



## *St. Michael Catholic Church*

574 Eighth Street  
Calhan, CO 80808  
(Mail: P.O. Box 199  
Calhan, CO 80808)  
Office: (719) 347-2290  
[www.saintmichaelcalhan.com](http://www.saintmichaelcalhan.com)

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September 1, 2024

Dear St. Michael Parish Catechists:

Greetings and blessings in the name of Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ!

First and foremost, thank you very much for your stewardship in assisting me with the 2024-2025 continuing faith formation (i.e., Catechesis and Sacramental Preparation of our children and youth). Your God-given specialized talents and skills will indeed make this Year of Religious Education a truly blessed and informative journey for all.

Secondly, as a common reference point moving forward, I believe it is necessary and prudent, that we have a common point of reference regarding: "***What is Catechesis in the Roman Catholic Church?***"

*"Catechesis is nothing other than the process of transmitting the Gospel, as the Christian community has received it, understands it, celebrates it, lives it and communicates it in many ways."* (cf: General Directory for Catechesis #105)

*"Catechesis is intimately bound up with the whole of the Church's life. Not only her geographical extension and numerical increase, but even more her inner growth and correspondence with God's plan depend essentially on catechesis."* (cf: Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), 7)

The word ***catechesis*** comes from the Greek, meaning "*to echo the teaching*" meaning that catechesis or the teaching of the faith is an interactive process, in which the Word of God re-sounds between and among the proclaimer, the one receiving the message, and the Holy Spirit! That interactive process is then passed onto the faith formation listeners.

Catechesis is indeed a life-long process of initial conversion, formation, education and on-going conversion. Through word, worship, service and community, it seeks to lead all God's people to an ever-deepening relationship with God who reveals himself in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Catechesis takes many forms and includes the initiation of adults, youth and children, as well as the intentional and systematic effort to enable all to grow in faith and discipleship.

Within the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), there is a subcommittee tasked with evaluating published catechetical (including sacramental preparation) materials (past and present) vis-à-vis the Catechism of the Catholic Church and by overseeing permission for use within U.S. dioceses and parish churches.

The subcommittee's Conformity Review Process has served the Church in the United States over the past twenty years, since the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The review process is meant to assist in the conformity of catechetical texts and series in an authentic and complete way to the Catechism.

Therefore, I have attached for your kind reference, the most recent revision (effective May 9, 2024) of the USCCB's Conformity List. The list is a quick reference document of what published textbooks have been approved by the USCCB for use as central or core catechetical instruction.

NB:

1. Any additional information, pamphlets, handouts, textbooks or Internet links or material(s) not listed on this USCCB Conformity List, must be reviewed and approved (in advance of its use) by the Pastor or Parochial Administrator.
2. Noticeably absent from the current Conformity List is the Baltimore Catechism.

Is the Baltimore Catechism still a valid resource to teach the Faith? Yes—however, as an ancillary or supplemental it remains today, not a core instructional resource. The Baltimore Catechism in today's child, youth and adult catechetical faith formation environment does not include anything from the Second Vatican Council. It does still contain all the essentials or basics of the Catholic faith, however. Of note, some of the Church's words (such as Limbo) may no longer be in use today and the Church may have elaborated further on some catechetical points over the past century; hence why this is not a permissible first or core go-to catechetical resource.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly please.

Thank you in advance for your time and kind assistance in this important matter.

Respectfully  
Yours in Christ,



Rev. Robert G. Newbury Jr., KC\*HS  
Parochial Administrator

cc: File

1 Atch: USCCB Textbook  
Conformity List  
(dtd 05/09/2024)