Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework 2007 by USCCB

Core Curriculum

**2nd Semester**: Who is Jesus Christ?

**Main Points:**

1. **God and Revelation**
   1. Revelation: god’s gift of himself
      1. Divine plan is disclosed – salvation history
      2. Scripture, Tradition, Deposit of Faith
   2. Faith: the response to God’s self-Revelation
      1. Faith: grace that enables an assent of mind, heart and will (trust & relationship)
      2. Faith in Jesus leads to discipleship – practical implication that involves active participation in the Church community to spread the faith by example
      3. Faith (an assent) is different than religion (belief and practices)
      4. Full Revelation is reflected in the life and teaching of the Catholic Church
2. **Jesus Christ’s Revelation About God**
   1. Son of God from all eternity; Son of Mary from the moment of the Incarnation
      1. Mystery of Incarnation: Emmanuel, Logos (Word of God), Fulfillment of God’s plan
      2. Christ’s continual presence in the Church
   2. the Revelation of Jesus about God
      1. Trinity: central mystery of faith
   3. The Three Divine Persons of the Trinity - distinct persons (elaborate) but one God
      1. Develops the doctrine on each Person of the Trinity
      2. Unique role of Mary as the Mother of God (Annunciation, Immaculate Conception, Assumption) – 1st disciple
3. **Mystery of the Incarnation**
   1. Jesus is fully God and fully man – 2nd Person of the Trinity became man
      1. Jesus show his humanity in every aspect of his life (like us in all things except sin)
      2. One Divine Person with two natures (human and divine)
4. **Jesus Christ Teaches Us About Ourselves**
   1. Jesus embodies what has been revealed in and through creation
      1. We are created in the image and likeness of God; Jesus became man to show our goodness
      2. we are endowed with special gifts which reflect God (immortality, intellect, free will, ability to love
   2. Jesus Christ redeems us and gives us his grace so that we can choose the good according to God’s will and resist sin and its effects
      1. Jesus invites us to follow him
      2. Jesus reveals the way of repentance and conversion; He gives us the spiritual power and grace to overcome evil; God’s mercy
      3. Jesus teaches us how to be single-hearted in our desire for God
   3. Jesus Christ reveals the Father to us, who we are, and our call to holiness
      1. Jesus united us to God by becoming man, and through his Death & Resurrection.
      2. We are conformed to Christ and can grow in holiness and goodness.
      3. Lessons from Sermon on the Mount, parables, two greatest Commandments, etc.
      4. Jesus teaches us to pray and teaches us through prayer
      5. Jesus sends us out to be disciples and to evangelize
   4. Jesus also tells us of the goal in this life and of the end of life
      1. Communion of Saints
      2. Four Last Things: death, judgment (particular and final), [Purgatory], Heaven and Hell

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**Challenges**

1. **How can we know that God really exists?**
   1. Even without the Bible and Divine Revelation, we can know God really exists through reason and experience.
   2. Order , beauty of the natural world point to God as the origin and Creator of the universe
   3. Reason and experience can also teach us to accept the word of others who believe
2. **Some people see the suffering in the world and conclude that God does not care about us. How can we say that He loves us deeply?**
   1. God loves us deeply, even in the midst of suffering, because he took our suffering upon himself.
   2. God cares because he created the world entirely out of love and not necessity
   3. God created human beings in his image and likeness with the ability to give and receive love
   4. God helps us know and sense his love through the people and events of our lives.
3. **How can people say that God is good if suffering and evil are present in the world?**
   1. Suffering in the world is not caused by God or sent by God; god sometimes permits it for reasons we cannot now know or understand
   2. some evil and suffering are a result of the work of the Devil or Satan
   3. Some suffering is the result of human sin, because God gave us free will
   4. God only bring about what is good for he is goodness itself
   5. Passion and Death of Jesus can help us to see beyond suffering and remind us that God is present with us
   6. Scripture help us understand suffering: Psalms, Job, and the prophets offer insight and consolation
   7. God wants what is best for us
   8. Natural disasters are a result of Original Sin, and because the world is in a state of journeying toward ultimate perfection
4. **Does God really what us to be happy?**
   1. God created us to be happy in this world and in the next; man caused unhappiness through disobedience
   2. God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, so that we might be saved; that confident hope is the cause of happiness in spite of suffering
   3. The blueprint for true discipleship and happiness is found in Christ’s teaching of the Beatitudes
5. **How can we be sure that what the Catholic Church teaches has come from God?**
   1. We can be sure that what the Church teaches has come from God because of Apostolic Tradition and Apostolic succession
   2. What was revealed in and through Jesus Christ was entrusted to St. Peter and the Apostles, who were taught directly by Jesus , and passed down through Apostolic Succession guided by the Holy Spirit.
   3. Jesus promised to be with the Church until the end of time.
6. **How do we answer questions about Mary and her role in the life and prayer of the Church?**
   1. We do not worship Mary (worship is only for God); we venerate Mary.
   2. Prayers to Mary are intercessory prayers; she prays to God with and for us
   3. Mary and the saints cooperated with God on earth; now in heaven they continue to pray and cooperate with the Father by doing good for others in need on earth and in Purgatory
   4. Mary was ever a virgin
   5. “brothers and sisters” of Jesus has referred to cousins or even close neighbors