

Characteristics of the Fourth Grader

Nine years old

Qualities

A growing capacity for self-motivation, responsibility

Increased self-reliance

Emotional life becomes more stable

Acceptance by groups is needed

Action oriented

Demonstrates loyalty and dependability

Growing awareness of conscience and a desire for moral order

A spirit of service, willingness to share herself/himself

The child at this level of development continues to become more active and responsive to others. Choices are more refined: to love is to choose, to offer oneself is to be more aware of others. The child becomes capable of giving her/himself to others.

SPECIAL NOTE

Safe Environment Children's Program

The Safe Environment Children's Program was introduced in the Catholic Schools in the spring of 2003. The program consists of three lessons which are taught over a period of three years and then repeated.

The program was introduced in the parish Religious Education programs in the fall of 2008. Each parish is required to present one lesson to the children (grades K – 10) in the parish program each year. It is preferable that the lesson be taught in the fall of the catechetical/school year.

Following the lesson, a record of training must be sent to Kathleen Bolinski, Safe Environment Coordinator, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.

All materials needed for teaching the lessons in the *Safe Environment Children's Program* in the parish and school are found in the *Safe Environment* binder in the parish/school office.

CATECHESIS

1. God Calls Us – The Covenant
 - a. God is a mystery that transcends our understanding. (CCC 42, 43)

- b. God never stops calling us to be closer to Him. We must search for God with all of our talents. (CCC 30)
 - c. The human bond to God can be forgotten or broken by people through a variety of reasons. (CCC 2123, 2128)
 - d. Man was created in the image and likeness of God. (CCC 41)
2. Jesus fulfills the Old Testament Covenant by His Life and New Covenant
- a. Jesus fulfilled all the characteristics of the messianic Son of David and some Jews recognized Him as the Messiah. (CCC 439)
 - b. Jesus not only reaffirmed the commandments of the Old Covenant by also gave a new commandment, “Love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other.” (John 13:34; CCC 1968, 1823, 1970, 1972)
 - c. Jesus lived his own life according to the commandments. (CCC 2076)
3. Christian Responsibility
- a. Conscience is a judgment which helps us to recognize good and to assume responsibility for our actions. (CCC 1781)
 - b. We must never do evil to get something good and we must live by Jesus’ Law of Love. (CCC 1756)
 - c. We must listen to the Word of God. It teaches us to live good and moral lives. (CCC 1802)
 - d. The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes teach us how to live and bring about the kingdom of God. (CCC 1723)
4. Service of Others
- a. All persons are created in God’s image and must be respected. (CCC 2123, 2128)
 - b. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are ways of showing our love for Jesus who identifies with the poor and needy. (CCC 2444, 2447-2448)

Grade Four -- Words to be Taught

Absolution
 Baptism
 The Beatitudes
 Conscience
 Contrition
 Corporal Works of Mercy
 Covenant (Old/New)
 Eucharist
 Grace
 The Law of Love

Liturgy of the Eucharist
 Liturgy of the Word
 Messiah
 Reconciliation
 Saint
 Seven Sacraments
 Sin (Original, Actual, Mortal, Venial)
 Spiritual Works of Mercy
 Stations of the Cross
 Temptation