Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework 2007 by USCCB

Core Curriculum

**3rd Semester**: The Mission of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery)

**Main Points:**

1. **The Goodness of Creation and Our Fall from Grace**
   1. Creation of the World and the first parents
      1. revelation as found in the book of Genesis
      2. Trinitarian God is the Creator of all; all creation reflects the glory of God
      3. God created all that is, invisible (angels) and visible world
      4. Human beings as the summit of creation (created in image and likeness of God – male and female (similarities & differences); both each dignity; person (unity of body and soul)
      5. God’s plan: original holiness and original justice
   2. The fall from grace: Original Sin
      1. Full meaning of the doctrine of Original Sin is revealed only in the light of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus [essential believe in the mystery of Christ]
      2. Fall of the angels
      3. rebellion of Adman and Eve and its consequences; rejection of a God-centered life
      4. Consequence of Original Sin: suffering, death, a tendency toward sin, need for salvation
2. **The Promise of a Messiah**
   1. The first prophecy of the Messiah (Gen. 3:15)
      1. Proto-Evangelium: 1st announcement of Good News
      2. Promise endures despite the escalation of sin in book of Genesis
   2. Longing for the fulfillment of the promise
      1. God’s covenants with Old Testament peoples
      2. God’s covenants with Noah, Abraham, and Moses (Each foreshadows Paschal Mystery)
      3. Ancient Israel entrusted with knowledge of God’s promise
      4. Judges, kings, and prophets: reminding people of the ancient Israel and the promise
      5. Promise to David; and also “suffering servant” passages in Isaiah
   3. The promise of redemption is fulfilled in Jesus
      1. The Gospels recognize Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise
      2. Incarnation - Christ’s whole life was a mystery of redemption
      3. Christ’s whole earthly life – words, deeds, silences, sufferings – Revelation of the Father
3. **Christ Our Light: Redemption Unfolds**
   1. Baptism of Jesus, his trip temptation, miracles at Cana, announcement of the Kingdom (parables and miracles), Transfiguration, Jesus institutes the Eucharist
4. **Redemption Through the Paschal Mystery**
   1. Passion and Death of Jesus (redemptive love and suffering on the cross)
   2. Resurrection of Jesus: redemption – promise fulfilled
   3. Ascension and glorification of Jesus – culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit
   4. Our hope to follow Jesus to heaven; Assumption of Mary – anticipation of our resurrection
5. **Moral Implications for the Life of a Believer**
   1. Jesus was put to death for our sins and was raised for our justification
   2. we need to accept the grace of redemption
   3. Universal Call to Holiness and living as a Disciple of Jesus
6. **Prayer in the Life of a Believer**
   1. Developing intimacy and communion with Jesus through prayer is an essential aspect of the life of a believer; Scripture is the source and guide for prayer
   2. Expressions of prayer can be vocal, meditative or contemplative;
   3. Forms can be blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praice.

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**Challenges**

1. **Why would God the Father allow his Son, Jesus, to suffer and die the way he did?**
   1. God the Father allowed Jesus (His Son) to suffer and die for us out of love fall all of us
   2. His Passion reveals the depth of the Father’s love in helping all people not be overcome by the magnitude of evil, sin and death
   3. Through Adam and Eve’s sin, all human beings are born with a wounded human nature due to the absence of the life od Christ’s grace; Jesus came to redeem us from our sins
   4. Jesus’ sacrifice destroyed the power of sin and death and restored our friendship with God.
2. **Why are followers of Jesus Christ sometimes so willing to make sacrifices and to accept pain and suffering, especially in witness to Christ and their faith?**
   1. Christians are willing to make sacrifices and undergo suffering patiently
      1. They follow the example of Christ‘s suffering and death that gained salvation for us
      2. Jesus predicted that we would suffer for their faith and promised he would be with them in their suffering
      3. Offering our suffering with Christ can be redemptive
   2. Christ strengthens the person who is suffering and the person become more like Christ
3. **Isn’t making sacrifices and putting up with suffering a sign of weakness?**
   1. No, making sacrifices and offering us suffering takes great courage and strength. We are given the grace and personal holiness to live as Jesus taught us.
   2. Jesus gives ust he example of accepting the Father’s will even when it involves suffering
   3. Suffering is necessary to develop our maturity in Christ and to love our neighbor as Christ loves him.
4. **In the end, isn’t it really only the final result that matters?**
   1. No, every moral choice a person make shapes his/her person and society
   2. A good end never justifies an evil means
   3. One must never do evil just to that good maybe come of it.