



Subcommittee on the Catechism

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3032 • FAX 202-541-3055

September 27, 2013

Dear Catechetical Publishers,

As you are aware from our annual meetings together, the Subcommittee on the Catechism has been increasingly concerned about a growing tendency to rely on supplemental texts rather than basal series in religious education programs and Catholic Schools.

In addition to this pedagogical concern, it is not possible for the Subcommittee to review the volume of supplementary materials that are submitted to it, nor is it within our mandate to review each and every catechetical resource.

After careful consideration and in consultation with the Bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, from now on the Subcommittee will accept for conformity review only those supplemental texts that directly cross-reference a basal text or basal series. This includes introductory or remedial materials that cross-reference a basal series. It is also important to note that "Sacramental preparatory material" will continue to be reviewed as a separate category.

Supplemental texts or series that are developed independently from basal texts or basal series can appropriately be submitted to local ordinaries for review in accordance with the church's general norms on permission to publish.

In announcing this decision we on the Subcommittee want to reaffirm our belief that doctrinal content is best presented in systematic, age-appropriate basal texts rather than supplemental material alone.

If you have any questions or are in need of assistance, please contact the staff to the Subcommittee on the Catechism.

Thank you for your work on behalf of sound catechesis in our country. May the Lord continue to bless and guide you in your work.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Chairman

CC: Peter Murphy, D.Min.
Carlos Taja
Alissa Thorell