

Guidelines for the Preparation and Review of Pre-School Materials

Highlighted paragraph numbers are references to the
Protocol for Assessing the Conformity of Catechetical Materials with the Catechism of the Catholic Church

1. Basic Introduction to the Trinity
 - a. Introduce the Sign of the Cross and familiarize the children with the names of the three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Stress respect for these names in our speech and the use of these names in our prayer.
[CCC 198-202, 222-227, 232-240, 253, 258-260, **261, 316, 320**, 422-423, 731, 733, 737]
2. Christological Centrality
 - a. Introduce Jesus: true God and true man, Son of God and Son of Mary.
 - b. Present important moments in the life of Christ.
[CCC 441-445, **454**, 464, 469, **479, 480-483**, 488, 487-**495, 561**]
 - c. Teach that Jesus died on the Cross for us, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven.
[CCC 616-617, **620-621**, 623, 638-640, **656, 665**]
3. Ecclesial Context
 - a. Introduce the Catholic Church as the family of God.
[CCC **747**, 759, **777-778**, 959, 1655, 2233]
 - b. Introduce the parish as that part of the Church where we come together to worship as a community.
[CCC 1069-1071, 2179]
 - c. Introduce Mary as the mother of Jesus, God's mother and our mother.
[CCC **495, 508-510**, 723, **744**, 963, 967-971, **973-975**]
 - d. Introduce the saints as God's special friends who are part of the family of the Church in heaven.
[CCC 828, 956-957, **960-962, 1195**, 2013, 2030, 2683, 2692]
 - e. Introduce the angels as spirits who have been created by God to be his messengers, and that God has given each of us a Guardian Angel to watch over and protect us.
[CCC 328-336, **350-352**]
 - Cf. stories in the Bible that include angels: the Annunciation [Lk 1:26-38]; the Birth of Jesus [Mt 1:18-25; Lk 2:1-20]; the Flight to and return from Egypt [Mt 2:13-15, 19-23]; the Temptation of Jesus [Mt 4:1-11; Mk 1:12-13]; the Agony in the Garden [Lk 22:39-46]; the Resurrection [Mt 28:1-10; Mk 16:1-8; Lk 24:1-12]
 - f. Introduce the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
[CCC 437, 532-534, 564, 583, 1655]

- Cf. stories in the Bible that reference the Holy Family: the Birth of Jesus [Mt 1:18-25; 2:1-12; Lk 2:1-20]; the Flight to and Return from Egypt [Mt 2:13-15, 19-23]; the Presentation in the Temple [Lk 2:22-40]; the boy Jesus in the Temple [Lk 2:41-52]
- g. Within the context of an introduction to the Mass, present the priest and explain his role within the Church.
[CCC 1547-1553, 1562-1568, 1577-1579, 1581, **1592, 1595, 1597-1598**]
 - h. Introduce the pope as the visible head of the Church on earth.
[CCC 880-882, **936-937**]
 - i. Introduce the liturgical year: Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter and special feasts of Mary and the saints.
[CCC 1168-1173, **1194-1195**]
4. Sacraments
 - a. Define sacrament. [CCC **1131**]
 - b. Introduce Baptism as the sacrament through which we become children of God and members of the family of the Church.
[CCC 1213, 1226, 1239-1241, 1243, 1257, 1267, 1272, **1278-1280, 1282**]
 5. The Moral Life
 - a. Present the difference between right and wrong, and our need for God's grace to live as his children.
[CCC **1747**, 1749, 1759-**1761**, 1776-1777, 1781, 1783-1785, 1789, 1811, 1996, **2021-2022**]
 - b. Note the importance of fairness or justice.
[CCC 1944-1945, **2255, 2319**]
 - c. Teach that the goods of creation are destined for the entire human race; explain the need to reduce social and economic disparity among peoples and eliminate sinful inequalities; stress the importance of sharing.
[CCC **1947-1948, 2451-2452, 2456, 2459**]
 - d. Explain the equality and dignity of all people who are made in the image and likeness of God; stress respect and kindness.
[CCC 225, 356-361, 369, 1604, 1700-1701, **1944-1946, 2319, 2334**]
 6. Prayer
 - a. Introduce prayer and the importance of praying.
[CCC 2559, **2590-2591**, 2613, 2659-2660, **2694, 2757**]
 - b. Introduce traditional prayers such as: The Sign of the Cross, morning and evening prayer, Prayer to the Guardian Angel, Grace before and after meals.
 7. Introduce the Bible
 - a. The holy book of the family of the Church.
[CCC 103-108, 131-133, 135, **136-139**]
 - b. The book in which we read about God and creation.
[CCC 279, **315-317, 319**]

- c. The book which contains the Gospels: four important books which tell us about Jesus.
[CCC 124-127, **139**]
- d. Suggested Bible stories for inclusion in the preparation of Pre-School materials:
 - (1) Creation
[Gen 1:1-31; 2:1-25]
 - (2) The Birth of Jesus
[Mt 1:18-25; 2:1-12; Lk 2:1-20]
 - (3) Jesus blessing the little children
[Mt 19:13-15; Mk 10:13-16; Lk 18:15-17]
 - (4) Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of God?
[Mt 18:1-5; Mk 9:33-37; Lk 9:46-48]
 - (5) The Wedding at Cana
[Jn 2:1-12]
 - (6) The Prodigal Son
[Lk 15:11-32]
 - (7) The Good Shepherd
[Jn 10:11-18]
 - (8) The Good Samaritan
[Lk 10:29-37]
 - (9) The Greatest Commandment
[Mt 22:34-40; Mk 12:28-34; Lk 10:25-28]