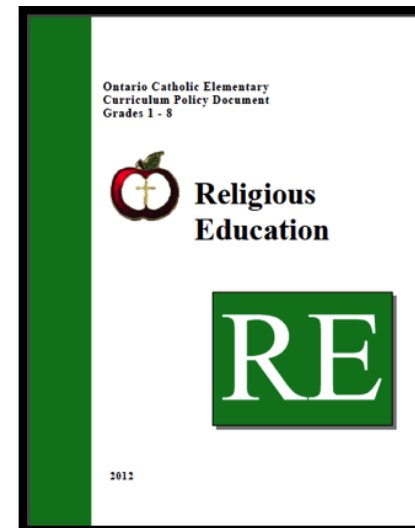


# THE ONTARIO CATHOLIC CURRICULUM: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Grades 1 - 8

## MODULE A: An Introduction for Teachers & Administrators



Prepared by Members of the  
Faith in Education Council,  
Catholic Curriculum Corporation  
for  
the Institute for Catholic Education  
*Special thanks to Sharron McKeever and Les Miller  
for their contributions.*



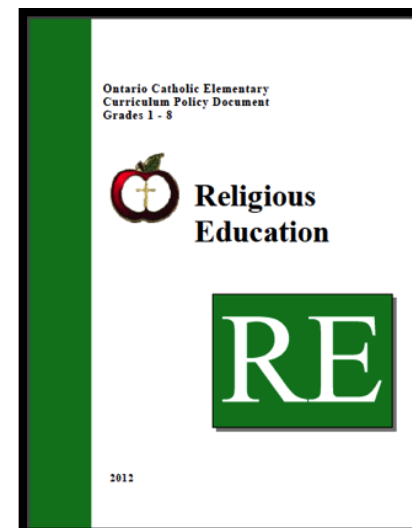
# THE ONTARIO CATHOLIC CURRICULUM: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Grades 1 - 8

## An Introduction for Teachers & Administrators



**LEARNING GOAL:** To provide an opportunity for participants to become familiar with the new Religious Education (RE) Policy.

- individual or group process
- accompanying placemat
- Interaction, Reflection and Integration



# *Minds On:* Introduction to Terms and Concepts



✧ *The New Evangelization*

✧ *Religious Literacy*

✧ *Catechesis*

✧ *Religious Education*

1. What do I know already?
2. What questions might I ask?
3. What might I hope to learn?

# *New Learning:* Guiding Questions



1. What is the authority of the Elementary Religious Education Policy Document?
2. Why create an Elementary Religious Education Policy Document at this time?
3. What is the *New Evangelization*?
4. What are the distinctive features of the Elementary Religious Education Policy Document?
  - i. What is the difference between *catechesis* & *religious education*?
  - ii. What is *religious literacy*?
  - iii. What is the relationship between the *tasks of catechesis* & the *strands of RE*?
  - iv. What are *hope expectations*?
  - v. What is distinct about the methodology of the document?

# 1. What is the Authority of the Elementary Religious Education Policy Document?



Scriptures  
& Tradition

- *Bible*
- Creeds, Dogma, Doctrines, Vat II Documents

CCC

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church (1992.1997)*
- Answers: What do we teach?

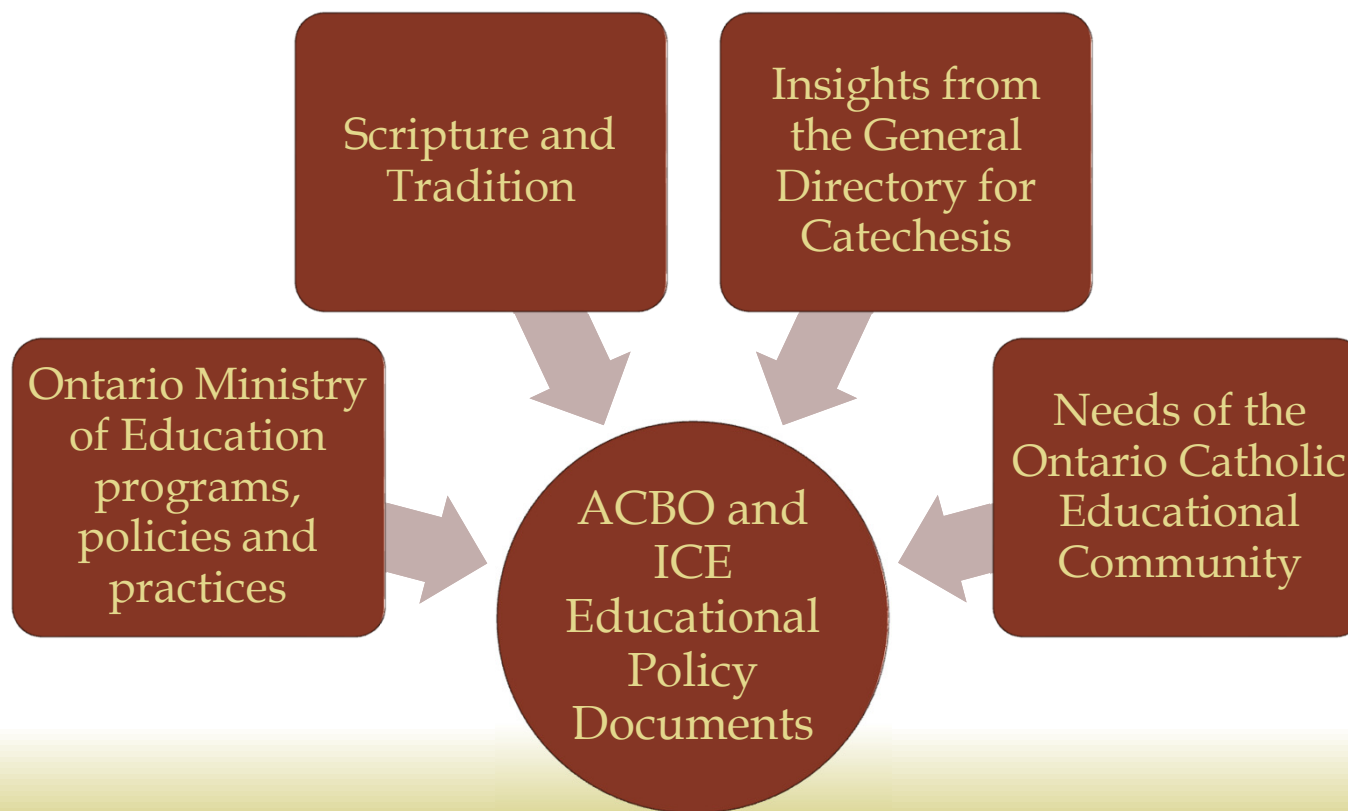
GDC

- *General Directory for Catechesis*
- Answers: How do we teach?

# 1. What is the authority of the Elementary Religious Education Policy Document?



It is the official policy document for Religious Education



## 2. Why create the Elementary Religious Education Policy Document at this time?



- ✧ Until now, all other curriculum areas, except RE and Family Life Education (FLE) have had policy documents.
- ✧ RE was directed by programs (i.e. *Born of the Spirit, We are Strong Together*) which are now dated.
- ✧ To support the development of new programs which reflect contemporary insights into RE using current pedagogy, while developing religious literacy.

## 2. Why create the Elementary Religious Education Policy Document at this time?



✧ The Church has identified that 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners require a distinctive approach to Religious Education using the approaches of the New Evangelization.



### 3. What is the *New Evangelization*?



- ❧ Ardent and courageous proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- ❧ Authentic teaching of the doctrine of the Church
- ❧ Adapted to the needs of the times
- ❧ Promotes enculturation of the faith
- ❧ Responsibility of all Baptized
- ❧ Promotes laws and institutions in harmony with Christ's teachings
- ❧ Evangelizes not only individuals, but cultures, and societies
- ❧ Mission focused on dialogue with other religions and recognition of the Spirit at work within them.

### 3. What is the *New Evangelization*?



“Modern *humankind* listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if *one* does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”

EVANGELII NUNTIANDI #41

## 4. What are the distinctive features of the Elementary RE Policy Document?

(Differences between Catechesis & Religious Education)

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### Catechesis

- Primarily Parish centered
- Directed at believers
- Context : liturgical celebration
- Focus: Mysteries of Faith
- Deepens understanding of faith
- Strengthens ability to articulate faith



### Religious Education

- School centered
- Is to address the needs of all students:
  - Believers
  - Searchers
  - Non-believers
- Primarily a scholastic discipline with curricular expectations
- Engages in interdisciplinary dialogue
- 1<sup>st</sup> step in evangelization

## 4. What are the distinctive features of the Elementary RE Policy Document?

(Differences between Catechesis & Religious Education)



✧ There is an increased emphasis on the Religious Education rather than the parish catechetical model.



Religious Education

The diagram features a vertical grey line that is slightly tilted to the right. To the left of this line is a large, solid red arrow pointing to the right. Below this arrow, the words "Religious Education" are written in a red, serif font. To the right of the vertical line is another large, solid red arrow pointing to the left. Below this arrow, the word "Catechesis" is written in a red, serif font.

Catechesis

## 4. What are the distinctive features of the Elementary RE Policy Document?

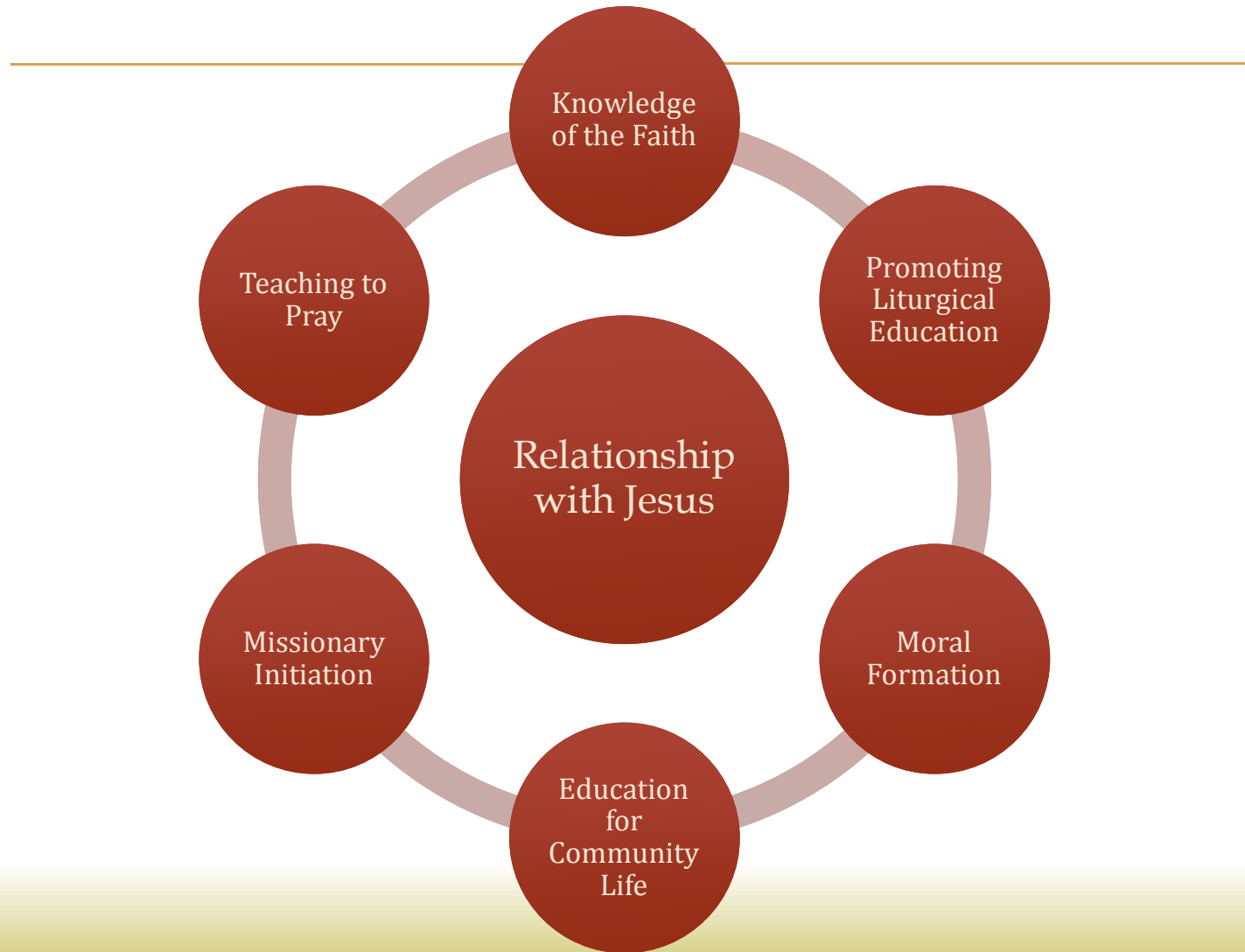
(Religious Literacy)



- ✧ The signs of the times - students require a deepened religious literacy that includes systematic instruction in the teachings of our faith.
- ✧ It is written to align with Ontario Ministry of Education policy documents and their pedagogical approaches.
- ✧ Religious literacy provides a confidence and a competence in the language and practice of the Faith. This learning is a cognitive skill that is appropriated into the faith journey and relationship with Jesus Christ.

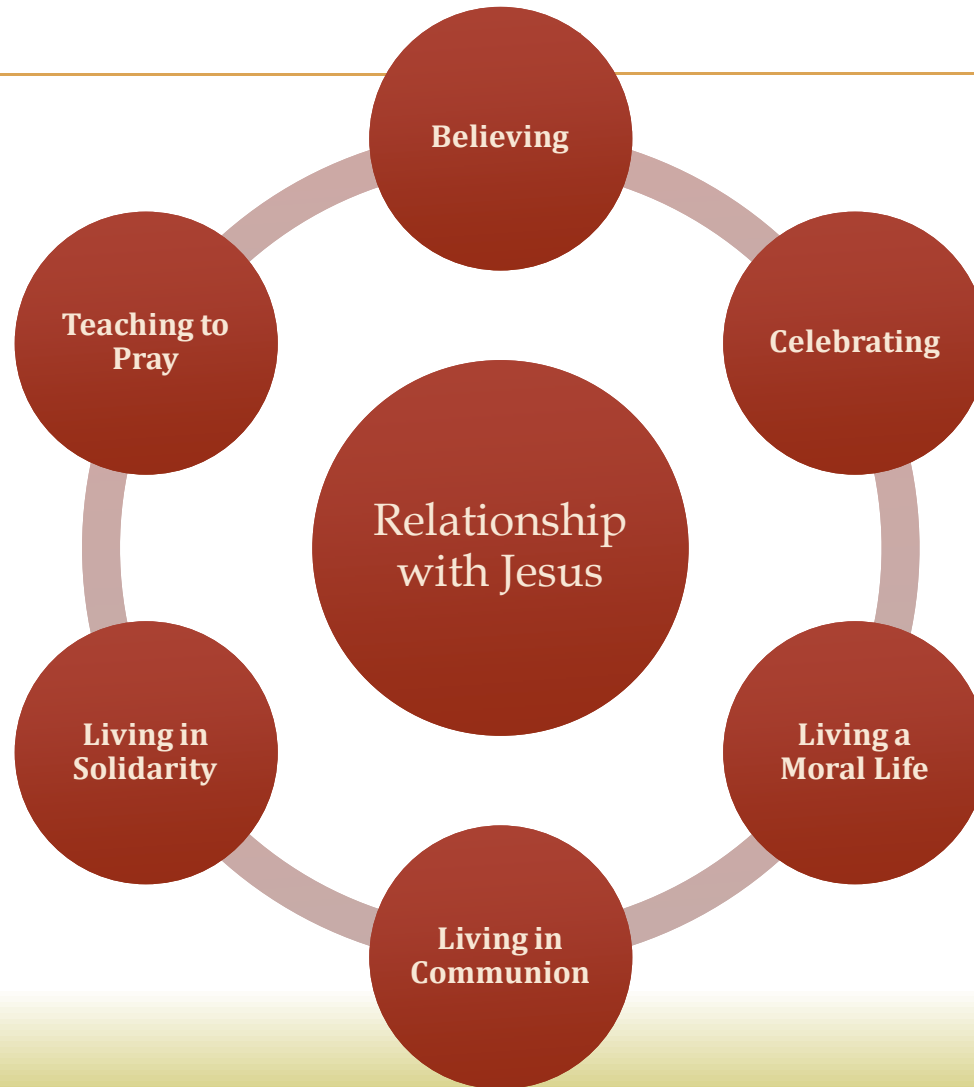
# 4. What are the distinctive features of the Elementary RE Policy Document?

(Tasks of Catechesis)



# 4. What are the distinctive features of the Elementary RE Policy Document?

(Strands of RE)



# 4. What are the distinctive features of the Elementary RE Policy Document?

(Tasks of Catechesis aligned with Strands of RE)





## 4. What are the distinctive features of the Elementary RE Policy Document?

(Hope Expectations)



- ❧ The *Hope Expectations* describe the vision of learning that exists in the affective domain within each strand, addressing catechesis, attitudes, & skills.
- ❧ These include items such as “appreciation for the Catholic tradition,” “moral responsibility,” et al.
- ❧ “*Our Hopes for Students...* remind teachers of the essential importance of RE to the broader process of evangelization.” (ICE, 2012)

## 4. What are the distinctive features of the Elementary RE Policy Document?

(Hope Expectations)



- ❧ The cognitive or overall expectations can be described as the 'bricks' or building blocks of learning.
- ❧ The affective or hope expectations can be described as the 'mortar' or that which binds the blocks together and gives the structure shape.

## 4. What are the distinctive features of the Elementary RE Policy Document? (Methodology)

**1. Participation and Past Experience**  
(family, parish, culture, society)

**Methodology**

**3. Application and Appropriation of New Information**  
(Transformation in the cognitive, praxis and affective domains)

**2. Exploration of New Ideas, Concepts, Insights**  
(Interaction, Exploration, Critical analysis of new information)



## 4. What are the distinctive features of the Elementary RE Policy Document?

(Methodology)

**Participation and Past Experience**

**Minds On**

**Methodology**

**Application and  
Appropriation of New  
Information**

**Consolidation**

**Exploration of New Ideas,  
Concepts, Insights**

**Action**

