

Diocese of Fargo Implementation of the Standards 2018

Introduction to the Standards

The curriculum standards are for K-8th grades. You will notice there are two sets of standards: The General Standards which match the four pillars of the catechism and the Textbook Standards which are correlated to the *Alive in Christ* curriculum by chapter and grade. The actual standard is found in bold with letters and a number beside it. This indicates one of the four pillars of the catechism: Profession of Faith, Sacraments, Moral life and Prayer then the grade and number of the standard. The text below the standard is the supporting data to make sure the standard is fully understood. The ‘Essential Question’ to the left of the standard is a broad reaching question that does not have a single one word answer. The best use of the ‘Essential Question’ is to write it on the board at the beginning of class and direct the students to understand the goal at the end is to see if they can generate some answers. To the right of the standard are resources the teacher can use. Every teacher should be equipped with a Bible, Catechism and *Youcat* along with their *Alive in Christ* text. The next column labeled ‘Mission and Community life’ will have some ideas for activities, but ideally should be filled in by the catechists with different ways the lesson ties in with the mission of the Church or community life when applicable. The last column labeled ‘Teaching Notes’, is for catechists to share ideas of activities or analogies that tie in with the standard. Keep in mind the only part that is mandated is the standard itself.

Alive in Christ Series and the Standards

Most teachers will generally just use the standards that are correlated to the text. You will find in most cases the supporting data for the standard can be found directly in the chapter. However, some were more indirect or not covered. These are shown in red and italicized. The catechist would then need to follow the instruction given. For example, it might say the supporting data is found in the beginning ‘New Year’ chapter or in the back of the book. In some cases the catechist would need to use the supporting data as a tool to teach from.

The *Alive in Christ* series begins with a section called ‘A New Year’ this section usually covers the bible and should not be skipped. The next section groups the liturgical year lessons all together. The catechist would need to plan these lessons into the calendar year when appropriate. The back of the book has a section called ‘Live your Faith’, these are short lessons based on Catholic social teaching. These can also be disbursed throughout the year. The back of the book includes helpful information and prayers.

You will also notice that some of the chapters in *Alive in Christ* do not have any standards that are directly covered in the chapter. This does not necessarily mean you should skip the chapter. The method *Alive in Christ* uses places content in an organic way. For example, there is a section on sacraments, but sacraments are also referred to in other chapters, such as those on the Church or prayer. You will also notice repetition throughout the text and throughout grades. Children learn through repetition and they learn gradually as they grow. Adults often get tired of teaching repetitive areas of the Faith, but keep in mind that children need things taught to them gradually and repeatedly using different methods.