



**STANDARDS FOR TEACHING THE  
DOCTRINAL ELEMENTS OF A CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK  
FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS**

**Developed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops**

**GRADE 9**

**I. THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST IN SCRIPTURE**

**The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. If they have not been taught this earlier, they will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. The students will pay particular attention to the Gospels where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.**

Rel.9.1.1      A.      How do we know about God?

1. Students understand the natural human desire for God.
2. Students understand Natural Revelation through the use of reason.
3. Students understand what is meant by Divine Revelation, which finds its fulfillment in Jesus.

Rel.9.1.2      B.      About Sacred Scripture

1. Students understand the concept of divine inspiration of Scripture, dual authorship, inerrancy and sacred nature of the text.
2. Students understand how the Bible came to be.
3. Students understand Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church, and its use in study, prayer and liturgy.

a. Students understand that Scripture is fundamental to their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Rel.9.1.3 C. Understanding Scripture

1. Students understand that there is an authentic interpretation of the Bible that the Catholic Church's teaching office is responsible to impart to the faithful.
2. Students understand the literal and spiritual senses of Scripture and are able to apply them in seeking God's truth behind the stories and passages.
3. Students will realize that there is no conflict between the religious truth in Scripture and scientific and historical fact, which are useful in and of themselves.
4. Students will know the ancillary approaches to Scripture.

Rel.9.1.4 D. Overview of the Bible

1. Students understand and know the structure of the Old Testament and the New Testament.
2. Students understand the unity of the Old and New Testaments.

Rel.9.1.5 E. The Gospels

1. Students explain why the Gospels occupy a central place in Scripture.
2. Students understand the three stages in the formation of the Gospels.
3. Students explain the general contents of the four Gospels, noting how the Synoptic Gospels differ from John's Gospel.
4. Students read personally various sections of the Gospels which acquaint them with the variety of content contained in the Gospels.

## GRADE 9

### II. WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

**The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Mystery of Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation to us from God. In learning about who He is, the students will also learn who He calls them to be.**

Rel.9.2.1      A.      God and Revelation

1. Students understand what is meant by Divine Revelation, which finds its fulfillment in Jesus.
2. Students understand faith in Jesus as a response to God's self revelation.
3. Students will understand the relationship between faith and religion and that faith in Jesus Christ leads to discipleship.

Rel.9.2.2      B.      Jesus Christ's Revelation about God

1. Students understand the eternal and incarnational realities of the Son of God.
2. Students will know that Jesus reveals to us the mystery that God is Trinity.
3. Students will be able to define and articulate the nature of the Trinitarian God.
4. Students will define the unique role of each person of the Trinity.
5. Students understand the unique role of Mary, the Mother of God.

Rel.9.2.3      C.      The Mystery of the Incarnation

1. Students will understand that Jesus Christ is one divine person with two distinct natures: divine and human.
2. Students will encounter the humanity of Jesus through an inspection of the Gospels.

Rel.9.2.4      D.      Jesus Christ teaches us about ourselves

1. Students explain how Jesus teaches that we are made in His image and likeness, endowed with special gifts and given stewardship over the earth.

2. Students will understand that being redeemed by Jesus calls for a personal response and conversion of heart, offers the forgiveness of all our sins and makes available the spiritual power of grace.
3. Students will understand the importance and meaning of Redemption and Sanctification.
4. Students will comprehend the role and purpose of prayer to the Communion of Saints.
5. Students will provide a clear understanding of the Four Last Things.

## GRADE 10

### I. THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST (THE PASCHAL MYSTERY)

**The purpose of this course is to help students understand all that God had done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Through this course of study, students will learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with Him which is accomplished through the Redemption Christ won for us. Students will learn that they share in this Redemption only in and through Jesus Christ. They will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what life as a disciple entails.**

Rel.10.1.1 A. Goodness of Creation and Our fall from Grace

1. Through figurative and symbolic language, as well as literary forms, students investigate the centrality of the promise given in Genesis 1-11.
2. Students understand what it means to be created in the image and likeness of the Triune God.
3. Students understand original holiness, original justice and the original unity of body and soul.
4. Students understand Original Sin as it is revealed through the obediential death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
5. Students reflect on the power of evil effecting all creation and human history.

Rel.10.1.2 B. The Promise of a Messiah

1. Students understand the various theological meanings of Genesis, with the first prophecy and promise of a Messiah.
2. Students understand how each covenant and the Old Testament is a foreshadowing of the paschal Mystery and the promise of Redemption.
3. Students see that Jesus' Incarnation is the fulfillment of the covenant that God established with Abraham.
4. Students recognize how Jesus' whole life should be understood as the promise of redemption and the revelation of the Father's love.

Rel.10.1.3 C. Christ Our Light: Redemption Unfolds

1. As revealed through the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, students understand the redemptive character of Jesus' public ministry as a manifestation of God the Father's love.
2. Students read, understand and relate the scriptural references for the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary to Jesus' redemptive act.

- Rel.10.1.4 D. Redemption through the Paschal Mystery
1. Students understand that Jesus Christ's suffering and death reveals his redemptive love.
  2. Students understand Jesus' resurrection and its significance, particularly in the sacramental life of the Church.
  3. Students understand the Ascension of Christ, Pentecost, and the Assumption of Mary, the Mother of God and their role in the redemption won by Christ.
- Rel.10.1.5 E. Moral Implication for the Life of a Believer
1. Students understand Paul's theological interpretations of Christ's death, the Resurrection, justification, grace and virtue.
  2. Students achieve a deeper awareness of the Last Judgment.
  3. Students understand the universal call to holiness and discipleship.
- Rel.10.1.6 F. Prayer in the Life of a Believer
1. Students understand that prayer is essential to intimacy and communion with Jesus.
  2. Students develop an appreciation for the sources, forms and expressions of prayer, especially the Lord's Prayer.

## Grade 10

### II. JESUS CHRIST'S MISSION CONTINUES IN THE CHURCH

**The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the Living Jesus Christ. They will understand the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by Him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn not so much about events in the life of the Church but about the sacred nature of the Church.**

- Rel.10.2.1     A.     Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church
1. Students learn how the Church is foreshadowed in the Old Testament, is instituted by Christ in the New Testament, and remains throughout time as the pillar and foundation of truth—the fullness of Divine Revelation taught authoritatively by the Roman Catholic Church.
  2. Students understand the events leading up to and culminating in the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
  3. Students understand the Holy Spirit bestows gifts on the Church to fulfill her mission of carrying on the mission of Jesus.
  4. Students understand how the Apostolic Tradition and the Scriptures are the primary means by which the Apostles handed on the teaching of Jesus.
  5. Students understand the role of the Apostles in the early Church.
- Rel.10.2.2     B.     Images of the Church (Partial Insights of the Church's Sharing in the Communion of the Trinity)
1. Students are able to identify images of the Church in both the Old and the New Testament.
  2. Students understand that these images are rooted in Scripture and developed in the Tradition of the Church.
- Rel.10.2.3     C.     The Marks of the Church
1. Students know what it means that the Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
  2. Students review the historical wounds to the unity of the Church.
  3. Students understand the meaning of ecumenism, the relationship of the Roman Catholic Church with the Orthodox Churches and other Protestant and ecclesial faith communities, based on one common baptism and service of love.

4. Students appreciate the importance of interreligious dialogue with other faiths, principally Judaism and Islam.
5. Students understand that every member of the Church is called to holiness through cooperation with God's grace, requiring conversion, renewal and the example and intercession of Mary and the other saints.

Rel.10.2.4     D.     The Church in the World

1. Students understand the Church's origin, authenticity and mission, rooted in Jesus Christ as a sign and instrument of communion with God and unity of the human race.
2. Students understand the Church's mission to evangelize, her missionary efforts and the call to a new evangelization today.
3. Students understand and appreciate the visible hierarchical structures of the Church and the various vocations in the Church, religious and lay.
4. Students understand the variety of ways the laity are called to live out the life of Christ.
5. Students understand the teaching role of the Magisterium.
6. Students accurately define indefectibility and infallibility as applied to the Church.
7. Students appreciate that bishops and priests sanctify the Church by prayer, celebration of the Eucharist, ministry of the Word and the other sacraments, all for the goal of eternal life.
8. Students understand that bishops, with the Good Shepherd as their model, have responsibility to govern their particular churches with full obedience to the pope.

Rel.10.2.5     E.     Implications for the Life of a Believer

1. Students understand that Christ willed the Church to be the fullness of truth and the totality of the means of salvation.
2. Students understand that through the Church, Jesus Christ enriches the believer by means of sacraments, prayer, communion, service and virtue.
3. Through an examination of the liturgical year, students understand the Church at prayer.
4. Students understand that members of the Church, recognizing the necessity of prayer, live as disciples charged with proclaiming Jesus' teaching.



## GRADE 11

### I. SACRAMENTS

**The purpose of this course is to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the Sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the Sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.**

Rel. 11.1.1 A. The Sacramental Nature of the Church

1. Students understand what a sacrament is and what it accomplishes.
2. Students understand that Jesus is the Sacrament of God and that the Church is the Universal Sacrament of Jesus Christ.
3. Students understand that Christ is present in all seven sacraments through signs and symbols and prayer, which is essential to experience Christ.

Rel.11.1.2 B. The Sacraments of Initiation

1. Students understand that Baptism, through the work of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sin, initiates us into both the life of Christ and the Christian Community.
  - a. Students understand the Sacrament of Baptism through scripture, tradition and theology.
  - b. Students know the celebration, essential elements, effects, requirements for reception, minister and implications of the Sacrament of Baptism.
  - c. Students are challenged to appropriate and live the Sacrament of Baptism.
2. Students understand that Confirmation is the sacrament in which the Spirit received at Baptism is strengthened, confirmed and perfected for living out and spreading the Christian message.
  - a. Students understand the Sacrament of Confirmation through scripture, tradition and theology.
  - b. Students know the celebration, essential elements, effects, requirements for reception, minister and implications of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
  - c. Students are challenged to appropriate and live the Sacrament of Confirmation.
3. Students understand that the Eucharist celebrates the source and summit of the Paschal Mystery.
  - a. Students understand the Sacrament of the Eucharist

- through scripture, tradition and theology.
- b. Students know the celebration, essential elements, and effects, requirements for reception, minister and implications of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
- c. Students will examine the Liturgy of the Eucharist (Mass).
- d. Students are challenged to appropriate and live the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Rel.11.1.3 C. Sacraments of Healing

1. Students will understand that Penance/Reconciliation: is the Sacrament through which sins committed after Baptism can be forgiven and reconciliation with God and the affected community is achieved.
  - a. Students understand the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation through scripture, tradition and theology.
  - b. Students know the celebration, essential elements, effects, requirements for reception, minister and implications of the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation.
  - c. Students are challenged to appropriate and live the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation.
2. Students will understand the Anointing of the Sick as the Sacrament which gives spiritual healing and strength to a person seriously ill and sometimes also physical recovery.
  - a. Students understand the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick through scripture, tradition and theology.
  - b. Students know the celebration, essential elements, effects, requirements for reception, minister and implications of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
  - c. Students are challenged to appropriate and live the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Rel.11.1.4 D. Sacraments at the Service of Communion

1. Students will understand Holy Orders as the Sacrament through which a man is made a bishop, priest or deacon, and is given the grace and power to fulfill the responsibilities of the order to which he is ordained.
  - a. Students understand the Sacrament of Holy Orders through scripture, tradition and theology.
  - b. Students know the celebration, essential elements, effects, requirements for reception, minister and implications of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

- c. Students are challenged to appropriate and live the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
- 2. Students will understand Marriage as the Sacrament in which a baptized man and a baptized woman form with each other a lifelong covenantal communion of life and love that signifies the union of Christ and the Church, and through which they are given the grace to live out this union.
  - a. Students understand the Sacrament of Matrimony through scripture, tradition and theology.
  - b. Students know the celebration, essential elements, effects, requirements for reception, minister and implications of the Sacrament of Matrimony.
  - c. Students will know the requirements of marriage.
  - d. Students will learn the Church's teaching on divorce, declaration of nullity and remarriage.
  - e. Students are challenged to appropriate and live the Sacrament of Matrimony.

## GRADE 11

### II. LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST

**The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans for their lives. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ's disciples.**

- Rel.11.2.1    A.    What is life in Christ?
1. God's plan for us
    - a. Students will understand that God's plan for them is eternal happiness with Him in heaven.
    - b. Students will be able to connect their being made in the image and likeness of God with their desire for happiness.
  2. Our response to God's plan
    - a. Students will understand that man's happiness consists in responding to God's love with love for God.
    - b. Students will examine the Beatitudes (Matt. 5, Luke 6) as the effect of responding to God's plan of love.
    - c. Students will define the life of a follower of Christ as beginning with Baptism, continuing throughout life focused on Christ as the Way and living as He did a moral life which leads one to happiness.
- Rel.11.2.2    B.    God has taught us how to live a new life in Christ
1. God rules the universe with wisdom and directs its divine fulfillment.
    - a. Students will define eternal law and relate it to all moral rules and civil laws.
    - b. Students will define divine providence and relate it to all moral rules and civil laws.
    - c. Students will define natural moral law and relate it to all moral rules and civil laws.
  2. Revelation
    - a. Students will understand the Ten Commandments as laws revealed by God under the Old Covenant.
      - (1). Students will examine each of the Ten Commandments in turn, knowing the meaning of the commandment itself, the virtues fostered and the specific sins prohibited by each.

- b. Students will examine the teaching of God in the New Covenant, seeing how the New Law is explicitly based on love of God and love of neighbor, as one lives the Beatitudes and other teachings of Christ by the grace of the Holy Spirit.
- c. Students will explain the authority and responsibility of the Magisterium to teach moral principles, defining the role of the law in Christian tradition, the specific teachings of canon law needed to live the moral principles and the formation of conscience she offers her members.

Rel.11.2.3 C. Living new life in Christ Jesus and the Gospel message are the basis for Catholic moral teaching.

- 1. Students will understand that God's love and mercy revealed by Christ life as the bases for their eternal salvation. (Soteriological significance of the Christ event)
- 2. Students will grow in understanding of their personal response to God's call in their daily life, in the context of discipleship in various forms.
- 3. Students will understand the definition and types of grace.
- 4. Students will define the types and efficacies of virtues.
- 5. Students will understand the role of the Holy Spirit in sustaining the moral life of a Christian disciple.
- 6. Students will understand the process of making a moral decision with a particular emphasis on the proper formation of conscience.
- 7. Students will heighten their understanding of the power of the sacraments and prayer to strengthen their response to the call of Christ and the Gospel.
- 8. Students will grow in awareness and appreciation of their incorporation into the life of the Church.

Rel.11.2.4 D. The Reality of Sin

- 1. Students will understand the goodness of God's plan of creation that began with the original innocence of mankind.
- 2. Students will be aware of the effects of original sin in the entire world.
- 3. Students will examine the reality of sin in light of redemption.
- 4. Students will read scriptural images of sin which serve as examples of the widening alienation of the human family, as a consequence of sin.