

# Church Documents Regarding Catechesis

[Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) (2nd Ed.) (CCC) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1997. Revised in accordance with the official Latin text promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 1997, the second edition now includes more than a hundred additional pages, offering such new features as a glossary of terms, an index of citations from sources, and in-brief texts on core teachings. The essential elements of faith are presented in the most understandable manner, enabling everyone to read and know what the Church professes, celebrates, lives, and prays in her daily life.



[Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2006. Offers a clear synopsis of the essential contents of the faith as promulgated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church in 598 questions and answers. The Compendium has a four-part structure and includes a section on common prayers and Catholic doctrinal formulas. Because of the question-and-answer format, catechetical leaders-parents, pastors, teachers, principals, and catechists have a unique opportunity to dialogue with the faithful and to reinvigorate the Church's ongoing mission of evangelization and catechesis.

[United States Catholic Catechism for Adults](#) (USCCA) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2006. Includes stories, doctrine, reflections, quotations, discussion questions, and prayers to lead the reader to a deepening faith. The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults is an excellent resource for preparation of catechumens in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and for ongoing catechesis of adults. Leader's Guide and Reader's Journal available

[General Directory for Catechesis](#) (GDC) United States Catholic Conference, 1998. An essential companion to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the GDC provides religious educators, teachers, and catechists with a single point of reference for all aspects of catechetical instruction, for content and pedagogy, as well as for methodology. Beginning with an introductory reflection of how contemporary human and ecclesial conditions have impacted the preaching of the Gospel, the Directory moves through a detailed presentation of the goals and essential elements of catechesis, from its role in the Church's mission of evangelization, to norms and guidelines for its presentation, to adaptations for various groups and situations.

[National Directory for Catechesis](#) (NDC) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005. A companion to the General Directory for Catechesis (GDC), the National Directory for Catechesis builds on some of the core themes of the GDC, like catechesis's relationship to evangelization and worship, and provides practical tools for doing catechesis well. This is a "must-have" for anyone in catechesis or Catholic education-teachers, principals, directors, and coordinators of religious education and youth ministry, catechists, and students in the field. Summary available.

[Summary of the National Directory for Catechesis](#) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005. This focused summary highlights the concepts and directives of each of the ten chapters of the National Directory for Catechesis in clear, concise language. Especially written for volunteers, including parents, young adults, and teens, The Summary of the National Catholic Directory for Catechesis is an excellent tool to guide and support Catholics in their ongoing journey of faith formation.

[Our Hearts are Burning within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States](#) United States Catholic Conference, 1999. A pastoral plan to help Catholics advance in their role as disciples, by awakening a renewal in the ministry of adult faith formation and helping all to grow to the full maturity of Christ. In four parts, the plan examines the challenges and opportunities faced today, the key qualities of a mature faith, the principles and approaches for providing sound adult faith formation, and the critical roles of parish leadership and diocesan support. Leader's Guide available.

[The Catechetical Documents: Parish Resource](#) Liturgy Training Publications, 1996. Gathered in this one book, find the major teachings about catechesis from the Second Vatican Council until the present. This is an essential reference tool for teachers, catechists, clergy, pastoral leaders, and students of catechesis. Includes the 1971 General Catechetical Directory, Basic Teachings for Catholic Religious Education, Sharing the Light of Faith, Guidelines for Doctrinally Sound Catechetical Materials, and many others. Each document is preceded by a general overview that describes the origin, context, and contribution of the document.



[Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living](#) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2008. Necessary guidelines to support the development of new religion texts for students in preschool through twelfth grade. It assists diocesan and parish catechetical leaders in developing curricula for these same age groups. These guidelines provide the necessary components for teaching doctrinal truths in catechetical formation and chaste living and they address Church teaching on special issues of concern. It also focuses on the role of pastors, parents and guardians, teachers and catechists, and publishers as they provide instruction on catechetical formation in Catholic faith, morals, and virtues for chaste living. It's an important resource for catechetical leaders, publishers, dioceses and parishes.

[St. Charles Borromeo, Patron Saint for Catechists](#)

[Christ is Alive \(Christus Vivit\)](#) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2019. Christus Vivit calls to “all Christian young people” and the People of God, including pastors and the faithful, and urges them to seek the youthful newness of life in Christ! For the young and young at heart, this exhortation will stir all who read it to seek a newness of life in the promise of Christ’s Resurrection. Christus Vivit is vital for youth and young adults, as they live out their vocation in the Church and their mission in the world. The exhortation is also an important read for pastors, parents, educators, families, youth and young adult ministries, and all Christian young people.

[Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults](#) (SLD) United States Catholic Conference, 1997, 2010. In this comprehensive plan, the bishops offer an effective guide for helping young adults discover the answers to life's most profound questions through a personal relationship with Jesus and the Church.

[Connecting Young Adults to Catholic Parishes: Best Practices in Catholic Young Adult Ministry](#) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010. Create a young adult friendly parish using the wisdom, insight, and examples from the authors of in this unique book. This resource highlights how to do ministry with the young adults who are already present in the life of your parish. This text builds on the vision of the bishops' pastoral statement Sons and Daughters of the Light to motivate parish leaders to draw young adults into the life of the community and receive the gifts that they bring

[Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry](#) United States Catholic Conference, 1997. Building on the fine tradition begun by A Vision of youth ministry, this 20th anniversary document responds to the new challenges and opportunities of the present day. The US bishops expand upon the earlier document in order to address the call to personal discipleship, evangelization, and leadership. Offered as a "blueprint" for the continued development of effective ministry with young and older adolescents, this framework is an affirmation of the faith, gifts, energy, and fresh ideas of young people, a Christ-centered vision, and a call to empower young people.

[Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age](#) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2008. This document offers guidance to catechetical publishers in the development of instructional material. It provides guidance in creating doctrinal content of catechetical text and materials, curriculum development, and catechetical instruction that completely define and present the teaching of the Church for young people of high school age. It's a helpful resource for Catholic high schools, parish religious education programs, children schooled at home or within the context of the catechetical instruction which should be part of every youth ministry program. It is also designed to help young people develop the necessary skills to answer and address the real questions in life and in their Catholic faith. It's an important resource for catechetical leaders, teachers, and laypersons.

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