



Overview Chart - *Unifying Catholic Themes and Essential Questions*

Grade	Catholic Theme	Essential Question	Points for Consideration
K	Stewardship of Creation	Where is God?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Catholic tradition teaches that we are charged with caring for all of God's creation We come to know God through our experience and understanding of our selves, others, and the rest of the created world Students explore and experience elements of creation as a trace of God
1	Dignity of the Human Person	Who is God?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Catholic Church professes that all human life is sacred The inherent dignity of the human person is foundational to all other Catholic social teaching We develop a deeper awareness of our human dignity when we come to more fully understand God, our Creator Students use Scripture stories to develop an understanding of the attributes of God
2	Promotion of Peace	How are we members of God's family?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace is the work of justice and the result of love (EOCCC) Peace is not just the absence of war. It involves the mutual respect and confidence between peoples and nations. (Pope John Paul II) As members of God's family, we are called to seek justice and peace for all of the members Students develop an understanding Eucharist as a sacrament of belonging
3	Community and the Common Good	Who is the Holy Spirit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Catholic tradition teaches that all humans are called to live with, and for, others in community The Holy Spirit is God's loving and guiding presence in the community Students recognize that the Holy Spirit gathers us to be a people of God and inspires us to share in the mission of Jesus
4	Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable	What does Jesus ask of us?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A distinctly Catholic perspective on the world maintains that we can measure the quality of any society by the way its most poor and vulnerable are treated (EOCCC) Jesus is the ultimate model of how we are called to care for those that society overlooks Students use Scripture to develop a deeper understanding Jesus, and what Jesus expects of his followers
5	Community and the Common Good	How do we live in community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Catholic tradition proclaims that humans are not only sacred, but are also social We must be mindful of the human dignity and rights of all as we come together in community

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are called to critique prevailing social structures to ensure that all are fairly represented Students investigate covenant stories in Scripture as well as stories of the early formation of the Church
6	Human Rights and Responsibilities	How do we live in accordance with God's will?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By virtue of our human dignity, our Catholic tradition teaches that all humans have the right to life, food, shelter, health care, education, and employment We, in turn, have the duty and responsibility to care for one another, our families, and those in society We come to a greater understanding of how we are to ensure the rights of all, and what our obligations are, by understanding God's will for humanity Students examine the Decalogue and the Beatitudes as guides for right action
7	Dignity of the Human Person	What is our story?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This foundational social teaching is revisited, allowing students to come to a deeper understanding of its implications appropriate to the developmental stage of an adolescent A greater appreciation of the sacred and social nature of the human emerges, this time, through an investigation of the Christian story Students develop an understanding of the Bible as our story to more fully understand what it means to be called into relationship with God through Jesus
8	Solidarity	How are we Church in the world?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Catholic tradition proclaims that we are to love our neighbour regardless of national, racial, ethnic, economic, or ideological differences Solidarity means that "loving our neighbour" has global dimensions in an interdependent world (www.osjspm.org) Students are challenged, appropriate to their now more advanced developmental level, to extend their prior understanding of the Common Good to the broader global community Students identify how the Ten Commandments and Jesus' rule of love are related, and develop an understanding of the Catholic view of social justice and its need in the world