

Key Element I: Knowledge of the Faith

What We Believe

"Sacred Scripture has a preeminent position in catechesis because Sacred Scripture "presents God's own Word in unalterable form" and "makes the voice of the Holy Spirit resound again and again in the words of the prophets and apostles." The Catechism of the Catholic Church is intended to complement Sacred Scripture. Together with Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture constitutes the supreme rule of faith." (NDC no. 24)

Key Element I: Knowledge of the Faith

Promoting knowledge of the faith

First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth (cf. Spe Salvi, no. 4). This relationship elicits a desire to grow in the knowledge and understanding of Christ and his teaching. In this way those who meet him are drawn by the very power of the Gospel to lead a new life characterized by all that is beautiful, good, and true; a life of Christian witness nurtured and strengthened within the community of our Lord's disciples, the Church. (Address of Pope Benedict XVI to Catholic Educators of the United States, Thursday 17 April 2008, The Catholic University of America)

Catechesis must, therefore, lead to "the gradual grasping of the whole truth about the divine plan" by introducing the disciples of Jesus to a knowledge of Tradition and of Scripture, which is "the sublime science of Christ." By deepening knowledge of the faith, catechesis nourishes not only the life of faith but equips it to explain itself to the world. The meaning of the Creed, which is a compendium of Scripture and of the faith of the Church, is the realization of this task. (GDC no. 85)

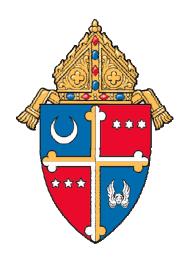
The initial proclamation of the Gospel introduces the hearers to Christ for the first time and invites conversion to him. By the action of the Holy Spirit, such an encounter engenders in the hearers a desire to know about Christ, his life, and the content of his message. Catechesis responds to this desire by giving the believers a knowledge of the content of God's self-revelation which is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, and by introducing them to the meaning of the Creed. Creeds and doctrinal formulas that state the Church's belief are expressions of the Church's living tradition, which from the time of the apostles has developed "in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit." (NDC no. 20.1)

Key Element I Knowledge of the Faith Grade Pre-K

	Key Element I: Knowledge of the Faith	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 1				
	CREED: Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune and redeeming God as revealed in creation and human experience, in Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture, and as entrusted to the teaching office of the Church.				
	Indicators				
PK.01.01	Know that God is the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and that we demonstrate this belief when we make the Sign of the Cross.		44-49, 232-237	44-49, See Appendix A. Common Prayers,181	51-53
PK.01.02	Show understanding that God created me and loves me.		356	46, 59	53, 67-68
PK.01.03	Describe how God made all creation good.		299, 341	53	54
PK.01.04	Identify the universe as belonging to God.		299, 341	53	56
PK.01.05	Describe God as Father.		240-242	46	52
PK.01.06	State that Jesus is: true God and true man, Son of God and Son of Mary.		441-445, 454, 495, 509	83, 95	81-83
PK.01.07	Retell stories about important moments in the life of Christ.		525-630	103-124	79-80
PK.01.08	Describe that Jesus died on the Cross for us, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven.		613-617, 631-638, 639-644, 659-667	122, 126, 127, 132	80, 86

Key Element I Knowledge of the Faith Grade Pre-K

	Key Element I: Knowledge of the Faith	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 2				
	SACRED SCRIPTURE : Read, comprehend and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Sacred Scripture.				
	Indicators				
PK.02.01	Show understanding that the <u>Bible</u> is a very special holy book of the family of the Church.		105-108, 131-133, 135-141	18-24	26-27
PK.02.02	Identify the Bible as the book where we learn about how God created all that is.		289	51-54	3-4, 53-55
PK.02.03	Identify the <u>Bible</u> as the book that contains the four Gospels – important books where we learn about Jesus.		125, 127	22	26
PK.02.04	State the names of <u>Adam</u> and <u>Eve</u> as the names of the first man and the first woman created by God.		375	7	53



Key Element II: Liturgy and Sacraments

How We Celebrate

"Faith and worship are as closely related to one another as they were in the early Church: faith gathers the community for worship, and worship renews the faith of the community... In her Liturgy, the Church celebrates what she professes and lives above all the Paschal Mystery, by which Christ accomplished the work of our salvation." (NDC no. 32)

Key Element II: Liturgy and Sacraments

Promoting knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and Sacraments

In the Church's Liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives. He has loved us first and he continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love. God does not demand of us a feeling which we ourselves are incapable of producing. He loves us, he makes us see and experience his love, and since he has "loved us first", love can also blossom as a response within us. (Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est, no. 17)

Since Christ is present in the sacraments, the believer comes to know Christ in the liturgical celebrations of the Church and is drawn into communion with him. Christ's saving action in the Paschal Mystery is celebrated in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, where the closest communion with Jesus on earth is possible as Catholics are able to receive his living Flesh and his Precious Blood in Holy Communion. Catechesis should promote "an active, conscious genuine participation in the liturgy of the Church, not merely by explaining the meaning of the ceremonies, but also by forming the minds of the faithful for prayer, for thanksgiving, for repentance, for praying with confidence, for a community spirit, and for understanding correctly the meaning of the creeds." (NDC no. 2)

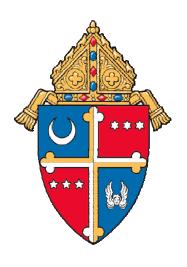
Christ is always present in his Church, especially in 'liturgical celebrations'. Communion with Jesus Christ leads to the celebration of his salvific presence in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist. The Church ardently desires that all the Christian faithful be brought to that full, conscious and active participation which is required by the very nature of the liturgy. (GDC no. 85)

Key Element II Liturgy and Sacraments Grade Pre-K

	Key Element II: Liturgy and Sacraments	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 3				
	SACRAMENTS: Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as effective signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
PK.03.01	Exhibit basic understanding that <u>sacraments</u> are <u>signs</u> of God's love for us.		1113-1131	224	168-170
PK.03.02	Learn about <u>Baptism</u> as the sacrament through which we become children of God and members of the family of the Church.		804, 1213, 1226, 1239-1241, 1243, 1257, 1267, 1272, 1278-1280, 1282	147-157	183-188
	Standard 4				
	LITURGY: Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church as expressed in the liturgy year and epitomized in the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.				
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	Indicators				
PK.04.01	Shows basic understanding that in the Church we believe God is present in a real way in those gathered (the <u>assembly</u>), in the Word of God and in the <u>Eucharist</u> .		1329, 1373-1375	271, 274, 277, 282	223-224

Key Element II Liturgy and Sacraments Grade Pre-K

	Key Element II: Liturgy and Sacraments	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
PK.04.02	Identify Sunday as a special day when we go to church and pray as a family		1163-1167, 1193	241	365-371
PK.04.03	Demonstrate respect for God's presence in the Eucharist (or in the tabernacle) by <u>genuflecting</u> or bowing.		See Genuflection, 880, 1378-1381, 1418	286	223-224, 473
PK.04.04	Identify <u>Christmas</u> and <u>Easter</u> as celebrations during the church year.		525-530, 563-564, See <i>Easter</i> , p. 875, 1169	103, 241	173
PK.04.05	Give examples of ways we use our senses to help us pray.		2702		171-172
PK.04.06	Celebrate Christmas as the birthday of Jesus.		525-530, 563-564	103	See Christmas, 507



Key Element III: Morality

How We Live

"Christ is the norm of morality. 'Christian morality consists in following Jesus Christ, in abandoning oneself to him, in letting oneself be transformed by his grace and renewed by his mercy, gifts which come to us in the living communion of his Church." (NDC no. 42)

Key Element III: Morality

Promoting moral formation in Jesus Christ

Only if we live in the right way, with one another and for one another, can freedom develop... If we live in opposition to the love and against the truth — in opposition to God — then we destroy one another and destroy the world. (Pope Benedict XVI, homily, December 8, 2005, marking the 40th Anniversary of the closure of the Second Vatican Council)

Jesus' moral teaching is an integral part of his message. Catechesis must transmit both the content of Christ's moral teachings as well as their implications for Christian living. Moral Catechesis aims to conform the believer to Christ—to bring about personal transformation and conversion. It should encourage the faithful to give witness—both in their private lives and in the public arena—to Christ's teaching in everyday life. Such testimony demonstrates the social consequences of the demands of the Gospel. (NDC no. 3)

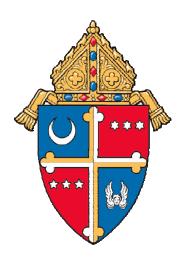
Conversion to Jesus Christ implies walking in his footsteps. Catechesis must, therefore, transmit to the disciples the attitudes of the Master himself. The disciples thus undertake a journey of interior transformation, in which, by participating in the paschal mystery of the Lord, "they pass from the old man to the new man who has been made perfect in Christ." (GDC no. 85)

Truly, matters in the world are in a bad state: but if you and I begin in earnest to reform ourselves, a really good beginning will have been made. (St. Peter of Alcantara)

Turn now to consider how these words of our Lord imply a test for yourselves also. Ask yourself whether you belong to his flock, whether you know him, whether the light of his truth shines in your minds. I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love; not by mere conviction, but by action. (Pope St. Gregory the Great)

Key Element III Morality Grade Pre-K

	Key Element III: Morality	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 5				
	Conscience: Develop a moral conscience informed by church teachings.				
	Indicators				
PK.05.01	Identify visual representations of Jesus' loving actions.		2447	520	325
PK.05.02	Imitate Jesus' actions of love.				
	Standard 6				
	Christian Living: Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, conversion, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
PK.06.01	Distinguish between right and wrong.		1786-1789	372-375	314-315
PK.06.02	Learn that we need God's grace to live as his children.		1804, 1810- 1811, 1839	378	318
PK.06.03	Know that it is important to be fair and just because that is how Jesus has taught us to be to one another.		1877-1880, 1890-1891	401-402	324-327



Key Element IV: Prayer

How We Pray

"God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer" (CCC no. 1075). His initiative comes first; the human response to his initiative is itself prompted by the grace of the Holy Spirit... In prayer, the Holy Spirit not only reveals the identity of the Triune God to human persons but also reveals the identity of human persons to themselves. (NDC no. 34)

Key Element IV: Prayer

Teaching the disciple how to pray with Christ

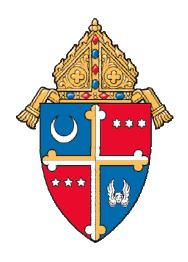
The issue is the primacy of God... If a man's heart is not good, then nothing else can turn out good either. (Pope Benedict XVI, Jesus of Nazareth, New York: Doubleday, 2007, 33-34)

Catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ. Conversion to Christ and communion with him lead the faithful to adopt his disposition of prayer and reflection. (NDC no. 20:4)

Communion with Jesus Christ leads the disciples to assume the attitude of prayer and contemplation which the Master himself had. To learn to pray with Jesus is to pray with the same sentiments with which he turned to the Father: adoration, praise, thanksgiving, filial confidence, supplication and awe for his glory. (GDC no. 85)

Key Element IV Prayer Grade Pre-K

	Key Element IV: Prayer	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 7				
	PRAYER: Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer and acknowledge prayer as the primary way we deepen our knowledge of God in the community.				
	Indicators				
PK.07 01	Describe how prayer is talking to God as a loving Father.		2558, 2590	534	463-464, 478
PK.07.02	Recall that Jesus helps us to pray.		2601, 2608-2614, 2621	544	466-467, 484- 485
PK.07.03	Identify prayer as the way we show we love God.		2566-2567	535	463-464
PK.07.04	Realize that songs can be prayers.		2639-2643	556	473
PK.07.05	Pray before meals and give thanks to God.				See Grace Before and After Meals, 536
PK.07.06	Follow and recite the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be.			See Common Prayers, p. 181	See Traditional Catholic Prayers, 532
PK.07.07	Show respect for the names of God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit, in speech and when using these names in prayer.		2142-2149, 2160-2162	447	473
PK.07.08	Repeat the prayer to the Guardian Angel.			See Angel of God, p.181	See <i>Prayer</i> , 538



Key Element V: Education for Living in the Christian Community

How We Live in the Community, the Church

"We were created as social beings who find fulfillment only in love — for God and for our neighbor. If we are truly to gaze upon him who is the source of our joy, we need to do so as members of the people of God (cf. Spe Salvi no. 14). If this seems counter-cultural, that is simply further evidence of the urgent need for a renewed evangelization of culture." (Benedict XVI — 16 April 2008 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception)"

Key Element V: Education for Living in the Christian Community

Preparing Christians to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church

Nor has the Lord been absent from subsequent Church history: he encounters us ever anew, in the men and women who reflect his presence, in his word, in the sacraments, and especially in the Eucharist. In the Church's Liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives. He has loved us first and he continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love. God does not demand of us a feeling which we ourselves are incapable of producing. He loves us, he makes us see and experience his love, and since he has "loved us first" love can also blossom as a response within us. (Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est, no. 17)

Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church. (NDC, no. 5)

Christian community life is not realized spontaneously. It is necessary to educate it carefully. In this apprenticeship, the teaching of Christ on community life, recounted in the Gospel of St Matthew, calls for attitudes which it is for catechesis to inculcate: the spirit of simplicity and humility ("unless you turn and become like little children..." Mt 18:3); solicitude for the least among the brethren ("but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin..." Mt 18:6); particular care for those who are alienated ("Go and search of the one that went astray..." Mt 18:12); fraternal correction ("Go and tell him his fault..." Mt 18:15); common prayer ("if two of you agree on earth to ask about anything..." Mt 18:19); mutual forgiveness ("but seventy times seven..." Mt 18:22). Fraternal love embraces all these attitudes ("love one another; even as I have loved you..." Jn 13:34). (GDC, no. 86A)

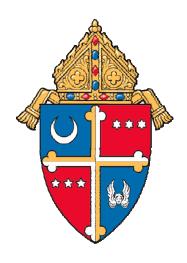
In developing this community sense, catechesis takes special note of the ecumenical dimension and encourages fraternal attitudes toward members of other Christian churches and ecclesial communities. Thus catechesis in pursuing this objective should give a clear exposition of all the Church's doctrine and avoid formulations or expressions that might give rise to error. It also implies "a suitable knowledge of other confessions", with which there are shared elements of faith: "the written word of God, the life of grace, faith, hope and charity, and the other interior gifts of the Holy Spirit". Catechesis will possess an ecumenical dimension in the measure in which it arouses and nourishes "a true desire for unity", not easy irenicism, but perfect unity, when the Lord himself wills it and by those means by which he wishes that it should be brought about. (GDC, no. 86B)

Key Element V Education for Living in the Christian Community Grade Pre-K

	Key Element V: Education for Living in the Christian Community	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 8				
	CATHOLIC CHURCH: Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ, the community of believers, as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charisms, members and the communion of saints.				
	Indicators				
PK.08.01	Identify the Church as a special community of faith that comes together to worship God.		751-752	147	118-121
PK.08.02	Identify that the <u>angels</u> are spirits who have been created by God to be his messengers, and that God has given each of us a <u>Guardian Angel</u> to watch over and protect us.		328-336, 350-352	60-61	62
PK.08.03	Identify the saints as God's special friends who are part of the family of the Church in heaven.		828, 946-959, 960-962	194-195	160-161
	Standard 9				
	ECUMENISM: Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with other Catholic (Eastern), Orthodox, and Christian churches.				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
PK.09.01	Understand that Jesus founded the Catholic Church and prayed that we might all be one (Jn 17:20-23).		816, 819- 822	162-164	22

Key Element V Education for Living in the Christian Community Grade Pre-K

	Key Element V: Education for Living in the Christian Community	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 10	-			
	CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.				
	Indicators				
PK.10.01	Know that we love our families.		372, 1655- 1658, 2201- 2205, 2249	350, 456	376-379
PK.10.02	Recognize that we love our neighbors.		2196	135, 292, 388, 401	116-117
PK.10.03	Understand that we should share with others.		2443-2449	401	379
PK.10.04	State that Jesus taught us to care for other people.		2447	520	424-425
	Standard 11				
	VOCATION: Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ responding in faith by participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
PK.11.01	Know that priests serve God in a special way.		1120-1121, 1536-1546	179-180, 322-324	See Priest, 531



Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life

How we, as Individuals and Community, Live in Service to the World

"Only if we are aware of our calling, as individuals and as a community, to be part of God's family as his sons and daughters, will we be able to generate a new vision and muster new energy in the service of a truly integral humanism. The greatest service to development, then, is a Christian humanism that enkindles charity and takes its lead from truth, accepting both as a lasting gift from God." (Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, no. 78)

Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life

Promoting a missionary spirit and vocation that prepares disciples to be present as Christians in society

"[S] alvation has always been considered a "social" reality. Indeed, the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of a "city" (cf. 11:10, 16; 12:22; 13:14) and therefore of communal salvation. Consistently with this view, sin is understood by the Fathers as the destruction of the unity of the human race, as fragmentation and division. Babel, the place where languages were confused, the place of separation, is seen to be an expression of what sin fundamentally is. Hence "redemption" appears as the reestablishment of unity, in which we come together once more in a union that begins to take shape in the world community of believers. (Pope Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi no.14)

Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into human situations and seeking to transform individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself (Go and Make Disciples no.15). When Baptized, you have received the Spirit of Christ Jesus, which brings salvation and hope; your lives are a witness of faith. As sharers through Baptism in the priestly mission of Jesus, we are called to live our faith fully, share our faith freely and transform the world through the power of the Gospel. We have a story of faith to share.

Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society. The 'world' thus becomes the place and the means for the lay faithful to fulfill their Christian vocation. Catechesis seeks to help the disciples of Christ to be present in society precisely as believing Christians who are able and willing to bear witness to their faith in words and deeds. In fostering this spirit of evangelization, catechesis nourishes the evangelical attitudes of Jesus Christ in the faithful: to be poor in spirit, to be compassionate, to be meek, to hear the cry of injustice, to be merciful, to be pure of heart, to make peace, and to accept rejection and persecution. Catechesis recognizes that other religious traditions reflect the "seeds of the Word" that can constitute a true "preparation for the Gospel." It encourages adherents of the world's religions to share what they hold in common, never minimizing the real differences between and among them. "Dialogue is not in opposition to the mission ad gentes." (NDC no. 20:6)

Catechesis is also open to the missionary dimension. This seeks to equip the disciples of Jesus to be present as Christians in society through their professional, cultural and social lives. It also prepares them to lend their cooperation to the different ecclesial services, according to their proper vocation. (GDC no. 86A)

In educating for this missionary sense, catechesis is also necessary for interreligious dialogue, if it renders the faithful capable of meaningful communication with men and women of other religions. Catechesis shows that the link between the Church and non-Christian religions is, in the first place, the common origin and end of the human race, as well as the "many seeds of the word which God has sown in these religions". Catechesis too helps to reconcile and, at the same time, to distinguish between "the proclamation of Christ" and "inter-religious dialogue". These two elements, while closely connected, must not be confused or identified. Indeed, "dialogue does not dispense form evangelization." (GDC no. 86B)

Key Element VI Evangelization and Apostolic Life Grade Pre-K

	Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life	Pre-K	ССС	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 12				
	CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Know critique and apply social justice and stewardship principles to societal situations in a way that acknowledges and affirms the dignity of the human person and community.				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
PK.12.01	Recognize that our individual differences are gifts from God.		1934-1938, 1945-1947	412-413	67-68
PK.12.02	Know that all of God's creation needs care.		337-349, 353-354	62-65	424
PK.12.03	State that our parish family works together to care about our world and other people.		782-786, 2179	154-155	115-116, 134- 135
PK.12.04	Understand that Jesus showed concern for all people, especially those in need.		2443-2449, 2462-2463	520	307-307, 343, 423
PK.12.05	Learn the importance of sharing faith and other things as well.		1946-1948, 2401-2402, 2450-2451	413, 503-506	423-425

Key Element VI Evangelization and Apostolic Life Grade Pre-K

	Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
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	Standard 13				
	INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with Jews, Muslims, and all faith traditions.				
	Indicators				
PK.13.01	Understand that you belong to the Catholic Church founded by Jesus.		816, 870	162	114
	Standard 14				
	MISSIONARY VOCATION: Demonstrate an appreciation for Catholic missionary and evangelization efforts through our parish community, its culture, worship, sacramental life, and service.				
	Indicators				
PK.14.01	Realize that Jesus asks us to share the Good News of Jesus' love for us with our family, friends and neighbors.		849-851, 1546	172	135-137
PK.14.02	Help new classmates feel welcome.		1699-1715	358-359	307-309
PK.14.03	Recognize that Jesus wants us to help our family and friends.		2221-2231	459-460	375-380