

**Curriculum Guidelines  
Catholic Diocese of Fargo**

## **Introduction to Grades 6 - 8**

The material that is taught at the middle school level presumes acquisition by the student of the topics covered in the grades PreK-5 and the reception of all the sacraments of initiation. In practice, this means there will be the need for review of the previous material, especially at the beginning of the sixth grade. For students who have already accomplished the necessary level of understanding (whether by having been a student in a Catholic school in PreK-5 or through family catechesis), this review can be achieved quickly and efficiently. It will however be necessary to devise other means for the students who have not acquired this background so that they are enabled to absorb the new material of the middle school curriculum.

This level represents a new phase in the catechesis of our children. It deepens to a more developed and mature level the essential truths to which they have already been exposed at length in the grades PreK-5. It seeks not only to help the student to know the faith but also to begin to know the fuller reasons which enable the student to recognize the connections with his/her own experience. It is hoped that with the increase in complexity, the guidelines will correspond to the hunger of young people. At this age, children are eager to discover the answers to the fundamental human questions.

## **Curriculum Guidelines Catholic Diocese of Fargo**

### **Eighth-Grade**

*Theme:* The Church is the Family of God. The Church is both seen and unseen. The Church in this world is the sacrament of salvation and sanctification, the sign and the instrument of the communion of God and mankind.

### **I. CREED - PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Section one pertains to what God, Our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ His Son by the power of the Holy Spirit has revealed about Himself and His Plan for our salvation and sanctification. The delivery of the Faith begins with the knowledge that God has acted first – He has given all – for no other reason than He loves us.

At the end of Eighth Grade, students will demonstrate the following:

1. By natural reason and our conscience, we can be certain of the existence of God, but we need Revelation to know God as a loving Father.  
(CCC 31-35, 46, 50; definition of “conscience” 1776, 1795)
2. Jesus is the fullness of Revelation. Revelation consists of Scripture and Tradition as handed on by Jesus, to His successors, Peter and the Twelve Apostles, and their successors. (Magisterium)  
(CCC 80-100)
3. Be aware that the Holy Spirit is present today, guiding and sanctifying the Church as a whole and each of us individually.  
(CCC 739, 767, 797-800, 813, 888-891, 1742, 2003)
4. The Pope, the Vicar of Christ, is given the special charism of infallibility.  
(CCC 888-891, 2035)
5. What we believe about Mary is based on what we believe about Jesus. Explain the doctrines of Mary: Mother of God, Immaculate Conception, Ever-Virgin, Assumption, and Mother of All.  
(CCC 484-511)
6. Knows the implications of believing in one God.  
(listed and explained in CCC 222-227)
7. Our response to God and all He is given to us is faith. Identify and begin to understand the characteristics of faith. (CCC 153-166, 176-184)
  - a. grace-inspired and free human act of the intellect and will
  - b. faith comes before understanding and is more certain
  - c. faith is necessary for salvation
  - d. faith requires perseverance
  - e. faith is the beginning of eternal life, a foretaste of heaven
  - f. faith is both personal and ecclesial
8. Realize that the Church is described with many images. Understand the images: Family of God, People of God, Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, Bride of Christ, Mother and Teacher.  
(CCC 1, 169, 781-798, 1655, 2030-2031)

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9. Know that the mission of the Church is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. A mission first entrusted to His successors, Peter and the Twelve and then their successors, the Pope and the bishops united with him (Magisterium). All the baptized are to assist in this one mission of Jesus Christ.  
(CCC 6-7, 75-79, 91-93, 127, 737-738, 830-831, 834, 880-896, 1070)
10. Explain the four marks of the Church:
  - the Church is One (CCC 787-790, 866)
  - the Church is Holy (CCC 825-826)
  - the Church is Catholic (CCC 831, 835, 868)
  - the Church is Apostolic (CCC 857, 869)
11. Understand that the Church is being “most Church” (in her truest self) when she is celebrating Sacraments.  
(CCC 959, 1068, 1071, 1116, 1118)
12. Know that there is only one Church and this Church subsists in the Catholic Church and was entrusted by Jesus to Peter and the rest of the Twelve Apostles.  
(CCC 813-816, 870; Mt 16:19; 18:18)
13. Understand that all Christian churches are part of the People of God to some degree. Those who are baptized and belong to other Christian churches are considered our brothers and sisters. They have “elements of truth” and linkages with the one true Church, the Catholic Church, at different levels.  
(CCC 77-79, 95, 824, 839-848)
14. The unity of the Church established by Jesus has been very seriously wounded with the separation into many different Christian denominations against God’s will. Like Jesus, we must pray that His Church, His Family which is Our Church, Our Family, will once again be reunited on earth and we must work towards this unity.  
(CCC 818, 816-822, 836-838, 845; Jn 17)
15. Many means of holiness are found outside the confines of the visible Catholic Church. All these blessings derive from what was entrusted to the Catholic Church by Jesus.  
(CCC 819)
16. Know that membership in the Church requires faith and Baptism, and that one is fully initiated by receiving Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.  
(CCC 1210, 1212, 1229, 1253)
17. Understand that all Christians have the gift, mission and duty to share the Faith with others.  
(CCC 74, 91-93, 897-913)
18. Perceive oneself as part of the Church, the Family of God, the people of God, the Body of Christ.  
(CCC 836-838, 1322-1323, 1391, 1396, 1405, 1691)
19. Understand that the call to service is based on the example of Jesus.  
(CCC 520-521, 544, 555, 896)
20. Know the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and understand their place in the Church’s mission. Makes plan to live them accordingly.  
(CCC 849, 1460, 2429, 2443-2449, 2461-2463)

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21. Re-examine the Church's teachings on the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders and the single or religious life realizing that all are called by God to one of these permanent vocations.  
(CCC 1533-1666, 1694-1696, 2253)
22. Understand the definition of family and how the family is the "domestic church."  
(CCC 2202, 2204-2206, 2252-53)
23. Understand the phrase, "I believe in life everlasting" including death, particular judgment, heaven, purgatory, hell, the last judgment and Jesus' Second Coming (parousia), and the hope of the new heaven and earth.  
(CCC 1020-1060).

## II. SACRAMENTS – CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

Section two pertains to the way God, Our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ His Son by the power of the Holy Spirit continues to make Himself and His Plan for our salvation and sanctification present today. In the sacraments, God touches us and we touch Him – a touch that wholly changes us – we are freed from sin and become His children, members of the Church, His Family. In the sacraments God acts first – He has given all – for no other reason than He loves us. The reception of the sacraments is one way we say “yes” to God.

At the end of Eighth grade, students will demonstrate the following:

1. The whole of the liturgical life of the Church revolves around the sacraments, because these are the ways God has chosen to free us from sin (salvation), to help us grow as His children (sanctify), to build the Body of Christ, to enable us to give Him worship.  
(CCC 1123)
2. The celebration of sacraments is a meeting of God’s children with their Father, in Christ and the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1153)
3. The sacraments are of the Church in that they are “by her” and “for her.”  
(CCC 1118)
4. The Church believes as she prays. The Faith she confesses was given by Jesus, to the apostles, who then gave it to their successors. For this reason no sacramental rite may be modified or manipulated at the will of the minister or community.  
(CCC 1124-25)
5. Study the acclamations and eucharistic prayers of the Mass, keeping in mind that the Church prays as she believes. (CCC 1124)
6. Sacred images in our churches and homes are intended to awaken and nourish our faith. We do not adore or honor the image, rather who the image represents.  
(CCC1159-1162, 1192)
7. Sunday, the Lord’s Day, is the principal day for celebrating the Eucharist because it is the day of the Resurrection. We are expected to participate at Mass and rest from unnecessary work.  
(CCC 1166-1167, 1193, 2041-43)
8. Describe in his/her own words something of the significance of the different liturgical seasons and events, colors and symbols and how the liturgical year flows from season to season. Include:

Incarnation	Annunciation
Visitation	Birth and Life of John the Baptist
Advent	Christmas
Epiphany	Baptism of Jesus
Ordinary Time	Lent
Ash Wednesday	Fridays of Lent
Palm Sunday	Holy Week
Triduum	Holy Thursday - Last Supper
Good Friday	Easter
Mercy Sunday	Ascension
Pentecost	Trinity Sunday
Corpus Christi	Ordinary Time ending with Christ the King.

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9. Know the solemnities, which ten are holy days of obligation listed by Rome (underlined), six of which are observed in the United States, (**in bold**). Be familiar with the feast days and memorials of Jesus, Mary, and the angels and the significance of each day (**indented**).

**Immaculate Conception (Dec 8)**

Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of Americas (Dec 12)

**Christmas (Dec 25)**

Feast of the Holy Family (in US, Sunday after Christmas)

**Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1)**

Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord (Sunday after Epiphany)

**Epiphany (in US, Sunday after Jan 1)**

Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple (Feb 2)

**St. Joseph (Mar 19)**

Annunciation (Mar 25)

Easter (first Sunday in spring)

**Ascension (40 days or so after Easter)(moved to Sunday in our diocese)**

Pentecost (50 days after Easter)

Trinity Sunday (Sunday after Pentecost)

**Body and Blood of Christ (in US, Sunday after Trinity Sunday)**

Feast of the Visitation (May 31)

Sacred Heart of Jesus (Friday after the Body and Blood of Christ)

Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (day after Sacred Heart)

Birth of John the Baptist (Jun 24)

**Sts. Peter and Paul (Jun 29)**

Feast of the Transfiguration (Aug 06)

**Assumption (Aug 15)**

Memorial of the Queenship of Mary (Aug 22)

Feast of the Birth of Mary (Sep 08)

Feast of the Triumph of the Cross (Sep 14)

Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows (Sep 15)

Feast of the Archangels (Sep 29)

Memorial of Our Guardian Angels (Oct 02)

Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary (Oct 07)

**All Saints' (Nov 01)**

Memorial of All Souls (Nov 02)

Christ the King (last Sunday in ordinary time)

### **III. MORAL DEVELOPMENT – LIFE IN CHRIST**

Section three is our response to God who loved us first. As His children, we desire to live as God has asked. The moral life is not an arbitrary list of rules. Living life as God reveals is living a fully human life.

In Eighth grade, the child should:

1. Understand and describe the relationship between freedom and responsibility. (CCC 1730-1748)
2. God placed the desire for happiness in the human heart. True happiness is found in being God's children. (CCC 1716-1729)
3. We have a responsibility for the sins committed by others when we cooperate in them: (CCC 1868)
  - a. by participating directly and voluntarily
  - b. by ordering, advising, praising or approving
  - c. by not disclosing or not hindering them when we have an obligation to do so
  - d. by protecting evil-doers
4. Practice the virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Explain how they are the virtues that all other virtue hinges upon.
5. The Holy Spirit helps us to uncover sin in our own lives, so we may convert our hearts and seek Jesus' mercy. Come to a deeper awareness of asking forgiveness and giving pardon in the circumstances of daily life as Jesus did. (CCC 1848)
6. Memorize the Commandments, Precepts of the Church, the Beatitudes, and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Be able to apply them to their own lives.
7. Articulate the do's and don't of each of the Ten Commandments. (CCC 2083-2557)
8. Understand objective and subjective morality.
9. Practice the method for moral decision-making. Be able to explain the method. Understand culpability, invincible and vincible ignorance. (CCC 1750-1754, 1790-1794)
10. Appreciate as moral models and vocation models the saints and contemporary Christians whose lives are exemplary. (see list below)
11. Be attentive to the possibility of God's call to priesthood and/or religious life. (Vocations)
12. Be familiar with the various states of consecrated life including the eremitic life, consecrated virgins and widows, religious life, secular institutes, societies and apostolates. (CCC 914-933, 940, 944)
13. Be involved (age appropriately) in peace and justice, care for the environment and any of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Involvement should include time, talent and treasure (tithing – giving 10%). (Stewardship)
14. Continue to enjoy the stories of the saints and good contemporary Christians whose lives are examples of the power of God.
15. Tell others about Jesus and His Family, the Church. Think of people to share the Gospel with and ways to do this in their own lives (Evangelization)

## SAINTS – EIGHTH GRADE

1. Know the significance of being named a patron or patroness.
2. God wants everyone to be a saint. Saints are the people in God's Family in heaven.
3. Know that God is a Family: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
4. Know that we become part of God's Family through Baptism, but we keep growing as His children until we get to heaven. People in heaven are called saints. We are all to desire to be saints. With God's grace (both His life and His help) we can be saints.
5. We should also ask the saints to help us to be holy. They are our friends, our brothers and sisters, in heaven. They want us to be with them in heaven.
6. Know that angels are not saints, they are God's helpers.
7. We only worship God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). We honor Mary and the saints.
8. Know the following new saints:
  - St. Alphonsus Ligouri, bishop and doctor of the church
  - St. Anselm, bishop and doctor of the church
  - St. Anthony the Abbot (Hermit). Father of early monasticism. Fights with the devil.
  - Apostles: Sts. Philip and James (the lesser), St. Thomas, Sts. Simon and Bartholomew. Know that Matthias is the one who replaced Judas Iscariot.  
[already did Peter (3), Andrew (3), John (6), Matthew (6), Jude (6), James (6)]
  - St. Augustine, bishop and doctor of the church
  - St. Benedict, monk and founder of western monasticism. Benedictines.
  - St. Bernard of Clairvaux, monk and doctor of the church. Great preacher throughout France, Italy, and Germany. Great devotion to Mary
  - St. Boniface, bishop and martyr. Great preacher and teacher especially to the Germans.
  - St. Catherine of Alexandria.
  - St. Francis Xavier, missionary priest who brought the teachings of the church to foreigners
  - St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, religious sister and first saint canonized from America
  - St. Helena, mother of Constantine, and founder of the true cross
  - St. Patrick, bishop. Great preacher especially in Ireland.
  - St. Rene Goupil. United States saint.
  - St. Rose of Lima. Devoted to chastity. Mystic, visionary. Received stigmata. First saint born in the Americas.
  - St. Thomas Aquinas, priest and doctor of the church.
  - St. John Neumann, United States saint. Redemptorist priest. Bishop of Philadelphia.
  - St. Maria Goretti.
  - Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. United States blessed. Bishop. Ministered to German immigrants.
  - Blessed Mother Theodore Guerin. United States blessed. Sister, pioneer, started schools in Illinois.
  - Our Lady of Mercy
  - Our Lady of the Snows
9. Review saints and angels from previous grades.

## Eighth Grade Friends

### God

Father

Son (Jesus)

Holy Spirit

### Saints

St. Agatha	St. Agnes	St. Aloysius Gonzaga
St. Alphonsus Ligouri	St. Andrew, Apostle	St. Anselm
St. Anthony the Hermit	St. Anthony of Padua	St. Arnold
St. Augustine	St. Bartholomew, Apostle	St. Bernadette of Lourdes
St. Bernard of Clairvaux	St. Benedict	St. Boniface
St. Brigid of Ireland	St. Bridget of Sweden	St. Catherine of Alexandria
St. Cecilia	St. Charles Borromeo	St. Clare of Assisi
St. Clotilde	St. David	St. Dominic
St. Dominic Savio	St. Edward	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
St. Elizabeth of Hungary	St. Faustina	St. Francis de Sales
St. Francis of Assisi	St. Francis Xavier	St. Francis Xavier Cabrini
St. George	St. Gerard Majella	St. Helena
Sts. Henry II and Cunegunda	St. Isaac Jogues & companions	St. James the Great, Apostle
St. James the Lesser, Apostle	St. Jerome	Sts. Joachim and Ann
St. John, Evangelist & Apostle	St. John Bosco	St. John the Baptist
St. John Nepomucene	St. John Neumann	St. Joseph
St. Juan Diego	St. Jude, Apostle	St. Lawrence
St. Lawrence O'Toole	St. Leo the Great	St. Louis IX
St. Luke, Evangelist	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque	St. Maria Goretti
St. Mark, Evangelist	St. Martha	St. Martin of Tours
St. Mary Magdalen	St. Matthew, Evangelist & Apostle	St. Matthias
St. Maurice	St. Maximilian Kolbe	St. Mother Katharine Drexel
Sts. Nereus & Achilles	St. Nicholas	St. Olaf of Norway
St. Padre Pio	St. Patrick	St. Paul
St. Peter, Apostle	St. Philip, Apostle	St. Philip Neri
St. Pius X	St. Rene Goupil	St. Rose Dushesne
St. Rose of Lima	St. Rose of Viterbo	St. Sebastian
St. Simon, Apostle	St. Stanislaus	St. Stephen
St. Tarcisius	St. Therese the Little Flower	St. Thomas, Apostle
St. Thomas Aquinas	St. Timothy	St. Titus
St. Valentine	St. Vincent de Paul	St. William of Bourges
Sts. Zechariah and Elizabeth	Blessed Damien the Leper	Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos
Blessed Gianna Beretta Molla	Blessed Imelda Lambertini	Blessed Junipero Serra
Blessed Kateri Tekekwitha	Blessed Mother Theodore Guerin	

### Angels

Archangel Gabriel

Archangel Michael

Archangel Raphael

Guardian Angels

### Titles of Jesus and Mary

Mary, Mother of God

Mary, Our Mother

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Queen of Peace

Our Lady of Lourdes

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Our Lady of the Rosary

Our Lady of Sorrows

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sacred Heart of Jesus

Our Lady of Mercy

Our Lady of the Snows

#### **IV. PRAYER LIFE**

Section four is another way we respond to God who loved us first. As His children, we desire to live as God has asked. In order to know God and His specific plan for our lives, we must take time to pray, that is to talk, listen and be with God and His Family, the Church. Praying is essential for growing as a Child of God in the Family of God. A life without prayer is like a life without breath.

During the Eighth Grade year the child will:

1. Fully participate at Mass on Sunday and holy days of obligation, including recitation of all responses.
2. Continue to regularly (monthly if possible) receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
3. The memorization of basic prayers offers an essential support to the life of prayer, yet it is also important to help students savor their meaning. (CCC 2688) Children should be able to recite the following: (new prayers are bolded)

Act of Faith  
Act of Hope  
Act of Love  
Angel of God  
Angelus  
Anima Christi  
Apostles Creed  
Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
Divine Praise  
Examination of Conscience  
Fatima Prayer  
Glory Be  
Grace Before and After Meals  
Hail Holy Queen  
Hail Mary  
Memorare  
Morning Offering  
Mysteries of the Rosary  
Our Father  
Prayer to the Holy Spirit  
Prayer Before Reconciliation  
Act of Contrition  
Prayer After Reconciliation  
Prayer Before Eucharist  
Prayer After Eucharist  
Prayer of St. Francis  
Prayer to Know Vocation  
Regina Coeli  
St. Michael the Archangel  
Sign of the Cross  
Stations of the Cross

**Canticle of Zechariah**  
**Canticle of Mary**  
**Canticle of Simeon**

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4. Continue the daily habit of personal prayer through brief silent meditation, prayer with Scripture, spontaneous prayer, prayer, “listening” to the Holy Spirit and acts of penance to cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus, in addition to the communal (ecclesial) relationship with Jesus and the Church. (CCC 1434)
5. Take time to make visits and adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament (CCC 1378-1381).
6. Understand the differences between vocal prayer, meditation and contemplation. (CCC 2700-2719)
7. Become familiar with the battle of prayer and strategies to overcome this battle. (CCC 2725-2745)
8. Experience traditional devotions such as praying the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, prayer to patron saint or important saints on their feast days.
9. Recognize and describe the liturgical seasons, the Holy Days of Obligation and other feasts of importance.
10. Develop a habit of daily prayer to know one’s vocation, realizing that each has a special place in the people of God. Be attentive to the possibility of God’s call to priesthood and/or religious life.
11. Actively participate in the Mass, recognizing the importance of this for a member of the Church. Recognize that we continue to live the Eucharist in our daily lives, that is to live as Jesus would.
12. Become familiar with Liturgy of the Hours: Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Night Prayer and the Office of Readings.
13. Recognize/describe liturgical seasons and feasts of importance, especially Holy Days of Obligation.
14. Experience familiarity with the purpose and ritual of the Sacraments.
15. Be at ease with forms of spontaneous prayer and faith sharing with peers and friends including those who are not Catholic. Bring prayer to their daily world.
16. Some time within the year, try to incorporate a retreat experience which might vary in length, depending upon resources.
17. Continue to regularly (monthly if possible) receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. .
18. Take time to make visits and adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament (CCC 1378-1381). To visit Jesus, the Blessed Sacrament, is...a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ Our Lord. (CCC 1418)

## **SCRIPTURE – EIGHTH GRADE**

The primary goal of Scripture is to know Jesus Christ. From this point forward, students should be familiar with passages and stories from Scripture, specifically as they refer to the various teachings pertaining to this grade. In other words, know where to find the teachings in Scripture. The Catechism of the Catholic Church will be helpful in this task.

In addition, should seek to understand, Be familiar with passages and stories from Scripture, specifically:

(\*Parents and catechists may cross reference these Scriptures to the CCC by consulting the Index of Citations, provided in the CCC. Such a cross referencing will assist catechists in applying these Scriptures to the points of the curriculum.)

1. Accounts of the Early Church - Acts 1:12-14; 2:42-47
2. Church as God's people - 1 Peter 2:9-10
3. Promise of the Spirit - Jn. 16:7, 13
4. Pentecost account - Acts 2:1-41; Jn. 20:19-23
5. Command to preach the Good News to all the Nations - Mk. 16:15 -16; Mt. 28:16-20
6. Authority of Peter, the first pope - Mt. 16:13-19
7. Jesus' intention of establishing the Church, His Family on earth – Mt 16:13-19
7. Selection of the Apostles - Lk. 6:12-16
8. Mission of the Disciples - Lk. 10:1-12; Mt. 5:13-16
9. Appointment of Deacons - Acts 6:1-6
10. Tradition - Jn. 21:25
11. On Laws - Mt. 5:17-20; Mt. 5:38-48; Mt. 5:3-12
12. Jesus institutes the Eucharist - Mt. 26:26-28; Lk. 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26
13. Mary as the Mother of the Church - Jn. 19:25-27
14. Jesus' mission during the 40 days between the Resurrection and Ascension –  
Lk 24:13-53, Jn 20-21, Acts 1:1-11

## VOCABULARY – EIGHTH GRADE

At the end of this grade level, students should know the following:

### New Words

abbess	abbot	abbey	adultery
Apostles' Creed	apostolate	arch bishop	canon law
capital sins	cardinal	celibacy	chancery
chapel	chaplain	charism	Christ the Judge
Christ the King	cloister	collaboration	communion of saints
conclave	consecrated life	convent	crosier
culpability	curia	discipline/doctrine/dogma	dispensation
Doctor of the Church	doctrine	dogma	domestic church
doxology	Eastern Churches	eremitic	euthanasia
evangelical counsels	excommunicate	Fathers of the Church	four marks of Church
freedom	heresy	infallibility	invisible Church
laity	last judgment	lay person	ministry
mission of the Church	miter	monastery	monastic life
mystical	new heaven and earth	Nicene Creed	Night Prayer
novice	novitiate	objective	Office of Readings
orthodox	papacy	Parousia	Pectoral Cross
Perpetual Virgin (Ever-Virgin)	pilgrim people	pilgrimage	postulancy
postulant	presbyter	presumption	pride
Protestant Reformation	religious life	responsibility	scandal
schism	Second Coming	secular institutes	seminary
shrine	social structures	societies	subjective
subsists	Vatican	Vatican City	Vatican Council II
Vicar of Christ	vigil	Virgin birth	visible Church

Name and describe the images of the Church: Family of God, People of God, Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, Bride of Christ, Mother and Teacher.

### Previous Words

Abba	absolution	absolve	abstain
Acts of the Apostles	actual grace	Adam	addiction
adoration	adoration chapel	adore	Advent
Advent candles	Advent wreath	age of reason	All Saints' Day
alleluia	all-knowing	all-loving	almighty
alms	almsgiving	altar	altar server
amen	angels	Annunciation	anoint
Anointing of the Sick	Apostles (Twelve Apostles)	Archangels	Ascension
Ash Wednesday	ashes	Assumption of Mary	Baptism
baptismal font	basilica	battle of prayer	bear false witness
beatified	Beatitudes	beauty	believe
Bethlehem	Bible	bishop	blasphemy
Blessed Sacrament	blessing	Blood of Christ	body

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Body of Christ	Bread of Life	Breaking of Bread	breviary
brother	call to holiness	calumny	Calvary
candidate	canon	canonized	catacombs
catechesis	catechism	Catechism of Catholic Church	catechumenate
cathedral	Catholic	chalice	charity (love)
chastity	Child of God	chrism	Christ
Christian	Christmas	Church	church building ciborium
cincture	command	commandment	communion fast
Communion of Saints	community	concelebrant	conception
confession	confessional	Confirmation	conscience
consecrate	consecrated hosts	consecrated life	consecration
consumerism	contemplation	contrition	conversion
Coronation of Mary	corporal	correct conscience	counsel covet
covetousness	creation		
Creator	creatures	creed	cross
crucifix	crucifixion	crucify	cursing
daily crosses	deacon	death	decade
Decalogue	deliberate	demon	desecration
despair	devil	disciples	dishonesty
disobey	distractions	divine nature	Divine office
double consequence of sin	Easter	Easter Saturday	ecclesial
Egypt	Emmanuel	Emmaus	emotions
encyclical	envy	Epiphany	Epistles (letters)
eternal	Eucharist	Eucharistic Prayer	evangelists
evangelization	Eve	Evening Prayer	everlasting
evil	examination of conscience	exterior	extraordinary minister
Faith	faith	faith response	faithfulness
Family of God	fasting	Father	fear of the Lord
fervent	fidelity	Finding of Jesus in Temple	first reading
followers	foreshadow	forgiveness	formation of conscience
fortitude	four pillars	free will	funeral
generosity	Gentiles	gentleness	genuflection
glorious	glory	gluttony	God
god-parent	Golgotha	Good Friday	goodness
Gospels	grace	guardian angels	hallowed
happiness	Heaven	heirs	hell
hermit	hierarchy	historical books	holiness
holy	Holy and Divine Liturgy	holy cards	Holy Communion
Holy Day	Holy Law	Holy Mass	holy oils
Holy Orders	Holy Sacrifice	Holy See	Holy Spirit
Holy Thursday	holy water	Holy Week	homily
hope	host	human	human dignity
human nature	idolatry	ignorance	image and likeness
images	Immaculate Conception	Immaculate Heart of Mary	immodesty
imperfect	imposition of hands	impurity	Incarnation
incense	indelible	indelible spiritual mark	indissoluble
indulgences	inerrancy	infinite	infinite
injustice	innocence	inspiration	inspire
inspired writers	intention	intercession	interior

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invincible ignorance	Israelites	Jerusalem	Jesus
Jesus' hidden life	Jesus' public life	Jews	Joseph
joy	just	kindness	Kingdom of God
knowledge	Lamb of God	Last Supper	Law of Love
Lent	Lenten abstinence	Lenten fast	lie
literal sense	liturgical year	liturgy	Liturgy of Hours
Liturgy of the Eucharist	Liturgy of the Word	Lord	Lord's Supper
love (charity)	luminous	lust	Magi
Magisterium	married vocation	martyr	Mary
Mass	materialism	Matrimony	media
mediate	Mediator	meditation	Memorial
merciful	mercy	Mercy Sunday	merit
Messiah	miracles	miraculous medal	missalette
mission	missionary	modesty	monk
monstrance	Morning Prayer	mortal	mortal sin
Most Blessed Sacrament	motive	Mount Sinai	mystery
Nativity	natural	natural death	nature
New Covenant	New Testament	novena	nun
oath	obedient	obey	object
occasion of sin	offer	offering	Oil of Catechumens
Oil of the Sick	Old Covenant	Old Testament	ordinary bread (unleaven)
ordinary grape wine	Ordinary Time	original sin	Palm Sunday
parable	Paraclete	paradise	pardon
parish	partial	partial indulgence	particular judgment
Paschal Mystery	Passion	passions	pastor
paten	patience	patron saint	peace
penance	Pentateuch	Pentecost	People of God
perfect	perjury	perpetual	perseverance
person	Peter	pew	Pharisees
piety	plenary	plenary indulgence	poor souls
Pope (Holy Father)	praise	prayer	Precepts of the Church
Precious Blood	Presentation of Jesus	priest	priestly vocation
prophets	psalm response	psalms	purgatory
purity	RCIA	reason/intellect	Reconciliation
Redeemer	redemption	redemptive	redemptive suffering
relics	religious vocation	respect	Resurrection
retreat	Revelation	revenge	reverence
right to life	Rosary	Sabbath	sacrament
sacramentals	sacred chrism	Sacred Heart of Jesus	Sacred Mysteries
Sacred Scripture	Sacred Tradition	sacrifice	sacrilege
saint	salvation	Salvation Story	sanctify
sanctifying grace	sanctity of life	sanctuary	sanctuary light
Sanhedrin	satan	scapular	second reading
self-control	service	sin	sincere
single vocation	slander	sloth	solemnity
Solemnity of Mary	soul	source (font)	spiritual
spiritual sense	sponsor	state of grace	Stations of the Cross
statue	steal	stole	strength
suffering	Suffering Servant	summit	Sunday

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Sunday rest	supernatural	superstition	swear
synagogue	tabernacle	talents	temple
Temple of the Holy Spirit	temporal	temporal punishment	temptation
Ten Commandments	theme	theological virtues	tithing
Torah	Tradition	Transfiguration	transubstantiation
trespasses	Tridium	Trinity	truth
type	unchaste	understanding	values
vengeance	venial sin	vestments	Vicar of Christ
vincible ignorance	virtue	Visitation	vocal prayer
vocation	votive candle	will of God	wisdom
witness	witnesses	womb	Word of God
worship	Writings	wrong	zeal

## **Profile of an Eighth-Grade Student**

### **Characteristics**

The thirteenth year of life is one of complex transition involving body, mind, and personality. The transition often comes unbidden and sometimes unexpectedly. Changes in body build and body chemistry affect posture, coordination, appearance, voice, facial expression as well as attitudes and tension. Body changes intensify awareness of growing up. Moods change, fluctuating between hidden despair and optimistic self-acceptance.

Thirteen-year-olds are not always open and communicative. At home they may lapse into spells of silence, musing, and reverie. At school they may be apathetic and uninterested in any class which does not challenge and stir their emerging conceptual power.

The young person is beset by interpersonal demands from family, peers, and teachers. Home, school and peers often conflict and aggravate confusion.

Yet in the midst of these pressures, adolescents usually preserve self-identity and achieve a measure of independence. They meet developmental problems with a heightened awareness of themselves and the world in which they live.

At thirteen years, youth are in a momentous transition. They long for and need security, sympathetic understanding, and supportive love in spite of their inability to respond openly and consistently.

By learning to accept themselves, their good characteristics together with their weaknesses, students build and achieve a sense of self-worth.

Eighth-graders continue to seek approval from adults and peers, and are eager to have friends, although preferring one or two close friends of the same sex. They tend to form cliques and identify strongly with peer groups and interests. The all-important question to the reflective thirteen-year-old at this period of growth is WHO AM I?

### **Faith Development Needs**

In general young people are developing the ability to think logically and abstractly. They begin at this age to question the logic and consistency of their beliefs. If adults give them knowledge, freedom, opportunity, and reassurance, they can then probe their previously unquestioned instruction so that they eventually experience faith as a personal relationship with God.

Junior High School students tend to fall into patterns of hero-worship, seeking models to follow and imitate. At the same time they are concerned about choices. They need to be provided with credible and attractive vocation and career models of faith. The example of Jesus and Christian heroes and heroines reinforces in their minds their vocation to the Christian life and to the special ministry to which God is calling them. This is a good time for contact with priests and religious as role models.

SOURCE: Office for Catechetics, Diocese of Sioux Falls, 605-988-3770

## **Implications**

Because young people experience fluctuating moods and strong emotional stress at this stage, the catechist should strive to deepen their awareness of the great and total love and acceptance Jesus has for each person, presenting Jesus as one who saves, redeems, forgives, loves and leads them to the Father through His Spirit living in them. It is a time to emphasize the intrinsic goodness of each individual.

Although teens are capable of logical and abstract thinking, the life of faith is still best presented through concrete experiences which afford the opportunities to incorporate Christian values into their lives.

As the need for privacy and time to be alone becomes more important to the adolescent, ways of fostering and deepening their spiritual life should be developed.

Peer pressure is often the determining factor in the young person's decision to experiment with drugs, alcohol and sex. Catechists should provide strong and effective support groups involving the youth in home, parish, and community activities.

Young persons seek to be themselves and to make their own decisions. It is the task of the catechist to assist them in conscience formation.

In adolescence, teens make the transition from dependence to independence. Among the serious questions facing them are several crucial ones: Who am I? What do I believe? What do I think is important? And most important, who is Jesus and what difference does He make for me? The effective catechist, by willingly sharing faith experience - where one has been, where one presently is, and where one is going - will help the youth discover answers to these questions.

The teenager needs time to reflect on what it means to be called to a particular way of life. Being in a transitional stage, the adolescent needs guidance in the discernment of a vocation.

It is also essential that the teenager have available the advice of model adults who know the person, before he/she makes a decision to a particular vocation.

Participation in the ministries of the local parish will establish a sense of viable membership in the People of God as well as nurture self-esteem, and introduce the young person to a peer group of similar values.

SOURCE: Office for Catechetics, Diocese of Sioux Falls, 605-988-3770