

New Religious Education Program: Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ



In 2012, a new Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document was written and accepted by the Catholic Bishops of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories for Catholic education. To respond to the new Catholic Curriculum Policy Document, there is a new program and resource, Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ, which is being developed collaboratively by Catholic educators from across Canada and Pearson Education.

The religious education program is structured around the Church liturgical year, which is based on the life of Jesus Christ. This enables students to live and express faith in an integrated way at school, at home and in the parish community. The new religious education program reflects the contents of faith expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) and follows the rationale and methodology of The General Directory for Catechesis (GDC) where the Six Tasks of Catechesis are the basis of the curriculum (GDC 85–86).

Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ mirrors the GDC's Six Tasks of Catechesis:

- **Believing (Promoting the Knowledge of Faith)**
- **Celebrating (Liturgical Education)**
- **Living a Moral Life (Moral Formation)**
- **Praying (Teaching to Pray)**
- **Living in Communion (Education for Community Life)**
- **Living in Solidarity (Missionary Initiation)**

The religious education program is being updated over the next several years. The new program, and its resource, Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ (2015), was implemented at the Grade 1 level during the 2015–2016 school year. Grades 2 was implemented during the 2016–2017 school year, grade 3 in 2017–2018, and grades 4 and 5 in 2018–2019. Grade 6 – 8 will follow in subsequent years.