The resources suggested below have been reviewed by our office and are found to be useful for implementing the diocesan guidelines for *First Penance, Confirmation* and *First Holy Communion*. Notes have been made to help pastors and parish leaders determine which resource may be best for them. Parishes may consider other options that are found on the approved list of the USCCB and adapt to the requirements of the *Sacramental Guidelines*.

**Sacramental Preparation Programs for Parishes**

**First Penance and Confirmation & First Communion Program**
Published by Sadlier

A keepsake book that teaches children of the Sacraments while engaging parents and the community in the process. Colorful and interactive with review activities in back. Now available in hard and soft cover. Includes option to purchase a parent's guide, a program director's guide and a music CD. The Director's Guide includes reproducible, supplemental lessons on Confirmation.

*Notes: The strengths are the scrapbook style, supplemental resources available online; and the parish director's guide that can be used for family and parent retreat days.*

*All materials are available in Spanish.*

**Call to Celebrate: Reconciliation and Holy Communion**
Published by Our Sunday Visitor

A comprehensive, family and community centered preparation program for both Sacraments. Colorful and inviting children's text of six lessons, a Catholic Sourcebook in the back with prayers, teachings and overviews of the Rites. Other items for the program include videos for parent and children sessions, director's guide and music CD.

*Notes: The strengths of this program are the illustrations with the Scripture stories, the prayer experiences in the children's book, and the activities to re-enforce learning. The Parent Guide contains three reflections at the beginning that could be used at an opening meeting or parent retreat. It all seems very “do-able.” Eucharist is 8 sessions instead of usual 6 from other programs. Also available for intermediate grades. Definitely purchase the Sacrament Sourcebook which is a leader guide.*

*All materials are available in Spanish.*
Reconciliation: We are your people, the sheep of your flock
Eucharist: Do this in memory of me
Published by RCL Benziger

This program contains lessons that provide ritual, Catholic doctrine and liturgy, Scripture, and activities for family involvement. Program includes Parent Guides, Program Director’s Manual and bilingual music CD. Eucharist Program Director’s Manual, there is a whole section on Restored Order, which includes a chapter for the child (both one for a younger and one for an older child), for the catechist and one for the parents.

Notes: The program uses classic Scripture stories to share about the Sacraments, and the family guide includes meaningful prayer services for families to do at home. All materials are also available in Spanish.

Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace
Eucharist: We Give Thanks and Praise
Published by RCL Benziger

This program explores the meaning of rituals, symbols, gestures and prayers to promote active participation. It engages children using story, Scripture, doctrine and prayer. Available for both Primary and Intermediate levels, in English and Bilingual.

Notes: The colorful pages and large font make these books easy to read and engaging for parents and students. They each include a session for after participating in the sacramental celebration. Each includes 8 lessons, but they are not as dense as some texts. No separate parent guide, but easy to teach from.

Be My Disciples. Complementing and supporting catechesis for the Restored Order is our Be My Disciples series. Throughout the grade levels, the sacraments are presented according to the Restored Order, providing a foundation from which the child will follow into immediate preparation, no matter their age or the time at which they present themselves to receive the sacraments.

All materials available in Spanish.
Together in Jesus:
*First Reconciliation and First Eucharist and Confirmation/First Eucharist Preparation Programs*
Published by Pflaum

This program comes in English and Bilingual. It includes 6, 4-page, colored leaflets for use by the child. Also included is a poster of activities for use by the family, info for parents about preparing their child, a CD of computer games based on the sacrament, and stickers. The Teaching Guide gives direction for expanding on the leaflets and includes a blockline of additional prayers for each unit. There is also a program for the

**Restored Order which includes lessons on Confirmation**

Notes: This program is designed for classroom instruction with a parent follow-up. The activities and prayers written are meaningful, and with some additional guidance by the program director, families should be able to “teach” the lessons at home. It is recommended that the prayers in the Teaching Guide be copied and provided to the families along with the other program materials.

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God’s Gift: Reconciliation and Eucharist
Published by Loyola Press

This fully integrated program, available in English and bilingual versions, engages children’s hearts and minds through multiple prayer opportunities, beautiful commissioned artwork, and unique interactive elements.

Notes: This program comes as a classroom-model structure. We suggest you use the Children’s Book and the Together—Parent Guide for Preparing your Child at Home. This is an excellent and practical resource, although may be a bit ambitious for some of our parish families. We suggest purchasing the Program Director’s Guide.

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Celebrate and Remember
Published by Saint Mary’s Press

Prepares children for the celebration of the Sacraments through liturgical catechesis. Preparation takes place not only by learning about the rites but also through the rites that are going to be celebrated.

Notes: This is a well-done program. Our concern is that it is too extensive for the curriculum that we recommend. The Penance prep is 8 lessons and Holy Communion is 10. The Family Guides are easy to read, but a lot to do! This may be the perfect option for families who want to home school their child as the primary formation preceding reception of the sacraments. However, the Program Director’s Guide is excellent and contains retreat outlines and a gathered session for reflecting back on the reception of the sacraments.
**One Eight Confirmation Curriculum**
Published by Life Teen

A **relevant, engaging, and relational approach to catechesis** and preparation for the sacrament. Includes materials for comprehensive catechetical sessions, small group workshops, home-study, a retreat, and prayer services modeled after RCIA rites.

*Notes: This program will be familiar for those parishes already using Life Teen materials and comes with the same modern and relevant relational approach to ministry that Life Teen is known for.*  
[http://store.lifeteen.com/one-eight-confirmation-program.aspx](http://store.lifeteen.com/one-eight-confirmation-program.aspx).

**Chosen**
Published by Ascension Press

Heavily reliant on superbly produced video presentations, Chosen was developed by twelve of the most popular Catholic Youth presenters in the country. This comprehensive program starts with video lessons and then involve students, teachers, parents, and sponsors, to explore the Church’s teachings.

*Notes: Chosen is a well-organized, informative and inspirational Confirmation program. The materials are comprehensive, engaging and very practical. Furthermore, the catechesis on the DVDs is presented an interesting and relatable fashion. The materials for parents and sponsors are engaging as well.*  

**Decision Point**
Published by Dynamic Catholic

A teen confirmation program from the Dynamic Catholic organization founded by Matthew Kelley. This intentional program uses video presentations that build upon a catechism-like student and teacher workbooks as a young person journey’s to reception of the sacrament of confirmation.

*Notes: This program is free, but don’t let the price fool you, it is of very high quality and comprehensive. The unique approach that Decision Point offers is the constant emphasis on how learning truths of your faith challenges you to respond to God in a way that changes your life.*  
[http://cart.dynamiccatholic.com/decision-point-catholic-confirmation-s/1855.htm](http://cart.dynamiccatholic.com/decision-point-catholic-confirmation-s/1855.htm)
The YOUCAT itself is an excellent resource for any teen to use to explore the Catholic Faith. In and of itself it is not a confirmation program, but when used along with the Ignatius press student and teacher Confirmation guides, the YOUCAT can become the curriculum for a confirmation program.

Notes: Following the same question-answer format of the YOUCAT and filled with many engaging question to spark reflection and conversation, this program could be especially effective when used together with the YOUCAT and the excellent online resources found at http://www.youcat.org
Growing Up Catholic
From PastoralPlanning.com, by Leisa Anslinger
This down-loadable resource will help you coach the young parents of your parish to engage them in the formation of their own children as well as in the life of the parish itself. You use handouts for the teaching. These resources are available in English and Spanish.

Notes: Because this program is NOT on the USCCB Approved List, it should NOT be used in our diocese as the primary catechetical resource for children. However, it is a great program for working with the parents. It assists the parish in meeting the goal of supporting (“coaching”) parents in their role in sharing the faith.

The ChristLife Series (below) -- The following evangelization model is the fruit of 15 years of evangelization work with dioceses, parishes, and small faith communities. Each step in the process is vital for the life of the Church and complements each other. Click on this link to find out more:
http://www.christlife.org/evangelization/index.html

Discovering Christ
A 7-week series inviting people of all backgrounds to encounter Jesus and be part of the Church.

Following Christ
A 7-week series on Catholic discipleship with topics on prayer, scripture, sacraments, spiritual warfare, and more
Sharing Christ
A 7-week series training Catholics how to share Jesus with others and invite them to be part of the Church

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained
We may be familiar with different aspects of our Catholic faith... but how does it all fit together? And what difference does it make for our lives? Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained is a stunning new video series that systematically presents the BIG picture of the Catholic Faith. Filmed on location in Rome, the Holy Land, Calcutta, and in the Augustine Institute studios in Denver, dozens of nationally-known teachers clearly present the beauty and brilliance of Catholicism. You can get more information about the program at http://symboloncatholic.org/

Catholicism: The Catholic Faith as you've never seen it before.
For the first time, in breathtaking and high-definition cinematography, the truth, goodness, and beauty of Catholicism are illustrated in a multimedia experience. Journey with Fr. Robert Barron to more than 50 locations throughout 16 countries. Be illuminated by the spiritual and artistic treasures of this global culture that claims more than one billion of the earth's people. Learn what Catholics believe and why. Discover the full meaning of the faith. For more information or to purchase go to: http://www.wordonfire.org/resources/dvd/catholicism-series-dvdblu-ray-set/1036/
**Adaptive Sacrament Preparation Kits**

Published by Loyola Press

These kits enable people with autism and other special needs to participate fully in the faith; helping them meet the USCCB requirements for readiness for sacramental participation.

Separate kits have been created for **First Eucharist**, **First Penance** and **Confirmation**.

The Loyola website contains other useful information for parents and catechists sharing the faith with persons with disabilities.
If you purchase a complete program from a publisher, your Director's Manual may contain video or media clips that you can use. Check with the publisher first. If you choose to show a video as part of a parent meeting, children's session or family retreat, you may want to consider the following.

**Brother Francis videos**

Come along with Brother Francis as he shows us what it means to be a true follower of Jesus in action and deed, and how our obedience can bring light to those around us!

*Notes:* These DVDs are aimed at children 8 years old or younger. There are 9 Brother Francis videos on various topics including The Bread of Life (Eucharist), Forgiven and The Mass. The site also has a series on virtues (Carlos the Caterpillar) and DVDs for older children on the Saints. Also available on this site are coloring books and posters. To view all items go to: [http://brotherfrancisonline.com/](http://brotherfrancisonline.com/)

**A Child's First Communion: And So Much More!**

By Fr. Joe Kempf

This new DVD featuring Fr. Joe Kempf contains two programs. Also in Spanish.

For Children: A 4-part, 23-minute segment. Learning the fundamentals of our Catholic faith will inspire them to love the Mass, God, and each other more than ever.

For Adults: A 3-part, 57-minute segment will recharge your presence at Mass.

*Notes:* Adult segments include a good discussion of why we come to Eucharist weekly and our need to be present. I found his material to be very reflective on theological concepts—may be best suited for a family’s “repeat” experience of preparing for First Holy Communion. Prayer experience for Adults was well done, impactful and useful beyond First Communion preparation programs. Could be used in adult ed and RCIA as well.

Children segment was good. Included Big Al, the puppet, and an experience of meditative prayer.
**A Child’s First Penance**  
With Fr. Jim Deiters

First penitents will learn about sin, true repentance, and God’s unconditional love and forgiveness. They’ll discover how their sin affects others and changes their relationship with God. They’ll explore the prayers, rituals, and gestures of the rite. Parents will learn how the rite has changed over the years and recognize their essential role in teaching and modeling the faith for their children.

This DVD also includes a message from Lisa Hendey, founder of CatholicMom.com, and a tour of the Reconciliation Chapel. DVD: 34 minutes  
Spanish: *Tu primera confesión: La alegría del perdón*

*Notes: Good, basic program. Nice tour of Reconciliation Room and having Lisa Hendey talk with parents about their role is more effective than a priest. Comes with a discussion guide online.*

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**Feeding Hungry Hearts: Celebrating the Eucharist**  
From Liguori, with Fr. Joe Kempf

In this 45 minute four-part video, Father Joe invites us to look at the Eucharist—and how, together when we celebrate as a community of faith at Mass, we are receiving this phenomenal gift of the meal called Eucharist. This DVD walks us through the celebration of the Mass—and explains why we do what we do.

*Notes: This would be useful in a parent session, especially if second time through, or perhaps a family event with children and adults together, or used by adult groups in the parish.*

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**Stories of Celebration**  
Published by Our Sunday Visitor  
Featuring Father Joe Kempf, Maureen Kelly, and Father Paul Turner.

These are perfect for parent orientations and at-home implementation of immediate sacrament preparation. A facilitator booklet is included.

*Notes: Especially like the Eucharist CD and Fr. Paul’s explanation of liturgy. Nice interviews with children that show the joy of the sacraments.*

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**What Catholics Believe about Reconciliation and Eucharist**  
From Liguori Publications, by DARA Publishing

Fr. Mitch Doyen gives insights into each sacrament. Basic introductory questions have been chosen and are presented in multiple choice, true or false, or yes and no format. Fr. Matthew Bonk, C.Ss. R., provides a concise and understandable catechesis around each sacrament.

*Notes: Some may not like the Q & A format, but video content is appropriate for all Adult Faith Formation in the parish, so has multiple uses.*
Understanding the Mass: A Kid’s Point of View
Available at www.sundaymass4kids.com

Father Jerry leads two young people through a tour of the mass. Contains visual effects and storytelling that help convey the meaning of Sunday Mass. In two, 20 minute sections. Also contains mass text and prayers.

Notes: While a “low-budget” film, the information is excellent and the video has been tested on children (and adults) in our diocese and has been well received! Great for a family event and as a supplemental resource for all religious formation programs.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist
From Twenty-Third Publications, with Kathleen Chesto

This is a wonderful way to learn about the history and development of the sacrament of Eucharist—from Hebrew times to post Vatican II. This presentation offers Catholic adults a better understanding of the valuable place of sacramental celebrations in today’s world. Excellent for RCIA, sacrament preparation for parents, catechist formation, and adult study groups.

Grandma’s Bread
A classic story designed to teach important truths about Eucharist, intergenerational relationships, death, and the importance of tradition in our lives. Young Mario, saddened by his grandmother’s unexpected death, is delighted when his mother bakes Nonna’s special Pane de Pasqua (Easter Bread) as a way of bringing her memory to his First Communion celebration. This DVD includes both the English-language and the Spanish-language versions of this story.

Note: Although it’s an older video, the story is timeless and the message is very clear.
You can order the DVD from: https://www.christianmultimedia.org.au/store/product/100000822/
The leaders guide is also available for download from this site.

Kids and the Sacraments: Introduce your kids, your classroom to four of the sacraments with this lively new video presentation. Each segment includes explanations from Father Ken, interviews with kids, on-screen storyboard Bible teaching, images from around the world, and “on the road” field trips to explore in depth where certain things come from, like Baptism’s water, the altar bread of Communion, and Confirmation’s oil. Your class will enjoy paying attention to this way of instruction! http://www.paracletepress.com/kids-and-the-sacraments-set-of-four.html
Supplemental Resources for Families

70 Sacrament Starters for Children
From Twenty-Third Publications, by Patricia Mathson
These simple, beautiful, and indispensable activities from an experienced DRE offer ten creative ways to celebrate and learn about each of the seven sacraments. The activities include visits to the church, prayers, crafts, Scripture readings, stories about the saints, sacrament discussions, and outreach suggestions.

Draw and Tell Sacraments
From Our Sunday Visitor
With only a large sheet of paper (or a dry-erase board, chalkboard, or overhead projector), and marker, you can easily share with your students what the Catholic Church teaches about the seven sacraments. As you read a story about someone who is receiving a sacrament, you draw a line, put in a squiggle, add a swirl. (The book tells you when!) By the end of the tale, your final picture shows a symbol of that sacrament.

First Sacrament Family Posters
From Our Sunday Visitor
Reinforce classroom study by bringing the "textbook" home in the form of this colorful, engaging poster that a family can refer to often as it hangs proudly on the fridge or bedroom wall. In addition to the personalized color front, the back side is filled with helpful summaries of classroom teaching, family prayer, and how-to for the entire family! Comes in packages of 10. Also in Spanish.

Creative Teaching
www.creativeteaching.net
An online resource for hands-on teaching tools that can be used in classroom or home instrucion for sacrament preparation. Shown here are Sacrament image cards and Sacrament Bingo cards.
**Praying in Color**  
By Sybil MacBeth, at Paraclete Press  
Wonderful book that provides an alternative way to pray through drawing/doodling and coloring. A good tool for helping children and adults alike reflect on Scripture, pray the Psalms, or simply pray to God.

**Mealtime Matters**  
Published by Loyola Press  
An attractive, full-color handout from Loyola Press, informs parents of the benefits of eating together and offers parents positive suggestions on how to make it a positive experience. Loyola Press has many other resources for families to purchase, as well as articles and activities available online.

**The Meal Box**  
Published by Loyola Press  
Fun questions and family tips to get mealtime conversations going. 54 cards each containing a fun question to discuss on one side and a meaningful “Food for Family Thought” on the other. Also available in Spanish.

**Keep Talking: Daily Conversation Starters for the Family Meal**  
Published by Liguori  
Here are 288 discussion points for mealtime with your family. This book is best with children in older elementary and middle school.

**Faith Moves: Family Faith Formation Where You Are**  
Published by Loyola Press  
A practical and fun, spiral-bound booklet that provides opportunities for parents to have faith conversations with their children, followed by a game or an activity to drive the message home. Keep this in your purse or glove-compartment for use anywhere.
Gabbit—Family Faith Edition
At Saint Mary’s Press
An electronic device with hundreds of family-friendly questions. There are no rules, no instructions—just pick

Writing to God–Kids’ Edition
Published by Paraclete Press

Offers guidance to kids that parents can also appreciate: It teaches them how to pray to God creatively through their pens (or pencils, or crayons). In 35 days, kids learn how to pray to God using their senses, reflecting on their feelings, in light of Bible verses, looking at nature, to understand the ordinary events of life, to use new words and pictures for God, and writing to God as a way to say “thank

Living Faith Kids
Features daily devotions based on the daily Scripture readings from the Catholic Mass. Each quarterly issue helps children 8-12 develop the habit of daily prayer and build their relationship with Jesus and the Church. Living Faith Kids is the daily Scripture-based prayer companion for Catholic children and an invaluable resource for parishes, families and schools.

The Catholic Children’s Bible
Published by Saint Mary’s Press

- Children will know and understand God’s saving plan revealed through **125 featured story spreads** highlighting key Bible passages.
- **Vibrant illustrations and borders** immediately engage children and allow them to dive into Scripture and become immersed in the stories.
- Understand It! Live It!, and Tell It! sections help bring God’s Word to life for the youngest of readers.

“Apps” for iPhone and iPads are available for purchase, as well.
**Ten Commandments Cube**
A new, full color "magic cube" from Paraclete Press to help ages 4-8 learn the Ten Commandments and the Our Father. Easy to use and tactile, it has the ability to continuously unfold to reveal each commandment or each part of the prayer with illustrations that are relevant for kids.  
http://www.paracletepress.com

**Our Father Cube**

**Praying with Your Five Fingers** Introducing a new 8 1/2 x 11, laminated prayer card, designed for pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade children, to help them learn the prayer method taught by Pope Francis. Each finger on their hand represents a people to pray for - from family and friends, to world leaders and those who are ill.

This creative form of prayer has been around for a long time, and is often credited, especially today, to Pope Francis when he was the Archbishop of Argentina. Perhaps it even existed prior to Pope Francis. Either way, it is a powerful way to pray—and to teach our children to pray—that the Holy Father has often utilized in his ministry.

This prayer card makes a perfect end of vacation bible school send off gift, a start of year gift, or a gift for First Reconciliation or First Communion.  
http://www.paracletepress.com

**Your Child’s First Confession** and **First Communion**
From Liguori, written by the Redemptorists

This easy-to-read magazine-style guide is designed to help the priest or catechist work with children by involving parents. Illustrated with color photographs throughout, it helps parents clarify their own approach to the sacrament and provide support for their child during the preparation period. It features a question-and-answer section that deals with issues such as children's fears, parents who cannot receive the sacrament, a non-Catholic parent, changes in the sacrament, and more.

**Notes:** A very pastoral and informative resource for parents, especially those with their first child in the program, mixed faith marriages, or those who have been away from the Sacraments and/or church for a while. Also available in Spanish.

**Catholic Parent Know-How**
From Our Sunday Visitor

Parents can be empowered with the faith-building activities and ideas in this affordable 8-page tool. Parents can gain involvement in their children's growth and even give them some spiritual nourishment of their own. These series include an edition for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and the Catholic Sacraments. All are in Spanish, as well.

**Notes:** These are well-loved throughout our diocese. Colorful, concise and impactful resources to share with parents as a supplement to the Family or Home Guide of a chosen preparation program.
**Take Out: Family Faith on the Go**
From Our Sunday Visitor

Simplify family life with the help of your Catholic Faith. Part magazine, part newsletter, this is a brand new, one-of-a-kind combination activity guide and support tool designed and written for busy families. The 8-page, monthly mini-magazine offers insightful, creative solutions to real life issues and interesting, fun ideas for living your faith. Start making new family connections with a positive approach today!

**Notes:** A monthly subscription with bulk order discounts. A resource for all families in your parish, not just those in sacramental prep.

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**At Home with our Faith**
From Claretian Publications

Your source for everyday wisdom from real Catholic parents, the newsletter offers down-to-earth, creative ideas and tested strategies for parents to hand on a living faith to their children, while deepening their own faith in the process. Published 9 times per year (monthly September through May).

**Notes:** Available in single and bulk subscriptions. Check out the website for other topic specific newsletters.

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**10 Things That Make for a Great Catholic Family**
From Our Sunday Visitor

Today's families come in all shapes and sizes. Amid all those differences, one thing is certain: maintaining a strong family takes a lot of time, energy, and work -- oh, and a good dose of prayer! Looking at who we are through the eyes of our faith, we see that, although we may not be the image of the perfect family every day, we are holier, indeed “greater,” than we think.

**Notes:** Very affordable and a great addition to any parish literature rack or an intergenerational parish event. Also in Spanish and for Moms and Dads.

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**The Mass Explained for Kids:** Adults aren’t the only ones who want to know what happens at Mass and why. The Mass Explained enables children to understand what we do and say at Mass and why. Liturgical texts are linked with corresponding explanations. This colorful booklet helps kids become fully active and enthusiastic participants at Mass. Features the official texts of the new translation. Includes accurate, kid-friendly, engaging explanations of the Liturgy. Ideal for ages 7-11.

[http://store.pauline.org/english/books/catpageindex/2/free1/dateno/productid/3658.aspx#gsc.tab=0](http://store.pauline.org/english/books/catpageindex/2/free1/dateno/productid/3658.aspx#gsc.tab=0)
Sacraments Series.
Published by USCCB.
A deeper understanding of the sacraments of the Church means a deeper spiritual life, and this series is the perfect place to start. Written from a pastoral perspective, each small volume provides the reader with a jumping-off point for reflection and prayerful study. Aimed toward families and those interested in increasing their knowledge of the faith, these booklets will bring you and those you love into deeper understanding and relationship with Christ and his Church.
Notes: This series is written for lay people and is very understandable. It is available as a series or each book can be purchased separately.
http://store.usccb.org/Sacrament-Series-Bundle-p/7-505.htm.

Well-Built Faith by Joe Paprocki
Cleverly developed around a construction theme—makes it easy and flat-out fun for any Catholic to know what they believe and to feel confident in sharing those beliefs with others.

The eighteen-chapter book—at times profound, at times humorous, always practical—follows the structure of the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer). Taking otherwise difficult topics about the Catholic faith and making them accessible and relevant to the lives of average Catholics, acclaimed author and teacher Joe Paprocki does so in a way that never compromises the rich depth of Catholic teaching and tradition. From the Trinity to the seven sacraments, from the Ten Commandments to the Lord's Prayer, A Well-Built Faith will help Catholics nail down the facts of the faith and tear down the barriers keeping them from sharing their beliefs with others.

Practice Makes Catholic by Joe Paprocki
It is said that practice makes perfect, but what else does practice make? If you ask Joe Paprocki, he'll say that practice makes Catholic—that is, there are certain distinct practices that make us essentially Catholic. The problem is that many Catholics don't understand—or at least misunderstand—why we engage in the many practices we do. In Practice Makes Catholic, Paprocki addresses the all-important “why” of many Catholic practices by articulating five key characteristics that form our Catholic identity: a sense of sacramentality, a commitment to community, a respect for the dignity of human life and commitment to justice, a reverence for Tradition, and a disposition to faith and hope rather than despair. Under each of these categories, he explores and explains multiple Catholic practices, then describes how following each one can make a profound difference in our faith and in our lives. Informative and inviting, Practice Makes Catholic is the perfect resource for RCIA candidates and their sponsors, for Catholics returning to the faith, and for all Catholics who want to get to the heart of what their faith is really about.
The Catechists Backpack by Joe Paprocki
Catechists spend their time guiding children and adults in deepening their Catholic faith. But who's guiding the catechists on their spiritual journey? While there are many books about what catechists should know and what they should do, there is very little on the spirituality of being a catechist. Written by two nationally known, expert lay catechists, The Catechist’s Backpack gives catechists the resources that speak to the spiritual dimension of their call to share the Catholic faith. Warm and conversational, Joe Paprocki and Julianne Stanz foster, explore, and celebrate the spirituality of the catechist, encouraging catechists to embrace their spirituality so that they can pass on a living faith to the children they teach.

The Catechist’s Toolbox by Joe Paprocki
Written specifically for any catechist who is new to the job or has never had any formal training, The Catechist’s Toolbox features an invaluable collection of catechetical tips, techniques, methodologies, and advice. Throughout the book, master teacher Joe Paprocki shares the wisdom he has gleaned in two decades as a catechist, high school teacher, and religious educator. Employing the metaphor of a homeowner’s toolbox, Paprocki explains how a new catechist is like a do-it-yourself builder who needs the right collection of tools to do the job; he then explains what the tools are, what they can do, and how to use them skillfully and effectively.

The Bible Blueprint by Joe Paprocki
In The Bible Blueprint, best-selling author Joe Paprocki makes understanding the Bible not only easy for the person in the pew, but downright fun! Using witty cartoons, thought-provoking sidebars, and short quizzes to supplement his easy-to-grasp teachings on the Bible, Paprocki guides lay Catholics to a solid understanding of the structure, organization, and purpose of God’s Word. Among numerous other topics, Paprocki covers the different genres of biblical writing, key figures in biblical history, and the methods Catholics rely on to interpret the Bible. As readers increase their understanding of the Bible, they will also increase their ability to find their way in Scripture: eight perforated Bible bookmarks are included.