

Resources for you and your classroom

Visit Catholic Web sites to remain up to date on Church teachings. Begin with your diocesan Web site and search there for reliable links.

Visit the Vatican Web site (www.vatican.va) to locate documents such as papal encyclicals and the documents of the Second Vatican Council.

Find Church documents at the Theology Library at Spring Hill College (the Jesuit College of the South): www.shc.edu/theolibrary/index.htm.

Take advantage of learning opportunities offered at St. Anthony or by the diocese.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

A *catechism* is a written summary of the Church's understanding of God's word as revealed through Scripture and Tradition. In a sense, a catechism is the *what* of our beliefs as Catholics. For many centuries, it was customary for children to "learn their catechism." This was often done using a question-and-answer format such as that in the *Baltimore Catechism*. Today, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1992) is the official source for Catholic teaching, intended as the principle resource for bishops and catechetical ministers.

It is divided into four "Pillars": Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer.

For the average adult Catholic, the bishops of the United States have provided the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2005—a synopsis of the Catholic faith in a question-and-answer format reminiscent of the *Baltimore Catechism*, but for adults) and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* (2006—an adaptation of the CCC with stories, teachings, and sidebars).

The General Directory for Catechesis (GDC)

Catechesis is the process of transmitting the Gospel. To help us understand this process, the Church has given us the *General Directory for Catechesis*: (1997) This document helps us to understand the *how* of catechesis. The *GDC* provides religious educators, teachers, and catechists with a single point of reference for all aspects of catechetical instruction. The *GDC* "replaced" the 1971 *GCD*.

The National Directory for Catechesis (NDC)

The *NDC* (2005) is an adaptation of the *GDC* for the church in the United States. It "replaced" the 1979 *NCD: Sharing the Light of Faith*.

Catechesi Tradendae (On Catechesis in Our Time) — (CT)

Catechesi Tradendae (1979), Pope John Paul II's first apostolic exhortation, was on catechesis or religious instruction. It followed on the fourth general assembly of the Synod of Bishops held in October, 1977, which Pope John Paul II attended before his election. The exhortation emphasizes the "Christocentricity" of all catechesis and the need for lifelong catechesis. This document laid the groundwork for subsequent catechetical documents, especially the *GDC*.

Evangelii Nuntiandi (On Evangelization in the Modern World) — (EN)

Evangelii Nuntiandi (1975) is an apostolic exhortation by Pope Paul VI on the 10th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, focusing on making the Church better fitted for proclaiming the Gospel to the people. It is considered by many to be the “Magna Carta” on Catholic Evangelization.

Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions

In this 1998 document, the U.S. bishops identify seven key themes or principles of Catholic social teaching: Life and dignity of the human person; Call to family, community, and participation; Rights and responsibilities; Option for the poor and vulnerable; Dignity of work and the rights of workers; Solidarity; and Care for God’s creation.

To Teach as Jesus Did

Issued in 1972, this was the first pastoral letter of the U.S. bishops devoted to the concern of Catholic education, using the language emerging out of the Second Vatican Council.

Vatican II: The Conciliar and Postconciliar Documents

The Second Vatican Council, which took place from 1962–1965, produced 16 documents which are compiled in this book without commentary or additional documentation. Of those documents, the following are key for the catechetical ministry:

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum concilium), December 4, 1963—Document for understanding liturgy, a blueprint for ongoing liturgical reform in the Church

Declaration on Christian Education (Gravissimum educationis), October 28, 1965—Document on Catholic schools

Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei verbum), November 18, 1965—Document on the Catholic interpretation of Scripture

Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People (Apostolicam actuositatem), November 18, 1965—Document on the ministry of lay people in the Church

Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity (Ad gentes divinitus), December 7, 1965—Document for understanding the scope of the Church’s missionary activity