

Office of The Archbishop

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Having reviewed the *Graded Course of Study:* 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> *Grade Catechetical Programs*, I am pleased to see that the beautiful Catholic vision of the human person, Theology of the Body, is increasingly integrated into the teaching standards that inform and direct our Archdiocesan principals, teachers and parish catechetical leaders. As per my 2016 promulgation of the *Pre-Kindergarten Through* 4<sup>th</sup> *Grade* version of these materials, it is my desire that these standards will eventually be integrated through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Office for Evangelization and Discipleship has sought and received feedback from priests, school principals, teachers, directors of religious education and catechists; and for this, I am grateful. I understand that we will continuously assess the scope, sequence and missionary effectiveness of this curriculum, which is always a "work in progress."

In this age of radical secularism, scientism and self-invention, we Catholics must boldly and lovingly proclaim the truth, the goodness and the beauty of the biblical vision of what it means to be human. I pray that God will richly bless these standards as a centerpiece of our efforts to create a culture of vocations amongst our Archdiocesan Catholic school principals, teachers, directors of religious education and parents. May all those called to teach the Catholic faith personally respond to our Lord's call to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:10).

Accordingly, I hereby promulgate the *Graded Course of Study* for *Pre-Kindergarten through* 8<sup>th</sup> *Grade* as of the above date.

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr

Archbishop of Cincinnati