

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLASS STRUCTURE

Catechists are challenged to discover and meet the individual needs of students. The number of students in a class should be limited to students a catechist is able to know personally. It is recommended that there is a 15 student maximum per class. "Catechists are to identify and create 'suitable conditions which are necessary for the Christian message to be sought, accepted and more profoundly investigated' for each of the various groups they serve." *National Directory for Catechesis*, p. 230.

Combining grades may be desirable when the number of students is low. Use the *Religion Graded Course of Study P-12 April, 2006* to help establish a planned alteration of the curriculum with a manageable number of students.

### TWO-DEEP STRATEGY

The section "Suggested best practices for volunteers in parish ministry" from the *Diocese of Columbus Policies for Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Minors and Response to Allegations Thereof* handbook, states that "parishes are encouraged to avoid creating a situation where a single adult has unsupervised access to any child. By utilizing a "two-deep" strategy, at least two adults are present to ensure an effective and safe ministry with each child in our parish programs." (Appendix IV-5)

### TIME ALLOTMENT FOR CLASS

"All catechesis includes more than instruction. 'It must be an integral Christian initiation.' Learning by apprenticeship links an experienced Christian believer, the catechist, with one who seeks a deeper relationship with Christ and the Church. It ordinarily includes education in the knowledge of the faith, celebration of the mysteries of the faith, practice of the Christian moral virtues, and dedication to the daily patterns of Christian prayer." *National Directory for Catechesis*, pp. 104-105.

Opportunities should be available for students to engage in all facets of catechesis, knowledge of the faith, and experiences in community, worship and service according to their level of development. Therefore, ample time should be allotted for students to experience integral catechesis. The following time allotment is considered to be the minimum for the adequate implementation of the Diocesan *Religion Graded Course of Study P-12 April, 2006*. The approved list of elementary, junior high and high school religion textbooks are a tool to accomplish this.

40 clock hours per year, e.g., 30 sessions of 1 hour, 20 minutes; or  
26 sessions of 1 hour, 30 minutes; or  
40 sessions of 1 hour.