NEW POLICY
Catechism

Growing in Faith Together in Christ!

"The first setting in which faith enlightens the human city is the family..."

~Pope Francis
(52) Lumen Fidei -The Light of Faith

Who?

New policy for Parents and School-aged Children:

- **School-aged child** requesting Baptism and/or Confirmation and/or First Eucharist (Communion) and/or Reconciliation (Confession)
- **Parent** of school–aged child requesting Baptism and/or Confirmation and/or First Eucharist and/or Reconciliation
- **Parent** requesting baptism for infant or pre-school aged child

The Six Tasks of Catechesis (GDC 86-87)

1. Promotes knowledge of the faith.
2. Promotes a knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and the sacraments.
3. Promotes moral formation in Jesus Christ.
4. Teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ.
5. Prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.
6. Promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society.

Why?

On November 14th, 2012, the Assembly of Diocesan Priests adopted five main guidelines with regard to Catechetics for children (0 – 18 years of age) and their parents. *(see reverse for the guidelines)*
This agreement among priests shows a common will and an awareness of the importance of bringing people to a living faith. A policy was developed from these guidelines by a committee in June 2013 with the cooperation of parish catechism coordinators, priests and approved by Archbishop Albert LeGatt.

Wow!

This new policy responds to the needs of families today. It has been created from our pastoral plan and a five year plan which highlights adult faith formation to help families grow in their understanding of the faith. The process is meant to support parents and children in all parishes in our diocese. The policy, with ongoing catechism and preparation for sacraments, will help parents to have the means to pass the Catholic faith onto their children and share the joy of faith in the world today.

What?

The Five Guidelines are:

1. Ongoing and sacramental catechesis of school-aged children All school-aged children (six years of age or more) looking to receive one of the sacraments of Christian initiation (Baptism, Eucharist or Confirmation), as well as the sacrament of Reconciliation, must be in an ongoing catechesis program and have already completed a required period of ongoing catechesis; must also receive an immediate preparation for the sacrament they are about to receive.

2. Where this catechesis takes place This ongoing catechesis – as well as the immediate sacramental preparation – may take place in the school, the parish, or the home, but must be linked to a parish community through the pastor, the parish coordinator of catechesis or a catechist.

3. Catechesis of school-aged children asking for Baptism School-aged children (six years of age or more) asking to receive Baptism must – wherever possible – follow a catechumenal formation (RCIA). However, in areas where this is not possible at the present time, the child must be enrolled in an ongoing catechesis program and must receive immediate preparation for Baptism. The child would then celebrate the sacrament of Baptism and continue in an ongoing catechesis program, receiving the other sacraments with his peers. This is an interim measure in response to our current situation. As a Church, we are to continue to strive toward the full catechumenal process for these children.

4. Catechesis of parents at the time of their child's sacramental preparation Parents of all school-aged children preparing for a sacrament must also receive adult catechesis on the basic beliefs of the Catholic faith and the specific sacrament for which the child is preparing.

5. Catechesis of parents asking for infant baptism Parents asking for infant baptism must also follow an adult catechesis program which would help these parents deepen their relationship with Christ and the Church, understand the importance of Baptism and help them nurture their child's spirituality in the first years of life.

How?

Carrying out this policy and growing in faith together involves a variety of groups:

Children participate fully in the sessions provided and do their best to be followers of Jesus Christ by actively seeking to grow in faith and respond to the world today in Christian ways.

Parents participate fully in sessions provided and grow in knowledge and love of the faith. Together, they strive to understand and support each other in their roles as parents in a community. Parents encourage and engage their family in knowing Jesus Christ more fully and living out a Christian faith in homes, workplaces, parishes and communities.

Coordinators and/or Catechists lead children and families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and help strengthen the Christian community with example, prayer and leadership.

Parish Community accompanies children and parents in their faith journey with prayer, support, and generous sharing of gifts and talents as catechists, facilitators, and other roles.

Priest or Parish Life Director communicates and assists catechists and families by putting into action the new policy and communicates within their region and the archdiocese. They foster a sense of common responsibility for catechesis in the Christian community, a task which involves all, and a recognition and appreciation for catechists and their mission.

Archdiocesan Service of Catechetics provides assistance to parishes, priests, catechists and families in implementing the new policy and provides resources to learn and know the Catholic faith and grow in relationship with Jesus Christ.

"The definite aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ." (GDC 80)

Archdiocese of Saint Boniface

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in the Catechetics Section