EVALUATING A

Parish Catechetical Program

PROGRAM NAME _____

DIRECTIONS: Please write the numeral 1, 2, or 3 on the line next to each question. Use the key to help you evaluate the program.

> **1 – No, it does not meet this guideline**
> **2 – Yes, it does meet this guideline**
> **3 – This guideline is a strength of the program**

THE PROGRAM

____ Does the program use a spiral approach that interweaves the pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Sacred Scripture, and the liturgical cycle every year in every grade level?

____ Does the scope and sequence reinforce doctrines and treat them in greater depth in successive years?

____ Does the program make ample use of Sacred Scripture in ways that support biblical literacy and promote understanding of important Scripture stories?

____ Does the series reflect an understanding of the *General Directory for Catechesis* and the *National Directory for Catechesis*, integrating the challenge to inform, form, and transform young Catholics?

____ Does the program integrate character formation by teaching virtues, gifts, or qualities that build disciples?

____ Does the program encourage children to recognize and explore what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ?

____ Is the series visually appealing with engaging, age-appropriate photographs and illustrations?

____ Does the series offer a continuous program from early childhood through grade 8?

Subtotal: _____

STUDENT BOOK

____ Are separate student books available to meet the needs of parish, school, and bilingual students?

____ Does the student book assess the child's prior knowledge in every chapter?

____ Does the student book represent a variety of family groupings (nuclear, single-parent, intergenerational, or blended) and cultures?

____ Is the layout of the student book easy to follow with a clear focus?

____ Are the student book pages perforated for flexible use?

____ Does every chapter clearly state a faith focus and faith vocabulary words?

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____ Does the student book teach Catholic practices, saints, and historical facts that help to build Catholic identity and model the way of discipleship?

____ Does the student book offer examples of ways that the Catholic Church is following Jesus and making a difference in the world?

____ Are the children directed to examine their actions to determine if they are consistent with Gospel values and Church teaching?

____ Does the series provide a summary of the Church's teachings as a resource for children, the catechists, and families?

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STUDENT BOOK (continued)

____ Do the lessons consistently challenge the students to use higher levels of thinking applying and integrating the lesson content into daily living?

____ Are there varied opportunities for personal and communal prayer?

____ Does the student book offer an introduction to the traditional prayers and prayer forms of the Church?

____ Does the bilingual Spanish program include popular devotions common to Latin American countries to help students, catechists, and families grow in appreciation and inclusion of cultures?

____ Does the program include a variety of Church artwork that is age-appropriate, especially in the grades 7 and 8 textbooks?

____ Do the visual images assist in teaching and reinforcing the concepts of the lesson?

____ Do the activities assist the learner from basic knowledge to higher levels of thinking for an integration of faith and life?

____ Are there timeframes that integrate Church and secular historical events throughout the grades 7 and 8 textbooks?

Subtotal: _____

CATECHIST GUIDE

____ Are there separate guides available for parish, bilingual, and Catholic school catechists with clear instructions for implementing a weekly or daily session plan?

____ Does the guide provide background material that helps to form the catechists in their own faith?

____ Are there separate guides available for parish catechists with clear instructions for implementing a weekly session plan?

____ Is the guide catechist-friendly and easy to use?

____ Does the guide follow a consistent instructional method?

____ Does the guide assist the catechist in planning each lesson with theological background and practical suggestions for teaching?

____ Does the guide contain reduced student book pages and wraparound lesson plans for ease of teaching?

____ Are suggestions given to assist in the catechesis of children with special needs?

____ Are alternative strategies and optional activities offered to accommodate a variety of learning needs?

____ Are there additional and optional activities so the catechist can adapt the lesson to the needs of the class.

____ Do the lesson plans clearly state objectives and list the materials catechists will need?

____ Does the guide help the catechist to integrate Catholic Social Teachings into the various aspects of the children's lives?

Subtotal: _____

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> **1 – No, it does not meet this guideline**
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FAMILY RESOURCES

____ Does each chapter provide a family page that can be sent home?

____ Do the weekly family pages parallel and support the themes in the student book?

____ Is a guide available to allow parents to teach children of various ages together at one time at home?

____ Are materials available in print and online to connect teachers to the Sunday assembly, including resources for the lectionary readings?

Subtotal: _____

ASSESSMENT

____ Does the program provide a wide range of formal and informal assessment options?

____ Does the program include the pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Sacred Scripture, and references to liturgical year in its developmental assessment?

____ Do the questioning strategies help prepare students in the middle and upper grades for national or diocesan standardized testing?

____ Are questioning strategies included that invite a personal faith response to the content that has been learned?

____ Does the series allow for the development of an assessment portfolio for each learner?

____ Does the series allow for the use of rubrics for both the participation of the individual learner and project learning?

Subtotal: _____

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

____ Does the series offer resources for each level with additional activities and assessment tools?

____ Does the series offer resources for catechists that include practical tips, crafts, service projects, as well as background on student needs?

____ Is there a music program available that helps build the liturgical repertoire of the students inviting full participation in the life of the Church?

____ Does the publisher provide support resources for catechist formation, such as introductory information, professional in-service videos, online support, and local representation?

____ Does the publisher provide resources to help catechetical leaders adapt the program for use in a summer program format?

____ Does the series offer comprehensive support for the program director to insure successful implementation of the program?

Subtotal: _____

DIGITAL RESOURCES

____ Does the program have an integrated Web site, aside from a publisher's corporate site?

____ Does the program offer online resources for students at each level with varied applications, such as games, stories, and activity downloads?

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DIGITAL RESOURCES (continued)

____ Does the program provide catechist support online, including professional development, expert problem-solving, and resources for personal spiritual growth?

____ Are online chapter reviews available for every chapter of the student book helping parents to assess their children's progress in building faith knowledge?

Subtotal: _____

SUBTOTALS

The Program _____

Student Book _____

Teacher Edition _____

Family Resources _____

Assessment _____

Supplemental Resources _____

Digital Resources _____

GRAND TOTAL _____

114 points or above meets or exceeds the guidelines for a strong religious education program for your Catholic parish.

57 total items