



WORD of LIFE™
Build Strong Catholics



Word of Life Media Tip Sheet

Synopsis

The Augustine Institute has partnered with Ignatius Press to develop the “Word of Life” curriculum, a new K-8 catechesis program designed to immerse the child and their parents within the story of salvation history. Within this journey, children are taught the importance of heroic virtue through the lives of the saints and sacred scripture. This dynamic curriculum creates a conversational learning environment for the classroom that is both prayerful and engaging so that the children are sent forth as transformed followers of Christ. “Word of Life” is designed to offer age-appropriate catechesis and foster a lifelong encounter with a loving God. With Word of Life, children and their parents, parishes and schools will be transformed by an immersive curriculum that speaks to the restlessness of the human heart. Launched in the summer of 2021, “Word of Life” is comprised of the student text, teacher manual/parish catechist manual and parent faith-formation resources. The program includes the “Word of Life” online portal as a supplement to the student text by bringing the text to life through activities and videos for the students.

News Angles

“Word of Life” is one of the first catechetical programs approved for use by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

“Word of Life” is one of the first K-5 programs to be approved by the USCCB using a new Accompaniment Process to evaluate catechetical materials. This new process allows publishers to work closely with a consultant from the USCCB throughout the development of a curriculum, and aims at developing materials, both print and digital, that more effectively communicate the truths of faith. “Word of Life” grades K-5 are in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church by the Subcommittee on the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. You can find “Word of Life” on the USCCB Curriculum conformity list:

https://www.usccb.org/resources/CurrentConformityList_09-20-22.pdf.

“Word of Life” helps Catholics better understand why their faith is relevant in the modern culture, which is increasingly becoming secular



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In the “Word of Life” series, the curriculum is organized by four “golden threads,” or pillars, that help children, teachers, parents and families discover their authentic Catholic identity to reinvigorate fruitful participation in the Church’s life and mission. The four pillars are:

1. Salvation History

Revealing God’s presence and plan throughout history and our place in that plan.

2. Christian Anthropology

The true human story that answers the questions about our real identity, why we are here and who we are called to be.

3. Heroic Virtue & Character Formation

By cooperating with God’s grace and the supernatural virtues, we find our true dignity and purpose, and are able to live with heroic virtue and character.

4. Learning through Discipleship

Catechesis that shows why the faith matters and nurtures a deepening integration of the faith in daily life through Christian discipleship.

‘Word of Life’ is one of the fastest growing catechetical programs in the country

Since its inception in the summer of 2021, “Word of Life” has grown rapidly, with 434 parishes, 88 schools, 3,800 teachers and 44,000 students using the program to grow deeper in their Catholic faith.

Biographies

Kevin Clemens

Kevin Clemens is Senior Director of Curriculum at the Augustine Institute. Previously, Kevin taught Latin and theology in Catholic high schools. He received an M.A. in Catholic Studies from the University of St. Thomas.

Ben Akers

Dr. Ben Akers is the Chief Content Officer at the Augustine Institute. He previously served as an associate professor of theology and the executive director of [FORMED](#), Augustine Institute’s



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streaming platform which provides trustworthy and inspiring Catholic video, audio and eBook content from the Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press and more than 60 other partners.

FORMED.org helps parishes, families and individuals explore their faith anywhere. He joined the Augustine Institute in 2015. Previously, Dr. Akers served as the director of the Denver Catholic Biblical and Catechetical Schools and was an adjunct for the St. John Vianney Theological Seminary. His experience living and studying in the heart of the Catholic Church in Rome, Italy, has inspired him to teach theology in a way that integrates history, art, literature, and spirituality.

Suggested Interview Questions

1. What is the “Word of Life” catechesis program?
2. Given the number of catechetical programs that are currently available, why was it necessary to create an entirely new program?
3. The Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press have partnered to create “Word of Life.” What does that partnership entail?
4. Why is the program called “Word of Life”?
5. Who is the target audience for “Word of Life”?
6. How is “Word of Life” different from other catechetical programs?
7. Word of Life is one of the first K-5 catechetical programs to be approved using the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) new Accompaniment Process, where materials are accompanied throughout the creation process. How did the program receive this coveted endorsement?
8. What are the “Word of Life” resources for teachers, students, and parents?
9. In the “Word of Life” series, the curriculum is organized by four “golden threads,” or pillars, that not only provide faithful teaching but explain why the faith is relevant in modern culture. What are the four “golden threads,” or pillars?
10. What impact do you expect “Word of Life” to have on students, teachers, and parents?
11. How does “Word of Life” help Catholics better understand, live, and share their faith?
12. Why is “Word of Life” needed now?