Scope & Sequence

CREDO SERIES COURSE V:
Encountering Christ in the Sacraments

[Framework Course V: Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ]
NOTE: The following is a provisional Scope & Sequence for Book Five in the Credo Series, Encountering Christ in the Sacraments. 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 understand and value that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. The young people will explore and examine each of the seven Sacraments in detail so as to grow in intimacy with Christ and in their ability to encounter and live their relationship with Christ throughout life as members of the Church.

CHAPETR 1
Church as a Sacramental People

FOCUS QUESTION:
How do you experience and respond to God reaching out to you in the ‘ordinary and everyday’ of life?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
Life is filled with ‘sacramental moments’—moments when God manifests his presence and when the Holy Spirit is ‘moving’ and ‘inviting’ us in a particular way to respond to the divine Presence / Definition of a sacrament / Sacraments involve God’s gracious initiative (grace) and our lived and faith-filled response; the parable of the Sower / Grace: sanctifying grace, actual graces, sacramental graces / Jesus Christ is the living, ever-present sacrament of God / The Church is the universal sacrament of salvation, the sign and the instrument of the communion of God and all people / God’s saving work that began in Jesus’ ministry and mission on earth now continues through the Church, especially through the celebration of the seven Sacraments / The Sacraments draw us into sharing in the life of the Blessed Trinity / Compassion and the works of justice are the ‘logical fruits’, or effects, of the Sacraments / Example of St. Thérèse of Lisieux

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:
FAITH GLOSSARY:
Sources:
LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
St. Thérèse of Lisieux

CHAPTER 2
Sacraments as Encounters with Christ our Savior

FOCUS QUESTION:
Who is Jesus Christ for you?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
Do you think of Jesus as effectively present in your life? Redemption is mediated through the Seven Sacraments: Christ acts through the Sacraments / Sacramental signs and symbols: concrete symbols and experiential signs of Christ’s presence; effectiveness of sacramental symbols is guaranteed because they mediate encounters with the Risen Christ; sources for healing and sanctification / Centrality of sacraments to Catholic faith and identity / Prayer in the life of the Church: definition and importance of prayer, forms of prayer, liturgical prayer and the Sacraments, personal prayer, prayer of meditation / Sacraments celebrate and strengthen our unity and identity / We, as Church, are to be a ‘sacrament of God’s Reign’ in the world—bringing about the Kingdom values of justice and peace that we preach / Example of St. Vincent de Paul

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:
CHAPTER 3
Baptism—New Life in Christ

FOCUS QUESTION:
What ‘good’ is your faith to your life?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
What does it mean to be a Christian?
Sacrament of Baptism: definition, scriptural basis in Old Testament and in New Testament, historical development, theology underlying the Sacrament / Baptism as reflected in the values of Jesus and his public ministry / By Baptism we come to participate in the mission and ministry of Jesus / The celebration, or rite, of Baptism: essential and other elements, the Baptism of adults, the Baptism of infants, the question of infants who die before Baptism / Baptism calls us into ‘prophetic’ ministry of Jesus, especially to live in solidarity with the poor and the oppressed / Example of St. John the Baptist

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
Sacrament of Baptism; Sacraments of Christian Initiation; virtue of solidarity

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
St. Vincent de Paul

CHAPTER 4
Living Our Baptism

FOCUS QUESTION:
What does living your Baptism entail?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
Baptism defines our lives, our identity and shapes our whole way of being in the world / Effects, or sacramental graces, of Baptism: sharing in the Death and Resurrection of Christ, adopted children of God, members of the Church, indelible character / Requirements for reception of Baptism: for adults, for infants, preparation and catechesis / Minister of Baptism: ordinary and extraordinary / Necessity of Baptism / Implications of the sacrament: members of Church, common priesthood, rights and duties, call to mission / Ecumenical aspects of Baptism / We are called to ‘live’ our Baptism / What it means to live this Sacrament: reminders of our Baptism in the Church’s liturgy and in pious practices, prayer and reflection on the meaning of Baptism / The challenge of lifelong conversion / Example of Blessed Junipero Serra

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
indelible character; sacramental graces

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
Blessed Junipero Serra
CHAPTER 5
Confirmation—Life in the Spirit

FOCUS QUESTION:
What do you want to do with your life?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
The Holy Spirit is our constant guide and teacher / The Sacrament of Confirmation: definition, scriptural basis [Old Testament and New Testament], historical development, theology [Western Church and Eastern Churches] / Celebration, or rite, of Confirmation: essential elements, traditions in Eastern Catholic Churches, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) / Requirements for reception / Minister of the Confirmation / Effects [sacramental graces] and implications: perfection of baptismal graces, Holy Spirit’s gifts and fruits, indelible character, call to spread and defend faith, stewardship / Discernment of the Holy Spirit’s promptings and actions in our lives / Living the Sacrament: love the Church that Christ founded, importance of prayer, new evangelization / Example of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
Gifts of the Holy Spirit; Fruits of the Holy Spirit; Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA); Sacrament of Confirmation

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

CHAPTER 6
Eucharist—Sacrament of Sacraments

FOCUS QUESTION:
How and when are we ‘really present’ as opposed to ‘just here’ or ‘there’?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
What is ‘real presence’? / The Sacrament of the Eucharist: definition, scriptural basis [Old Testament and New Testament], historical development, theology underlying the sacrament / Eucharist: memorial of Christ’s one sacrifice, a sacrifice of praise / Celebration of Eucharist: part of Mass, roles of priest and deacon, role of the faith community / Essential elements / Eucharist as reflecting the values in the life of Jesus / Eucharist bonds us into one Body / Christ’s Real Presence: transubstantiation, adoration and reverence / Worship and adoration of the Eucharist / Difference between receiving Holy Communion in a Catholic Church and going to communion in a Protestant worship service / Summit and source of Christian living / Example of St. Margaret Mary

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
Sacrament of Eucharist; Real Presence; Transubstantiation

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
St. Margaret Mary
CHAPTER 7
Living the Eucharist

FOCUS QUESTION:
What difference does the Eucharist make to our lives?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
Effects, or sacramental graces, of the Sacrament: union with Jesus and the Church, forgiveness of venial sin, protection from grave sin, and commitment to poor / Reception of the Eucharist: requirements for fruitful reception, frequent communion, Viaticum / Minister of the Sacrament / Role of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion / Implications of sharing in the Sacrament for our lives: we are called to become what we have received, the Body of Christ; the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist comes to us as a responsibility / Spirituality of Eucharist / Prayer at this ‘special moment of encounter’ with Christ / What does it mean to live the Eucharist? / Example of St. Peter Julian Eymard

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
Viaticum; extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
St. Peter Julian Eymard

CHAPTER 8
Penance and Reconciliation

FOCUS QUESTION:
When things fall apart in life, how can we put it all together again?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
When we cause hurt, or when we are hurt by others, how can we say sorry or forgive, and so heal and move on? / Reconciliation a key element in ministry of Jesus / The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation: definition, scriptural basis, historical development, theology underlying the Sacrament / Why we need this Sacrament / Celebration, or rites, of the Sacrament: essential elements, individual, communal, general absolution / Effects of the Sacrament, sacramental graces and psychological benefits / Requirements for reception: contrition, perfect and imperfect; necessary confession of grave sins; recommended confession of venial sins / Minister of the Sacrament / Implications of the Sacrament: thanksgiving and amendment, ongoing conversion, reconciliation with the Church / Living this Sacrament: our responsibility as reconcilers in society; our repentance must be both personal and social / Example of St. Josephine Bakhita

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
absolution; conscience; Sacraments of Healing; Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
St. Josephine Bakhita
CHAPTER 9  
Anointing of the Sick

FOCUS QUESTION:
How do you face the experiences of illness and death?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
A ‘fact’ of human existence: we all get sick and eventually die / The mystery of human sickness and suffering / Our Catholic faith can help us to face this ‘fact’—it can be a source of spiritual and sometimes physical healing / ‘Healing’ was a major value in Jesus’ ministry; physical as well as spiritual / Jesus brought the healing touch of God’s love and mercy to the sick and dying / The Lord Jesus’ healing power is still at work in the world / The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: definition, scriptural basis, historical development, theology underlying this Sacrament / Celebration, or rites, of the Sacrament: essential elements, individual, communal, Viaticum / Requirements for reception / Minister of the Sacrament / Effects of the Sacrament: union of sick person to Christ in his Passion; strength, peace and courage; forgiveness of sins; restoration of health if God wills it; preparing for passing over to eternal life /Living this Sacrament / Our responsibility to heal and not to hurt God’s creation / Example of Brother Jose Olallo Valdes

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
Brother Jose Olallo Valdes

CHAPTER 10  
Holy Orders—Sacrament of Service to the Body of Christ

FOCUS QUESTION:
What people ‘make things happen’ and bring out the best in others?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
What does it mean to be a responsible member of the Church? / How can we ‘make things happen’ in our Church? / Sacraments at the Service of Communion / The Sacrament of Holy Orders: definition, scriptural basis, origin and historical development, theology underlying this Sacrament / The ministerial priesthood / Celebration, or rites, of Ordination: essential elements of the Sacrament, of a bishop, of a priest, of a deacon / Minister of this Sacrament / This is the sacrament that helps us all, as Church, to work well together / Example of Father Augustine Tolton

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
ministerial priesthood; Sacraments at the Service of Communion; Sacrament of Holy Orders

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
Father Augustine Tolton
**CHAPTER 11**  
Living the Sacrament of Holy Orders

**FOCUS QUESTION:**  
What are your gifts and how can you put them at the service of others?

**CONTENT SUMMARY:**  
All of the baptized are called to live as a priestly people: lay ecclesial ministry / Priest as servant leader in imitation of Jesus / Requirements for the reception of Holy Orders: vocation, baptized man, celibacy in Latin Church, lifelong commitment to personal prayer and devotion / Effects, sacramental graces, of the sacrament of Holy Orders: indelible character, grace of the Holy Spirit, distinctive ministries of bishop, priest and deacon, servant leader in Person of Christ / What it means to live this Sacrament: servant leaders / Prayer for vocations to priesthood / Praying for and supporting bishops, priests and deacons / Example of St. John Nepomucene Neumann

**KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

**KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:**

**FAITH GLOSSARY:**  
celibacy; imposition of hands; prayer of consecration

**LEARN BY EXAMPLE:**  
St. John Nepomucene Neumann

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**CHAPTER 12**  
Marriage—Sacred Covenant of Life and Love

**FOCUS QUESTION:**  
How does marriage differ from other relationships?

**CONTENT SUMMARY:**  
How would you define marriage? / What responsibilities come with marriage? / How can one’s faith help sustain and nurture a marriage? / Jesus and marriage / The Sacrament of Marriage, or Matrimony: definition, scriptural basis, historical development, theology underlying the Sacrament / Celebration of the Sacrament: essential elements, marriage promises, within Mass, within Liturgy of the Word / Example of Sts. Maria Corsini and Luigi Quattrochi

**KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

**KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:**

**FAITH GLOSSARY:**  
Nuptial Blessing; Sacrament of Marriage

**LEARN BY EXAMPLE:**  
St. Maria Corsini and St. Luigi Quattrochi
CHAPTER 13
Married Love

FOCUS QUESTION:
What can you do now to prepare for faithful love?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
God is Love / We are made in the divine image—to love and be loved / Human sexuality: human sexuality is a gift from God; God created us man and woman to live in community as equal partners; it is important therefore that we have a responsible attitude to our own sexuality / Effects, sacramental graces, of the Sacrament: graces to perfect couple’s love for each other, to live responsibilities of married life / Requirements for reception of the Sacrament / Ministers of the Sacrament / Divorce, declaration of nullity, remarriages / Implications of the Sacrament / Living the Sacrament / The Christian home as image of Trinity / Example of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
divorce; declaration of nullity (annulment); sexuality

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

CHAPTER 14
Living as a Sacramental People

FOCUS QUESTION:
‘Who’ is your God? ‘Where’ is your God? ‘How’ is your God?

CONTENT SUMMARY:
God constantly comes looking for us / God takes the initiative and reaches out to us / We can come to see God in all things if we respond to his grace and develop a ‘sacramental consciousness’ / The Seven Sacraments are the high point of the sacramentality of life / Each sacrament enables us to encounter the love of God and the Risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit / Sacraments constantly subsuming us into the communion of the Trinity / Each Sacrament gives a special grace, God’s effective love, which empowers us to live as disciples / Discussion of how each of the Sacraments works, or is effective: the grace of the Sacraments is not something that can be seen or measured; it is sometimes only in looking back that we can recognize how Christ has touched us through them; their effectiveness is guaranteed but we must ‘respond’ / Example of Cardinal Nguyên Van Thuân

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES:

FAITH GLOSSARY:
sacramental economy

LEARN BY EXAMPLE:
Cardinal Nguyên Van Thuân
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