

Summary Report of Fr. M^cGivney Faith Formation Plan:

“Serving the Culture of Life”

“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10)

(Theme for World Youth Day 1993)

“Only by instilling a **high moral vision** can a society ensure that its young people are given the possibility to mature as free and intelligent human beings, endowed with a robust sense of responsibility to the common good, capable of working with others to create a community and a nation with a strong moral fiber. **America was built on such a vision** and the American people possess the intelligence and will to meet the challenge of rededicating themselves with renewed vigor to fostering the *truths* on which this country was founded and by which it grew. Those truths are enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and they still today receive a broad consensus among Americans. Those truths sustain values which have led people all over the world to look to America with hope and respect.

- Pope John Paul II

World Youth Day Arrival at Stapleton International Airport

Denver, CO USA

August 12, 1993

“I reaffirm the necessity and urgency of the **evangelical formation and pastoral accompaniment of a new generation of Catholics involved in politics**, so that they will be coherent with their professed faith,” morally upright, professional and passionate about serving the common good, building a world of justice, charity, and the protection of human rights.

- Pope Benedict XVI

11/15/09 Speech to members of the Pontifical Council of the Laity

Mission Statement

Form a strong academic community of disciples responding to the call of Jesus Christ (Unity);
Prepare students to serve the Culture of Life through a total gift of self (Charity);
Engage students in the mission, sacramental life, and magisterial teachings of the Catholic Church (Fraternity);
Develop faithful citizens to lead an America that values the dignity and worth of every human person (Patriotism).

The Mission Statement develops the two main goals for Fr. McGivney High School:

- 1. Making Disciples of Jesus Christ.**
- 2. Making Faithful Citizens who will cultivate within America a “Culture of Life”**

These two goals (and overall Mission Statement) will be accomplished through the following 7 areas:

- 1. House Model** – Students will gather on a daily basis in groups of 8-10 students called “houses” with a senior leader(s) and a permanent faculty member. Each house will consist of approximately equal numbers of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Student and faculty members will retain membership in their house during the duration of their 4-year academic career. (A priest or religious assigned to the school will “float” periodically between houses.)

Houses will meet for **twenty minutes each day** to (1) PRAY, (2) provide ongoing pastoral care and support to each other, (3) provide opportunities for Leadership Development; and (4) provide ongoing young adult faith formation according to the standards delineated in the US Bishops' document, "Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry."

The Ministry of Advocacy

The Ministry of Catechesis

The Ministry of Community Life

The Ministry of Evangelization

The Ministry of Justice and Service

The Ministry of Leadership Development

The Ministry of Pastoral Care

The Ministry of Prayer and Worship

The Director of Faith Formation will select the students for each house. The Director will be responsible for developing, administering, and monitoring the House System. The Director will also provide the content and context for young adult faith formation to take place in each House.

2. **Theology Curriculum-** The objective of the theology curriculum at Father McGivney Catholic High School is to help students come to know Christ Jesus through His Church and be well equipped to serve the Culture of Life. Students will learn what the church teaches on fundamental issues of faith and morals as well as the foundations of those teachings in Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Natural Law. They will then learn how to apply this knowledge of the Catholic faith both in the public square and in their personal lives as they pursue the vocation to share in the Eternal Life of God. Along the way, students will acquire a hands-on working knowledge of the Bible and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and they will acquire a first-hand reading knowledge of key magisterial documents such as Pope John Paul II's *Evangelium Vitae*.

Courses: Students will take six required courses based on courses described in the US Bishops' Document: "Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework":

- Faith and Revelation: Knowing God through Sacred Scripture.
- The Blessed Trinity and Our Christian Vocation.
- The Mystery of Redemption and Christian Discipleship.
- The Church: Sacrament of Salvation
- The Sacraments: Source of our Life in Christ
- Our Moral Life in Christ.

Two required courses unique to Fr. McGivney H.S.:

Religion, Life, and Society (Soph., 2nd Semester): This course will examine the scriptural, theological, and natural law foundations for the Church's teachings on various controversial issues related to life, death, marriage, and sex. (Dr. Skip Larkin, SIUE Philosophy Professor)

Religion, Law, and Society (Senior, 2nd Semester: This course will examine the scriptural, theological, and natural law foundations for the Church's teachings on various controversial issues related to politics, economics, and law. (Dr. Skip Larkin, SIUE Philosophy Professor)

There will also be *Theology Discussion Labs* to supplement the curriculum:

- Freshmen: Scripture
- Sophomores: Theology of the Body
- Juniors: Church History
- Seniors: Vocations

Two anticipated electives are being developed for the Theology Curriculum:

- Faith and Reason
- Bioethics (Cross- curricular with Science?)

3. **Service Learning Program** – To meet the motto of Father McGivney High School, ...“Serving the Culture of Life”, a total of **4 Service Days** per academic year will be required of all students, plus individual Service Hours as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Freshmen – 10 hours | Sophomores – 15 hours |
| Juniors – 20 hours | Seniors – 25 hours |

Students will wear “McGivney Green and Gold” Service Day T-Shirts on Service Days.

(Houses will also have their own “House Service Projects” throughout the year as agreed upon within the membership of the House.)

Service Days and Individual Service Hours will match the Pillar for that Particular Year:

Freshmen – **Unity** (Projects that build unity within class, and unity among generations.)

Sophomores- **Charity** (Projects that give students experience in a *wide range* of varied service opportunities throughout the community).

Juniors – **Fraternity** (Projects that give students service experience in their parish/church).

- a. Service Days – Students travel to parishes throughout the southern Alton Deanery.
- b. Individual Service Hours – Students complete in home parish.

Seniors – **Patriotism** (Projects that give students experiences in local community service organizations: Knights of Columbus, Rotary, Lions Club, American Legion. Other service opportunities within the Madison County Courthouse/Administration Building would be outstanding. Madison County Judges Dan Stack and Dave Hylla would be an outstanding resource.)

Potential Organizations for Development of Service Relationships:

Cambridge House (Maryville)	Madison County Humane Society
Nursing Homes – Maryville Manor; University N.H. (Edw.)	Catholic Children’s Home (Alton)
Glen-Ed Food Pantry	Collinsville and Highland Parks and Recreation
Parish Schools/PSR – Tutoring	Soup Kitchens (Springfield Breadline, etc.)
Parish Events	Karen House (for unwed mothers – St. Louis)
St. Vincent DePaul Society	United Way supported agencies
	Columbian Squires (Boys) and Squire Roses (Girls)

Habitat for Humanity
Catholic Family Conference

Knights of Columbus projects
Clothing Drives

At the end of each school year in May, a Service Learning Exhibition will be held with the entire school's participation in which students will prepare and present a report on their Service Learning experiences throughout the year.

4. Faculty Faith Formation -

- a. Catechist Certification – Every faculty member will obtain a Catechist Certification. We recommend using the St. Louis Archdiocesan online program through “Paul VI”.
(Contact: Dr. Shawn Welch, Paul VI Institute)
- b. Weekly or Bi-Weekly Faculty Faith Formation - The faculty will gather weekly (bi-weekly) for an hour-long Faculty Faith Formation meeting. The Director of Faith Formation will present the catechetical lesson, and provide time for faculty to engage the material in small-group discussions. The Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas, has a Faculty Faith Formation program entitled “School Of Faith” which could serve as a catechetical model. (St. James Academy in Lenexa, KS, has implemented this weekly program with great success. Contact Faith Formation Director Deborah Nearmyer).

5. Liturgy/Sacraments/School Prayer Life/Retreats –

- a. Daily Mass – Before the Beginning of the School Day.
 - Celebrated by Retired Priest or Chaplain (as often as available).
 - Attended weekly by individual “Houses” on assigned days.
 - Attended by athletic teams on the day of contest.
- b. **Monthly All School** First-Friday Mass- Rotation by the priests of southern Alton Deanery. Also Holy Days of Obligation.
- c. Sacrament of Penance – Communal Penance Service in Advent and Lent.
- d. Eucharistic Adoration – First Friday; All School Mass until End of School Day.
 - Area Catholics and parents take 30min./60min. time slots.
- e. Retreats – Annual Class Retreats at Beginning of School Year. Focus on the 4 pillars: (Fresh. – Unity; Soph. – Total Gift of Self (Charity); Junior. – My Life in the Catholic Church (Fraternity); Senior. – My Life as a Catholic American (Patriotism).
- f. Senior Retreat – Overnight Retreat. Maybe Kairos (Maybe Kairos Retreat in Jr Year?)
- g. Prayer – Opening School Day Prayer led by students.
 - Noon Angelus prayed throughout the school (followed by meal blessing?).
 - Closing School Day Prayer led by students.
 - Stations of the Cross during Lent.
- h. Spiritual Direction/Counseling – Priest Chaplain (and/or) Faith Formation Director.
 - Student “Spiritual Check-Up” each Semester.
 - And as needed.
- i. “Student Liturgy Organizing Team” - Prepares monthly All School Mass and Music.
 - Coordinates liturgical ministries and training. Coordinates daily school prayer and student volunteers to lead.

j. "Student Retreat Organizing Team" - Prepares annual class Retreats.

6. **Director of Faith Formation:** The Director of Faith Formation will be a full-time position responsible for the total Catholic Faith Formation of Students and Faculty at Fr. McGivney Catholic High School. The Director will also be the official "Promoter of the McGivney Mission" in all internal administrative discussions with Principal and Staff. In this role the Director will ensure that school policies, decisions, activities, textbooks, and reading lists are in harmony with Catholic teaching and School Mission. The Director will vocalize concerns when they arise.

The Job Description will include:

- a) Promote and maintain a school environment conducive to Fr. McGivney's Mission and Catholic Identity.
- b) Develop, administer, and monitor the House System. The Director will provide the content and context for young adult faith formation to take place in each House, guided by the standards delineated in "Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry."
- c) Direct the weekly (or bi-weekly) Faculty Faith Formation Process, and monitor faculty's compliance with Catechist Certification.
- d) Coordinate the Service Learning Program: (1) Plan Service Days. (2) Develop strategic relationships with Community organizations where students will volunteer. (3) Track Individual Student Service Hour requirements.
- e) Plan/Coordinate School Liturgies, Penance Services, and Daily Prayer. Train student ministers. Schedule priests for monthly All School Masses and Penance Services.
- f) Plan/Coordinate annual class retreats.
- g) Coordinate the (1) Student Liturgy Organizing Team, and (2) Student Retreat Planning Team. (initially could be one team)
- h) With the priest chaplain, schedule semester spiritual "check-ups" with each student.
- i) Coordinate opportunities for spiritual enrichment (speakers, concerts, trips, etc.)
- j) Coordinate Annual Right to Life Pilgrimage to Washington D.C.
- k) Assist principal as needed in faculty hiring process, helping to ascertain candidate's commitment to Catholic identity and mission.

Comment: Initially the Director of Faith Formation Director is scheduled also to teach all theology courses for the first 3 years (according to the Budget). With the *large role* that Fr. McGivney envisions for the Faith Formation Director, the Board might consider hiring a separate Theology Teacher as an adjunct part-time position. I highly recommend continuing discussion with the religious order of the Franciscan Sisters of the Martyr St. George (Alton, IL) in filling this part-time Theology position.

7. **Executive Board** – The Executive Board will have two safeguards to promote and safeguard the Catholic Identity and Mission of Fr. McGivney High School.

- a. **Promoter of the School Mission** – One member of the Executive Board will be elected each year as the "Promoter of the McGivney Mission". This member's job will be to promote/communicate Fr. McGivney's Mission within the Executive Board, and reiterate this Mission to the Board when appropriate.

- b. Pastor's Advisory Board** – The Pastor's advisory board will be composed of pastors from throughout the parishes of southern Madison County. They will meet regularly with the appointed "*Pastors' Representative*" of the Executive Board. The pastors' ongoing feedback will be reported to the Executive Board by the Pastors' Representative.

Faculty Faith Formation

Executive Summary

With the intention that Father McGivney Catholic High School ensures its Catholic integrity and identity, an ongoing faculty faith formation curriculum is required. Weekly (or bi-weekly) faculty meetings under the direction of the institution's Director of Faith Formation will be obligatory. To compliment these edifying staff gatherings, the Paul VI Pontifical Institute for Catechetical and Pastoral offers interactive online education as well as classroom settings located nearby in southern St. Louis County. With a McGivney mandate for related certification, they offer various certification programs currently being required for Catholic school teachers within the St. Louis Archdiocese. They are receptive to dialogs to ensure our specific requirements can be fulfilled.

Overall, a combination of regularly scheduled and structured staff discussions accompanied with catechesis certification should effectively meet the initial objective of the Faculty Faith Formation subcommittee.

Background / Overview

The Faculty Faith Formation subcommittee included:

Ben Schollmeier (St. Elizabeth)
Father Tom Meyer (St. Mary)
Steve Harkins (Mother of Perpetual Health)

We proceeded with the obvious understanding that within any educational institution, the faculty is the framework that success will be built upon. Thus this framework must be built and continually reinforced with strong Catholic principles. We set forth to provide an outline that help would make this a reality at McGivney.

We initially pursued other success stories with St. James Academy in Lenexa, Kansas, most closely matching our vision. They have successfully taken advantage of the "School of Faith" a faith formation program serving the Archdiocese of Kansas City located at the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center at the University of Kansas. Weekly their Director of Faculty Faith Formation presents the catechetical lesson and provides time for the faculty to engage the material in small group discussions. The resulting synergy helps the staff to continually embed the Catholic message and teachings into all subjects being taught and into their personal life's as well.

The core faculty faith formation curriculum should be assembled under the responsibility of the Director of Faith Formation. The director at St. James Academy, Deborah Nearmyer, may be able to add guidance in this effort.

Faculty Faith Formation

With the “School of Faith” not logistically feasible and in our broader pursuit, we entertained numerous alternatives. Some of these included the Marian Catechists, the Franciscan Martyrs from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Daughters of Mary, Mother of our Hope, as well as the nearby Paul VI Institute.

Our needs seemed to have been met with the Paul VI Institute with their teachings regarding church history, liturgical theology, moral theology, pastoral theology, religious education, spirituality, sacred scripture and systematic theology.

The contact there is Shawn M. McCauley Welch, Ph.D., Associate Academic Dean.
smcwelch@sbcglobal.net

Various individuals within the Springfield Diocese and beyond were also taken into consideration. Some of these may become primary candidates to fill the critical role of Director of Faith Formation.

Recommendations

Again, we ultimately concluded and recommend that the combination of regular mandatory staff sessions combined with appropriate certification will produce the framework and ongoing support that is desired.

While outside of the scope of this effort, the next step required is to secure then search and hire the Director for Faith Formation so that the curriculum itself can be solidified. Meanwhile dialogs with Dr. Shawn McCauley of the Paul VI Institute should resume as soon as possible. Alignment of these activities should suffice as the catalyst for the next steps towards the implementation of the faculty faith formation curriculum.

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Job Description, Director of Faith Formation

A solid faith formation program is central to the mission of Fr. McGivney Catholic High School. The teen years are a critical time in the development of one's identity and values, and popular culture bombards teens with messages that are contradictory--even hostile--to Catholic teachings and values. The Director of Faith Formation (DFF) is entrusted with the vital responsibility protecting and promoting the Mission of Fr. McGivney Catholic High School within the school. This is to be done in order to make our students disciples of Jesus Christ by guiding them on their faith journey to know, love, and serve Christ, always faithful to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. The Faith Formation Director will lead and direct the students in their service to the culture of life. It is paramount that every aspect of student life—whether in the classroom, on the field, or at any school activity--reflects the Mission of the school and supports the faith formation process. In order to succeed in this highly visible role, the qualified DDF candidate must:

- Profess and practice the Catholic faith according to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church
- Provide evidence of active involvement in his/her parish life
- Have a background in religious education, i.e. theology, catechesis and/or apologetics
- Be certified in Diocesan Catechists' program
- Demonstrate experience and ability in youth ministry and spiritual counseling
- Demonstrate ability to work with the President and/or Principal at the administrative level to ensure the Catholicity of the school

The Director of Faith Formation will be required to become familiar with, and incorporate principles of the document, Renewing the Vision, established by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops, into the Faith Formation Program. This job is multi-faceted, and although the DDF is not limited by the description here, he/she will function in three primary capacities:

- I. Together with the President and/or Principal, the DFF will create and maintain an environment conducive to the faith formation process.
 - . Participate in hiring faculty/staff
 - . Promote the McGivney Mission in all internal administrative discussions with the Principal and the Staff
 - . Plan Faculty Faith Formation Process
 - . Set up House Model and select students for each house.
 - . Ensure school policies/decisions/activities/textbooks/reading lists are in harmony with Catholic teaching and School Mission
 - . Vocalize concerns when they arise in any faith-related area
 - . Maintain a school environment conducive to the McGivney Mission and Catholic Identity

- . Participate in presenting a facility/décor that reinforces faith principles
- II. Identify the spiritual needs of the students and faculty
- Develop, administer and monitor the House System
 - Direct the weekly or biweekly Faculty Faith Formation Process.
 - Monitor faculty compliance with the catechist certification.
 - Coordinate the service-learning program by planning service days and/or activities in coordination with the House Model program
 - Develop strategic relationships with community organizations for student volunteers.
 - Track student service hour requirements
 - . Meet with Student Leaders once a year in August to plan a year's overview of how to incorporate components of Renewing the Vision.
 - . Meet with Student Leaders once per month to overview the program for the coming month
 - . With the priest chaplain, establish student interviews in order to understand the needs of individual students, as well as to identify student spiritual leaders
 - . Be available to students for spiritual counseling, but able to recognize the need for referral to other sources.
- III. Guided by the FMCHS Mission Statement and motto, and in line with the Eight Elements of Youth Ministry as established by Renewing the Vision, the DFF will plan and organize regular opportunities for students to encounter Jesus and grow in Faith.
- A. Form a strong academic community of disciples responding to the call of Jesus Christ.
- . Work on community-building activities in the Houses each September to establish "Community Life."
 - . Recommend faith formation resources for use within the structure of the House System
 - . Plan/coordinate annual student retreats, days of recollection
 - . Provide opportunities for spiritual enrichment (speakers, concerts, trips, etc.)
 - . Plan parent/student faith formation events
- B. Prepare students to "Serve" the Culture of Life through a total gift of self.
- . Work with House leaders to set up and /or approve service Projects
 - . Plan service days for each class. Provide service opportunities for individual service projects.
 - . Supervise tracking of service hours (someone else could actually do the work.)

- . Coordinate parish service opportunities --Serve as liaison between students and their parishes.
- C. Engage students in the mission, sacramental life and Magisterial teachings of the Catholic Church.
- . Schedule pastors and Chaplain for school Liturgies, Reconciliation, and Prayer Services.
 - . Plan liturgies with Student Liturgy teams
 - . Establish regular Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 - . Understand the Theology curriculum and incorporate the subject matter into the faith activities and practices whenever possible.
- D. Develop Faithful citizens to lead an America that values the dignity and worth of every human person.
- . Provides resources for exploration of vocations
 - . Provides spiritual leadership opportunities
 - . Right to Life Club/Activities
 - . Coordinate the Annual Right to Life Pilgrimage to Washington, D .C.
 - . Provide opportunities for seniors to meet with local Catholic judges and politicians
 - . In cooperation with the Theology and Social Studies Programs, provide opportunities for students to examine political issues in light of Catholic thinking, and to become familiar with the voting process.

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Father McGivney Catholic High School
House Model Faith Formation Sub-Committee
House Model Structure Definition as of 22 June 2010

HOUSE MODEL MISSION STATEMENT

To make disciples of Jesus Christ through small faith communities of 10 – 12 students and implement the ministry components of the USCCB document *Renewing the Vision, A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*.

House – the goal (when freshman through senior classes in place)

- ◆ a small, co-ed student faith community consisting of 10-12 students from all four grade levels.
- ◆ to be led by the students themselves.
 - candidates for the upcoming school year’s House student leaders shall be chosen in the spring so that they can attend the Catholic Leadership Institute held during the summer.
- ◆ has one faculty member present at all gatherings.
 - the goal is to have a faculty member invested in each House, to be there and care about the students.
- ◆ if priest or religious assigned to the school, have them “float” periodically between Houses.
 - the goal is to share the unique spiritual gifts and understanding of the priest / religious with the group, as well as expose them to the religious life in the smaller group setting.

House – growth possibility (when number of Houses increases to point where additional structure is warranted)

- ◆ an additional layer of organization, called a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), is added.
 - Gospels to be comprised of a minimum number of Houses.
- ◆ growth of the student body may make organization of school wide activities by Gospel rather than Houses more practical.
- ◆ growth of the student body may necessitate involvement of the priest / religious / Faith Formation Director be shifted from the House level to the Gospel level.

House – initial year or two of FMCHS

- ◆ a small co-ed faith community of approximately 8 students the initial year to allow for expansion of the House the following year in the hopes of not having to add Houses the second year.
- ◆ The initial year and perhaps into the second year, each House's faculty member will be asked to assist in the leadership role for the group while encouraging leadership among the students.

Selection of Students for Houses

- ◆ Faith Formation Director to select students for the Houses.
 - this could be done via personality inventory, essay, and/or interview.
 - the goal is to have a good mix of students in each group.
- ◆ In the event that additional Houses would be required the following school year, the new Houses could be announced in the spring and students invited to apply to lead the new Houses.

House Formation and Implementation of *Renewing the Vision*

- ◆ The start of each school year (i.e. September) should be dedicated to community building within each House.
 - A Day of Recollection, or similar spiritual activity, at the beginning of the school year with the Houses as individual groups would be ideal in helping the Houses to start to build community and trust between the “new” and “old” members.
- ◆ The Faith Formation Director should be familiar with the components of *Renewing the Vision*, and be able to assist student leaders in incorporating these components into the time given the students to meet with their House members each week.
- ◆ The components of *Renewing the Vision, A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry* include: Advocacy, Catechesis, Community Life, Evangelization, Justice & Service, Leadership Development, Pastoral Care, and Prayer & Worship.
 - Some of these components will easily be covered in other aspects of the school (e.g. – Theology courses would incorporate **Catechesis**, Service Learning Programs would incorporate **Justice & Service, Advocacy**, etc.)
 - Components such as Pastoral Care, Prayer, and Leadership Development can be more strongly emphasized in the House meeting times.
 - Ideally, all components of *Renewing the Vision* should be touched upon in each House throughout a school year.
 - Student leaders should meet with the Faith Formation Director once in August for a year overview of how to incorporate components of *Renewing the Vision* throughout the year, and then follow-up on a monthly basis for a month overview and preparation for the upcoming month.

Suggested Schedule for House Meetings

- ◆ Ideally, each House should meet every day with at least 20 minutes devoted to House “business” as defined below in the Monday through Friday schedule. (As another option, perhaps each House could meet 3 times per week with at least 30 minutes devoted to House “business”.)
 - House “business” would not include typical homeroom activities (i.e. daily school announcements, etc.).
- ◆ A tentative Monday through Friday schedule for each House, with *Renewing the Vision* components highlighted in bold, could be the following:
 - Monday – Touch base with one another (**Pastoral Care & Community Life**). Share cares/concerns, prayer intentions, etc.
 - Tuesday and Friday – **Prayer** days. Practice/explore different forms of prayer (e.g. – adoration, rosary, contemplation, etc.)
 - Wednesday – **Evangelization** within the House and extending outside the House, and **Leadership Development**. This could be a time to discuss current events and/or other Faith topics (**Catechesis** and/or **Advocacy**).
 - Thursday – Discussion of FMCHS business such as **Service** projects (may include **Advocacy**), and other activities going on in the school (**Community Life**).

Houses to be named after Saints or Blesseds

- ◆ the formation of a new House to be announced in the prior spring to allow students an opportunity to participate in the selection of a name for the new House.
- ◆ Faith Formation Director shall lead the effort for selection of House names.
 - a list of viable Blessed / Saint names could be provided to students from which to select House names.
 - students encouraged to research House candidate names as part of selection process, thus further educating them regarding the Community of the Saints.
- ◆ try to avoid local parish patron Saints.
- ◆ recommend Saints/Blesseds that have a tie to youth.
- ◆ students can spend time during House meeting time learning about, and asking the intercession of these faith-filled men and women.

Updated Version as of April 7, 2010

**Fr. McGivney Catholic High School
Faith Formation Sub Committee**

SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

MISSION STATEMENT

Father McGivney Catholic High School has four foundational pillars which are core to its mission of “Serving the Culture of Life”:

- Form a strong academic community of disciples responding to the call of Jesus Christ (Unity);
- Prepare students to ‘serve’ the Culture of Life through a total gift of self (Charity);
- Engage students in the mission, sacramental life, and magisterial teachings of the Catholic Church (Fraternity); and
- Develop faithful citizens to lead an America that values the dignity and worth of every human person (Patriotism).

The Service Learning Program will leverage these four pillars in service based activities outside the classroom which are designed to empower and challenge the students to:

- Gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of their Christian faith,
- Apply the principles of that faith by knowing and strengthening their local parishes and communities through serving the needs of others,
- Awaken in them a sense of responsibility for spreading the Gospel and
- Be Christ-like in their words and works as reflected in their service to others.

For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. – Mark 10:45

Service Hour Requirements

To meet the motto of Father McGivney Catholic High School, ...‘Serving the Culture of Life’, a total of 4 Service Days per academic year will be required of all students, plus Individual Service Hours as follows:

Freshmen – 10 hours	Sophomores – 15 Hours
Juniors – 20 Hours	Seniors – 25 Hours

The theology teacher(s) will offer charitable opportunities relating to the subject and will explain the relevance of the course subject matter prior to commencement of Service Learning activities. (See Attachment I for a list of Service Activities and Projects). Additionally, students will share their experiences and ‘lessons learned’ after completion of their service activities. Ten percent (10%) of the theology grade will be tied to fulfillment of Service Days. At the end of each school year in May, a Service Learning Exhibition will be held with the entire school’s participation in which students will prepare and present a report on their Service Learning experiences throughout the year.

Parents are strongly encouraged to support their children and assist them and the school whenever possible with their Service related activities. Parental support strengthens the community and provides a good role model for youth.

Validation of Service Hours

All service hours must be validated by a designated staff member. Only an official form from FMCHS will be accepted as proof of hours. Parental verification is not acceptable. Students completing 100 or more service hours per year will qualify to obtain the Presidential Service award.

Attachment I

Types of Service Activities and Projects:

I. The Corporal Works of Mercy are to:

- Feed the hungry
- Visit the Sick
- Visit those in prison
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Bury the dead
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless

These are outlined in the Gospel of Matthew 25: 35-40,

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

II. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are to:

- Counsel the doubtful
- Instruct the ignorant
- Admonish the sinner
- Comfort the sinner
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Forgive all injuries
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Pray for the living and the dead

III. Pillar Theme Activities/Projects:

Unity – (Freshmen)

- Advocacy Letter Campaign or Fund raising activity for disaster relief efforts (e.g., Haiti)
- Volunteer with local parks and communities in “Green” initiatives such as parks and grounds clean up.
- Run or walk in a charity relay race.
- Organize a coat drive to and donate to those in need.
- Tutoring children or becoming a pen pal with elementary students from local Parishes.
- Adopt a “Grand Friend” and develop a close relationship with him/her by:
 - Making birthday and holiday cards for him/her
 - Exploring history by interviewing grand friend about how they grew up.
 - Reading the Bible or a book to them
 - Teaching him/her how to use the computer or internet
 - Checking on him/her after school if living alone.
- Other volunteer work at home parishes –eg., Youth Masses, participating and leading youth group activities
- Participate in Pro-Life March to Washington, D.C.
- Participate in a Pro-Life Advocacy campaign to government officials and bodies
- Participate in joint efforts with other community faith organizations (eg., Collinsville Area Ministerial Alliance, food pantry services for elderly)
- Make “I Care” kits with combs, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. for the homeless/needy people.
- Volunteer at local non-kill animal shelters

- Participate in a DARE program
 - Organize a drug free pledge campaign
- Collect loose change for Lenten missionary boxes
- Collaborate with a neighboring Parish elementary school and have HS students donate teddy bears with message attached saying “Hugs, not Drugs” and distribute to elementary school students to serve as role model.
- Organize a community dog wash (summertime event)
- Sponsor an “Electronics Blackout” campaign that kids spend time in prayer with their families rather than watch TV, text message, interact with Wii, gameboy, etc.
- One pre-approved service elective of student’s choice.

Charity- (Sophomores)

- Volunteer at Anderson Hospital and Maryville Manor (closest proximity to FMCHS). Bring friendly and small pets to visit elderly in a Nursing Home.
- Adopt a “Grand Friend” and develop close relationship with him/her by:
 - Making birthday cards for him/her
 - Exploring history by interviewing grand friend about how they grew up.
 - Reading the Bible or a book to them
 - Teaching him/her how to use the computer or internet
 - Checking on him/her after school if living alone.
- Continue with DARE program education and awareness, but tailored to HS students; visit Detention Center, etc.
 - Organize a drug free pledge campaign
- Advocacy Letter Campaign or Fund raising activity for disaster relief efforts (e.g., Haiti)
- Participate in Pro-Life March to Washington, D.C.
- Participate in a Pro-Life Advocacy campaign to government officials and bodies
- Make “I Care” kits with combs, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. for the homeless/needy people.
- Assist in community efforts for clothing and food donations (eg., Grandma’s Attic and Maryville Food Pantry)
- Volunteer with area “soup kitchen” programs on Thanksgiving.
- Organize a coat drive to and donate them to those in need.
- foster “parent” for a homeless animal
- Form a car washing service squad (summertime event).
- Offer babysitting services for children of local Parish families
- Check on a younger student home alone after school.
- Two pre-approved service elective of student’s choice

Fraternity- (Juniors)

- Work with Pro Life youth organization at local parishes
- Advocacy Letter Campaign or Fund raising activity for disaster relief efforts (e.g., Haiti)
- Participate in Pro-Life March to Washington, D.C.
- Participate in a Pro-Life Advocacy campaign to government officials and bodies
- Collect and distribute items for Pregnancy Outreach Centers
- Collect paper and old phone books in your neighborhood for recycling
- Volunteer with Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization
- Sponsor a drug free post prom event.
- Help cook or serve a meal at a homeless shelter and/or soup kitchen

- Organize a blood drive thru the Red Cross
- Form a volunteer service and rake leaves, shovel snow, clean gutters, wash windows or cut lawns for elderly and/or disabled home owners. (partially a summertime activity)
- Visit and donate clothing, food, toys, books, etc. to a shelter for battered women and children. Have students listen to some personal testimonies and bring spiritual learnings of respect for one another and one's body back for discussion in Theology classroom .
- Organize a backpack and school supply drive for needy children
- Make "I Care" kits with combs, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. for the homeless/needy people.
- Raid families and friends' closets and attics to find toys, clothes, etc. to donate to a homeless shelter.
- Identify a person or group in need through reading/researching local community newspapers and organize a service event to address need (foster analysis, decision making, organization and team building skills).
- Three pre-approved service electives of student's choice.

Patriotism- (Seniors)

- Attend annual Pro Life Walk in Washington, D.C. with Fr. Tom.
- Participate in a Pro-Life Advocacy campaign to government officials and bodies
- Advocacy Letter Campaign or Fund raising activity for disaster relief efforts (e.g., Haiti)
- Help to build homes through Habitat for Humanity or abroad (Mexico or Central America)
- Develop and maintain recycling awareness education programs
- Volunteer at blood drives sponsored by the American Red Cross
- Plant a commemorative tree to honor someone.
- Volunteer at local police station
- Telephone residents and encourage them to vote, or go door to door to register votes.
- Ask mayor to sign a "proclamation" for an important charitable event planned by H.S.
- Take homeless kids out on outings (summertime event).
- Offer to set up a Bible reading center in a homeless shelter.
- Identify a person or group in need through reading/researching local community newspapers and organize a service event to address need (foster analysis, decision making organization and team building skills) .
- Four pre-approved service electives of student's choice.

IV. Other Potential Service Projects to Plug Into:

- Catholic Family Conference
 - Speakers, Musicians, Children's Entertainment (Cat Chat), Adoration Chapel, Confessions, Mass, & Food
- Glen-Ed Food Pantry
- Nursing Homes
- Parish Schools/PSR
 - Tutoring
- Parish Events
- St. Vincent DePaul Society – Help the Poor
- Clothing Drive
- K of C Projects
- Catholic Charities
- United Way supported Agencies

V. Potential Service Clubs to Plug Into:

- Columbian Squires
- Squires for Boys
- Squire Roses for Girls
- College and vocations scholarships offered by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council office

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Father McGivney Catholic High School
Theology Curriculum

General Objective and Overview

The objective of the theology curriculum at Father McGivney Catholic High School is to help students come to know Christ Jesus through His Church and be well equipped to serve the Culture of Life. Students will learn what the Church teaches on fundamental issues of faith and morals as well as the foundations of those teachings in Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Natural Law. They will then learn how to apply this knowledge of the Catholic faith both in the public square and in their personal lives as they pursue the vocation to share in the Eternal Life of God. Along the way, students will acquire a hands-on working knowledge of the Bible and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and they will acquire a first-hand reading knowledge of key magisterial documents such as Pope John Paul II's *Evangelium Vitae*.

Freshman Year: UNITY

The goal of the first year of the theology curriculum is to provide a correct understanding of the nature of Faith and a firm grasp of the broad outlines of Salvation History, so that students may better respond to the universal call to holiness.

- FALL: **Faith and Revelation: Knowing God through Sacred Scripture**
This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teaching on Divine Revelation. It will then explore the implications of these teachings for the compatibility of faith and reason.
- SPRING: **The Blessed Trinity and Our Christian Vocation**
This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teaching on the mystery that there is one God in three Divine Persons. It will then explore the implications of these teachings for living out our vocation to share in the eternal life of God.
- LAB: **Scripture**
This discussion lab will focus on actively engaging with Sacred Scripture; with the goal of understanding the broad outlines of Salvation History and the basic principles of Catholic exegesis of the Bible.

Sophomore Year: CHARITY

The goal of the second year of the theology curriculum is to provide a correct understanding of human nature and a firm grasp of the significance of the Incarnation, so that students may better follow Christ through a total gift of self.

- FALL: **The Mystery of Redemption and Christian Discipleship**
This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teaching on the Incarnation, the Passion, and the Resurrection. It will then explore the implications of these teachings for living as a true disciple of Christ.
- SPRING: **Religion, Life, and Society**
This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teaching on the intrinsic dignity of the human person and the unalienable right to life of every human being from conception to natural death. It will then explore the implications of these teachings for contemporary bioethical issues.
- LAB: **Theology of the Body**
This discussion lab will focus on actively engaging with Pope John Paul II's reflections on the nature of the human person; with the goal of providing a positive framework for understanding the Church's teaching on chastity, marriage, and religious vocations.

Junior Year: FRATERNITY

The goal of the third year of the theology curriculum is to provide students with a correct understanding of the nature and origins of the Church and a firm grasp of the process of Sanctification, so that students may better participate in the sacramental life and the fullness of the Catholic faith.

- FALL: **The Church: Sacrament of Salvation**
This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teaching on Christ's abiding presence in the one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic church. It will then explore the implications of these teachings for knowing, loving, and serving God in this world that we may be happy with Him forever in the next.
- SPRING: **The Sacraments: Source of Our Life in Christ**
This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teaching on the channels of grace instituted by Christ and administered by the Church. It will then explore the implications of these teachings for living out the fullness of the Catholic faith.
- LAB: **Church History**
This discussion lab will focus on actively engaging with Church History; with the goal of appreciating the role that the Catholic faith has played in shaping the contours of world history and laying the foundation for western civilization.

Senior Year: PATRIOTISM

The goal of the fourth year of the theology curriculum is to provide a correct understanding of the theological underpinnings of morality and civil law, so that students may better defend and apply Church teaching effectively in the public square.

- FALL: **Our Moral Life in Christ**
This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teachings on sin, virtue, and morality. It will then explore the implications of these teaching for living a life that is in obedience to the Commandments and inspired by the Beatitudes.
- SPRING: **Religion, Law, and Society**
This course will examine the influence of Christian values on American democracy and examine the foundations of the Church's teaching on political relations and economic structures. It will then explore the implications of these teachings for contemporary social justice issues.
- LAB: **Vocations**
This discussion lab will focus on actively engaging the theological and practical dimensions of living out a vocation to the clergy, the laity, or the religious life, with the goal of helping students discern how they are being specifically called to pursue God's loving plan for their lives.

Electives

The following courses will be made available to juniors and seniors as electives.

1. *Faith and Reason*

This course will be an in-depth examination of the Church's teaching on the nature and value of human reason. It will focus on Pope John Paul II's *Fides et Ratio* and explore the theological value and limits of philosophy and science.

2. *Bioethics*

This course will be an in-depth examination of the Church's teaching on the nature and value of human life. It will focus on Pope John Paul II's *Evangelium Vitae* and explore the implications of theological anthropology for the morality of biotechnology.

3. *Business and Professional Ethics*

This course will be an in-depth examination of the Church's teaching on the nature and value of human work. It will focus on Pope John Paul II's *Laborem Exercens* and explore the theological foundations for the rights and responsibilities of business people and other professionals.

Father McGivney Catholic High School
Theology Curriculum

Freshman Year

A. First semester

Course Title: Faith and Revelation: Knowing God through Sacred Scripture

Course Objective:

This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teaching on Divine Revelation. It will then explore the implications of these teachings for the compatibility of faith and reason.

Learning Outcomes:

See USCCB:

Doctrinal Elements of a curricular Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, Core Curriculum:

I. The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture

Suggested Materials:

1. Holy Bible
2. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
3. *Faith and Revelation: Knowing God through Sacred Scriptures*, Didache Semester Series, Midwest Theological Forum

B. Second Semester

Course Title: The Blessed Trinity and Our Christian Vocation

Course Objective:

This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teaching on the mystery that there is one God in three Divine Persons. It will then explore the implications of these teachings for living out our vocation to share in the eternal life of God.

Learning Outcomes:

See USCCB:

Doctrinal Elements of a curricular Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, Core Curriculum:

II. Who is Jesus Christ?

Suggested Materials:

1. Holy Bible
2. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
3. *The Blessed Trinity and Our Christian Vocation*, Didache Semester Series, Midwest Theological Forum

C. Discussion Lab: Scripture

Objective: This discussion lab will focus on actively engaging with Sacred Scripture; with the goal of understanding the broad outlines of Salvation History and the basic principles of Catholic exegesis of the Bible.

Suggested Materials:

T3: The Teen Timeline, an 8 part Bible Study program for teens, Ascension Press

Father McGivney Catholic High School
Theology Curriculum

Sophomore Year

A. First semester

Course Title: The Mystery of Redemption and Christian Discipleship

Course Objective:

This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teaching on the Incarnation, the Passion, and the Resurrection. It will then explore the implications of these teachings for living as a true disciple of Christ.

Learning Outcomes:

See USCCB:

Doctrinal Elements of a curricular Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, Core Curriculum:

III. The Mission of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery)

Suggested Materials:

1. Holy Bible
2. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
3. *The Mystery of Redemption and Christian Discipleship*, Didache Semester Series.
Midwest Theological Forum

B. Second Semester

SEE description, learning objectives, and outline for:

Religion Life and Society

C. Discussion Lab: Theology of the Body

Objective:

This discussion lab will focus on actively engaging with Pope John Paul II's reflections on the nature of the human person; with the goal of providing a positive framework for understanding the Church's teaching on chastity, marriage, and religious vocations.

Suggested Materials:

Theology of the Body for Teens: Discovering God's Plan for Love and Life
Ascension Press

Father McGivney Catholic High School
Theology Curriculum

Sophomore Year, second semester

Course Title:

Religion, Life, and Society

Course Objective:

This course will examine the scriptural, theological, and natural law foundations for the Church's teachings on various controversial issues related to life, death, marriage, and sex.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students should be able to clearly state the Church's teaching on the following issues:
 - a. Abortion
 - b. In vitro fertilization
 - c. Euthanasia
 - d. Capital punishment
 - e. Cohabitation
 - f. Homosexuality
 - g. Masturbation
 - h. Contraception
2. Students should be able to explain these Church teachings on the basis of Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and relevant Magisterial documents.
3. Students should be able to defend the substance of these teachings in the public square on the basis of common sense, reason, and science.
4. Students should be able to put these teachings into practice through various service and advocacy projects.

Suggested Materials:

1. Holy Bible
2. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
3. *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI
4. *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II
5. Letter to Families, Pope John Paul II
6. *Donum Vitae*, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
7. *Dignitas Personae*, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Religion, Life, and Society
Course Outline

I. Life

- A. The Right to Life
 - 1. Unalienable Rights and the moral law
 - 2. Against relativism
 - 3. Against utilitarianism
- B. The Gospel of Life
 - 1. “The voice of your brother’s blood cries to me from the ground.”
 - 2. “I came that they may have life”
 - 3. “You shall not kill”
 - 4. “You did it to me”
- C. The Science of Life
 - 1. Conception
 - 2. Embryo and fetal development
 - 3. Death
- D. Beginning of Life Issues
 - 1. Abortion
 - 2. Stem cell research
 - 3. In vitro fertilization
- E. End of Life Issues
 - 1. Suicide
 - 2. Euthanasia
 - 3. Capital punishment

II. Family

- A. The Family and Society
 - 1. The fundamental unit of society
 - 2. Data concerning marriage and the value of traditional family arrangement
- B. The Family as an Icon of the Trinity
 - 1. The Trinity as a communion of persons
 - 2. The total gift of self
 - 3. Fruitful self-sacrificing love
- C. Unitive Issues
 - 1. Cohabitation
 - 2. Adultery
 - 3. Same-sex ‘marriage’
- D. Procreative Issues
 - 1. Masturbation
 - 2. Homosexual acts
 - 3. Contraception

III. Challenges

- A. Morality and Authority
 - 1. “What’s right for you may not be right for me.”
 - 2. “Who gave the Church the authority to tell me what to do?”
- B. Freedom and the right to choose
 - 1. “The Church doesn’t have the right to take away a person’s free choice.”
 - 2. “A woman has the right to choose what happens in and to her own body.”
- C. Conscience and the right to privacy
 - 1. “A person’s conscience ought to be the only guide for morality.”
 - 2. “Whatever happens behind closed doors between consenting adults is permissible.”

Father McGivney Catholic High School
Theology Curriculum

Junior Year

A. First semester

Course Title: The Church: Sacrament of Salvation

Course Objective:

This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teaching on Christ's abiding presence in the one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic church. It will then explore the implications of these teachings for knowing, loving, and serving God in this world that we may be happy with Him forever in the next.

Learning Outcomes:

See USCCB:

Doctrinal Elements of a curricular Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, Core Curriculum:

IV. Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the World Today (The Church)

Suggested Materials:

1. Holy Bible
2. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
3. *The Church: The Sacrament of Salvation*, Didache Semester Series
Midwest Theological Forum

B. Second Semester

Course Title: The Sacraments: Source of Our Life in Christ

Course Objective:

This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teaching on the channels of grace instituted by Christ and administered by the Church. It will then explore the implications of these teachings for living out the fullness of the Catholic faith.

Learning Outcomes:

See USCCB:

Doctrinal Elements of a curricular Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, Core Curriculum:

V. Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ

Suggested Materials:

1. Holy Bible
2. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
3. *The Sacraments: Source of Life in Christ*, Didache Semester Series
Midwest Theological Forum

C. Discussion Lab: Church History

Objective:

This discussion lab will focus on actively engaging with Church History; with the goal of appreciating the role that the Catholic faith has played in shaping the contours of world history and laying the foundation for western civilization.

Suggested Materials:

Epic: A Journey Through Church History
Ascension Press

Father McGivney Catholic High School
Theology Curriculum

Senior Year

A. First semester

Course Title: Our Moral Life in Christ

Course Objective:

This course will examine the foundations of the Church's teachings on sin, virtue, and morality. It will then explore the implications of these teaching for living a life that is in obedience to the Commandments and inspired by the Beatitudes.

Learning Outcomes:

See USCCB:

Doctrinal Elements of a curricular Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, Core Curriculum:

VI. Life in Jesus Christ

Suggested Materials:

1. Holy Bible
2. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
3. *Our Moral Life in Christ*, Didache Semester Series.
Midwest Theological Forum

B. Second Semester

SEE description, learning objectives, and outline for:

Religion Law and Society

C. Discussion Lab: Vocations

Objective:

This discussion lab will focus on actively engaging the theological and practical dimensions of living out a vocation to the clergy, the laity, or the religious life, with the goal of helping students discern how they are being specifically called to pursue God's loving plan for their lives.

Suggested Materials:

1. *Paths of Love: The Discernment of Vocation according to Aquinas, Ignatius and Pope John Paul II*, Joseph Bolin
2. *The Fulfillment of all Desire*, Ralph Martin
3. *Introduction to the Devout Life*, St. Frances De Sales
4. Visits from clergy, religious, married, and single Catholics

Father McGivney Catholic High School
Theology Curriculum

Senior Year, second semester

Course Title:

Religion, Law, and Society

Course Objective:

This course will examine the scriptural, theological, and natural law foundations for the Church's teachings on various controversial issues related to politics, economics, and law.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students should be able to clearly state the Church's teaching on the following issues:
 - a. Church/state relations
 - b. Religious freedom
 - c. Democracy
 - d. Economic systems
 - e. Poverty
 - f. Worker's rights
 - g. Equality, freedom, and justice
 - h. War and peace
2. Students should be able to explain these Church teachings on the basis of Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and relevant Magisterial documents.
3. Students should be able to defend the substance of these teachings in the public square on the basis of common sense, reason, and history.
4. Students should be able to put these teachings into practice through various service and advocacy projects.

Suggested Materials:

1. Holy Bible
2. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
3. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, USCCB
4. *Rerum Novarum*, Pope Leo XIII, 1891
5. *Pacem in Terris*, Pope John XXIII
6. *Populorum Progressio*, Pope Paul VI
7. *Laborem Exercens*, Pope John Paul II
8. *Caritas in Veritate*, Pope Benedict XVI

Religion, Law, and Society
Course Outline

- I. Law**
 - A. The Church in America
 - 1. Missions
 - 2. The Founding Fathers
 - 3. Father McGivney and American Catholicism
 - B. “Render Unto Caesar...”
 - 1. The Basis for Political Authority
 - 2. The Limits of Political Authority
 - C. Church and State
 - 1. Religious Freedom
 - 2. Religious Toleration
 - D. Faithful Citizenship
 - 1. The Public Square
 - 2. Political Responsibilities
- II. Justice**
 - A. Natural Justice
 - 1. Freedom and Dignity
 - 2. Social Justice and Non-Discrimination
 - 3. Distributive Justice and Fairness
 - 4. Solidarity and Subsidiarity
 - B. *Caritas in Veritate*
 - 1. Fraternity, Economic Development and Civil Society
 - 2. Cooperation and the Human Family
 - C. Public Welfare
 - 1. Economic Systems
 - 2. The Preferential Option for the Poor
 - D. Peace
 - 1. International Relations
 - 2. Just War Theory
- III. Challenges**
 - A. Separation of Church and State
 - 1. “The Church should stay out of politics.”
 - 2. “Religious beliefs are private and should be kept out of the public square.”
 - 3. “America is a secular nation with a wall separating church and state.”
 - B. Economics and Politics
 - 1. “How can the church be pro-life and pro-war?”
 - 2. “Economics proceeds by laws independent of ethics.”
 - 3. “The international community is essentially an amoral anarchy.”

Father McGivney Catholic High School
Theology Curriculum

Electives

A. Faith and Reason (Beginning Apologetics)

Course Objective:

This course will be an in-depth examination of the Church's teaching on the nature and value of human reason. It will focus on Pope John Paul II's *Fides et Ratio* and explore the theological value and limits of philosophy and science.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to explain the Church's teaching on how and why faith and reason are compatible.
2. Students will be able to present several compelling arguments for the existence of God and defend them against the most plausible objections.
3. Students will be able to present the evidence in favor of the general reliability of the Gospels and the historical truth of the Resurrection.
4. Students will come to appreciate the role that Christian belief has had in the development of science and how no good science could ever be in conflict with the truths of faith.

Suggested Materials:

1. *Fides et Ratio*, John Paul II
2. *Handbook of Catholic Apologetics*, Peter Kreeft
3. *Chance or Purpose?: Creation, Evolution, and a Rational Faith*, Cardinal Schonborn.

B. Bioethics

Course Objective:

This course will be an in-depth examination of the Church's teaching on the nature and value of human life. It will focus on Pope John Paul II's *Evangelium Vitae* and explore the implications of theological anthropology for the morality of biotechnology.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will come to understand and be able to clearly express the Church's teaching on the intrinsic and inviolable dignity of the human person, created in the image of God and destined to share in His Eternal Life.
2. Students will be able to explain what is meant by the "Gospel of Life", appreciate its centrality to Catholic teaching, and be able to draw out its implications for controversial issues in biotechnology.
3. Students will understand the basic science involved in human reproduction, fetal development, aging, and death as well as the science behind various reproductive and medical technologies.
- 4.

Suggested Materials:

1. *Evangelium Vitae*, John Paul II
2. *Donum Vitae*, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith 1987
3. *Declaration on Euthanasia*, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith 1981
4. *Catholic Bioethics and the Gift of Human Life*, William E. May

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