

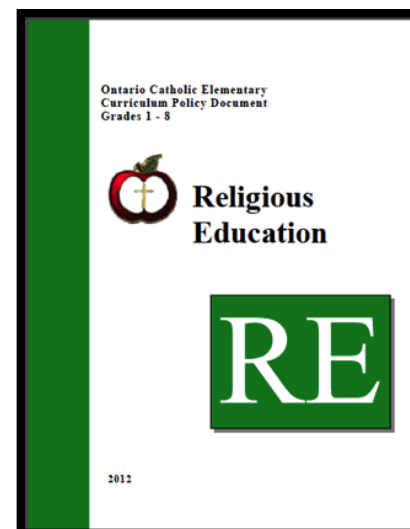
THE ONTARIO CATHOLIC CURRICULUM: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Grades 1 - 8

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.*



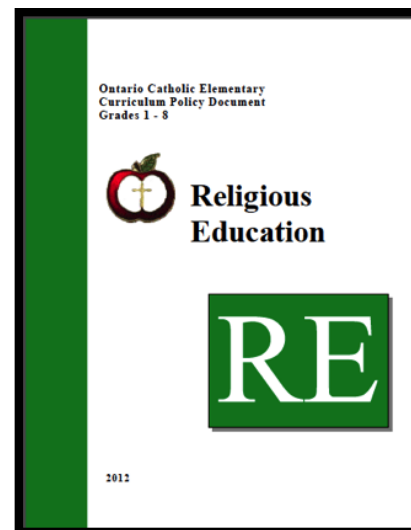
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An Introduction for Teachers & Administrators



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?

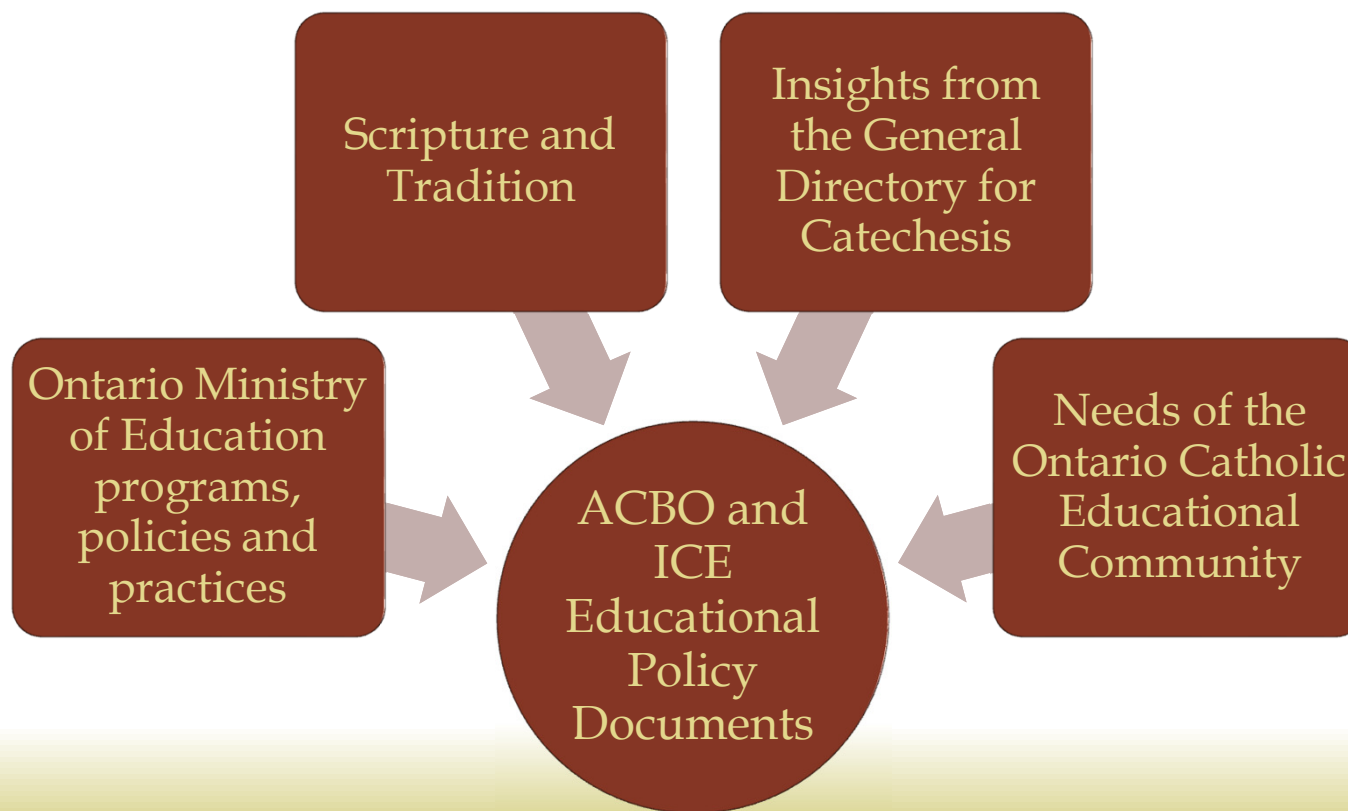
GDC

- *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 21st 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)

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

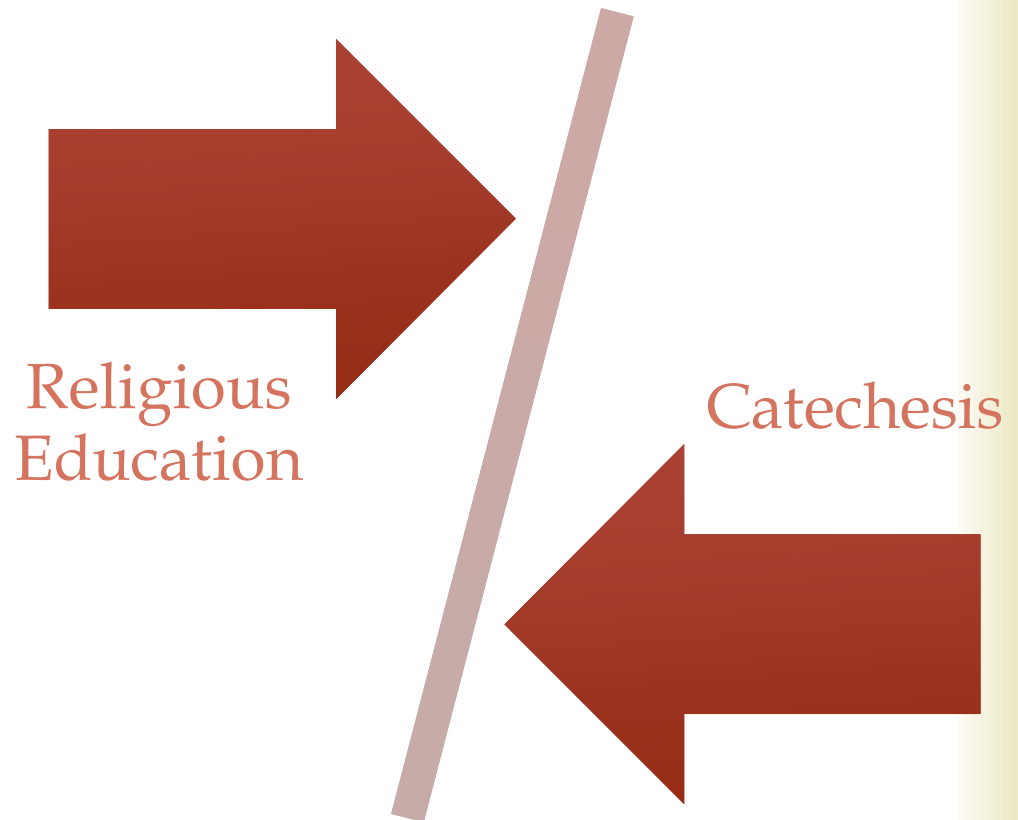
- School centered
- Is to address the needs of all students:
 - Believers
 - Searchers
 - Non-believers
- Primarily a scholastic discipline with curricular expectations
- Engages in interdisciplinary dialogue
- 1st step in evangelization

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.



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

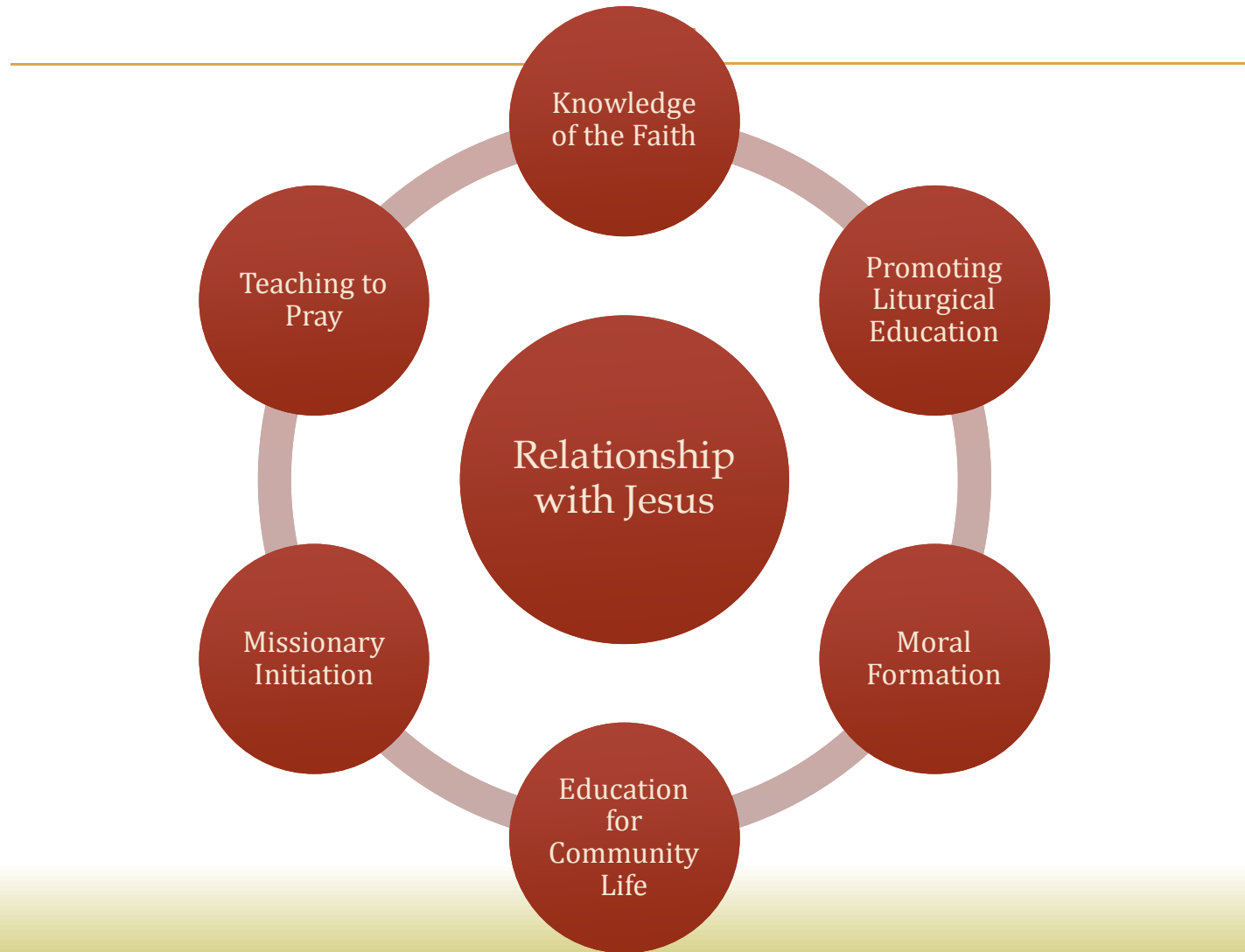
(Religious Literacy)



- ✧ 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.

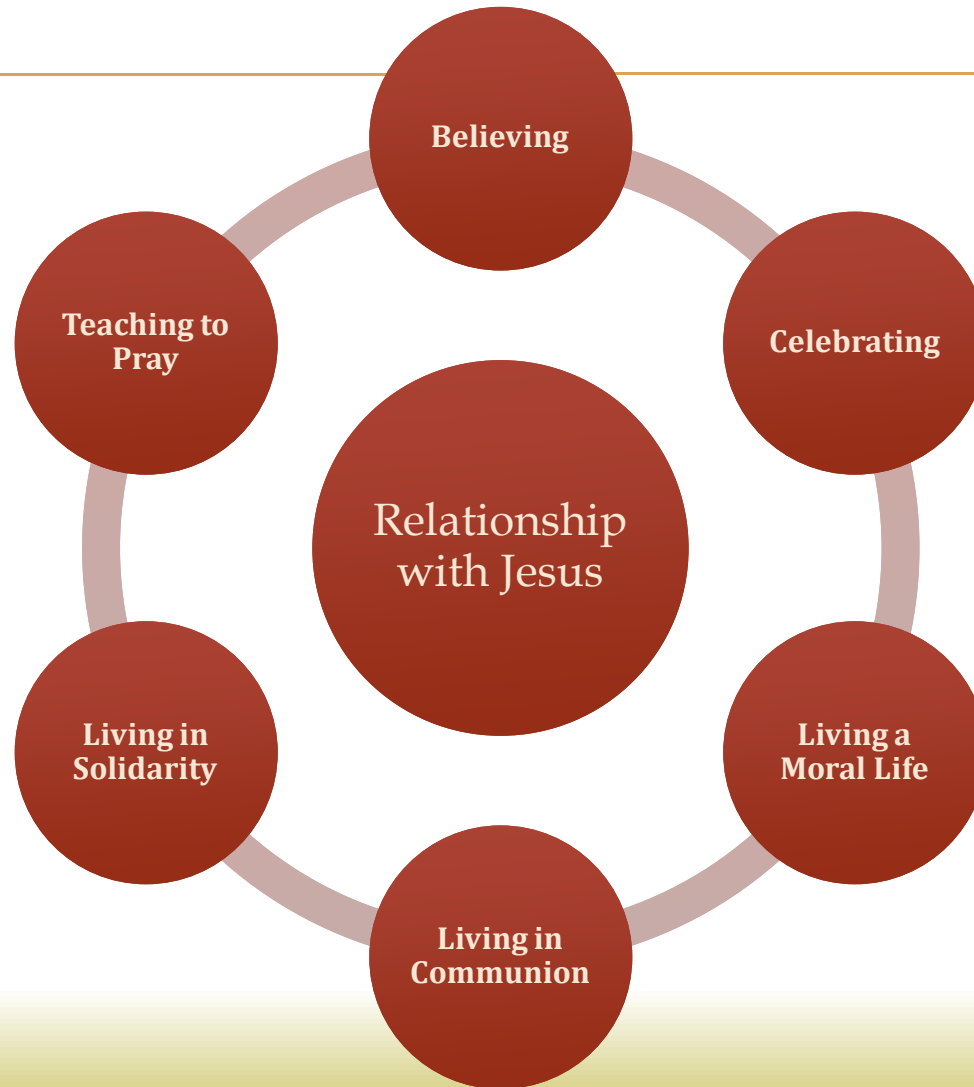
4. What are the distinctive features of the Elementary RE Policy Document?

(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

