



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447

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Introduction to the Evaluation of Religion Textbook Series

Quality religious education textbooks are an essential tool for effective catechesis and faith formation. To assist Catholic schools and parish religious education programs in selecting religion textbooks, the Archdiocesan Religion Textbook Evaluation Committee (henceforth "Committee") conducts reviews of religion series for use in grades K-8. Since June 2002, the Office for Religious Education (ORE) has been responsible for this ongoing work.

The committee evaluates only those religion textbook series that have been found to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) by the Office for the Catechism of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The Office for the Catechism declares a textbook series to be in conformity with the *Catechism* if its doctrinal content is deemed to be "authentic" and "complete" according to the criteria set forth in the USCCB's *Protocol for Assessing the Conformity of Catechetical Materials with the Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The *Protocol* and a current list of reviewed texts are available on the USCCB website at www.usccb.org/catechism or by contacting the Office for the Catechism at 202-541-3000.

The USCCB assessment is concerned only with the doctrinal content of a particular series and "does not consider the adaptation of doctrinal presentations and catechetical methods" (CCC, #24). This task is the focus of the evaluation conducted by the Committee.

After evaluating a religion textbook series, the Committee prepares a summary of what were identified as the series' strengths and weaknesses. In addition, the Committee designates it as one of the following:

- 1) Recommended for Use
- 2) Not Recommended for Use

Summaries are published periodically for inclusion in the *Religious Education Curriculum Guidelines* (2002).

It is Archdiocesan policy that parish religious education programs (Policy 2.3) and elementary schools (Regulation of Policy 6245) are to select only those religion textbook series for grades K-8 that have been designated as "Recommended for Use". These policies apply only to textbook series for grades K-8; they are not applicable to textbooks designed for use in grades 9-12. In addition, they do not apply to individual books or other catechetical resources that might be used in parishes and schools.

Parents who offer religious instruction to their children at home are strongly encouraged to use those textbooks that are recommended by the Archdiocese and used in their local parish.

Questions and comments regarding the evaluation of religion textbooks in the Archdiocese may be directed to the Office for Religious Education at 301-853-4506 or texts@adw.org.

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EVALUATED RELIGION TEXTBOOK SERIES

<u>PUBLISHER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Benziger	Christ Jesus, the Way	2003	Recommended for Use
Benziger	Come Follow Me	1998	Not Recommended for Use
Harcourt Religion Publishers	Call to Faith (K-6)	2005	Recommended for Use
Ignatius Press	Image of God	1992	Recommended for Use
Ignatius Press	Faith and Life	1985	Recommended with Reservation
Loyola Press	Finding God (1-6)	2005	Recommended for Use
Loyola Press	Christ Our Life	1997/2002	Recommended for Use
RCL	Faith First Legacy Ed.	2005-07	Recommended for Use
RCL	Faith First	2000-1	Recommended for Use
Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	We Believe	2004	Recommended for Use
Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	Faith and Witness	1998	Recommended for Use
Silver Burdett Ginn	Blest Are We	2002-3	Recommended for Use

Please see reverse side for a list of previously evaluated textbook series that are now out-of-print.

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EVALUATED RELIGION TEXTBOOK SERIES NOW OUT-OF-PRINT

<u>PUBLISHER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Benziger	Come Follow Me	1992	Not Recommended for Use
Brown-Roa	Focus	1992	Not Recommended for Use
Brown-Roa	Tel	1992	Not Recommended for Use
Daughters of St. Paul	Alive in Jesus	1990	Not Recommended for Use
Harcourt	Walking By Faith	1999	Recommended for Use
Loyola Press	Christ Our Life	1985	Recommended for Use
Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	Coming to Faith	1995	Recommended with Reservation
Sadlier (William H. Sadlier, Inc.)	Coming to Faith	1992	Recommended with Reservation
Silver Burdett Ginn	This is Our Faith	1998	Not Recommended for Use
Silver Burdett Ginn	This is Our Faith	1991	Not Recommended for Use
Tabor	Living Waters	1992	Not Recommended for Use