

# Alignment of *Breaking the Silence* with Guidelines for High School Catechetical Curriculum

The content and processes of *Breaking the Silence* reflect Catholic teaching in several ways. Refer to the “Introduction” to the PCYI alignments for additional connections to other key documents from United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The excerpts included below from the *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age* highlight the elements of Catholic teaching that are echoed in the *Breaking the Silence* resources. NOTE: references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* are included as provided in the original framework.

**Notes on Construction:** The following are excerpts from the full 53-page document from the USCCB that most directly relate to the content *Breaking the Silence* program. The numbering and language of the experts are direct quotes from the original document. Omitted material is indicated by “\*\*\*” at the appropriate level in the outline format. Also assume there is omitted, unrelated material prior to each *Curriculum Theme* heading included here.

## Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age (USCCB, 2008)

### *Curriculum Theme II: WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?*

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#### IV. Jesus Christ teaches us about ourselves

##### A. Jesus embodies what has been revealed in and through creation

1. God created the human person in his image and likeness; male and female he created them. This is why we must respect the dignity of all people (CCC, 1700-1709).

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4. God has entrusted his creation to us; we are stewards charged with procreating and protecting life and using the rest of creation respectfully (CCC, 287, 354).

### *Curriculum Theme III: THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST (THE PASCHAL MYSTERY)*

#### V. Moral Implications for the Life of a Believer

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##### B. Universal call to holiness of life (CCC, 826, 2012-2014, 2028, 2045, 2813)

1. We are made in the image of God: intellect and free will (CCC, 1703-1706)
2. Personal response to God’s call shown in our way of life (CCC, 2002)
3. Holy Spirit and grace enable us to live holiness of life (CCC, 1704)
4. Essential elements of a life growing in holiness: interiority or reflection, self—examination and introspection (cf. CCC, 1779)
5. We grow in holiness of life in and through the Church (CCC, 2045)

##### C. Living as a disciple of Jesus

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2. Conversion of heart and life and the formation of conscience (CCC, 1248)

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5. Putting Jesus' moral and spiritual teaching into practice
6. Serving the poor and marginalized

*Curriculum Theme IV: JESUS CHRIST'S MISSION CONTINUES IN THE CHURCH*

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V. Implications for Life of a Believer

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D. Living as a member of the Church, the Body of Christ, means we live as disciples, proclaiming the Lord Jesus' teaching to others (CCC, 520, 1248)

1. As disciples of Christ we are "salt and light for the world"
  - a. Living as Christ calls and teaches us as known in and through the Church
  - b. Active response to call to holiness at home, workplace, public square
  - c. Examples for Christian witness in parish and diocese

*Curriculum Theme VI: LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST*

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II. God has taught us how to live a new life in Christ

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B. Revelation

1. Teachings revealed by God under the Old Covenant

a. Ten Commandments

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8) 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against another.

- a) Living and Witnessing Truth (CCC 2468-2474)
- b) Sins to avoid: lying, perjury, rash judgment, detraction, calumny, boasting, making fun of others (CCC, 2475-2487)
- c) Keeping secrets and confidences (CCC, 2489)

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III. Living New Life in Christ Jesus and the Gospel Message are the Basis for Catholic Moral Teaching

A. God's love and mercy through Jesus Christ: (CCC, 2011, 2196, 2448)

B. Our Vocation- a universal call to holiness as disciples of Jesus Christ

1. Discipleship (CCC 520-521, 901-913)

a. "Love one another as I have loved you"

b. Discipleship—Lived Witness

1) daily life and work

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c. The radical demands of the Gospel for all believers

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F. Conscience

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4. Moral responsibility of following an informed conscience (CCC, 1783-1785)

5. Freedom of conscience (CCC, 1782)

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IV. The reality of sin (CCC, 849-869)

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*Curriculum Theme OPTION B: HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH*

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II. History of Church in Post Apostolic Times

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18. The Church in the United States

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F. Late 20<sup>th</sup> to start of 21<sup>st</sup> Century

1. Areas for concern

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b. Priest Sex Abuse Crisis; Confidence in Church blurred

*Curriculum Theme OPTION C: LIVING AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST IN SOCIETY*

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IV. Sin and its social dimensions

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B. The social dimension of the Commandments

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2. The last seven Commandments focus on our relationship with others: the moral teaching of our faith must be brought into people's interaction with each other [N.B., #1 Positive aspects of commandment #2 Failures to live it]

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c. 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment (CCC, 2331-2400)

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2) Adultery, Fornication, Masturbation, Homosexual acts, Rape, Prostitution, Pornography (CCC, 2351-2356)

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e. 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment (CCC, 2464-2513)

1) Promote Truth in Society and Media

2) Lies, detraction, perjury, rash judgment, violation of professional secrets

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C. Social Dimensions of the Beatitudes (CCC, 1720-1729)