

Characteristics of the Eighth Grader

Thirteen years old

Qualities

Friendships are of extreme importance to younger adolescents.

They are beginning to be aware of their potential to become unique persons.

They are becoming independent and they need the support and encouragement of mature adults.

They view some of the external forms and structures of religion as unimportant.

They are going through a period of questioning and searching.

They have a deep and beautiful sense of the sacred but do not easily share their questions or their inner thoughts.

The basic task of the adolescent is to put off childhood and to ask the question, "Who am I?" Life and one's place in it becomes a personal concern; faith vs. religion and personal experience vs. learned principles. Conflicts are still present within the eighth grader. He is at a stage of rejecting what he accepted unquestioningly of authority in the past.

The young adolescent's preoccupation with himself, his world and his rather universal rejection of traditional values and teachings make this a very difficult but a vitally important one in religious education.

SPECIAL NOTE

Safe Environment Children's Program

The Safe Environment Children's Program was introduced in the Catholic Schools in the spring of 2003. The program consists of three lessons which are taught over a period of three years and then repeated.

The program was introduced in the parish Religious Education programs in the fall of 2008. Each parish is required to present one lesson to the children (grades K – 10) in the parish program each year. It is preferable that the lesson be taught in the fall of the catechetical/school year.

Following the lesson, a record of training must be sent to Kathleen Bolinski, Safe Environment Coordinator, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.

All materials needed for teaching the lessons in the *Safe Environment Children's Program* in the parish and school are found in the *Safe Environment* binder in the parish/school office.

CATECHESIS

1. What is the Church?
 - a. Definition of Church (CCC 751-752, 781)
 - b. Marks of the Church
 - i. One (CCC 813-822, 866)
 - ii. Holy (CCC 823-829, 867)
 - iii. Catholic (CCC 830-835, 838, 868)
 - iv. Apostolic (CCC 857-865, 869)
 - c. Characteristics (CCC 782-786)
 - d. Models and Symbols of Church (CCC 753-757)
 - i. Body of Christ (CCC 779, 789, 792, 805, 807)
 - ii. Bride of Christ (CCC 796)
 - iii. Temple of the Holy Spirit (CCC 797-801)
2. The Church is Born
 - a. Pentecost (CCC 763-768, 1076)
 - b. Persecution (CCC 2474)
 - c. Apostolic Roles and Activity (CCC 2, 857-860)
 - d. Paul's mission to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15...)
 - e. Initiation: original forms of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist (CCC 1229-1233)
 - i. Baptism (CCC 1257-1261)
 - ii. Confirmation (CCC 1286-1289)
 - iii. Eucharist (CCC 1322-1327)
 - f. Peter, the papacy, and Apostolic succession (CCC 96, 552-553, 765, 816, 860-862, 881)
3. The Rise of Monasticism
 - a. The Monastic Daily Life (CCC 918)
 - b. Liturgy of the Hours (CCC 1174-1178, 1196)
 - c. Prayer: kinds and styles (CCC Part IV)
 - d. Missionaries (CCC 849-856)
4. Conflict and Division (CCC 817-820)
 - a. The Great Schism
 - b. The Reformation
 - i. Causes
 - ii. Points of disagreement
 - iii. Effects
 - c. Ecumenism in the Modern Age (CCC 820-822, 870)

- d. Catholicism in the United States (CCC 2137, 2224-2246)
- 5. The Church in the Modern World
 - a. Vatican II (Documents: Constitution of Church in Modern World)
 - b. The Structure of the Church
 - i. The laity (CCC 897-913, 940-943)
 - ii. The magisterium (CCC 871-887, 894-896)
Pope, Cardinals, Bishops (CCC 880-896)
 - c. Models of Church
 - i. Sign/herald of the Kingdom
 - ii. Community/family (CCC 2204-2206)
- 6. Living the Gospel Today
 - a. The Church's Moral Vision (CCC 1950-1986)
 - i. Commandments (CCC 2052-2082)
 - ii. Beatitudes (CCC 1716-1729)
 - iii. Works of Mercy (CCC 2447)
 - iv. Justice (CCC 1805, 1807, 1928-1948)
 - v. Love for the Poor (CCC 2443-2449)
 - vi. Sexual ethics (CCC 355, 1605, 2331-2440, 2514-2533)
 - b. Conscience (CCC 1776-1802)
 - c. Sin (CCC 1846-1876)
- 7. Saints and Church Leaders: Our Role Models
(not a separate unit, but scattered throughout the cycle where appropriate)
Peter, Paul, Augustine, Perpetua and Felicitas, Polycarp, Agnes, Lawrence, Patrick, Benedict, Francis, Clare, Therese of Lisieux, John XXIII, Pius X, Leo XIII, James Cardinal Gibbons, Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, and others.
An Appendix of Saints can be found in the Confirmation Component. (*see above*)

Grade Eight -- Words to be Taught

Apostles	Papacy
Apostolic Succession	Pentecost
Beatitudes	Persecutions
Catholic	Reformation
Conscience	Sacraments
Ecumenism	Initiation
Gentile	Healing
Laity	Commitment
Magisterium	Spiritual/Corporal Works of Mercy
Monasticism	Vatican II
Missionaries	