

Key Element I: Knowledge of Faith

Promoting Knowledge of the Faith

"First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth (cf. Spe Salvi, 4). This relationship elicits a desire to grow in the knowledge and understanding of Christ and his teaching. In this way those who meet him are drawn by the very power of the Gospel to lead a new life characterized by all that is beautiful, good, and true; a life of Christian witness nurtured and strengthened within the community of our Lord's disciples, the Church." (Address of Pope Benedict XVI to Catholic Educators of the United States, Thursday 17 April 2008, Catholic University of America)

Catechesis, must, therefore, lead to "the gradual grasping of the whole truth about the divine plan", by introducing the disciples of Jesus to a knowledge of Tradition and of Scripture, which is "the sublime science of Christ". By deepening knowledge of the faith, catechesis nourishes not only the life of faith but equips it to explain itself to the world. The meaning of the Creed, which is a compendium of Scripture and of the faith of the Church, is the realization of this task. (GDC no.85)

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

The initial proclamation of the Gospel introduces the hearers to Christ for the first time and invites conversion to him. By the action of the Holy Spirit, such an encounter engenders in the hearers a desire to know about Christ, his life, and the content of his message. Catechesis responds to this desire by giving the believers a knowledge of the content of God's self-revelation which is found in the Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, and by introducing them to the meaning of the Creed. Creeds and doctrinal formulas that state the Church's belief are expressions of the Church's living tradition, which from the time of the apostles has developed "in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit." (NDC no. 1)

	Key Element I <i>Knowledge of Faith</i>	K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 1				
	CREED: Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune and redeeming God as revealed in creation and human experience, in Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture, and as entrusted to the teaching office of the Church.				
	Indicators				
K.01.01	Identify self and my family as belonging to God's family.		1,759	350	376
K.01.02	State that God's Holy Spirit lives in me		1197	146	159,161, 193-197
K.01.03	State that God made me to know, love and serve him and to be happy with him always		294	2	13-15
K.01.04	State that Jesus is the Son of God and Son of Mary		441-445,495	95	85-86
K.01.05	<i>Identify angels as God's special messengers</i>		328-333	60	54-55,62
K.01.06	Describe faith as believing in God even though we cannot see him.		142-43	25	44
K.01.07	<i>Describe how God gives us many gifts in the universe.</i>		337-344	62	4
K.01.08	<i>Show understanding that we are made in the image and likeness of God.</i>		343-344	63	66-68
K.01.09	<i>State how when we are afraid we can ask God to help us</i>		2969-2633	553	467-468
	Standard 2				

	SACRED SCRIPTURE: Read, comprehend and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Sacred Scripture.				
	Indicators				
K.02.01	Identify some major people of the Old Testament (such as Abraham and Sara, Noah, Moses etc) through story telling and drama		121-123	21	104
K.02.02	State that Jesus belonged to a family that loved and cared for each other, called the Holy Family		553, 564	104	385
K.02.03	State how Jesus grew up in a family and was obedient to his mother, Mary and foster father, Joseph		437, 532-534, 564, 583, 1655	104	86,385
K.02.04	Show understanding that when Jesus grew up he taught people about how God cares for them.		541-546	107	86-87
K.02.05	<i>Recall how Jesus healed sick people and fed poor</i>		547-550;561	108	251-252
K.02.06	<i>State that Jesus told the people that they should ask God for what they need.</i>		2608-2614	544	487
K.02.07	State how Jesus loved his friends all through his life.		501-507,511	101	267-68
K.02.08	Show basic understanding that Jesus died loving even those who killed him. (Luke 23:34)				235
K.02.09	Retell the Resurrection story.		668-682	126-131	221,224
K.02.10	<i>State basic understanding that we follow Jesus as his friends did</i>		857,869	174	4,138
K.02.11	State that Jesus always loves little children no matter what they might do.		613-617	122	234-236

Key Element II Liturgical Education: Helping to celebrate

Promoting a knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and Sacraments.

In the Church's Liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives. He has loved us first and he continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love. God does not demand of us a feeling which we ourselves are incapable of producing. He loves us, he makes us see and experience his love, and since he has "loved us first", love can also blossom as a response within us. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, no. 17)

Since Christ is present in the sacraments, the believer comes to know Christ in the liturgical celebrations of the Church and is drawn into communion with him. Christ's saving action in the Paschal Mystery is celebrated in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, where the closest communion with Jesus on earth is possible as Catholics are able to receive his living Flesh and his Precious Blood in Holy Communion. Catechesis should promote "an active, conscious genuine participation in the liturgy of the Church, not merely by explaining the meaning of the ceremonies, but also by forming the minds of the faithful for prayer, for thanksgiving, for repentance, for praying with confidence, for a community spirit, and for understanding correctly the meaning of the creeds." (NDC no 2, p. 60)

"Christ is always present in his Church, especially in 'liturgical celebrations'. Communion with Jesus Christ leads to the celebration of his salvific presence in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist. The Church ardently desires that all the Christian faithful be brought to that full, conscious and active participation which is required by the very nature of the liturgy." (GDC no 85)

	Key Element II <i>Liturgical Education: Helping to celebrate</i>	K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	Standard 3				
	SACRAMENTS: <i>Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as effective signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.</i>				
	<i>Indicators</i>				
K.03.01	Identify <u>Baptism</u> as the way we become children of God		734-736	147	193-197
K.03.02	Identifies the bread and wine at Mass as signs of God's presence with us		1373	282-284	213-232
K.03.03	Identifies a <u>sacrament</u> as a sign of God's love for us		118	145	168-169
K.03.04	<i>Identifies the <u>tabernacle</u> as a place where the <u>Blessed Sacrament</u> is kept in the form of bread</i>		1379	286	233
	Standard 4				
	LITURGY: <i>Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.</i>				
	<i>Indicators</i>				
K.04.01	Identify <u>Good Friday</u> as the day we remember Jesus giving His life for us		519-606 607	118-119	89-100
K.04.02	Recognize Easter as celebrating Christ's <u>Resurrection</u> from the dead		642, 1169	126-127, 242	510
K.04.03	<i>Name the liturgical seasons of <u>Advent, Christmas,</u> and <u>Lent, Easter</u></i>		524,540 487-507,	102, 106, 111	173
K.04.04	Make the sign of the cross properly		p. 873		184
K.04.05	<i>Show basic understanding of Advent and <u>Lent</u> as special times of preparation for Christmas and Easter</i>		557-560	102-103, 111	173

K.04.06	Identify the <u>priest</u> as someone chosen by God to lead us in prayer at Mass		1552, 1556	328, 329, 333	273
K.04.07	Show recognition that the Church celebrates the lives of holy people called <u>saints</u>		2683- 2684	564	173
K.04.08	<i>Name the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Lent, Easter</i>				173
K.04.09	<i>Identifies religious signs and symbols as objects that tell us about God and His people</i>		1674	353	295
K.04.10	Demonstrate understanding that God forgives us when we are sorry		1465	307	233-234
K..04.11	Recognize that <u>sacramentals</u> are sacred signs of the Church's heritage, e.g. crucifix, statues, rosary, Bible, candles, holy water, blessings		1182- 1186	351	295-299

Key Element III: Moral Formation

Promoting moral formation in Jesus Christ

Only if we live in the right way, with one another and for one another, can freedom develop...If we live in opposition to the love and against the truth - in opposition to God - then we destroy one another and destroy the world. (Pope Benedict XVI, homily, December 8, 2005, marking the 40th Anniversary of the closure of the Second Vatican Council)

Jesus' moral teaching is an integral part of his message. Catechesis must transmit both the content of Christ's moral teachings as well as their implications for Christian living. Moral Catechesis aims to conform the believer to Christ – to bring about personal transformation and conversion. It should encourage the faithful to give witness - both in their private lives and in the public arena - to Christ's teaching in everyday life. Such testimony demonstrates the social consequences of the demands of the Gospel. (NDC no. 3)

Conversion to Jesus Christ implies walking in his footsteps. Catechesis must, therefore, transmit to the disciples the attitudes of the Master himself. The disciples thus undertake a journey of interior transformation, in which, by participating in the paschal mystery of the Lord, "they pass from the old man to the new man who has been made perfect in Christ." (GDC no. 85)

Truly, matters in the world are in a bad state: but if you and I begin in earnest to reform ourselves, a really good beginning will have been made." (St. Peter of Alcantara)

"Turn now to consider how these words of our Lord imply a test for yourselves also. Ask yourself whether you belong to his flock, whether you know him, whether the light of his truth shines in your minds. I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love; not by mere conviction, but by action." (Pope St. Gregory the Great)

	Key Element III: Moral Formation	K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	<u>Standard 5</u>				
	Conscience: Develop a moral conscience informed by Church teachings.				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
K.05.01	Describe Jesus' loving actions in stories, songs, and pictures.				55-56
K.05.02	Give verbal examples of loving actions.				
K.05.03	Demonstrate loving actions with which they are familiar.		2030	429	377
K.05.04	Exhibit awareness that rules teach one how to act at home, at school, and in community.		1181	406	327, 328
K.05.05	State awareness that God forgives when people are sorry.		1443,1451-1453,1490		235-237
	<u>Standard 6</u>				
	Christian Living: Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, conversion, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
K.06.01	State that I am a child of God, both created by and loved by him				67-68
K.06.02	Describe ways we can respond to Jesus' call to love God and love our neighbor (See John 13: 34-35)				451-452

K.06.03	Identify why we have rules in class and at home to help treat each other fairly and to respect each other as children of God		1829	406	327-328
K.06.04	Recall that when other children are doing something wrong to us or others we should tell them to stop or tell parents/teachers (See Matthew 18: 12, 15)		1829	388	419-427
K.06.05	<i>Describe ways that we can practice the charity of the Lord in good works and love for all by showing respect for self, others in our family, parish and school</i>		2179	453	419
K.06.06	<i>Give examples of how we share love in community and help one another be healthy and happy</i>		2288	473,474	
K.06.07	Understand that God has entrusted to all human beings responsibility for the world and all its creatures.		373	71	450-455
K.06.08	Demonstrate the ability to express sorrow when we have hurt others and forgive others when they say they are sorry for what they did (See Matthew 18:22)		1657, 2227, 2840, 2845	594	235-237
K.06.09	<i>Give an example of forgiveness with a brother or a sister or a parent</i>				

Key Element IV: Prayer

Teaching the disciple how to pray with Christ

The issue is the primacy of God...If a man's heart is not good, then nothing else can turn out good either. (Pope Benedict XVI *Jesus of Nazareth*, [New York: Doubleday, 2007] pp.33-34)

Catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ. Conversion to Christ and communion with him lead the faithful to adopt his disposition of prayer and reflection. (NDC no.4)

Communion with Jesus Christ leads the disciples to assume the attitude of prayer and contemplation which the Master himself had. To learn to pray with Jesus is to pray with the same sentiments with which he turned to the Father: adoration, praise, thanksgiving, filial confidence, supplication and awe for his glory. (GDC no.85)

	Key Element IV: Prayer	K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	<i>Standard 7</i>				
	PRAYER: Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer and acknowledge prayer as the primary way we deepen our knowledge of God in the Community.				
	<i>Indicators</i>				
K.07.01	<i>Share the simple prayers in the morning, evening, and at mealtime done at home</i>			P. 181-184	533, 536
K.07.02	<i>Recall that we pray spontaneously on special occasions</i>		2629-2633	553	218-220,467-468
K.07.03	Participate in prayer alone, in class, with the family, and at church		2691	566	473
K.07.04	Recognize that we can pray to God to help us and others, and this is a prayer of petition		2629-2633 2634-2636	553	467
K.07.05	Identify that we remember and pray for the dead; say a prayer for someone special who has died			P.181	161
K,07.06	Memorize and recite the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be		2157	P. 181	532
K.07.07	<i>Recall that we ask the Blessed Mother Mary and the saints to pray to Jesus for us</i>				472
K.07.08	State that "Amen" is an end to prayers and a yes to God		2856	598	503
K.07.09	Identify the church as a sacred place where the people of God gather to pray and to worship God		2691	566	174
K.07.10	<i>Demonstrate how we respect others at liturgy</i>		2688-2689	209	472

Key Element V: EDUCATION FOR LIVING IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Preparing Christians to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.

Nor has the Lord been absent from subsequent Church history: he encounters us ever anew, in the men and women who reflect his presence, in his word, in the sacraments, and especially in the Eucharist. In the Church's Liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives. He has loved us first and he continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love. God does not demand of us a feeling which we ourselves are incapable of producing. He loves us, he makes us see and experience his love, and since he has "loved us first" love can also blossom as a response within us. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, no.17)

Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church. (NDC, no.5)

a) Christian community life is not realized spontaneously. It is necessary to educate it carefully. In this apprenticeship, the teaching of Christ on community life, recounted in the Gospel of St Matthew, calls for attitudes which it is for catechesis to inculcate: the spirit of simplicity and humility ("*unless you turn and become like little children...*" Mt 18,3); solicitude for the least among the brethren ("*but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin...*" Mt 18,6); particular care for those who are alienated ("*Go and search for the one that went astray...*" Mt 18,12); fraternal correction ("*Go and tell him his fault...*" Mt 18,15); common prayer ("*if two of you agree on earth to ask about anything...*" Mt 18,19); mutual forgiveness ("*but seventy times seven...*" Mt 18,22). Fraternal love embraces all these attitudes ("*love one another; even as I have loved you...*" Jn 13,34).

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

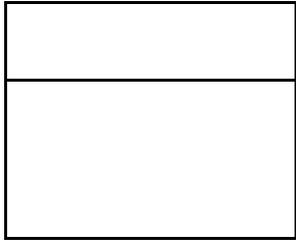
b) In developing this community sense, catechesis takes special note of the ecumenical dimension and encourages fraternal attitudes toward members of other Christian churches and ecclesial communities. Thus catechesis in pursuing this objective should give a clear exposition of all the Church's doctrine and avoid formulations or expressions that might give rise to error. It also implies "a suitable knowledge of other confessions", with which there are shared elements of faith: "the written word of God, the life of grace, faith, hope and charity, and the other interior gifts of the Holy Spirit". Catechesis will possess an ecumenical dimension in the measure in which it arouses and nourishes "a true desire for unity", not easy irenicism, but perfect unity, when the Lord himself wills it and by those means by which he wishes that it should be brought about. (GDC no. 86)

	Key Element V: EDUCATION FOR LIVING IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY	K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA
	<i>Standard 8</i>				
	CATHOLIC CHURCH: Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ, the community of believers, as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charisms, members and the communion of saints.				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
K.08.01	State basic understanding that I belong to the Church because I am baptized		11,211,226	263	119,193, 197
K.08.02	<i>Tell how our parish community is like a family</i>		2179		178,208
K.08.03	<i>Identify that the Church is as big as the world</i>		751-752	147, 152	129-130
K.08.04	State that Jesus gave the Church as a sign of his living presence in the world		792-795,807	156	
K.08.05	Give examples of saints who loved God and others very much		823-29	165	106
	<i>Standard 9</i>				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
	ECUMENISM: Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with other Catholic (Eastern), Orthodox, and Christian churches.				

K.09.1	State that some of our relatives, playmates, and neighbors may worship in other Christian communities (denominations) that believe in Jesus Christ		816-819	163	127-129
	<u>Standard 10</u>				
	CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND RELATIONSHIPS: Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.				
	<u>Indicators</u>				
K.10.01	<i>Show ways of caring for God's gift of the body</i>		2288-2291, 362-365	474	389
K.10.02	Recognize that babies are a gift from God		2260	472	408
K.10.03	Know that followers of Jesus show Respect for Life		2270	470-474	387-402
K.10.04	<i>Understand that each person is different and special</i>		374, 355	63, 66-67, 72	310, 326
K.10.05	Distinguish between respectful touches and disrespectful touches				405-406
	<u>Standard 11</u>				
	VOCATION: Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ responding in faith by participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.				137, 531
	<u>Indicators</u>				
K.11.01	State that God calls me to love and serve him.		1604	321, 63, 66-67, 72	401-402
K.11.02	<i>Show a basic understanding that my life is a special gift from God to share with others</i>		2260	466	401-402

K.11.03	<i>Identify my parents, teachers, and other adults in the community as God's helpers in my life</i>		2204-2206, 2221-2231	459-461	452
K.11.04	State that the Church has special people who help us to learn about God and to live as followers of Jesus: specifically, priests, religious brothers and sisters, missionaries (lay and religious)		1547-1548, 914-916, 025-927	192-193, 328-329	452, 126, 279, 375, 269, 271

Virtus Teaching Touching Safety Safe Environment program



Key Element VI: Education for Evangelization and Apostolic Life

*Promoting a missionary spirit and vocation that prepares disciples to be
present as Christians in society.*

"..salvation has always been considered a “social” reality. Indeed, the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of a “city” (cf. 11:10, 16; 12:22; 13:14) and therefore of communal salvation. Consistently with this view, sin is understood by the Fathers as the destruction of the unity of the human race, as fragmentation and division. Babel, the place where languages were confused, the place of separation, is seen to be an expression of what sin fundamentally is. Hence “redemption” appears as the reestablishment of unity, in which we come together once more in a union that begins to take shape in the world community of believers. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi* no.17)

Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into human situation and seeking to transform individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself (*Go and Make Disciples* no.15). When Baptized, you have received the Spirit of Christ Jesus, which brings salvation and hope; your lives are a witness of faith. As sharers through Baptism in the priestly mission of Jesus, we are called to live our faith fully, share our faith freely and transform the world through the power of the Gospel. We have a story of faith to share.

– *Missionary initiation*

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society. The 'world' thus becomes the place and the means for the lay faithful to fulfill their Christian vocation. Catechesis seeks to help the disciples of Christ to be present in society precisely as believing Christians who are able and willing to bear witness to their faith in words and deeds. In fostering this spirit of evangelization, catechesis nourishes the evangelical attitudes of Jesus Christ in the faithful: to be poor in spirit, to be compassionate, to be meek, to hear the cry of injustice, to be merciful, to be pure of heart, to make peace, and to accept rejection and persecution. Catechesis recognizes that other religious traditions reflect the "seeds of the Word" that can constitute a true "preparation for the Gospel." It encourages adherents of the world's religions to share what they hold in common, never minimizing the real differences between and among them. "Dialogue is not in opposition to the mission ad gentes." (NDC no. 6)

a) Catechesis is also open to the missionary dimension. (207) This seeks to equip the disciples of Jesus to be present as Christians in society through their professional, cultural and social lives. It also prepares them to lend their cooperation to the different ecclesial services, according to their proper vocation.

b) In educating for this missionary sense, catechesis is also necessary for interreligious dialogue, if it renders the faithful capable of meaningful communication with men and women of other religions. Catechesis shows that the link between the Church and non-Christian religions is, in the first place, the common origin and end of the human race, as well as the "many seeds of the word which God has sown in these religions". Catechesis too helps to reconcile and, at the same time, to distinguish between "the proclamation of Christ" and "inter-religious dialogue". These two elements, while closely connected, must not be confused or identified. Indeed, "dialogue does not dispense from evangelization." (GDC no.86)

	Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life	K	CCC	Compendium	USCCA	Other Resources
	Standard 12					
	CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Know critique and apply social justice and stewardship principles to societal situations in a way that acknowledges and affirms the dignity of the human person and community.		1898-1899, 1941	411-414	326-337	See also: - Pope Benedict XVI - Caritas in Veritate; Pope Paul XI – Populorum Progressio; Pope John Paul II - Sollicitudo Rei Socialis
	<i>Indicators</i>					
K.12.01	Know that we respect and are kind to all because all are made in the image and likeness of God		225, 356-361, 369, 1604, 1700-1701, 1944-1946, 2319, 2334	42, 411	67-68	
K.12.02	Recognize that it is wrong to say bad things about other people		2510	524	431	
K.12.03	Give examples of how we show our love of our family by helping at home		1655-1658	350	284-286, 376-379	
K.12.04	Participate in age-appropriate activities that support Respect for Life		1943	359	337, 387	Humanae Vitae
K.12.05	Recognize that all of God's creation needs care		678-679	135	424-426	
K.12.06	Recall that all creation is a gift of God		279-289, 315	51, 667	54,62	
	Standard 13					

	INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with Jews, Muslims, and all faith traditions.					See Vatican II documents: o Nostra Aetate o Ad Gentes Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith – Joseph Card. Ratzinger, Dominus Iesus
K.13.01	Understand that not everyone is a Catholic or Christian.					
K.13.02	Know that not everyone is a Catholic and that some of our relatives, playmates, and neighbors may know about God in other ways					
	<i>Standard 14</i>					
	MISSIONARY VOCATION: Demonstrate an appreciation for Catholic missionary and evangelization efforts through our parish community, its culture, worship, sacramental life, and service.	849-856	172-173	117-118, 125-126	See: Pope Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, Pope John Paul II, Redemptoris Missio, Go and Make Disciples	
					www.holychildhoodusa.org	
	<i>Indicators</i>				www.HCAkids.org	
K.14.01	Explain that Jesus asks us to share the story of his love for all, our friendship with him and our love of his Church with those we meet (Matthew 25)	849-850	172	16, 135-137	www.pncea.org	
K.14.02	<i>Realize that Jesus asks us to share the Good News of the Gospel and our Catholic Faith with those we meet</i>	851-852	173	16-17	Go and Make Disciples	
K.14.03	Explain that we are followers of Jesus	782	154, 177	264,265	Christifideles Laici	
K.14.04	Know that we learn how to help others by helping our family and friends	1656	350	376,379		
K.14.05	<i>Participate in missionary projects of the parish and community</i>	931	135	185,195,207		