

Curriculum Standards

Performance Indicators

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Sample Activities

For Children of Ages Eleven and Twelve

or

those in Grade Six

Word Bank
Body of Christ
Books of Old Testament
Conversion
Inspiration
Messiah
Prophet
Worship
Books of New Testament
Chastity
Covenant
Justice
Peace
Symbolic action

Prayers to be introduced...



Memorare

Prayers of Imagination



Prayers to "learn by heart."

Sign of the Cross Our Father Glory Be

Apostles Creed Grace before and after meals

Hail Mary Morning and Evening Prayer

Liturgical responses Act of Contrition

Prayers to Practice

Act of Hope

Angelus

Gloria

Mysteries of the Rosary

Hail Holy Queen

Morning Offering

Nicene Creed

Psalms

Rosary

Prayer before Blessed Sacrament (Divine Praises)

Stations of the Cross

Act of Faith

Act of Love

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Regina Coeli

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Spontaneous prayer

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom.

Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship.

Parents should be encouraged to help children learn the required prayers at home.

Foster participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community.



Standard #1 Faith

Present an understanding of the human need for God based on revelation and faith.

Performance Indicators

- ~Use the Bible to find examples of God's goodness prevailing over sin and evil.
- ~Relate that God sent Jesus to us for our salvation.
- ~Recognize that we are God's chosen ones.
- ~Demonstrate a personal synthesis of knowledge and faith.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Adopt a service project to be done as a group, because we believe in and follow Jesus, that will show concern for others.



Talk together about the meaning of grace. Give examples of actions that flow from grace.



Look for examples in the Bible of God's goodness prevailing over sin and evil.



Have the young people ask their parents to give examples of how people they know live their faith. Share.



Read selected Bible passages showing God's goodness. Ask the group to act out examples of God's goodness today.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #2 Scripture

Read, understand, interpret and apply Scripture to life.

Performance Indicators

- ~Recognize the 46 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament.
- ~Examine the experiences of God's people as recorded in the Old Testament and relate them to life today.
- ~Trace how the Old Testament, which contains the roots of our faith, is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Assist the young people in locating references in the Old Testament about the coming of the Messiah.
How did God keep his promise?



Give everyone in the group a Bible and play a speed competition game of "Find this Passage." Inspire the young people to learn about the Bible.



Help the young people reflect on the plight of the Hebrew people and how it relates to contemporary issues.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #3 Doctrine & Dogma

Illustrate a basic understanding of doctrine and dogma in light of the creed.

Performance Indicators

~Discuss how God creates out of love.

~State that Jesus is the Messiah who came to serve and to save us.

~Illustrate that the Holy Spirit is the breath of life and the fire of love.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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Some Sample Activities



Acting out the Passion of Christ, illustrate how Jesus came to serve and save us.



Research together Scriptural images of the Holy Spirit. In small groups, make collages/posters showing and describing these images. Discuss why we need the Holy Spirit.



As a group, Create a collage that shows the Holy Spirit as the breath of life and the fire of love.



Read Gospel passages to identify ways Jesus interacted with sinners. How can this knowledge help us?



Help the group create a public service announcement proclaiming that Jesus is the Messiah who came to save us.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #4 Trinity

Recognize the Trinity as God.

Performance Indicators

- ~Explain that the Trinity is revealed to us in the Bible
- ~Discuss the mystery of the Holy Trinity in the person, words and works of Jesus Christ.
- ~Recognize the human authors of the Bible as inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- ~Point out that the Holy Spirit is always present and active in the lives of people.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Encourage the young people to interview their parents or grandparents to discover how they have experienced God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Ask the young people to work together to discuss how the Trinity is present in the world through nature, people and events.



Have the young people research and share with each other information about how Jesus spoke about his Father and the Holy Spirit.



Ask the young people to interview a another parishioner about his or her belief in the Trinity. Share the results of the interview.



Ask the children to research and write a short report about how the Trinity is revealed in the person, words and works of Jesus.



Find examples in Scripture that relate how God revealed himself to people. Ask the young people to share how they know that God is with them.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #5 Church

Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

Performance Indicators

- ~Relate that the Church was born on the Feast of Pentecost.
- ~Recognize the roots of the Church in the many signs and symbols of the Old Testament.
- ~Identify God's presence within the Church, the Body of Christ.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Provide the group with print media from which they can select materials that show the Church in action. Together, make a collage or booklet about how we become the Body of Christ through these actions.



Ask the young people to read the Nicene Creed and discuss the importance of understanding the Church as "one," "holy," "catholic," and "apostolic."



Discuss from Scripture references the meaning of the reign of God and have the young people write a report on the reign of God in today's Church and world.



Identify Old Testament symbols that foreshadowed the Church, e.g. Ark of the Covenant, temple, tent of meetings, etc.



Help the group prepare and actively participate in a parish liturgy. Discuss how participation in Church events helps us to become the Body of Christ.



Read and recreate the Pentecost event as described in the Book of Acts. Discuss the changes that took place in the apostles after Pentecost. Show how the Holy Spirit changes us. Talk about why Pentecost is the birthday of the Church.



Discuss why "Body of Christ" is a good description of the Church.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #6 Community

Demonstrate an appreciation for faith community as the primary way we come to know God.

Performance Indicators

~Explain and celebrate the Pope as the leader of the Catholic Church throughout the world.

~Relate that the Church is a community of God's people called to continual reform and renewal.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Invite families to celebrate liturgy together, participate fully, and engage in family discussion about ways the Mass calls us to continual reform and renewal.



Invite a speaker to talk about Vatican Council II and its call to reform and renewal. Have the children show ways in which the Church builds up and supports community.



View a video that will offer a good understanding of people functioning as Community to help others.



Research what the Pope is doing or saying at the present time and discuss why this is important for the Church.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #7 Creation

Exercise responsible stewardship for the gift of creation.

Performance Indicators

~Identify ways in which sin can destroy God's creation.

~Recognize that Christians are called to overcome evil and to be responsible stewards.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Discuss and problem-solve a world-wide environmental issue that is making headlines in our society at this time. What can young people do about it?



Encourage the young people to keep a journal to record the ways they have shown care and concern for God's creation.



Ask the young people to discuss local stresses that harm the environment. List the key ideas that would occur in a news article that encourages others to respond positively and effectively to preserve the environment.



Have the young people write a poem about the abundance and goodness of God's creation.



Invite the young people and parish families to participate in a community recycling project.

Other activities I found useful...

Sacraments



Standard #8 Sacraments

Demonstrate the importance of sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.

Performance Indicators

- ~Celebrate Eucharist which, as a symbol of God's reign, brings us peace and reconciles us.
- ~Recognize the grace of God through the symbolic actions of the sacraments.
- ~Tell how Baptism calls us to new life, cleanses sin, and joins us to the Christian community.
- ~Examine how the sacred is experienced in the liturgical year, sacramentals, symbols and rituals.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Identify elements in the celebration of the Eucharist that address peace and reconciliation.



Prepare a chart that lists each sacrament and identifies the symbolic action associated with each sacrament.



Have the young people participate as readers in a parish or children's celebration of the sacrament of the Eucharist. Discuss the importance of participation in the liturgy.



Discuss with the young people the effects of the sacraments they have celebrated.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #9 Discipleship

Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.

Performance Indicator

~Relate how Christians are to be missionaries bringing Good News to the ends of the earth.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicator?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicator?

Some Sample Activities



Ask the children to discuss with their families how they help one another live their baptismal call.



Research and discuss a missionary group like Maryknoll. Find pictures and stories that state who they are and what they do in their ministry.



Inquire whether anyone in the group knows any missionaries. If so, have them share what they know about the person they know, including where they have served and the kind of missionary work they have done.



Discuss how various parish ministries bring the Good News to the community. Challenge the young people to choose a ministry they admire and tell why they admire it. Investigate areas of ministry that are available to young people.



Invite a religious sister or brother to speak to the group about religious life and share why he or she lives this life. Discuss how religious brothers and sisters bring the Good News to others.



Reflect together how the young people can bring the Good News to those they meet each day.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #10 Human Dignity

Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.

Performance Indicators

- ~Tell that we are children of the covenant God made with Abraham and Sarah.
- ~Identify significant contributions to the Church by varied ethnic cultures.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Invite the young people to pick a saint from a different ethnic or racial background. Discuss what he or she contributed to the Church.



Listen to liturgical music from different cultures. How have these contributed to our Church?



Read together the story of Jacob and his sons. Discuss their culture.



Ask the young people to reflect on the fact that all people are made in the image of God, regardless of race or ethnicity. Talk about the significant contributions brought to the Church by various ethnicities and cultures.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #11 Human Interaction / Sexuality

Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

Performance Indicators

- ~Demonstrate how we are God's people by living the commandments.
- ~Recognize that God's Spirit calls people to conversion and faithfulness.
- ~Analyze the Scriptures as a guide in moral pathways to the reign of God.
- ~Defend human sexuality as a precious gift of God.
- ~Recognize that we are called to a chaste life.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Ask each young person to write a short story that demonstrates how love of neighbor and love of self are connected.



Have the young people read about saints who experienced great conversions in their lives. Discuss what each person was like before and after their conversion.



Have families watch a TV program in which the characters show respect and dignity toward all persons. Discuss the actions of the characters who showed respect for others and what commandments they were living.



Listen to a popular song together and share whether it indicates appropriate intimacy and trust.



View a video together in which life is shown as valued and precious.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #12 Social Justice

Know, critique and apply social justice principles to personal and societal situations.

Performance Indicators

~Learn the Beatitudes.

~Examine the prophets regarding the mysteries of life: suffering, injustice, death.

~Recognize the way to the reign of God through justice and peace.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



As demonstrated through the Beatitudes, show how the healing touch of Jesus is present in our world and in our communities through our example.



Bring in materials about current events and discuss how God works through people to achieve a more just world.



Describe a situation that needs justice or peace. Discuss what a young person can do to improve the situation.



Have young people give examples of actions that show respect and fairness toward others and help to bring about the reign of God.



Discuss the beatitudes and, in small groups, show how each can be lived today.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #13 Community Service

Engage in service to the community (e.g. family, parish, local, National and global) in response to the Gospel call.

Performance Indicator

- ~Recognize Jesus as the center of God's plan for the world.
- ~Explain the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicator?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicator?

Some Sample Activities



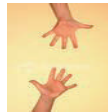
Ask the young people to plan and carry out a service project for people who are hurting in the neighborhood, country or world.



Ask young people to volunteer to help an elderly person in their family or neighborhood by raking, shoveling, doing errands, etc.



Write a paragraph or draw pictures that show how a young person performs the Corporal Works of Mercy.



Write a paragraph or draw pictures that show how a young person performs the Spiritual Works of Mercy.



Identify organizations that assist people in third world countries. Initiate a project to support the organization.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #14 Moral Conscience

Develop a moral conscience informed by Church teachings.

Performance Indicators

- ~Indicate that the Holy Spirit and the Church help us choose what is right.
- ~Recognize the heritage of our faith from those who have gone before us.
- ~Describe how to live good lives as taught in the Scriptures.
- ~Recognize that God sends prophets to call us to justice and mercy.
- ~Demonstrate the call to be faithful to God's love.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

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Some Sample Activities



Ask the young people to write a letter to their parents to express gratitude for the guidance they provide in making good decisions.



Role play Joseph and his brothers as he is sold into slavery. Role play Joseph and how he treats his brothers in Egypt. Discuss both in light of moral actions.



Ask the young people to re-write the Ten Commandments using positive statements instead of "I shall not" as an indication of understanding how to be faithful to God's love.



Have the group role play someone acting on an informed conscience and choosing what is right.



Work with the group on a pledge that flows from these positive commandments. It should speak of one's relationship with God and one's relationship with others.



Have the young people report on the topic: "How injustice hurts people" or "How injustice hurts our world." Be specific.



Identify prophets who addressed justice and mercy. Recall their message and relate it to our world.

Other activities I found useful...

Prayer



Standard #15 Catholic Tradition of Prayer
Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer.

Performance Indicators

- ~Identify psalms as prayers that Jesus liked to pray.
- ~Affirm that worship belongs to God alone.
- ~Recognize the Eucharistic Liturgy as the community's central act of worship.
- ~Recognize Scriptural prayer.
- ~Analyze the deepening awareness of the covenant relationship with God that prayer provides.

Assessment : How will you know that the young people learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Have the group participate in a prayer service in which they can use intercessory prayer and prayer for forgiveness, etc. to deepen their awareness of their relationship with God.



Ask the young people to read selected psalms and describe their favorite one.



Help the young people use Scripture and a journal to pray.



Offer opportunities to pray the Rosary, have spontaneous prayer, and try scriptural meditation and/or guided meditation.



Help the young people experience contemplative prayer in short sessions and discuss how this prayer form helps to deepen their relationship with God.

Other activities I found useful...