Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework 2007 by USCCB

Core Curriculum

**4th Semester**: Jesus Christ’s Mission Continues in the Church

**Main Points:**

1. **Christ Established His One Church to Continue His Presence and His Work**
   1. The origin, foundation, and manifestation of the Church
      1. In God’s plan, begins with God’s promise to Abraham, instituted by Christ, Holy Spirit reveals the Church on Pentecost , Church is the pillar and foundation of truth
   2. The descent of the Holy Spirit
      1. fifty day preparation, Jesus remains with us always, event of Pentecost
   3. Holy Spirit is present in the entire Church
      1. Spirit present in and through the Church
      2. Holy Spirit bestows varied hierarchic and charismatic gifts upon the Church
      3. Spirit’s gifts help the church to fulfill her mission
   4. Holy Spirit inspire Apostles mission
      1. The Great Commissioning, preaching of Peter on Pentecost, growth of the Church,
      2. Conflict with Jews and Roman authorities (persecution, martyrdom),
      3. Church spreads to the Gentiles
   5. Handing on the teaching of Jesus
      1. Apostolic Tradition
      2. The development of the Gospels
   6. The role of the Apostles in the early Church
      1. Chosen and appointed by Jesus Christ
      2. Council of Jerusalem: the Apostles recognized as leaders of the Church
      3. Community of Apostles continued in community of pope and bishops
2. **Images of the Church (Partial Insights of Church Sharing in Trinitarian Communion)**
   1. In the Old Testament
   2. From the New Testament
   3. Images rooted in Scripture and developed in Tradition
3. **The Marks of the Church**
   1. The Church is one
   2. The Church is holy
   3. The Church is catholic
   4. The Church is apostolic
4. **The Church in the World**
   1. The Church is the sign and instrument of communion with God and unit of the human race
   2. Christ founded the Church with a divine purpose and mission
   3. The Church and her mission of evangelization
   4. Visible structure of the Church: a hierarchical communion
   5. Teaching office in the Church: Magisterium
   6. The sanctifying office of the church
   7. Governing office of the church
5. **Implications for Life of a Believer**
   1. Belonging to the Church is essential
   2. Jesus Christ enriches us through the Church
   3. The Church at prayer
   4. Living as a member of the church, the body of Christ, means we live as disciples, proclaiming the Lord Jesus’ teaching to others

**4th Semester**: Jesus Christ’s Mission Continues in the Church

**Challenges**

1. **Why do I have to be a Catholic? Aren’t all religions as good as another?** 
   1. To be a Catholic is to be a member of the one true Church of Christ. While elements of truth can be found in other churches and religions, the fullness of the means of salvation is subsists in the Catholic Church
   2. Christ willed that the Catholic Church be his sacrament of salvation, the sign and instrument of the communion of God and man
   3. Catholic Church established by Christ to be the visible organization through which he communicates his grace, truth and salvation
   4. Those who through no fault of their own do not know Christ or Catholic Church are not excluded from salvation
   5. Members of Catholic Church have the duty to evangelize others
2. **Isn’t the Church being hypocritical in telling other people to be holy and avoid sin when many Catholic, including the clergy, are guilty of terrible wrongs?**
   1. Some members of the Catholic Church might be hypocritical. All human beings are guilt of sin, but that does NOT make the church wrong or hypocritical
   2. Church teaches God’s plan for holiness and necessity of avoiding sin. Failure on the of members to live what God has taught does NOT invalidate the truth of the teachings.
   3. The Church is guided and animated by the Holy Spirit and, as the Body of Christ, remains sinless even if her members sin
3. **Who needs organized religion? Isn’t it better to worship God in my own way, when and how I want?**
   1. God desires us to come to him as members of his family, a new people, so he established the church to accomplish that purpose
   2. No one and no community can proclaim the Gospel to themselves
   3. Human being are social in nature – they need each other’s encouragement, support and example
   4. Worship of God is both personal and social – they complement each other
   5. The Church offers us authentic worship in sprit and in truth when we untie ourselves with Christ’s self-offering in the Mass
   6. In the Old and New Testament God called people to come together and worship in the way revealed to them; we are all accountable for each other
4. **How is it that the Catholic Church is able to sustain the unity of her members even though they live out their faith in different cultures and sometimes express their faith different way?**
   1. Unity is the Church is sustained through the apostolic teaching office of the pope and bishops who guide and direct us under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
   2. The pope and bishops are the successors of St. Peter the Apostles
   3. The unity of the Church is sustained through the common celebration of worship and the sacraments