



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
THE DIOCESE OF TOLEDO

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March 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

In 2008, by unanimous vote, the Bishops of the United States issued *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*. In an effort to enhance secondary religious instruction, the Bishops approved this document to assist catechetical publishers and “to guide catechetical instruction for young people of high-school age wherever and however it takes place: in Catholic high schools, in parish religious education programs, with young people schooled at home, or within the context of the catechetical instruction which should be part of every youth ministry program.”

I have looked forward with enthusiasm to the implementation of the *Curriculum Framework* in our diocese. As a member of the USCCB committee that created it, I keep the catechetical mission of the Church at the forefront of my pastoral concern, especially for the young people of our diocese.

The introduction to the *Curriculum Framework* provides the following succinct summary of what is primary:

“The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ” (*Cat. Trad.*, no. 5)...

The Christological centrality of this framework is designed to form the content of instruction as well as to be a vehicle for growth in one’s relationship with the Lord so that each may come to know him and live according to the truth he has given to us. In this way, disciples not only participate more deeply in the life of the Church but are also better able to reach eternal life with God in Heaven...


In addition to providing guidance about the doctrinal content of catechetical instruction for high-school-age young people, this framework is also designed to help those same young people develop the necessary skills to answer or address the real questions that they face in life and in their Catholic faith.

The Holy Spirit is always at work in the Church, the world and human hearts, leading us to Christ. However, we have to acknowledge that today’s society and culture present many serious challenges to those who want to live a fervent Christ-centered life. More than ever, it is vital that our young people receive a solid and well-rounded formation in their Catholic Faith.

For the implementation of the Bishops’ document in the Diocese of Toledo, we have chosen to begin with the enclosed high school curriculum which follows the *Framework* very closely. As a next step, our diocesan Office of Catechesis will oversee the adaptation of the new curriculum to parish religious education and youth ministry programs.

By means of this letter I hereby establish the enclosed curriculum as the new religion curriculum to be followed by all the Catholic high schools in our diocese, beginning with freshmen for the Fall of 2011, and successively for other years, one year at a time over four years.

My prayer is that the implementation of this new curriculum will be a moment of grace for all of our students, parents, faculty and staff --- and will help to draw hearts and minds ever closer to the Sacred Heart of Christ our Savior.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
  
Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair  
Bishop of Toledo