



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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April 29, 2014

Dear Pastors, Pastoral Leaders, Religious Education and School Administrators,

Last year, a task force was assembled to evaluate new and existing elementary textbook series for religion. At the conclusion of that year, I approved five different series for grades K-8 to be used throughout the diocese. This school year, a similar taskforce has been meeting to evaluate high school religion textbooks for grades 9-12. The purpose of the taskforce was to choose a select number of catechetical series which taught high quality content with age appropriate applications.

I greatly appreciate the work of the task force on this project including those from both religious education programs and Catholic schools. I thank you for your dedication and evaluation of each series.

After reviewing the task force's evaluations and recommendations, I am announcing my decision to approve the following four series for use in high school religious education and Catholic school curricula in the Diocese of Green Bay starting with the 2015-2016 academic year:

- Ave Maria Press (Semester Series)
- Our Sunday Visitor (Semester Series)
- St. Mary's Press (Semester Series as well as the Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, 3rd Edition)
- Didache Series by the Midwest Theological Forum (Semester Series)

These four books will provide the content for each high school semester of study. The required semesters for a Catholic school or parish are to follow in the accompanying letter from the Department of Education. The Department will be working on effective implementation strategies so that the 2015-16 academic year will be one of great encounter, study, prayer, and catechesis in learning to know, love, and serve Christ better.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL  
Bishop of Green Bay