

## **CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING TEXTS AND RESOURCES**

Texts/resources should be approved by the Catholic Church. All material used in catechesis should be consistent with Catholic teaching.

A holistic approach to catechesis should be central to all texts/resources i.e. methods used within texts/resources should include attention to knowledge, skills and service (behavior) and attitudes. If faith is to be life lived, catechesis must involve the total person no matter how young or old.

Texts/resources should encourage, even require, family involvement in the catechetical process. Catechetical leaders must keep in mind that parents are the primary religious educators of their children. Parents need to know what their children are learning in catechetical sessions so that they can integrate that learning into what they are teaching/living at home.

All texts and resources need to be developmentally appropriate e.g. kindergartners should not be expected to read, third graders are not taught about transubstantiation, high school students are not asked to complete a connect-the-dot picture of Jesus, etc.

Where texts/resources do not cover the material intended for a particular age group, as outlined in the diocesan curriculum, materials must be obtained to fill in those gaps. For example, many text series do not cover the liturgical year, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, sexuality and social justice issues adequately. Principals will need to find materials for teachers to use to fill in these very obvious holes in content.

While texts/resources need to have solid content, etc., they also should be teacher friendly. Principals choosing texts/resources need to examine whether the materials are easy for teachers to use and understand. Special training for a particular resource may be necessary.

Texts and resources should give teachers a variety of options as to how they will present the different aspects of each lesson. This provides teachers with the opportunity to choose methodologies that are comfortable for them and their class and enhance their teaching style.

Growth in faith is a lifelong process. Catechesis supports and nurtures our growth in faith. Lifelong programming must be taken into account as texts/resources are chosen. Resources need to build upon one another from year to year and fit into the whole lifelong catechetical process. Therefore, principals must choose resources that blend together well and build upon what has been taught before.