



Diocese of Buffalo

Department of Lifelong Faith Formation

A member of the Division for Evangelization and Catechesis

Ecumenism & Interreligious Issues

Rationale: The Word of God became human in space and time and was rooted in a specific culture. Due to the explosion of technology and mass communication, the world of today is rich with diversity. Adolescents must not only understand and appreciate their own faith tradition but the traditions and practices of those with whom they share their world.

Goal: That students will appreciate the significant role that religion plays in the lives of people of all faiths and denominations.

Objectives: To understand that every human person is a unique creation of God.

To understand the manner in which the Catholic Church relates to non-Catholic religions.

To appreciate the ways in which other belief systems and practice differ from the Catholic faith.

To recognize that parallel expressions of worship can serve to make one's own religious expression more understandable and meaningful.



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*(Based upon the *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework of the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age* (2008), p. 49-53)

| Outline | Activities | Critical Reflection |
|--|--|---|
| <p>I. Revelation and the Catholic Church</p> <p>A. Divine Revelation through the history of salvation</p> <p>1. Divine Revelation in the Old Testament</p> <p>2. Divine Revelation in the New Testament</p> <p>B. Divine Foundation of the Catholic Church</p> <p>C. The Catholic Church and Divine Revelation</p> | <p>Invite persons from other religious traditions to explain their beliefs and customs to the class.</p> <p>Visit a temple, mosque, etc. and report what you learned about that tradition.</p> <p>Create a timeline tracing the relationship among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.</p> | <p>What are some stereotypes about specific religions or individuals who practice this religion you need to deal with before beginning an honest study of religion?</p> |



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| <p>II. Christian Churches Apart from the Catholic Church</p> <p>A. An ecclesiology of communion</p> <p>B. Rifts & Dissensions</p> <p>C. Ecumenical efforts</p> | <p>Trace the origins of the East-West Schism both from the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox points of view. How do they differ?</p> <p>Chart the essential differences between Catholicism, Protestantism, and Orthodox Christianity. What do they share in common?</p> <p>Define ecumenism. Write a prayer for unity among Christians.</p> | <p>Why is ecumenism so slow in reaching its ultimate goal?</p> |



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| Outline | Activities | Critical Reflection |
|---|---|---|
| <p>III. Relationship of the Catholic Church to the Jewish People</p> <p>A. Special Link</p> <p>B. Special Position</p> <p>C. Major Differences</p> <p>D. HX of anti-Semitism</p> <p>E. Dialogue</p> | <p>Visit a synagogue for a Shabbat Service.</p> <p>Participate in a Seder Meal. Explain the symbols of the food eaten at the Seder.</p> <p>List the differences between the Jewish Bible and Christian Bible.</p> <p>Watch the film “Schindler’s List.” Discuss the courage of Oscar Schindler.</p> <p>Read a novel based on the Holocaust, i.e., “Diary of Anne Frank,” “Night.” Report on the meaning and message this book had for you.</p> <p>Explain the preparation process a Jewish boy/girl does for his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah? Compare it to the Sacrament of Confirmation.</p> <p>Research the Jewish wedding ceremony and explain the symbolism.</p> | <p>Discuss what the common elements of the moral life and practice shared between Christians and Jews.</p> <p>How did the Jews in their dispersion go about preserving their faith? What activities did they emphasize?</p> <p>How does a Jewish funeral rite differ from a Catholic funeral?</p> <p>How are Jews today still affected by the Holocaust? Why do they want to keep this memory alive for future generations?</p> |



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| Outline | Activities | Critical Reflection |
|---|---|--|
| <p>III. The Church and Other Non-Christians</p> <p>A. The Muslim People</p> <p>1. History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Abraham, Ishmael, Mohammad ○ life of Mohammad – messenger of God <p>2. Beliefs and Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One God: Allah ○ angels ○ prophets & Jesus as prophet ○ destiny ○ day of judgment <p>3. Five pillars of Islam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • profession of faith • prayer – 5xs/day • almsgiving • fasting • pilgrimage | <p>Research the life of Mohammad. Present this to the class.</p> <p>Develop a video comparing the similarities between Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.</p> <p>Research the ways Islam is treated in the media. Compare these ideas to what you understand about the goals of this religion.</p> <p>Read about the Five Pillars of Islam and illustrate using various media.</p> <p>Explore various forms of prayer in Islam and Judaism. Choose one prayer and illustrate using various media.</p> <p>Prepare a report about what happens on a hajj.</p> <p>Create a timeline tracing the relationship among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.</p> <p>Invite a member of the Islam religion to demonstrate and explain “salat.”</p> | <p>Why do Muslims consider Abraham an originator of their faith?</p> |



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| <p>* Abraham, Mohammad</p> <p>B. Common non-Christian religions in the U.S.</p> | | |



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| <p>V. Proclamation and Dialogue</p> <p>A. Salvation through the Catholic Church</p> <p>B. Interreligious Dialogue</p> | | <p>Explain what the fallacy is in the statement: "I am not Christian, I am Catholic."</p> <p>How would you tell a friend from another religious tradition about what being a Catholic means?</p> <p>Why is the Pentecost experience so important in Christianity?</p> |



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| Outline | Activities | Critical Reflection |
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| <p>H. Festivals and Holy Days</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. three major feast days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter • Christmas • Pentecost <p>I. Sin</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. origin of sin 2. redemption from sin 3. grace 4. salvation <p>* John the Baptizer, Peter, Mary, Fathers of the Church, Doctors of the Church</p> <p>VI. Challenges</p> | <p>Create a banner or a power point presentation depicting one of the Liturgical Seasons of the Church year.</p> <p>Read the two creation stories in Gn 1:1-31 and 2:1-25. How are they different? How is God portrayed in each account?</p> <p>See the “Challenges” section on p. 53 of <i>Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age</i> (USCCB, 2008) for discussion points about ecumenism.</p> | <p>How can you participate in the ecumenical movement? How has this movement benefited the Church? What are some obstacles to Church unity today?</p> <p>Discuss some traits Islam has in common with Judaism & Christianity?</p> <p>Discuss students’ impressions about Islam and compare these after learning more about this religion. How accurate were their impressions? What did they not understand?</p> |