

Key Element I: Knowledge of 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*, 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, 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)

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

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 the 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. 1)

	Key Element I <i>Knowledge of Faith</i>	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	<u>Standard 1</u>				
	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.				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
PK.01.01	Know that God is the <u>Holy Trinity</u> - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and that we demonstrate this knowledge when we make the <u>Sign of the Cross</u>		253-255	27, A. Common Prayers,	51-53
PK.01.02	Show understanding that God created me and loves me.		356	46,59	53, 66-
PK.01.03	Describe how God made all creation good		299,341		54
PK.01.04	Identify the universe as belonging to God.				56
PK.01.05	Describe God as Father.			1,46	52
PK.01.06	State that Jesus is: true God and true man, Son of God and Son of Mary.		441-445,495	83,95	81-83
PK.01.07	Retell stories about important moments in the life of Christ.		441-445, 454, 464, 469, 479, 480-483, 488, 487-495, 561	103-124	56,79,80
PK.01.08	Describe that Jesus died on the Cross for us, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven.		616-617, 620-621, 623, 638-640, 656, 665	122,126,127,132	80,86

	<u>Standard 2</u>				
	SACRED SCRIPTURE: Read, comprehend and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Sacred Scripture.				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
PK.02.01	Show understanding that the Bible is a very special holy book of the family of the Church.		103-108,131-133,135, 136-139	84	26
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 Bible as the book that contains the four Gospels - important books where we learn about Jesus.		125,127	22	24
PK.02.04	State the names of Adam and Eve as the names of the first man and the first woman created by God.		375	7	53

Key Element II Liturgical Education: Helping to celebrate

Promoting a 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, p. 60)

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

"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 <i>Liturgical Education: Helping to celebrate</i>	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	<u>Standard 3</u>				
	SACRAMENTS: <i>Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as effective signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.</i>				
	<i>Indicators</i>				
PK.03.01	Exhibit basic understanding that sacraments are <u>signs</u> of God's love for us		1131(1113)	224	168-169
PK.03.02	Learn about Baptism as the sacrament through which we become children of God and members of the family of the Church		1213, 1226, 1239-1241, 1243, 1257, 1267, 1272, 1278-1280, 1282	147-157	193-197
	<u>Standard 4</u>				
	LITURGY: <i>Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.</i>				
	<i>Indicators</i>				
PK.04.01	<i>Shows basic understanding that in the church we believe God is present in a real way in the those gathered (the <u>assembly</u>), in the Word of God and in the <u>Eucharist</u></i>		1329	277	37, 223
PK.04.02	Identify Sunday is a special day when we go to church and pray as a family		1163	241	365

PK.04.03	<i>Demonstrate respect for God's presence by <u>genuflecting</u> or bowing</i>		1378		473, 880
PK.04.04	Identify <u>Christmas</u> and <u>Easter</u> as celebrations during the Church year		525-526,875,1169	103, 241	173, 365
PK.04.05	<i>Give examples of ways we use our senses to help us pray</i>		2702		171-172
PK.04.06	Celebrate Christmas as the birthday of Jesus		525	103	507

Key Element III: Moral Formation

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)

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

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: Moral Formation	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	<u>Standard 5</u>				
	Conscience: Develop a moral conscience informed by Church teachings.				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
PK.05.01	Identify visual representations of Jesus' loving actions.				55-56
PK.05.02	Imitate Jesus' actions of love				
	<u>Standard 6</u>				
	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		1747, 1749, 1759- 1761, 1776- 1777, 1781, 1783- 1785.	364-369	314-315
PK.06.02	Learn that we need God's grace to live as his children				318

PK.06.03	Know the importance of being fair and just		1944-1945, 2255, 2319]	414-464	209, 324, 328
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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] pp.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.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	Pre	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	<i>Standard 7</i>				
	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.				
	<i>Indicators</i>				
PK.07.01	Describe how prayer is talking to God as a loving Father		2558 2590	534	463, 478
PK.07.02	Recall that Jesus helps us to pray		2601, 2603-2604 2607	544	467, 484
PK.07.03	Identify prayer as the way we show we love God		2639	556	463
PK.07.04	Realize that songs can be prayers		2641	556	473
PK.07.05	Pray before meals and give thanks to God			P. 182	536
PK.07.06	Follow and recite the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be			P. 181	473, 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		2142-2145 2166	447	473
PK.07.08	Repeat the prayer to the Guardian Angel			181	538

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

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)

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

a) 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).

b) 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. 86)

	Key Element V: EDUCATION FOR LIVING IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA	Other Resources
	<i>Standard 8</i>					
	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.08.0 1	Identify the Church as a special community of faith that comes together to worship God		752	147	118-119	
PK.08.0 2	Identify that the angels are spirits who have been created by God to be his messengers, and that God has given each of us a Guardian Angel to watch over and protect us		328-336, 350-352	60-61	62	<i>Cf. stories in the Bible that include angels: the Annunciation [Lk 1:26-38]; the Birth of Jesus [Mt 1:18-25; Lk 2:1-20]; the Flight to and return from Egypt [Mt 2:13-15, 19-23]; the Temptation of Jesus [Mt 4:1-11; Mk 1:12-13]; the Agony in the Garden [Lk 22:39-46]; the Resurrection [Mt 28:1-10; Mk 16:1-8; Lk 24:1-12]</i>
PK.08.0 3	Identify the saints as God's special friends who are part of the family of the Church in heaven		828, 956-957, 960-962, etc.	195	152,160-162	<i>Our Sunday Visitor has link to saints and feast http://www.osv.com/OSV4MeNav/CatholicAlmanac/GlossaryAC/TheChurchCalendar/tabid/4875/Default.aspx</i>

	<u>Standard 9</u>					
	<u>Indicators</u>					
	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.					
PK.09.0 1	Understand that Jesus founded the Catholic Church and prayed that we might all be one (John 17:21-22)					
	<u>Standard 10</u>					
	CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.					
	<u>Indicators</u>					
PK.10.0 1	<i>Know that we love our families</i>		372, 2201- 2206	350, 456		
PK.10.0 2	Recognize that we love our neighbors		2196	135, 292, 389, 401		
PK.10.0 3	<i>Understand that we should share with others</i>		2443- 2449	401	389	
PK.10.0 4	State that Jesus taught us to care for other people		2447	401-402	408	
					387-402	
	<u>Standard 11</u>				310, 326	
	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.				405-406	
	<u>Indicators</u>					

PK.11.0 1	Know; that priests serve God in a special way		1120- 1121, 1536- 1600	179-180, 322- 336	137, 531	
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Key Element VI: Education for Evangelization and Apostolic Life

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

"..salvation 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.17)

Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into human situation 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.

– *Missionary initiation*

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

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. 6)

a) Catechesis is also open to the missionary dimension. (207) 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.

b) 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 from evangelization." (GDC no.86)

	Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life	Pre-K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA	Other Resources
	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.		1898-1899, 1941	411-414	326-337	See also: - Pope Benedict XVI - Caritas in Veritate; Pope Paul VI – Populorum Progressio; Pope John Paul II - Sollicitudo Rei Socialis
	<i>Indicators</i>					
PK.12.0	Recognize that our individual differences are gifts from God		1934-1937,	412	6768	
PK.12.0	Know that all of God's creation needs care		678-679	135	424-426	
PK.12.0 3	<i>State that our parish family works together to care about our world and other people</i>		783, 2179	155	213ff	Compendium on the Social Doctrine of the Church, 66
PK.12.0 4	Understand that Jesus showed concern for all people, especially those in need		2443-2449	520	343	
PK.12.0 5	<i>Learn the importance of sharing faith and other things as well</i>		1947-1948, 2451-2452, 2456, 2459	506	423-425	
	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.					See Vatican II documents: o Nostra Aetate o Ad Gentes Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith – Joseph Card. Ratzinger, Dominus Iesus
PK.13.0 1	Understand that you belong to the Catholic Church founded by Jesus		816, 818, 870	162	114	
	<i>Standard 14</i>					

	MISSIONARY VOCATION: Demonstrate an appreciation for Catholic missionary and evangelization efforts through our parish community, its culture, worship, sacramental life, and service.		849-856	172-173	117-118, 125-126	See: Pope Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, Pope John Paul II, Redemptoris Missio, Go and Make Disciples
						www.holychildhoodusa.org
	<i>Indicators</i>					www.HCAkids.org
PK.14.0 1	Realize that Jesus asks us to share the Good News of Jesus' love for us with our family, friends and neighbors		1546	172	135	Go and Make Disciples
PK.14.0 2	<i>Help new classmates feel welcome</i>					
PK.14.0 3	Recognize that Jesus wants us to help our family and friends		1317	268	203	