The Body of Christ, the Church

[Framework Course IV: Jesus Christ’s Mission Continues in the Church]
NOTE: The following is a provisional Scope & Sequence for Book Four in the Credo series, The Body of Christ, the Church. Adaptations and specific Scripture and Catechism references will be added upon the final edit of the manuscript.
The purpose of this course is to help the young people to grow in their understanding of the mystery of the Church and to come to appreciate that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, the Body of Christ. We will introduce them to the fact that Jesus Christ founded his Church upon St. Peter and the Apostles and that the Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church and the source of her life. The young people will come to know the Church on earth to be the living Body of Christ in the world. They will explore the meaning of the reality that the Church is both divine and human, invisible and visible. They will learn not so much about events in the life of the Church as about the sacred nature of the mystery of the Church.

CHAPTER 1
The Church Continues the Mission of Jesus

FOCUS QUESTION:
Why do we need to belong to a community?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
As human beings, we are social creatures by nature; we have been created to live in community / We grow in our humanity through community / God comes to us and we go to God as a community of faith, the Church / We need community in order to grow in holiness and in our identity as disciples of Jesus / The origin, foundation and manifestation of the Church / The Church is prefigured in the Old Testament / Jesus founded the Church upon St. Peter and the Apostles/ Jesus endowed the Church with a structure that will remain until the Kingdom of God is fully achieved / The Church is born primarily of Christ’s total self-giving / Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide the Church / The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples at Pentecost and empowered the Church to begin the mission Christ entrusted to her / The Church is the pillar and foundation of truth / All members of the Church are called to live in right and loving relationship with God, self, other people and all creation

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
Catholic Church; Church; People of God

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:

CHAPTER 2
Filled with the Holy Spirit

FOCUS QUESTION:
What does it mean to say that a person is ‘filled with spirit’?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
We all need ‘spirit’ to engage well and meaningfully in life / By Baptism we are all filled with the Spirit; all baptized into one Body / The Holy Spirit works through our human Spirit / Jesus promised to be ‘with us always’ / The Great Commission / The events of the first Pentecost / God’s saving mission in Jesus continues by the power of the Holy Spirit / The Holy Spirit inspired the Apostles’ mission / The preaching of Peter on Pentecost / The Holy Spirit is still present in and through the Church and its ministries / The Spirit’s gifts help the Church to fulfill her mission / God’s Spirit guides and works through the Church / The Spirit calls us to live as disciples

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CHAPTER 3
All Are Welcome

FOCUS QUESTION:
How does being a member of a community shape your identity and outlook on life?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
You belong to a worldwide Church that reaches out to all people, sharing the Good News of Christ and Christian love with all / The Church and her mission of evangelization: the Church has been sent by Christ on a mission to the whole world and exists worldwide / The Church welcomes all and proclaims a message of radical equality of all / The growth of the Church: lives of Christian witness, conflict with Jewish and Roman authorities, persecutions and martyrdoms / St. Paul, the Apostles to the Gentiles: the conversion of St. Paul; Paul’s missionary journeys / Handing on the Gospel and teachings of Jesus: unique role of the Apostles in the early Church; Apostolic Tradition; the development of the New Testament; the Council of Jerusalem / Apostolic Succession and the Magisterium: the unique ministry of the Pope and the bishops / The vocation of the laity and all the baptized: evangelization and sanctification of the world

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:
FAITH GLOSSARY: Discipleship

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
CHAPTER 4
We Are the Church

FOCUS QUESTION:
What does it mean to be a responsible member of a family, group or community?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
What does it mean to you to be a member of the Church? / The Church prefigured in the Old Testament: Noah’s Ark; call of Abraham; election of Israel as the People of God; remnant foretold by the prophets / Images of Church in the New Testament: Body of Christ; Temple of the Holy Spirit; Bride of Christ, Vine and Branches; Seed of the Kingdom of God; Family of God / Images of Church rooted in Scripture and developed in Tradition: People of God; the way to salvation; Marian images; the community of disciples; a pilgrim people / The Church sharing in Trinitarian communion / The Church’s journey of moving together toward the fullness of truth

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:
FAITH GLOSSARY:
Body of Christ; People of God; Temple of the Holy Spirit

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
CHAPTER 5
One Faith, One Lord, One Baptism

FOCUS QUESTION:
What does having unity in diversity mean?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
How open are we to ‘the other’? Can we be enriched by our differences? Have we more in common than what divides us? / Jesus’ prayer for unity of his disciples. Jesus asked at the Last Supper ‘that they all may be one’ / What would it mean to you for all people to be ‘one in faith’? / The Marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic / The Church is One: unity is in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit / The Church is united in charity, in the profession of one faith, in the common celebration of worship and Sacraments, and in Apostolic Succession / Wounds to unity: apostasy, schisms, heresies, Protestant Reformation / One faith: Church called to unity in midst of diversity: multiplicity of people, various liturgical traditions, communion of twenty-one Eastern Churches and one Western Church in union with Pope / Seed of the true Church is still growing / All the baptized called to work toward unity, even while embracing diversity

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
apostasy; heresy; Marks of the Church; schism

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:

CHAPTER 6
The Church: The Holy People of God

FOCUS QUESTION:
What does ‘holiness’ mean to you? How does it apply to your life?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
All people are called to holiness, to fullness of life / Holiness comes from the all-holy God / The Church is holy / By Baptism, every Christian is called to holiness / Through Baptism we are made sharers in the life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus and in the very life of God / Christ sanctifies the Church through the Holy Spirit and grants the means of holiness to the Church / Members of the Church must respond to and co-operate with God’s grace / The life of holiness is a lifelong commitment and journey / The members of the Church sometimes sin and are always in need of purification, penance and renewal / The Church constantly fosters conversion and renewal of her members / Mary is Mother of the Church and model of holiness, who encourage and intercede for us

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
holiness

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
CHAPTER 7
Church: Catholic and Apostolic

FOCUS QUESTION:
How far does your consciousness and care for people extend?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
We are all God’s children / The Church is catholic / Jesus is the Savior of all people / Jesus’ whole ministry was radically inclusive / Jesus founded the Church for all people / Jesus sends his Church into the world to announce the Gospel to all people / The Church exists for all people and is the universal sacrament of salvation and the means to salvation for all people / Salvation comes from the Church, even for non-members / All salvation comes from Christ the Head through the Church, which is his Body / The Church is apostolic / The Church carries on the mission of the Apostles through the power of the Holy Spirit / The mission of the Church is connected to her catholicity / The Church shares in the apostolic mission and teaching of Sacred Scripture and Tradition / The Church is guided in her mission by successors of the Twelve, the Pope and bishops in communion with the Pope / Christ calls all Church members to share the Gospel of salvation / The mission of the Church is a mission of lived faith

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
Catholic Apostolic

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:

CHAPTER 8
That All May Be One

FOCUS QUESTION:
What does religious diversity mean?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
There are many different religions / There many different denominations of Christianity / Can we all be united at least in good will and respect for one another? / Jesus prayed that all his followers would be one as he and his Father are one / What does Jesus’ prayer call all Christians to strive for? / Ecumenism: Vatican II documents stress importance of dialogue, dialogues with Orthodox Churches and Protestant ecclesial and faith communities, common Baptism of all Christians and common service to love even to the point of joint martyrdom / The fullness of Christ’s Church subsists in the Catholic Church / Interreligious dialogue with Judaism, Islam and other religions / All religions must respect one another, try to understand one another, and draw upon their own faith traditions to promote the common good of all humankind

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
denomination; ecumenism; interreligious dialogue

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
CHAPTER 9  
The Church in the World  
FOCUS QUESTION:  
How do you view the Church and its role in the world?  
CONTENT SUMMARY:  
Jesus made clear that his life and thus his Church is ‘for the life of the world’ (John 6:51) / The Church and her mission of evangelization / The Church is a sign and instrument of communion with God and unity of the human race / The Church does not exist for her own sake; the Church is not an end in itself but to be the sacrament of God’s Reign in the world / Jesus founded the Church with a divine purpose and mission—of realizing of God’s Reign / Church transcends history yet is part of history / The Church continues Christ’s salvation, preserves and hands on his teaching / Etymology of ‘church’ / The Church carries on the sixfold ministries of kerygma, didache, koinonia, marturia, diakonia and leitourgia / The Church scrutinizes ‘signs of the times’ and interprets them in light of the Gospel / Every Christian is called to ‘look at the signs of the time’ and respond as living witnesses to the Faith / Church must be a credible and effective community in bringing about the peace and justice that God intends  
KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:  
KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:  
FAITH GLOSSARY:  
Church; kerygma; didache; koinonia; marturia; diakonia; leitourgia  
LEARN BY EXAMPLE:

CHAPTER 10  
Working as the Body of Christ  
FOCUS QUESTION:  
How do we choose the path in life that may be best for us?  
CONTENT SUMMARY:  
God desires nothing but the best for every one of us / Vocation: God calls all of us to live as disciples of Jesus / The various vocations of life of the members of the Church: ordained ministries (bishops, priests, deacons), consecrated life (religious orders and religious societies), laity (marriage and family life, single life, third orders and lay consecrated people) / Roles of each in carrying out the vital ministries of the Church / Choosing one’s own vocation / Visible structure of the Church: a hierarchical communion / The College of Bishops in union with the Pope as its head: the Holy See; individual dioceses; parishes, the Family—the domestic Church / Inculturation: Church must practice the justice it preaches by the culture and structures it reflects  
KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:  
KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:  
FAITH GLOSSARY:  
consecrated life; domestic Church; hierarchy; Holy See; laity  
LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
**CHAPTER 11**

**Toward the Fullness of Divine Truth**

**FOCUS QUESTION:** How do we know the truth?

**CONTENT SUMMARY:**
As humans, we must live our lives by truth, if we are to live humanly at all. Jesus is ‘the way and the truth and the life’ (John 14:6). When we live as disciples of Jesus, we come to know the Truth who sets us free.

The Magisterium of the Church: the teaching office in the Church; the teaching role of the Pope and bishops to help us reliably interpret the Word of God for our lives. Teaching office of the Church: indefectibility and infallibility of the Church; ecumenical councils of the Church; the ‘hierarchy of truths’; Vatican II’s notion of ‘infallibility of the laity’; Church’s ‘social doctrine’, an integral aspect of our faith and ‘constitutive’ of the Gospel we are to preach, teach, and live.

**KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**
**KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:**

**FAITH GLOSSARY:**
indefectibility; infallibility; Magisterium

**LEARN BY EXAMPLE:**

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**CHAPTER 12**

**Guidance and Food for the Journey**

**FOCUS QUESTION:** Where do you look for wisdom?

**CONTENT SUMMARY:**
Wisdom is something that everyone needs and aspires to. Who are the wisdom figures in your life? Jesus was a figure of wisdom, who grew in wisdom and lived his wisdom. The governing office and laws of the Church: ministry of the Pope and bishops; Precepts of the Church; Canon Law.
The Pope exercises jurisdiction over the universal Church. Bishops have responsibility to govern their particular churches with Jesus as their model. The sanctifying office of the Church: the Eucharist is the center of life in the Church; bishops and priests sanctify the Church by prayer, work and ministry of the Word and the Sacraments; goal for all is eternal life.
The whole deposit of Christian faith is a wonderful treasury of spiritual wisdom—a spirituality for life.
The purpose of Church is to nurture our spiritual lives.

**KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

**KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:**

**FAITH GLOSSARY:**
Canon Law; Precepts of the Church

**LEARN BY EXAMPLE:**
CHAPTER 13
Being Church – for Our Own Good

FOCUS QUESTION:
What do you like most about being part of the Church, the Body of Christ?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
What would be the best way to make ‘Church’ and belonging to it really attractive to young people today? / Arguments in favor and arguments against belonging to the Church / We encounter the Risen Jesus through the Church / Jesus Christ enriched us through the Church / Christ willed the Church to be the ordinary way and means of salvation / The Church has the fullness of truth and the means of salvation / We receive redemption as members of the Church / Christ entrusted the Word of God and the Sacraments to his Church for our salvation / Jesus Christ enriches us through the Church: through the seven Sacraments; through a life of prayer, communion, charity, service and justice, through association with others who want to follow Christ in the Church / The Church at prayer: the liturgical year; celebration of the Christian mysteries

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
FAITH CATECHISM SOURCES:
FAITH GLOSSARY:
liturgical year; Sacraments

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:

CHAPTER 14
A Life-long Journey

FOCUS QUESTION:
How can you be ‘salt and light for the world’?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
Everyone can ‘light a candle’ with their life—and always keep hope alive for others / The Church is a people of hope / Living as a member of the Church means we live as disciples, proclaiming the Lord Jesus’ teaching to others / We are disciples, or apprentices, to Jesus, the Holy One of God / As disciples of Jesus Christ we are ‘salt and light for the world’; we called to live in holiness in every aspect of our lives—at home, in the workplace, in our community / Being Jesus’ disciples means doing our best to live the values he preached and lived / Prayer is essential to the life of a Christian / The Lord forms, teaches, guides, consoles and blesses us through prayer / Prayer helps us understand the teachings of Jesus and his Church in a deeper way and live them more fully / Worship, Sacraments and the community of the faithful, the Church, also sustain us / Examples of Christian witness in our parish and diocese help us live our faith and grow in knowledge of and intimacy with the Lord

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:
FAITH GLOSSARY:
LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
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