

High School Parish Catechetical Models:

Below are three possible models for adolescent catechesis that a friend of mine shared with me. She is from Boston and we participated in the Institute for Lifelong Faith Formation through the Center for Ministry Development. She learned about it from the NCCL.

High School Religious Education - Model Proposals for Parish Implementation

What

- Systematic, on-going, and intentional catechesis for older adolescents grades 9-12

Why

- Give our young people a sound opportunity to experience a profound encounter with the person of Christ and the skills to articulate it in faith
- Empower our young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today
- Draw our young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community
- Develop the confidence to live day to day lives as young women and men of faith confronting a world that would suggest otherwise

Model I Outline

- 4-6 week pods with a large group gathering on the 7th week
- 1st semester: two 6 week pods and two large group gatherings
2nd semester two 6 week pods and two large group gatherings

Model II Outline

- Summer School Model

Summer Institute I – Intensive one week institute that covers semester one

Summer institute II – Intensive one week institute that covers semester two

Model III Outline

- College catalogue design

Core classes that all will be required to take

Electives running simultaneous during the semester

Small groups of no more than 10 to a section

Group according to availability and choice

Example times offered

T-Th Zero Hour 6:30-7:30 am

M-F Lunch 11-12 or 12-1pm

M-Th After School 3:15-4:15pm

Weeknights &Weekends as needed

Preparation for Implementation - Curriculum

Using the Spiral method

Year One All Grade Levels

1st Semester – The Revelation in Jesus Christ in Scripture

2nd Semester - Who is Jesus Christ?

Year Two All Grade Levels

1st Semester - The Mission of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery)

2nd Semester - Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church

Year Three All Grade Levels

1st Semester Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ

2nd Semester Life in Jesus Christ

Year Three All Grade Levels

1st Semester Option C: Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society

2nd Semester Option D: Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ

- This model starts all adolescents at whatever point they enter 9th grade. For example, if the adolescent enters 9th grade on year three of the program the semester the topic is sacraments.
- There can be a modification offered to have a short introductory class for freshmen focusing on Jesus Christ and revelation.
- Confirmation class schedules are also separate in this model.
- Although this model is primarily the responsibility of the catechetical leader, it requires a youth minister or a network of volunteers for the to offer ministerial opportunities to supplement the class sessions
- The topics and ministerial opportunities require a commitment of 16 to 24 hours per semester (4 to 6 hours per month or 4 to 6 hours per day in summer school)