

# The Essential Checklist

Questions to Ask When Evaluating  
a Religion Textbook Series

- Content
- Methodology
- Scripture
- Christocentric
- Church Tradition
- Prayer

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**Does the text present authentic Catholic teaching that is in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* as determined by the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catechism?**

The USCCB Subcommittee on the Catechism has found *Alive in Christ Religion Curriculum* to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.



**Are the texts Christocentric, putting students, both individually and as a body, in touch with the person of Jesus Christ?**

*Alive in Christ* is intentional in its focus on the life, mission, and saving work of Jesus Christ. Each lesson encourages a personal and ongoing relationship with Jesus, who continually leads us to his Father's love and calls us through the Spirit to share in the divine life through his Church (CCC, 426).

See page TE4 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE4 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



**Does the textbook series present a comprehensive overview of the basic teachings of the Catholic Faith?**

*Alive in Christ* uses precise theological language, coupled with a purposeful emphasis on Catholic practices, images, and models of faith. This helps children to understand and articulate the teachings of the Church.

See pages TE5 and TE29 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE5 and CE23 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



**Does the text respect the way children learn today by offering learning activities that are developmentally appropriate, engaging, image-rich, multi-sensory, and varied in learning style?**

Every detail of *Alive in Christ* has been reviewed for developmental appropriateness. Images, text, activities, and teaching strategies speak directly to the students' stage of development.

See pages TE30-TE33 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE24-27 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



**Does the text build knowledge and reverence for Sacred Scripture?**

Sacred Scripture from the New American Bible Revised Edition is foundational to every lesson in *Alive in Christ*. Each lesson gives children the opportunity to pray with, reflect on, study, and apply God's Word to their lives.

See page TE28-TE29 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE22-CE23 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



**Does the text hand on the truths of our faith by echoing God's own way of teaching us his truths? This is called the Divine Pedagogy.**

There are five important components of the Divine Pedagogy that are at the heart of every lesson of *Alive in Christ*. Each lesson encourages a personal and ongoing relationship, beginning with God's invitation through Sacred Scripture. The children listen for God's voice speaking personally to them and are invited to respond through reflection and prayer.

See page TE18-TE29 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE16-CE23 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.

# The Six Fundamental Tasks of Catechesis



**Promote knowledge of the Catholic faith:** Does the text comprehensively and systematically cover all of the major areas of the faith that are assessed by the NCEA IFG: ACRE?

*Alive in Christ* assures that students are learning and applying the basics of the Catholic faith with a curriculum that reflects the latest edition of the **NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition Standards**.

See pages TE16 and 69E of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE14 and 53D of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



**Liturgical education:** Does learning about the ways in which the Church worships and celebrates the Sacraments, the Mass, and the Liturgical Year take place?

*Alive in Christ* helps children at every grade level understand and practice Catholic celebrations and rituals of our Church that form their lived faith. The Seven Sacraments, the Mass, and the Liturgical Year are presented through engaging images and examples.

See pages TE5 and TE16 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE5 and CE14 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



**Moral formation:** Does the curriculum form the consciences of the students through the moral teachings of Jesus and his Church to lead children to understand and live a life of discipleship?

*Alive in Christ* provides opportunities to challenge children to apply what they have learned to situations at home, school, and in the community.

See pages TE6 and TE16 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE6 and CE14 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



**Teaching to pray:** Are traditional prayers of the Church as well as the various forms and expressions of prayer taught?

*Alive in Christ* incorporates experiences of all five forms of prayer with opportunities for children to speak to God in their own words.

See pages TE5 and TE17 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE5 and CE15 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



**Education for community life:** Do the texts foster an understanding of what it means to be part of a Christian community and living out Jesus' command to "Love others as I have loved you."

Various chapter features in *Alive in Christ*, as well as the **Live Your Faith** sections on Catholic Social Teaching, will assist catechists and teachers in this task of catechesis.

See page TE17 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE15 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



**Missionary initiation:** Are students prepared to be witnesses of Jesus Christ and share their faith with others?

*Alive in Christ* helps to form children in the language and behaviors of the Catholic faith, giving them the skills necessary to be strong witnesses of the faith.

See page TE17 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE15 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



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## Are Catechist or Teacher Editions understandable and easy to use, assisting in formation and reflection?

*Alive in Christ Teacher and Catechist Editions* empower catechists with easy-to-use and effective tools for lesson planning, teaching, reinforcing faith concepts, and growing in their own relationship with Christ and his Church.

See pages TE6-TE7, TE20-TE27 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE6-CE7, CE18-CE21 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



## Do the school texts include cross-curricular or integrated curriculum opportunities?

*Alive in Christ School Edition* offers an intentional and systematic cross-curricular component called *Forming Catholic Identity Across the Curriculum* that provides resources for teachers of other disciplines to connect religion objectives to their course content.

See page TE26 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition*.



## Are the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching intentionally integrated into the curriculum?

*Alive in Christ's Live Your Faith* features explore the Scriptural and doctrinal foundations of the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching articulated by the USCCB and every core and seasonal lesson has a Catholic Social Teaching connection integrated into the lesson plan.

See page TE37 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE31 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



## Does the textbook series provide resources for parents and families to talk about and practice the faith at home?

*Alive in Christ* provides resources that intentionally link the lived experience of family life to the spiritual life and prompts directed conversation about our Catholic faith.

See pages TE6, TE13, and TE36 of the *Alive in Christ School Teacher Edition* or CE6, CE11, and CE30 of the *Alive in Christ Parish Catechist Edition*.



## Does the publisher of the text provide training and support for catechists, volunteers, and teachers using the program?

In addition to dedicated customer support through Our Sunday Visitor's curriculum experts and extensive background information in the easy-to-use print editions; catechists, teachers, and volunteers using *Alive in Christ* also have access to web-based training on [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

See comprehensive front matter in the *Alive in Christ School Teacher and Catechists Editions* and visit [aliveinchrist.osv.com/aicinfo](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com/aicinfo).

To view online samples, videos, and more,  
visit [aliveinchrist.osv.com/aicinfo](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com/aicinfo)



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