

EVALUATING A

School Religion 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?

STUDENT EDITION

- ___ 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 groups (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?
- ___ 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 students 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?

Subtotal: _____

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STUDENT EDITION (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 book help the student focus on the Catholic Social Teachings to help students integrate the social teachings into their lives?
- ___ 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?
- ___ Does the program integrate Church and secular historical events throughout the grades 7 and 8 textbooks?

Subtotal: _____

TEACHER GUIDE

- ___ Are there separate guides available for parish, bilingual, and Catholic school teachers with clear instructions for implementing a weekly or daily session plan?
- ___ Does the guide provide background material that helps to form the teachers in their own faith?
- ___ Are there separate guides available for parish catechists and Catholic school teachers with clear instructions for implementing a daily lesson plan?
- ___ Is the guide teacher-friendly and easy to use?
- ___ Does the guide follow a consistent instructional method?
- ___ Does the guide assist the teacher 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 students 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 teacher can adapt the lesson to the needs of the class.
- ___ Do the lesson plans clearly state objectives and list the materials teachers will need?
- ___ Does the guide help the teacher to integrate Catholic Social Teachings into the various aspects of the children's lives?

Subtotal: _____

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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 teacher formation, such as introductory information, professional in-service videos, online support, and local representation?
- ___ Does the series offer comprehensive support for the religion coordinator 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?
- ___ Is the series available in both print and an eBook format allowing families to have access to the children's materials at home?

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DIGITAL RESOURCES (continued)

- _____ Does the series eBook format provide interactive hyperlinks and study features allowing the children to search, take notes, and bookmark to enhance learning with a blended classroom approach?
- _____ Is the eBook format available across all types of digital devices, such as smart phones, tablets, desktop, and laptop computers?
- _____ Does the program provide an eAssessment for an integrated digital assessment approach with a student tracking system for teachers?
- _____ Does the program provide teacher 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** _____

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

61 total items