

August 1, 2008

Dear Educators:

For some time now a diocesan committee has been revising the religion curriculum for kindergarten through grade eight. This is an important project since our whole purpose is to form the next generation in the Catholic faith through an effective education. I commend the committee for a job well done.

This revision contains references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (C.C.C.), listed prayers and teachings which children should memorize.

Since you, the catechist/teacher, are a vital part of the religious development of young people, your faith life must continue to grow daily. It is important that you spend time studying and increasing your knowledge of the Catholic Faith. The religion committee, good as it is, remains only a tool. It is the catechist/teacher who imparts Christ's message to the young.

I strongly encourage catechists/teachers, D.R.E.'s and principals to attend days of reflection and in-service throughout the year. A strong spiritual life will enable you to teach with enthusiasm and conviction.

I also ask the support and prayers of pastors/pastoral coordinators for the effective implementation of this project. The quality of religious education programs must be a high priority in your role as parish leaders.

May Christ, the Divine Teacher, be with you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

†Earl Boyea
Bishop of Lansing