

Faith Knowledge Assessment

When the Archdiocese of Washington decided to respond to the current needs of faith education, they developed a religion curriculum guide for use in all parish and school programs to introduce the same expectations, accountability, and rigor that they apply to other academic subjects. To measure the progress and effectiveness of the faith education program, an assessment was developed, and Scantron was there to help. The new curriculum includes an assessment aligned to curriculum indicators and scored through Achievement Series®, and is now available to Catholic schools and parishes across the country. Introducing the Faith Knowledge Assessment.



What Is the Faith Knowledge Assessment?

The Faith Knowledge Assessment is a Catholic standards-based assessment developed by the Archdiocese of Washington, aligned to their religion-curriculum guide: *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization* (FDNE).

In creating the curriculum guide, the Archdiocese of Washington's Office for Catechesis and the Catholic Schools Office integrated the pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) and the Six Tasks of Catechesis found in the General Directory for Catechesis (GDC), to define measurable grade-level standards for each concept and task.



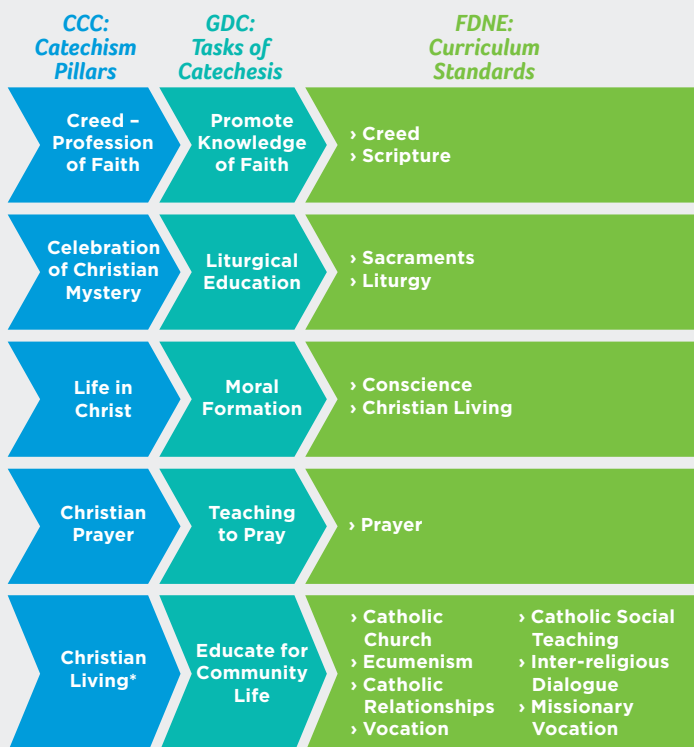
The assessment is administered in English and Spanish throughout the Archdiocese once each year. Students in grades 3 through 8 in both school and parish religious education programs take printed or online tests through Scantron's Achievement Series. The Faith Knowledge Assessment Item Bank contains more than 600 items in both English and Spanish and will be expanded annually.

In partnership with the Archdiocese of Washington, Scantron makes the Faith Knowledge Assessment Item Bank available to you.

The item bank package includes:

- A subscription to the Achievement Series web-based assessment platform, so you can manage assessment records and run reports.
- The Faith Knowledge Assessment Item Bank, so you can create your own assessments.
- (Optional*) Predefined, grade-level assessments, so you can begin assessing online or on paper immediately.
- (Optional*) Preprinted tests and answer sheets for paper-based test administration.
- (Optional*) Scanning and reporting services so you can use the assessment with a minimum technology investment.

* Optional items are available for an additional cost.



*While Christian Living is not a pillar of the Catechism, it flows from the Creedal statements of the preceding pillars. Here, it encompasses the "Education for Community Life" and "Missionary Initiation" Tasks of Catechesis.

How Has Scantron Helped the Archdiocese of Washington?

The Archdiocese of Washington serves more than 27,000 students in 56 Catholic elementary schools and 139 parish religious-education programs in the D.C. and suburban Maryland area. Diocesan schools and parish programs are diverse, multicultural educational environments located in urban, suburban, and rural settings.

Schools

- **AdvancED™ accredited**
- **Sixteen schools recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools since 2007**
- **47% of students are non-White**
- **33% of students are non-Catholic**

Parishes

- **139 parish religious education programs from PreK to 8th grade**
- **Catechetical programs range in size from 15 to 700 students**
- **Lay and religious catechists teach the faith**
- **Parish catechetical leaders range from part-time volunteers to full-time, paid parish directors**

The Archdiocese's mission is to form young people in the faith and to provide a faith-based environment for education in cooperation and partnership with parents—the first educators of their children.

Yesterday...

The Archdiocese wanted to bring the same rigor to every subject they taught and improve the efforts of parish catechetical programs. Thus was born their fully aligned, faith curriculum standards program, Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization.

The Catholic elementary schools were already using Scantron's Performance Series® for diagnostic benchmark assessments of core subjects and

Achievement Series for ongoing, fixed-form subject assessments. Reports on the results from those tests formed a large part of their instructional strategy.

"We wanted to approach the teaching of religion in the same way we approached other subjects," says Le Shaun Quander-Mosley, Director for Assessment and Research in the Catholic Schools Office. "We needed the same rigor, with real data that could inform instruction."

Because their Scantron assessment solution provided a model for the kinds of reports and data teachers and administrators received for other subjects, they decided to develop assessments aligned to the faith curriculum standards using Achievement Series.

They spent the next two years developing and piloting the curriculum and its assessment strategy. They:

- **Constructed grade-level standards against the curriculum topics, introducing and deepening conceptual understanding as students became ready to progress.**
- **Developed grade-appropriate items in English and Spanish, and assembled those items into assessments. The item count on each test instrument is developmentally appropriate and tailored to the age of the test-taker.**
- **Administered the assessments online to students in diocesan schools as well as on paper to students enrolled in parish catechism classes.**
- **Adjusted the curriculum and instructional resources to support student success, based on observed assessment results.**

Sara Blauvelt, Director for Catechesis, explains, "We knew the right approach was to teach from an approved curriculum, assess from that curriculum, then examine the results data to improve instruction and the curriculum itself, just like any other subject."

"We cannot assess faith, but we can and should assess religious education efforts."

— FDNE Curriculum Guide Foreword



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- Le Shaun Quander-Mosley, Director for Assessment and Research

Today..

“We’re able to examine student understanding, both strengths and areas for improvement, by grade,” says Quander-Mosley. The Archdiocese can use that information to develop new instructional resources that help instructors improve student success.

This practical tool for parish and school catechists supports the establishment of consistent content for the teaching of the faith across the Archdiocese to ensure that future generations of Catholics are well formed and know the truth that Jesus taught.

Students in diocesan schools take the test online, alongside other academic subjects assessed through Achievement Series.

“Students in Catholic schools can come in to the computer lab and take the Faith Knowledge Assessment using the same online testing systems and processes that they use to take a Math or Reading assessment. This says a lot about the importance of learning the faith, and also provides teachers and principals with great assessment data to inform instruction,” says Dr. Thomas Burnford, Secretary for Education, Archdiocese of Washington. “And the same assessment works great in parish religious-education programs, also helping catechists and DREs to better assess how students are learning and living the faith.”

Parish religious-education students take the test on paper forms printed by Scantron, and the finished tests are scanned into Achievement Series. This content equity ensures students are seeing the same items, regardless of the testing technology.

The results are unified in the Achievement Series database, ensuring all administrators and instructors have access to the same kinds of reports.

Because all results appear in Achievement Series, principals, DREs, and pastors are able to view student performance across all catechetical efforts, whether delivered in archdiocesan schools or in weekly parish classes. Results also help archdiocesan staff provide better resources and training to parishes and schools for the teaching of the faith.

The extensive reports available improve communication with parents, as well. “Parents are the first teachers,” states Blauvelt. “The end goal of teaching faith is to create disciples in faith. The more the Church is able to support the family in this effort, the stronger the disciples we can form.”

Tomorrow..

The Archdiocese plans to continue to improve *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*, with an eye toward making the curriculum available to other dioceses to support faith-education efforts. They intend to expand the Faith Knowledge Assessment with additional and alternate items and refine existing items to more perfectly measure student understanding.

Scantron will be there. From our powerful assessment platform, easy-to-use tools, and flexible delivery modes (paper, online, or both at once), we can provide solutions and services that meet you where you are and help you get to where you want to be.

What Other Products and Services Can Scantron Provide for You?

Performance Series Diagnostic Assessments

Use computer-adaptive testing to identify student attainment of standards, independent of each student's grade-level abilities. Administered over time, these tests provide a longitudinal view of student growth in core curriculum areas (Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science).

Achievement Series Fixed-Form Assessments

Expand your assessment abilities with an item editor to create questions that can support fixed-form tests for any subject and a testing process to deliver the tests online or on paper. Measure multiple choice, multiple response, gridded response, short response, true/false response, and extended response items online or on paper, ensuring content equity.

Classroom Assessment Solutions

Our cost-effective Test Scoring Machines, combined with Scantron® Genuine Forms, have been education's gold standard for automated, reliable classroom test scoring for 40 years. Scantron also offers software-based classroom testing solutions.

Assessment Content Development

Our in-house team of test developers with extensive experience within specific subject areas (including classroom teaching) can create custom items, develop assessments from state-specific and Common Core item banks, provide alignment services, and deliver training on developing items and assessments.

Educational Insights Consulting

Education Insights Consulting provides services on current educational trends and how Scantron solutions support those trends. Our content-area expertise includes Standards-Based Education, Responsiveness to Instruction or Multi-Tiered System

of Supports, Assessment, Data-Based Decision Making, Change Management, Special Education, Personalized Learning, and Educator Effectiveness.

Research and Results

We provide test validation (correlation studies, predictability studies, reliability studies), linear equating studies, differential item functioning (DIF) analysis, score verification, evaluation studies, research design and evaluation support, and statistical and psychometric consultation.

Client Program Management Services

The Client Program Management (CPM) Services team provides Scantron customers with the essential tools and informed support recommended for a high-quality implementation and continued growth.

Data Integration and Development Services

Scantron provides a variety of data integration and development services, such as item imports, custom report development, automated SIS-integration efforts, third-party scanner compliance testing, and third-party product-integration configuration.

Assessment Program Support

From printing high-quality, guaranteed-scannable answer forms to managing printing, packaging, and fulfillment for assessment programs, Scantron's cost-effective services can free diocesan resources to focus on results, rather than logistics.

Scanning and Data Processing Services

Too many tests, not enough time? We can scan test forms—transforming them into actionable data—and deliver output files, detailed reports, or both. Scantron's data-processing experts are trained to get the best results from Scantron scanners and software.



**INFORM INSTRUCTION
TO IMPACT STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT TODAY!**

For a free consultation to meet your academic goals, call **800.722.6876** or visit us at **www.scantron.com/catholic** to learn more.

About Us

Scantron® provides a comprehensive set of solutions that help improve student outcomes in K-12 education. We offer software and services to meet the needs of customers' assessment programs regardless of where they are on the technology spectrum—pure paper, pure online, or anywhere in between.

