at the time of their child’s sacramental preparation (Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation) is necessary. The objective of this catechesis is to help parents rediscover the faith of their childhood and give them the essential elements of the faith so that they may, in turn, transmit to their child an accurate and desirable faith. This is meant to encourage them to develop a relationship with Christ and the desire to pursue a mature adult faith.*

Parents of school-aged children preparing for sacraments must receive adult catechesis on the basics of the faith and also on the specific sacrament for which their child is preparing. It is the parish priest, parish life director, or a person designated who will facilitate the sessions. This person will be known as the facilitator of the group. Formation for these facilitators is available by contacting the Diocesan Service of Catechetics.

#### **a. Catechesis for parents requesting sacraments for their child**

Parents requesting the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation for their children will receive a minimum of six (6) hours of catechesis for each of the three sacraments for a total of eighteen (18) hours. Parents will be required to complete these 18 hours only once with their first child, but may choose to participate again. A certificate will be received by the participating parents upon completion of each set of six (6) hours. It is recommended that the minimum 6 (six)

hours of parent catechesis be offered in a separate area during the child's catechetical sessions to be considerate of family time management and travel time.

## b. Catechesis for parents requesting Baptism for their child

### **Our socioreligious context**

*Our Church today faces many challenges, some of which are a decline in participation among young families. We would like to take the opportunity of the birth of a child to invite young parents to deepen their relationship with Christ and his Church. This is why the policy requires parents requesting Baptism for their child to follow the baptismal program recommended by the Diocesan Service of Catechetics.*

### i. Baptism of infant or pre-school children

Parents asking for infant baptism must also follow an adult catechesis program. The objectives are to encourage parents to begin or deepen their faith journey, to bring about an awareness of the community aspect of the faith, to support them in their roles as Christian parents and to prepare them to live out the celebration of their child's Baptism. Parents requesting infant baptism must meet with the parish priest or the parish life director, and must also attend three (3) ninety (90) minute sessions. The parents must attend the three sessions only once when requesting Baptism for their first child, but may choose to participate again. A certificate will be received by the participating parents upon completion of each set of six (6) hours. For other children, however, we recommend that the parents meet again with the parish priest or parish life director.

### **Our pastoral practices**

- **What are the general rules to administer baptism to an infant or child under age 7 (who is not in danger of death)?**

*The general rules are :*

- 1) that both parents, or at least one of them, or those who legitimately take their place are consenting;*
  - 2) that at least one of the parents is a believer, even though neither of the parents is a practicing Catholic. The godfather and godmother may exceptionally compensate for this lack of practice;*
  - 3) reasonable certainty exists that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion. If there is doubt, baptism should be delayed according to the norms of particular law and the parents will be informed as to the reason of the delay;*
  - 4) the parents have been well prepared for the baptism of their child. (4.1.1)*
- These are only general rules. Please refer to 4.1.1 of Canonical and Pastoral Guides for Parishes Canadian Edition 2006 for special cases (e.g. parents are non-believers, parents living in an irregular marriage situation, etc.)**

**ii. Baptism of school-aged children**

Parents requesting the sacrament of Baptism for their school-aged child must follow the same process required of parents requesting infant Baptism. (See # 3-b-i)

**c. Resources for all adult catechesis for parents**

All programs other than those recommended below should be chosen in consultation with the Diocesan Service of Catechetics.

**i. Catechesis for parents requesting sacraments (Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation) for their child**

The recommended program for usage is an adaptation of a French resource entitled *Des Horizons Nouveaux* by Marthe Lamothe. In the interim, until these materials are fully translated, all adult catechesis for parents should be chosen in consultation with the Diocesan Service of Catechetics.

**ii. Catechesis for parents requesting Baptism for their child**

The diocesan recommendation resource is our locally produced *Baptism...the Beginning of a Journey*. This is available upon request in digital format from the Diocesan Service of Catechetics at (204) 594-0273 or by email

[khrizai@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:khrizai@archsaintboniface.ca)

## Five adopted guidelines

### 1. Ongoing and sacramental catechesis of school-aged children

All school-aged children (six years of age or more) looking to receive one of the sacraments of Christian initiation (Baptism, Eucharist or Confirmation), as well as the sacrament of Reconciliation,

- a. must be in an ongoing catechesis program and have already completed a required period of ongoing catechesis;
- b. must also receive an immediate preparation for the sacrament they are about to receive.

### 2. Where this catechesis takes place

This ongoing catechesis – as well as the immediate sacramental preparation – may take place in the school, the parish, or the home, but must be linked to a parish community through the pastor, the parish coordinator of catechesis or a catechist.

### 3. Catechesis of school-aged children asking for Baptism

School-aged children (six years of age or more) asking to receive Baptism must – wherever possible – follow a catechumenal formation (RCIA). However, in areas where this is not possible at the present time, the child must be enrolled in an ongoing catechesis program and must receive immediate preparation for Baptism. The child would then celebrate the sacrament of Baptism and continue in an ongoing catechesis program, receiving the other sacraments with his peers. This is an interim measure in response to our current situation. As a Church, we are to continue to strive toward the full catechumenal process for these children.

### 4. Catechesis of parents at the time of their child's sacramental preparation

Parents of all school-aged children preparing for a sacrament must also receive adult catechesis on the basic beliefs of the Catholic faith and the specific sacrament for which the child is preparing.

### 5. Catechesis of parents asking for infant baptism

Parents asking for infant baptism must also follow an adult catechesis program which would help these parents deepen their relationship with Christ and the Church, understand the importance of Baptism and help them nurture their child's spirituality in the first years of life.

Adopted on November 14, 2012  
at the Assembly of priests



## Recommended resources

### Recommended resources for a school setting

**In June 2013 the bishops of Manitoba recommended We Believe from Sadlier Religion for use in Catholic schools throughout our province. Additional supplementary resources may be recommended and borrowed from the Resource Library by Diocesan Service of Catechetics at (204) 594-0273 or by email [khrizai@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:khrizai@archsaintboniface.ca)**

Catholic schools can order the appropriate grade level materials directly from Sadlier Religion by contacting:

Customer Service

You may direct inquiries and requests to our Customer Service Department by:

Phone (9:00am-6:00m EST, M-F) 800-221-5175

fax (24 hours) 212-312-6080

E-mail [CustomerService@sadlier.com](mailto:CustomerService@sadlier.com)

Or by visiting the website:

[http://www.sadlierreligion.com/catalog/category.cfm?category\\_id=10978&qpath=10876](http://www.sadlierreligion.com/catalog/category.cfm?category_id=10978&qpath=10876)



## Recommended resources for a parish or home setting

The recommended resources for ongoing catechesis for a parish or home setting is *Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts*

*Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts* is based on a spiral curriculum that integrates the fundamental themes of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* with Scripture and Catholic Social Teachings. As children are introduced to and revisit concepts and vocabulary from one year to the next, their knowledge and experience both broaden and deepen. This program provides lessons in the faith and delivers those lessons through experiential activities that encourage lifelong practice. Parishes should order directly from Loyola Press:



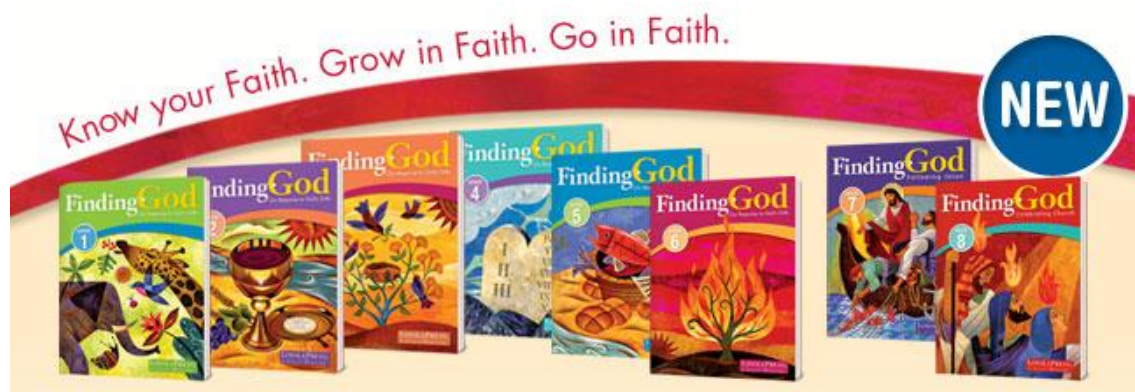
The Archdiocese of Saint Boniface - CAN is served by:

Kathleen Suzuki

[suzuki@loyolapress.com](mailto:suzuki@loyolapress.com)

1 (800) 256-0589 Ext: 246

Any changes in parish programs, if made, should always be in consultation with the pastor or parish life director and the Diocesan Service of Catechetics. . Additional supplementary resources may be recommended and borrowed from the Resource Library by Diocesan Service of Catechetics at (204) 594-0273 or by email [khrizai@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:KHRIZAI@ARCHSAINTBONIFACE.CA)



Recommended resources for preparation for sacraments

Reconciliation	Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family book “We Prepare for Reconciliation”</li> </ul>	Novalis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leader’s guide “We Prepare for Reconciliation”</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent adult catechesis six sessions*</li> </ul>	Diocesan Service of Catechetics
<b>Eucharist</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family book “We Share in the Eucharist”</li> </ul>	Novalis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leader’s guide “We Share in the Eucharist”</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent adult catechesis six sessions*</li> </ul>	Diocesan Service of Catechetics
<b>Confirmation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family book “Alive in the Spirit”</li> </ul>	Novalis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leader’s guide “Alive in the Spirit”</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent adult catechesis six sessions*</li> </ul>	Diocesan Service of Catechetics
<b>Restored Order of Sacraments of Initiation: Confirmation and Eucharist</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family book “Come Join Us at the Table”</li> </ul>	Novalis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leader’s guide “Come Join Us at the Table”</li> </ul>	



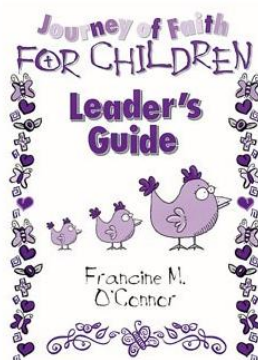
## Recommended Resources for Baptism of School-Aged Children

As the child prepares the pastoral notes of the rite book should be consulted throughout the process. For the preparation for Baptism of children we recommend Journey of Faith by Liguori

for ages 7 to 12 “Journey of Faith for Children”

<http://www.liguori.org/journey-of-faith-for-children-catechumenate.html>

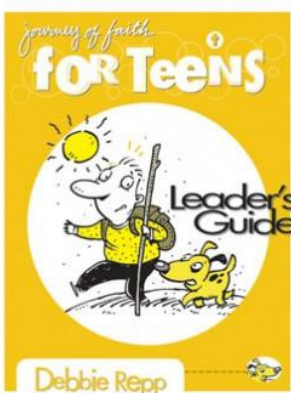
<http://www.liguori.org/journey-of-faith-for-children-leader-s-guide.html>



for ages 13 and up “Journey of Faith for Teens”

<http://www.liguori.org/journey-of-faith-for-teens-complete-set.html>

<http://www.liguori.org/journey-of-faith-for-teens-leader-s-guide.html>



Locally available at:

Christian Supply Centre  
260 Taché Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
Phone: (204) 237-9739

Stephanchew Church Goods  
337 William Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3A 0H8  
Phone: (204) 943-7779

### Recommended Resources for Parents requesting Baptism for their child or infant

The diocesan recommended resource is our locally produced *Baptism...the Beginning of a Journey*. This is available upon request in digital format from the Diocesan Service of Catechetics at (204) 594-0273 or by email [khrizai@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:khrizai@archsaintboniface.ca)

### Catechesis for parents requesting sacraments (Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation) for their child

The recommended program for usage is an adaptation of a French resource entitled *Des Horizons Nouveaux* by Marthe Lamothe. In the interim, until these materials are fully translated, all adult catechesis for parents should be chosen in consultation with the Diocesan Service of Catechetics.

Neither catechesis nor evangelization is possible without the action of God working through his Spirit. In catechetical praxis neither the most advanced pedagogical techniques nor the most talented catechist can ever replace the silent and unseen action of the Holy Spirit. “It is he who is in truth the protagonist of all the Church’s mission”; it is he who is principal catechist; it is he who is “the interior teacher” of those who grow in the Lord. He is, in fact, “the principle inspiring all catechetical work and all who do this work”.

Through the intercession of the "Virgin of Pentecost", (337) there is born in the Church a new power, generating sons and daughters in the faith and educating them toward the fullness of Christ.

(General Directory for Catechesis , #288 and #291)

# At a glance

Participant	Minimum Duration	Program/Resource	Prerequisites & Notes
School-aged child requesting Baptism	Six (6) hours	Follow Catechumenate model Journey of Faith (Liguori)	Twenty (20) hours of ongoing catechesis in the year prior
School-aged child requesting First Eucharist	Six (6) hours	“We Share in the Eucharist” (Novalis) <i>Restored Order “Come Join us at the Table”</i>	Twenty (20) hours of ongoing catechesis in the year prior
School-aged child requesting Reconciliation	Six (6) hours	“We Prepare for Reconciliation” (Novalis)	Twenty (20) hours of ongoing catechesis in the year prior
School-aged child requesting Confirmation	Six (6) hours	“Alive in the Spirit “ (Novalis) <i>Restored Order “Come Join us at the Table”(Novalis)</i>	Forty (40) hours of ongoing catechesis in the two years prior
Parent of school-aged child requesting baptism	One home visit by the pastor or parish life director and, for the first child only, three (3) 90 minute sessions	“Baptism...the Beginning of a Journey” (Diocesan Service of Catechetics)	Parents must follow these sessions with their first child, but may choose to participate again. A certificate of acknowledgment will be given to the participating parents upon completion of each set of adult catechesis.
Parent requesting baptism for infant or pre-school aged child	One home visit by the pastor or parish life director and, for the first child only, three (3) 90 minute sessions	“Baptism...the Beginning of a Journey” (Diocesan Service of Catechetics)	
Parent of school-aged child requesting other sacraments (Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation)	Six(6) hours for each sacrament for a total of 18 hours	Diocesan Program	
<b>Home schooling Families</b>	Families that home school their children are expected to follow the requirements outlined in this diocesan catechetical policy.		
<b>Families in Parishes with Restored Order</b>	Families in parishes with the Restored Order of Sacraments of Initiation are expected to follow the requirements outlined in this diocesan catechetical policy. (See #2 d-ii, p. 10)		

# Conclusion

... Christian faith requires explanations and new forms of expression so that it may take root in all successive cultures. Though the aspirations and basic needs peculiar to human nature and the human condition remain essentially the same, nevertheless, men of our era are posing new questions about the meaning and importance of life. Believers of our time are certainly not in all respects like believers of the past. This is why it becomes necessary to affirm the permanence of the faith and to present the message of salvation in renewed ways. (General Directory for Catechesis #2b)

This is why, it is hoped that this present catechetical policy will be updated periodically so that we may continue to transmit the faith to new generations and the definitive aim of Catechesis which is to put men, women and children of the Church of Saint Boniface “ not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ”. (GDC #80) be realized.

Finally, we would like to thank the members of the Ad Hoc Committee who have worked to produce the present diocesan catechetical policy.

**Joanne Comeault**, Diocesan Coordinator of Catechetics, French sector

**Patricia Danylchuk**, Parish Life Director, Notre-Dame-de-Lorette

**Theresa Hill**, Parish Coordinator of Catechetics, Mary Mother of the Church

**Koreen Hrizai**, Diocesan Coordinator of Catechetics, English sector

**Father Jose Montepeque**, Parochial Administrator, Notre-Dame-du-Lac, St. Augustine, St. Francis of Assisi

**Father Marcel Toupin**, Retired Priest, Responsible for Formation in Liturgy in French

*This policy has been fully translated in both official languages : French and English. The diocesan produced programs and other resources for catechesis listed in this document are available in French. To see all materials available in either official language please contact the Diocesan Service of Catechetics.*

# Bibliography

- *Canonical and Pastoral Guide for Parishes Canadian Edition*, Montreal: Canadian Canon Law Society, 2004. Print.
- *General Directory for Catechesis*, Ottawa: Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1997. Print.
- *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Ottawa: Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1987. Print.
- *Rite of Baptism for Children*. Ottawa: Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1989. Print.