

Catholic Essentials: An Overview of the Faith

Answers to Some Questions from Customers about How to Use the Book

Use it for a Reference and Resource through all four years of High School

Catholic Essentials: An Overview of the Faith is a comprehensive source of information about Jesus and the Catholic Faith. Organized around the new doctrinal guidelines for high school age students of the U.S. Bishops, *Catholic Essentials* is intended as a **reference text** for students in Catholic high schools enrolled in a six- to eight-semester theology curriculum. *Catholic Essentials* presents a broad overview of the main requirements of a Catholic high school theology curriculum. It can be used as both a primer and source of review for all courses of study offered in Catholic high schools.

Use it as a text for a Synthesis Course in the Catholic Faith

The scope of the text is broad, providing a survey of the main elements of a four-year curriculum including: the Trinity, Jesus Christ, Salvation History, Ecclesiology, Sacraments, and Morality. An Appendix introduces further discussion of Scripture, Church History, Social Justice, Vocation, and an ecumenical study of World Religions. This means that the text is appropriate for conducting an introductory course in the faith. Likewise, it may be used in curriculums that offer a review course in either the junior or senior year.

Use it as a text for a Christology Course with one or more of the first three courses of the new Framework.

This is a transitional time for many schools and dioceses between a traditional sequence of courses and those strongly encouraged by the U.S. Bishops' framework. A typical grid comparing both curriculums may look like this:

Grade/Semester	Current Sequence	Future Sequence
Grade 9/Semester 1	Catholicism Intro	The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture
Grade 9/Semester 2	Old Testament	Who Is Jesus Christ
Grade 10/Semester 1	New Testament	The Mission of Jesus Christ
Grade 10/Semester 2	Sacraments and Liturgy	Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the World Today (The Church)
Grade 11/Semester 1	Morality	Sacraments as Privileged

		Encounters with Jesus Christ
Grade 11/Semester 2	Ecclesiology/Church History	Life in Christ (Morality)
Grade 12/Semester 1	Social Justice	Elective
Grade 12/ Semester 2	Christian Lifestyles	Elective

Recommended Electives for the New Doctrinal Framework:

- A. Sacred Scripture
- B. History of the Catholic Church
- C. Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society (Social Justice)
- D. Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ (Marriage and Holy Orders)
- E. Ecumenical and Inter-religious Issues

A general recommendation from bishops to publishers was that the new framework would be implemented gradually by the 2011-2012 school year. In the meantime many schools have already undertaken offering courses in this new model, albeit without course-specific textbooks for the first three offerings. *Catholic Essentials: An Overview of the Faith* can serve well as a primary text for the first three courses: The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture, Who Is Jesus Christ? and The Mission of Jesus Christ if supplemented with other sources, especially the *New American Bible* and *Encountering Jesus in the New Testament*. Also note: Ave Maria Press will provide on request a Scope and Sequence correlation between the Framework outline of each course and page numbers within its complete line of textbooks.

Use it as a primary text to support the catechetical dimension of a Parish Youth Ministry program.

Catholic Essentials: An Overview of the Faith provides teenagers of high school age in parish programs a reference book of the Catholic faith. While appropriate as a personal reference, the lesson plans in this Teacher’s Manual also allow for *Catholic Essentials* to be used as part of a religious education class, youth group, or Confirmation preparation program at a parish. General programming suggestions include:

- Planning a six to eight course session around each of the chapters of the book and the appendix material.
- Assigning for homework all text reading prior to the session.
- Highlighting the chapter material with a creative PowerPoint display.
- Using suggested films, guest speakers, and panel discussions to enhance the meeting. *Suggestion:* Using the Apologetics: Catholic FAQs as the starting point of a presentation.

- Using the Write or Discuss questions to elicit small and large group participation.
- Assigning at least one handout per session.
- Giving the Chapter Tests to take home as review assignments.
- Definitely making the chapter prayer services a part of each meeting.

Use it as a gift for any teenager who needs more information about and formation in Jesus and the Church.

This is a perfect gift item for Confirmation, junior high school graduation, Christmas, and birthdays for teenagers of high school age.