

Course IV: Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church

Course IV Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by Him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn not so much about events in the life of the Church, but about the sacred nature of the Church.

Course IV Essential Questions:

- How does the Church help one encounter the living God in Jesus?
- How does the Church encourage the People of God to respond to become the Body of Christ?
- How does understanding and appreciating the Church, as the living Body of Christ, help one live out the mission of Jesus in the world today?

Course IV Important Concepts/Terms:

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Abraham | doctrine | Metanoia |
| apostasy | dogma | Missionary Discipleship |
| Apostolic Traditions | ecumenism | Noah |
| Bishop | Eucharist | Papacy |
| Cathedral | Evangelization | papal infallibility |
| Catholic | Gospel of Salvation | People of God |
| catholic | heresy | Priest |
| Church | Hierarchy | Religious Orders |
| communion of saints | indefectibility | Schism |
| creed | interreligious dialogue | Temple of the Holy Spirit |
| Deacon | Laity | tradition |
| Diocese | Magisterium | |

Course IV Standards:

1. Identify the Church as the means through which God's plan is revealed for all humanity.
USCCB Framework: (I, A-E) (CCC, nos. 778-779, 696, 731-732, 767, 1076, 1287, 2623, 737, 741, 857, 860, 787-789, 792, 796, 857)
2. Describe the roots of the Church through the Hebrew Covenants.
USCCB Framework: (I, A, 2) (CCC, nos. 762)
3. Explain how Christ reveals the Kingdom of God through the institution of the Church.
USCCB Framework: (I, A, 3, a-c) (CCC, nos. 748-766, 767-768, 765, 766)
4. Explain the significance of Pentecost as the foundation of the Church.
USCCB Framework: (I, A, 4) (CCC, nos. 767-768)
5. Explain the presence of one, Holy Spirit in the awakening of the followers of Jesus.
USCCB Framework: (I, B, 1-3) (CCC, nos. 696, 731, 73, 767, 1076, 1287, 2623)
6. Describe the mission of the Apostles as guided by the Holy Spirit, especially in the lives of Peter and Paul.
USCCB Framework: (I, C, D) (CCC, nos. 737-741, 768, 857, 860, 858-860, 551-556, 766-769, 2474, 657-677, 769, 1816, 2473-2474, 762, 774-776, 781, 442)
7. Recognize the significance of the handing on of the teachings of Jesus through Scripture, tradition and apostolic life.
USCCB Framework: (I, E, F) (CCC, nos. 787-789, 792, 796, 857-865, 124-133, 857-860, 861-862)
8. Explain the Biblical names, images, symbols used for the Church and developed in Tradition.
USCCB Framework: (II, A-C) (CCC, nos. 753-762, 56, 845, 1219, 763-776, 787-801, 541, 669, 791, 1655-1658, 507, 773, 967, 972)
9. Name and describe the Four Marks of the Church.
USCCB Framework: (III, A-D) (CCC, nos. 812-822, 823-829, 830-856, 857-865)
10. Show how the Church is one in Christ, yet revealed differently in the varied cultures within the Universal Church.
USCCB Framework: (III, A, 3) (CCC, nos. 814, 1202)
11. Compare and contrast various experiences of division within the Church throughout its history in light of heresies, East and West Schism and the Reformation.
USCCB Framework: (III, 4) (CCC, nos. 464, 466-467, 471)

12. Define ecumenism and discuss various ways to work toward unity.
USCCB Framework: (III, A, 5, a-d) (CCC, nos. 820)
13. Explain the Church's role in interreligious dialogue.
USCCB Framework: (III, A, 6) (CCC, nos. 820)
14. Explain how the universal call to holiness is central to the life of the Church.
USCCB Framework: (III, B, 1-4) (CCC, nos. 823-829)
15. Illustrate how Mary, Mother of God, and the saints are models of holiness and faith.
USCCB Framework: (III, B, 5) (CCC, no. 829)
16. Recognize that the Church is a community of God's people called to continual metanoia.
USCCB Framework: (III, B, 6) (CCC, no.828)
17. Describe the Church as a universal mission for the world and for the salvation of all people.
USCCB Framework: (III, C) (CCC, no. 830)
18. Describe how members of the Church share the Gospel of Salvation.
USCCB Framework: (III, C) (CCC, nos. 830-856)
19. Describe the hierarchy as part of the unbroken line of authority from Peter to the present day.
USCCB Framework: (III, D, 1-4) (CCC, nos. 857-869)
20. Demonstrate ways in which the Catholic experience of faith interacts with cultures of the world.
USCCB Framework: (IV, A,B) (CCC, nos. 760, 763-766)
21. Reflect on the definition of Missionary Discipleship as a response to the call of a life of service.
USCCB Framework: (IV, C) (CCC, nos. 861-905)
22. Explain the role of hierarchy in the life of the Church.
USCCB Framework: (IV, D, 1, 2) (CCC, nos. CCC 880-896)
23. Describe the role of the laity in the life of the Church.
USCCB Framework: (IV, D, d) (CCC, nos. 897-913)

24. Describe the role of religious orders within the life of the Church.
USCCB Framework: (IV, D, 2, a-d) (CCC, nos. 1555-1568, 1569-1571, 925-933, 897-912)
25. Assess the role of the Magisterium in defining key doctrines and dogma of Catholic tradition.
USCCB Framework: (IV, E,1,2,3) (CCC, nos. 890-896)
26. Identify and summarize the precepts of the Church.
USCCB Framework: (V, A, 1-4) (CCC, nos. 893, 894-896)
27. Describe the sanctifying role of the Eucharist in the life of the Church.
USCCB Framework: (V, B, 1) (CCC, nos. 763, 772-776)
28. Explain the role of the laity in the life of the Church as priest, prophet, and king.
USCCB Framework: (V, D, 1,2) (CCC, nos. 520, 1248, 2612, 2621)
29. Define the necessity of the Church as the means of salvation.
USCCB Framework: (V, D, 1,2) (CCC, nos. 520, 1248, 2612, 2621)
30. Summarize how living as a member of the Church is essential to being disciples of the Lord Jesus.
USCCB Framework: (V, D, 1,2) (CCC, nos. 520, 1248, 2612, 2621)

Course IV Guiding Questions:

What does it mean to be “Church”?

How does the Holy Spirit guide the Church?

How does my understanding of leadership, authority, and tradition in the Church help me grow in faith?

How are the different images of the church offered in Scripture and Tradition, and what do they tell us about the Church?

Show how the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic?

Who makes up the Catholic Church? What are the different roles?

How does the Church continue the mission of Jesus in the world today?

How is the Church necessary for living a life of faith? What does it mean to be fundamentally social beings, culturally diverse and made for community?

Note:

Essential questions promote deep and enduring understanding. They cannot be answered in one sentence. Even though they are written simplistically, they are complex enough to be broken down into smaller, guiding questions.

Guiding questions are more detailed questions that support the essential questions of the course.

Challenge Questions

“This element is designed to give catechetical instruction for high-school age young people an apologetical component. Publishers and teachers or catechists are to strive to provide for a catechetical instruction and formation that is imbued with an apologetical approach. Challenges that appear under one particular theme can also apply to other themes in the framework, and such application is encouraged.” Introduction to The Bishops’ Framework

Answers to each of the following questions with references to the Catechism are found in the last section of each course in the Framework. It should be noted, however, that each question has also been addressed within the coursework of the standards.

- A. Why do I have to be a Catholic? Aren’t all religions as good as another?
- B. Isn’t the Church being hypocritical in telling other people to be holy and avoid sin when many Catholics, including the clergy, are guilty of terrible wrongs?
- C. Who needs organized religion? Isn’t it better to worship God in my own way, when and how I want?
- D. 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 in different ways?