GRADE SCHOOL RELIGION PROGRAM

Grade One  Meeting the Father through Christ in the Spirit
Grade Two  Belonging to God’s Family
Grade Three  Celebrating God’s Love in the Eucharist
Grade Four  Following Christ through His Commandments
Grade Five  Encountering Christ in the Sacraments
Grade Six  Journeying with God in His Revelation

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course for Grade Three pupils – CELEBRATING GOD’S LOVE IN THE EUCHARIST is designed to promote a better understanding and appreciation of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist in preparation for their reception of the First Holy Communion. It emphasizes the importance of celebrating the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist so that they will be motivated to do their part in building God’s Kingdom here on earth and attain its eternal glory in heaven.

Human persons as special beings created by God in His image and likeness (Gen 1: 26), redeemed by the blood of Christ (Eph 1: 7, Col 1: 14), sanctified by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8: 14 – 16; 1 Cor 6:19), called to be children of God (1 Jn 3:1), and destined for eternal life (CCC 1692) are called to be in communion with Christ and His Church that will be deepened through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

The celebration of God’s love in the Eucharist will be highlighted with its characteristics as a thanksgiving worship, memorial of Christ’s sacrifice, the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, and the center of His sacramental presence, uniting the “People of God”, the Church (CFC 1665). This nature of the Holy Eucharist will be deepened in Unit 3 with the study of the structure of the Mass in which the pupils will discover that each part is interrelated and of great significance and that must be attended with full, conscious and active participation (SC 14).

Challenged with the mission of the Eucharist entails us, the Holy Spirit animates, purifies and strengthens us to glorify God through our generous service to make life here on earth more humane leading to our human yearning for our heavenly home (GS 38).

The progression from “I” to “WE” is the distinct characteristic of this course. As the course begins, the pupils will understand and appreciate themselves as God’s beloved children and that they are chosen to be with Him in glory. Through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, they will discover that even they are created unique individuals they should not be confined in being an “I” but must be with the “WE”, with Christ and His Body, the Church.

The pupils therefore, will be encouraged to develop their love for God and neighbor through the Eucharist which they basically learned in Grades One and Two. Pupil’s awareness of the Blessed Trinity in Grade One will be strengthened with their personal encounter of God upon reception of the Body of Christ in faith. Furthermore, their belongingness to God’s family in Baptism which they learned in Grade Two will be concretized through their active participation in the Eucharistic Celebration.

Finally, the course will serve as a springboard and inspiration to follow Christ’s Commandments of Love, a linkage to encounter Christ’s in the Sacraments and a guide in journeying with God in His Revelation which they will study in Grades Four, Five and Six respectively.

II. PROFILE OF STUDENTS

This course is designed for Grade III pupils ages 8 – 9 in an urban area and co-educational set-up. Most of the pupils have already received the Sacrament of Baptism. They have been introduced to the basic doctrines about the Blessed Trinity and Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist and have memorized the Basic Prayers. This basic knowledge about God was initiated in their homes and relationship with others.

Their “mass attendance” is usually with their parents during Sunday Masses and with the school community during First Friday Masses and special occasions. Most of them have the feeling of being enforced to attend the mass and do not really see the importance of participating. To some, attending mass is a requirement in CLE/Religion classes, a “Sunday trend” that they have to go with the flow or worst a showcase of what clothes they wear and what they have and an opportunity for them to dine outside after the celebration.

On their younger years, they also develop the wonder and curiosity about the sacred host. As their parents, older siblings and schoolmates receive this host, they asked to themselves some related questions like, “What is the taste of it?” “Why it was called ‘Body of Christ?’” Consequently, they exhibit excitement as they wait for their First Holy Communion on the third quarter of the academic year.

Concretely, they lack deeper understanding and appreciation of the richness of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. This reality check has to be taken up before they received their First Holy Communion. They have to be aware that they are loved by God and this love of God is celebrated abundantly in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.
essentially as an act of thanksgiving to the Father, through the memorial of the Paschal Mystery of Christ in the invocation of the Holy Spirit (CFC 1683) and in unity of the whole Church (CFC 1704).

III. FAITH MESSAGE AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. FAITH MESSAGE

As beloved children of God, we are called to build a loving relationship with Him and with one another (CFC 685). This God’s special gift of love to us is richly celebrated in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (CFC 1675) as a fundamental act of thanksgiving worship of God, constituting at once a Sacrifice-Sacrament, a Communion-Sacrament and a Presence-Sacrament (RH 20, NCDP 366). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are vivified to live a truly Christian life (CFC 1315) as a means in building God’s kingdom here on earth and enter into eternal glory.

B. FAITH OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course the students will be led to:

WORSHIP:
celebrate the love of God in the Eucharistic Celebration as a sacrament of thanksgiving, sacrifice, memorial, presence and communion in full, conscious and active participation;

MORALS:
perform acts of generosity and service to their parents, siblings, friends, classmates and most especially to their least brothers and sisters because of being in communion with Christ and His Church; and

DOCTRINE:
understand that they are beloved children of God called to build a loving relationship with Him and with one another.

C. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, the pupils are expected to:

1. understand that they are loved and called by God to be in communion with Him and His Church in His Kingdom here on earth and in heaven;
2. explain why the Holy Eucharist is a thanksgiving worship, sacrifice, communion and presence-sacrament
3. cite ways on how they can relate the parts of the mass to their daily life experiences; and
4. create a portfolio/journal about their faith experiences before, during and after their first Holy Communion.

IV. COURSE CONTENT

UNIT 1 I AM GOD’S BELOVED CHILD - 5 weeks
(God the Father, Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation)

Lesson 1: I Am Created in God’s Image and Likeness
Story of Creation (Gen 1: 26 – 27; 2: 8 – 9)
Glory of God and Dignity of Humans (Ps 8: 5 – 8)
Man as the Image of God (GS 12)
The Human Person (CFC 685)

Lesson 2: I Belong to God’s Family
Baptism of Jesus (Mt 1: 9 – 11)
Comparison with the Body (1 Cor 12: 12 – 17)
Incorporation into the Church (CFC 1605 – 1610)

Lesson 3: I Call God as My Father
Lord’s Prayer (Mt 6: 9 – 13)
We Cry, “Abba”! (Rom 8: 15)
Jesus’ “Abba” Relationship (CFC 280)
“Our Father in Heaven” (CFC 2133 – 2135)

Lesson 4: I Celebrate God’s Loving Forgiveness
The Parable of the Lost Son (Lk 15: 11 – 24)
Put on the New Self (Eph 4: 32)
Purpose of the Sacrament of Penance in the Life of the Church (LG 11)
The Sacrament of Reconciliation (CFC 1719, 1813, 2183)

Lesson 5: I Share God’s Mercy and Forgiveness
The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Mt 18: 23 – 34)
Be merciful... (Lk 6: 36)
Forgiving and Conversion (CFC 1796, 2182)

UNIT 2 WE CELEBRATE GOD’S LOVE IN THE EUCHARIST - 5 weeks
(God the Son in the Eucharist, Basic Descriptions of the Eucharist)

Lesson 1: We Are Invited to Participate in the Lord’s Table
The Last Supper (Mt 26: 29 – 30)
The Lord’s Supper (1 Cor 11: 24 - 25)
Elements of a Meal, Human Hungers (CFC 1705 – 1706, 1708)

Lesson 2: We Thank God in the Eucharist
Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers (Lk 17: 11 – 19)
A Psalm of Thanksgiving (Ps 100: 1 – 5)
Eucharist as Thanksgiving Worship (DC 3, 7, CFC 1683 – 1684)

Lesson 3: We Share in Christ’s Sacrifice in the Eucharist
The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus (Lk 23: 44 - 46)
Proclaiming the Death of the Lord (1 Cor 11: 26)
Eucharist as Sacrifice-Sacrament (LG 34; Paul VI, MF 27; CFC 1690)

Lesson 4: We Believe in Christ’s Presence in the Eucharist
Walk to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35)
Food that gives eternal life (Jn 6: 26 – 27)
Christ’s Multiple Presences (CFC 1722)
The Eucharistic Change (Trent, ND 1519, 1527)

Lesson 5: We Are United with Christ and Others in the Eucharist
The Vine and The Branches (Jn 15: 5 – 8)
Communion with the Body and Blood of Christ (1 Cor 10: 16 – 17)
Christ in the Eucharist “is truly Emmanuel” (CFC 1736)
Eucharist as Communion-Sacrament (SC 10, LG 26, CFC 1705)
UNIT 3: WE ENCOUNTER CHRIST IN THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION - 5 weeks
(Structure of the Mass)

Lesson 1: We Come Together To Worship God
Let the Children Come To Me (Mk 10: 13 – 16)
Trinitarian Worship (Eph 2: 18)
Trinitarian and Paschal Qualities of Liturgy (CFC 1506)
Duty to worship God as a community (CFC 914)

Lesson 2: We Listen to God’s Word
Parable of the Sower (Lk 8: 4 – 15)
Blessed… hear the Word of God… (Lk 11: 28)
The Word of God (DV 4)
Interpreting Scriptures (CFC 91)

Lesson 3: We Offer Our Gifts to God
The Widow’s Mite (Mark 12:41-44 )
Sacrifice pleasing to God (Am 5: 21 – 24; Rom 12: 1)
Eucharistic Prayer III (Roman Missal)
Liturgy of the Eucharist (CFC 1712 – 17 15)

Lesson 4: We Receive the Body and Blood of Christ
The Bread of Life Discourse (Jn 6: 51, 54 – 57)
Sharing the Body and Blood of Christ (1 Cor 10: 16)
Bread and Wine as food for our faith-lives (NCDP 364)
Liturgy of the Eucharist (CFC 1716)

Lesson 5: We Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord
The Washing of the Feet (Jn 13: 1 – 20)
I come to serve… (Mt 20: 28)
Preference for the Poor (PCP II 79, 312)
The Eucharist Builds the Church (John Paul II, EE 22)

UNIT 4: WE LIVE IN GOD’S SPIRIT - 5 weeks
(God the Holy Spirit, Our Helper in Responding to Our Eucharistic Mission)

Lesson 1: We Are One in Spirit
One Body, One Spirit (Eph 4: 4 – 6)
The Spirit Identity (CFC 1327 – 1329)
Visible Sign of Unity (LG 18)

Lesson 2: We Journey as God’s People
An Attempt to Share everything (Acts 4: 32 – 37)
The Spirit Unifies (CFC 1303 – 1304)
The Christian Community and the Eucharist (PCP II 523)

Lesson 3: We Keep Christ’s Alive
Love One Another (Jn 13: 33 – 35)
The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5: 22)
The Spirit Empowers Us to Love (CFC 1311)
Ways of Loving Others (CFC 970 – 977)

Lesson 4: We Are Called to Serve Others
The Appearance on the Shore of Tiberias (Jn 21: 15-19)
Christian Charity (1 Pet 4: 8 – 11)
Spirit Draws Us Into Service (CFC 1314)
Mary is our Model of Faith (CFC 1439, PCP II 580)

Lesson 5: We Build and Hope for God’s Kingdom
The Last Judgment (Mt 25: 31 – 46)
Jesus Promises to Peter (Mt 16: 18 – 19)
Spirit’s Eschatological Gift (CFC 1320, LG 48)
The Eucharist as Eschatological Meal (CFC 1731)

*******************************************************************************