

## **Introduction to the High School Religious Education Program**

The High School Curriculum for the Diocese of Scranton assumes a variety of structural and organizational differences in the four high schools in the Diocese. Student preparedness, availability of faculty, size and other factors may require flexibility with regard to the sequence in which components are offered. The expectation is always, however, that all of the components will be offered in such a way that the student who graduates from any of our high schools is conversant with the truths of the Catholic faith as outlined in the Curriculum. A glossary of terms accompanies each year of the Curriculum. Students are expected to know the meanings of these terms and be able to use them comfortably in speech and writing. An Appendix of Prayers for each year is also attached. Students are encouraged to know these prayers and to have had experience saying them.

The Curriculum is only one aspect of a Catholic high school education. It is meant to be augmented by sound Catholic practices and taught in an atmosphere where the teachings of Jesus Christ are apparent in the behavior of teachers, administrators, counselors, librarians, coaches, etc. To that end, the following must be available to all students in Diocesan Catholic high schools:

- Frequent and regular opportunities to attend Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation;
- Seasonal celebrations and catechesis on the liturgical calendar, feast days and holy days of obligation;
- A chapel that is inviting to those who wish to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer;
- Regular opportunities for Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, holy hours and adoration outside of Mass;
- Regular recitation of the Rosary;
- A yearly retreat before and after which quality time is spent in preparation and review, respectively;
- Chastity education that is age appropriate and that involves the entire family;

- Service projects that are age appropriate, that involve guided reflection on the meaning of Christian service, and that may become the basis of a lifetime of Christian witness;
- Morning prayer, prayer at the beginning and end of each class, and prayer at dismissal;
- Resources on traditional Catholic prayer and practice, e.g., the Rosary, prayer cards, the Eucharist, Confession, Advent, Lent, etc., (available through the Office of Parish Ministries).
- Resources on moral and spiritual matters, e.g., age appropriate documents on the Gospel of Life, War and Peace, Abortion, Same-sex Marriage, Stem Cell Research, Cloning, etc., (available through the Office of Parish Ministries).