



National Apostolate for
Inclusion Ministry

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy
Program developmental
curriculum materials are
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*Envisioning a Catholic Church Where People with Intellectual/Developmental
Disabilities Are Welcomed for Their Gifts and Their Presence*

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program

Diocese of Pittsburgh Comprehensive Special Religious Education Curriculum

The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, a developmental, comprehensive religious education curriculum, was developed by the Diocese of Pittsburgh Department of Disabilities and promulgated in 1996. A grant from the Knights of Columbus provided that a copy be provided to each diocese. The RFK Program is the recognized full curriculum for people with intellectual disabilities. Repetition is an important feature. This curriculum is appropriate for use in the inclusive classroom, the specialized classroom or in a home setting for students with mild to moderate mental retardation, ages 5-21. The curriculum consists of nearly 260 lesson plans and prayer services. It includes a teacher formation booklet for the catechist and a parent handbook for parents of children with special needs. The English curriculum was issued with *Nihil Obstat* as well as an *Imprimatur* by the Bishop of Pittsburgh. There was an English language update in 2008. In 1999, the Spanish Language edition was issued with *Nihil Obstat* as well as an *Imprimatur* by the Bishop of Corpus Christi.

Materials Available

In English

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve Religious Education for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

The curriculum is in a very large binder divided into four levels which correspond to the maturity of a student: The levels are: Foundational, Relational, Discipleship and Mission. The first three sections have three stages; Mission has two stages and prayer services. In 2004, four student activity books were issued by the Diocese of Pittsburgh to accompany the RFK Program Levels. The workbooks are paper bound with clear black and white drawings and English language work sheets.

Foundational Level: The primary level is where faith is introduced to the student in a sequential manner. In *Level F1* (20 lessons) the student learns about God the Father as Creator of all things, Jesus the Son of God, Mary His Mother, prayer and the Church. *Level F2* (20 lessons) is concerned with the importance of Baptism, different kinds of prayer, especially the Our Father. *Level F3* (20 lessons) expands learning about the Blessed Mother, the Church and introduces the Mass, the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus and the concept of the Trinity.

Student Activity Book: Foundational Level: 1, 2, 3

Relational Level: The emphasis is placed on a personal relationship with Jesus. *Level R1* (20 lessons) consists of formal preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. *Level R2* (21 lessons) is a study of the life of Jesus, parables and the last days of His life and the Resurrection. *Level R3* (20 lessons) introduces the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment.

Student Activity Book: Relational Level: 1, 2, 3

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Discipleship Level: These lessons promote growth in faith, a personal love of Jesus and the desire to follow him more closely. *Level D1* (20 lessons) has a specific focus on the Seven Sacraments, leadership in the Church, The Mass, the Liturgical Year and Sacramentals. *Level D2* (20 lessons) introduces beliefs of the Catholic faith through a study of the Apostles' Creed. Mary and the Saints will be presented as models of faith. *Level D3* (21 lessons) consists of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Blessed Mother and Saints as models for Christian living.

Student Activity Book: Discipleship Level: 1, 2, 3

Mission Level: When a student reaches the Mission, it is expected that he or she will have advanced in maturity as a person of faith. *Christian Living Level* (20 lessons) is focused on living the Christian life with an introduction to the Beatitudes and the Corporate and Spiritual Works of Mercy. *Liturgical Year Concepts* (17 lessons) is focused on re-living the events of the life of Jesus each year centering on the feasts of Christmas and Easter. The final section in this level is **Prayer Services** (40), formats which can be used in lessons, for feasts and as models for developing prayer services within lessons.

Student Activity Book: Mission Level: Christian Living and Liturgical Year

en Español

El Programa Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy para Mejorar la Educación Religiosa Católica en Niños y Adultos con Necesidades Especiales

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