

STANDARDS AND RATIONALES



Creed ~ What We Believe



- #1 Present an understanding of the human need for God based on revelation and faith.

Rationale: For faith to be living, conscious and active, it is important for young people to understand the human desire for God.



- #2 Read, understand, interpret and apply Scripture to life.

Rationale: Scripture, as a vehicle of revelation, enables Catholics to discover truth about God, the world and one-self. As a reflection of the community's experience of God, Scripture gives meaning to prayer, unites values to knowledge and inspires people to hope.



- #3 Illustrate a basic understanding of doctrine and dogma in light of the creed.

Rationale: Doctrine and dogmas of the Catholic faith, as vehicles of revelation, are essential foundations for life within the Catholic community.



- #4 Recognize the Trinity as God.

Rationale: Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith.



#5 Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

Rationale: Our understanding of God and our identity as Church develops through history. The Church, the Body of Christ, is a reflection of the active and continuing presence of God.



#6 Demonstrate an appreciation for faith community as the primary way we come to know God.

Rationale: A relationship with God is not merely a private affair. Along with Scripture, prayer and good teaching, a dynamic faith community is essential to the spiritual formation of its members.



#7 Exercise responsible stewardship for the gift of Creation.

Rationale: Creation is a gift from God for all generations. It is the Catholic's responsibility to respect all creation, to share time, talent and treasure, and to preserve the gift for the future.



Sacraments ~ How We Celebrate



#8 Demonstrate the importance of sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.

Rationale: Persons encounter God in the sacraments. The sacraments, most centrally the Eucharist, are the source and strength of the Catholic community and are essential to the life of the Church and members of the Church.



Christian Living ~ How We Live



- #9** Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.

Rationale: All Christians are called by God to discipleship through baptism.



- #10** Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.

Rationale: Humanity, created in the image and likeness of God, is to be protected and enriched at all stages of life.



- #11** Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

Rationale: The Gospel call to love one's neighbor is the basis for all human interactions.



- #12** Know, critique and apply social justice principles to personal and societal situations.

Rationale: Catholic morality has to do with the public arena as well as personal life. Catholics are called to discern discrepancies, where they exist, between social realities and Gospel values, and to develop strategies to make Gospel values operative.



#13 Engage in service to the community (e.g. family, parish, local, national and global) in response to the Gospel call.

Rationale: By virtue of baptism, Catholics are called to discipleship which is manifest in loving service to others.



#14 Develop a moral conscience informed by Church teachings.

Rationale: Personal life decisions consistent with Church teachings provide opportunities for healthy, holy living on the journey to salvation.



Prayer ~ How We Pray



#15 Know and participate in the Catholic traditions of prayer.

Rationale: Prayer is essential to the relationship of the Christian to God and the community. Exposure to diverse expressions of prayer, together with traditional Catholic forms of prayer, creates an openness to God.