



July 13, 2016

To: Elementary School Principals and Elementary School Religion Coordinators:

We are pleased to inaugurate the new religion curriculum for our Catholic elementary schools in this 2016-2017 school year.

Since the launch of our last update, in 2003, much has happened in the Church and in the world. This new curriculum addresses topics that are current and very much relevant in today's world. It utilizes the latest in Church documents, from the direction of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops to the Vatican. Social justice teaching, often called "the Church's best-kept secret" is emphasized in this curriculum, and, most important, the six tasks of catechesis form the foundation of the entire document.

As you know, this curriculum was adopted from that of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC. With the blessing of Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, the curriculum was slightly modified to meet the needs of the Diocese of Buffalo, and it has been approved for our use by Bishop Malone.

In addition, our elementary school religion coordinators were asked to work with their school faculties during the 2015-2016 school year to look for opportunities to interface religion as a subject with the rest of the curriculum in the school, thus creating a document that truly integrates Catholic teaching into all aspects of the life of the Catholic school.

It is my hope that the utilization of this curriculum will fulfill more effectively the evangelizing mission of our Catholic schools, so that our students will be deeply moved to know the tenets of their Faith, love God more deeply, and understand that they, in turn, must share and proclaim what they have learned to the world.

Sincerely,

Carol Cimino, SSJ, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

