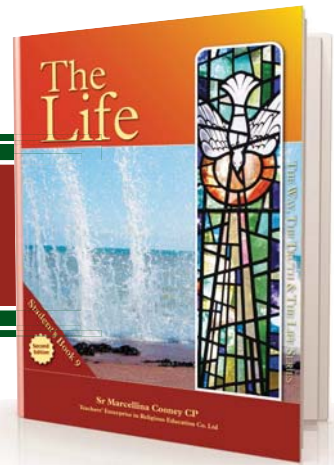




THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE



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9.1 The Spiritual Quest

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

“Through God’s Self-Revelation we come to know that the life of God is love given and received. God is One and God is Three, a Trinity of Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Faith in One God acknowledges God’s greatness and majesty and trusts God in every circumstance. Faith in the Trinity makes known a God who is actively present. As Father, God is the source of all life and reaches out in blessing; as Son, God is the Word through whom all things are made and through whom every person is invited into a full communion of life; as Spirit, God leads the world, the Church and human persons into truth. Faith in the Trinity reveals communion in love and truth as the pattern, the highest aim and final goal of human life.

God has placed a desire for happiness in the heart of every human person, and by God’s gifts of reason and free will, human beings are capable of knowing and choosing the good and rejecting what is evil ... It is in Christ that the gift of eternal life is assured. It is in him that the perfection of human dignity is revealed. It is he who teaches the way of happiness (the Beatitudes).

Attainment Target 1: Learning *about* the Catholic faith.

Attainment Target 2: Learning *from* the Catholic faith.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Know that each person seeks a meaning to life.
 - Be aware of our search for meaning in life.

- Know where and how we can find God.
 - Reflect on our own search for God.

- Know about the mystery of the Trinity.
 - Reflect on how the Trinity gives meaning to our lives.

- Know about the problem of suffering.
 - Reflect on the mystery of suffering.

- Consider what happens in death, judgement, heaven and hell.
 - Reflect on how we can prepare now.

- Have some insight into a few people’s journey of faith.
 - Think about what we can learn from them.

9.2

The Gospels

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

“The Scriptures are the living Word of God, written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, received and faithfully handed on within the living tradition and teaching of the Church.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

“The *Gospels* are the heart of all the Scriptures, ‘because they are our principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Saviour’.” (para.125)

Attainment Target 1: Learning *about* the Catholic faith.

Attainment Target 2: Learning *from* the Catholic faith.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Know about the formation of the Gospels.
 - Reflect on how this helps us to understand why there are four Gospels.
- Consider some of the events in St. Matthew’s Gospel that are not covered in the others.
 - Reflect on what they reveal about God.
- Know that St. Mark focuses on Jesus as the Christ and what it means to be his disciple.
 - Reflect on Jesus’ invitation to follow him.
- Understand that St. Luke focuses on Jesus’ concern for the poor and the powerless.
 - Reflect on the message this has for us today.
- Know that St. John uses symbols to show the relationship Jesus has with his Father and believers.
 - Think about our relationship with and in Jesus.
- Understand that all the Gospels, each in its own particular way, are Jesus’ teaching on the Kingdom of God.
 - Be aware that we are all called, in and with Jesus, to build up and spread this Kingdom of justice, love and peace.

9.3 Life in the Spirit

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

“God’s Self-Revelation is perfected in us by the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth, promised by Jesus and revealed at Pentecost. It is the Holy Spirit who forms and guides God’s People to know God and enter into communion with God through Jesus Christ.”

“In Confirmation the laying on of hands and anointing with oil are the seal of the Holy Spirit which marks our total belonging to Christ and to his service.”

Attainment Target 1: Learning *about* the Catholic faith.

Attainment Target 2: Learning *from* the Catholic faith.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Know how the Holy Spirit transformed the lives of the Apostles.
 - Appreciate that the Spirit can help us.

- Deepen our understanding of the gifts of the Spirit.
 - Reflect on how these gifts relate to daily life.

- Understand what the Sacrament of Confirmation means.
 - Reflect on the commitment it involves.

- Understand the rite of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - Reflect on the impact of this Sacrament on our lives.

- Have some understanding of the meaning of discernment.
 - Reflect on its importance.

- Know about people whose lives have been transformed by the Spirit.
 - Think about how their experience can help us.

9.4 God's Call

Catechism of the Catholic Church

"The Christian faithful are those who, inasmuch as they have been incorporated in Christ through Baptism, have been constituted as the people of God; for this reason, since they have become sharers in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and royal office in their own manner, they are called to exercise the mission which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfil in the world, in accord with the condition proper to each one." (871)

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

"Holy Orders and Matrimony are sacraments at the service of communion. Already consecrated by baptism and confirmation for the common priesthood of all the faithful, those who receive the sacrament of Holy Orders (deacons, priests, bishops) are entrusted with the apostolic ministry: to preach the Gospel, preside in the celebration of the sacraments and be leaders and servants according to Christ's example. They have responsibility for the faithfulness of the Church to the Word of God. The promises of marriage - to a faithful, exclusive, life-long partnership of love open to the gift of children - make it a visible sacrament of God's faithful and creative love."

Attainment Target 1: Learning *about* the Catholic faith.

Attainment Target 2: Learning *from* the Catholic faith.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Know that God calls each person who seeks to do His will.
 - Reflect on the different ways God calls.

- Know that some people are called to a specific mission.
 - Reflect on the various ways God uses them to help others.

- Understand the vocation to Marriage.
 - Think about the reasons why people get married.

- Know about the sacrament of Marriage.
 - Reflect on its importance.

- Know about the vocation of a priest.
 - Think about what the priest does for us.

- Know about the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
 - Reflect on what this commitment involves.

- Know about the vocation to apostolic and monastic Religious Life.
 - Reflect on the blessings and challenges of these vocations.

9.5 Conscience & Morality

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

“Freedom is the basis of properly human acts. It is the power to perform deliberate actions on one’s own responsibility. Moral conscience is the law of God written in every human heart by which we judge particular choices. A person must be sufficiently present to him or herself in order to hear and follow the voice of conscience. The formation of conscience is a life-long task in which we are assisted by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, aided by the witness or advice of others and guided by the authoritative teaching of the Church.”

“There is no limit to God’s grace or to God’s mercy and forgiveness when we fail. Sin is always an exercise of free will. It is always a failure of genuine love of God, of neighbour, of ourselves; serious (mortal) sin ‘separates’ us from God until we repent and confess.” (P. 34)

Attainment Target 1: Learning *about* the Catholic faith.

Attainment Target 2: Learning *from* the Catholic faith.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Understand the meaning of morality.
 - Reflect on your own understanding of it.
- Understand the meaning of Christian morality.
 - Reflect on what it means for us.
- Consider some moral issues we face today.
 - Reflect on our response to them.
- Understand what is meant by conscience.
 - Be aware of how to form and inform our conscience.
- Know about some people who acted according to their conscience.
 - Reflect on what we can learn from them.
- Understand that we are all called to holiness.
 - Reflect on what this means.

9.6. Dialogue with Other Faiths

Nostra Aetate

“All nations are one community and have one origin, because God caused the whole human race to dwell on the face of the earth. They also have one final end, God, whose providence, manifestation of goodness and plans for salvation are extended to all.” (para.1)

“The Catholic Church rejects nothing of those things which are true and holy in these religions. It regards with respect those ways of acting and living and those precepts and teachings which, though often at variance with what it holds and expounds, frequently reflect a ray of truth which enlightens everyone.... It therefore calls upon all its sons and daughters with prudence and charity, through dialogue and co-operation with the followers of other religions, bearing witness to the Christian faith and way of life, to **recognise, preserve and promote** those spiritual and moral good things as well as the socio-cultural values which are to be found among them.” (para.2)

Attainment Target 1: Learning *about* the Catholic faith.

Attainment Target 2: Learning *from* the Catholic faith.

Key Learning Objectives

- Know what the Catholic Church teaches about other faiths.
 - Reflect on the importance of this teaching for us.
- Understand the meaning of dialogue.
 - Reflect on the importance of dialogue with people of other faiths.
- Understand some of the important similarities and differences between Christianity and Islam.
 - Consider how we can be a true witness to Jesus.
- Understand the importance of prayer in daily life.
 - Reflect on what we can learn from Muslims.
- Understand some of the important similarities and differences between Judaism and Christianity.
 - Reflect on their importance for us.
- Know how Faith Communities are collaborating to help those in need.
 - Consider how we can contribute to the common good of all.

