

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How are we expected to utilize these curriculum guidelines in our parish program?

A: When creating this curriculum we envisioned providing parishes with a resource that they could use to help gauge what their students should be learning each year. First of all, we wanted to provide a list of objectives that catechists can use to know “what” their students should be learning. We are also very aware that most catechists are not teachers by trade and may struggle with knowing what is developmentally appropriate behavior and expectations for students of varying grade levels, that’s why we have chosen to provide this information in the Catechist Information pages. Lastly, we wanted to provide resources to encourage parents and parish to work together to further the faith development of youth, that’s why we have provided the Parent’s Pages to help teach their children the faith at home. We believe that these resources will be successful in helping provide parishes with guidance, while also allowing them flexibility in their programs.

Q: What are the Diocesan Confirmation requirements?

A: The only thing the Diocese of Sioux City requires of parishes, within their Confirmation preparation, is that they are observing age range set by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) of 7-16 years old. This is stated in Bishop Nickless’ 2012 letter regarding Confirmation. Parishes are advised to consult Canon law when discerning how best to prepare their students for the sacrament. If you have any further questions, or would like some further guidance, the Office of Evangelization would be happy to work with you as an individual parish to design a Confirmation program that will work best for your Parish.

Q: How many weeks of Religious Education Classes should be held yearly?

A: We believe that 28-30 classes per year is a reasonable number to shoot for. We also suggest scheduling a few extra weeks as make up days, since you will most likely end up canceling a few weeks for things you can’t always predict.

Q: Are we required to use specific text books?

A: You are allowed to utilize any text books on the USCCB’s Conformity list. That being said, we have worked with a number of text books and truly believe that the best series are:

Image of God by: Ignatius Press

Faith and Life by: Ignatius Press

Alive in Christ by: Our Sunday Visitor

Family Formation Program by: Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Ham Lake, MN

Family Faith Formation by: Sofia Institute Press