**Ingredients of a Quality Faith Formation Program for Grades 1-8**

**“20 Ways to Be the Best”**

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| **Yes** | **Somewhat** | | | **No** | **Take the TEST** |
| **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1. Regular staff meetings with pastor and other ministerial parish staff. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 2. Catechetical leader who is professionally prepared to organize and run the program. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 3. Catechetical leader who is theologically trained in the basics of Catholic Faith. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 4. Catechetical leader is a paid position justly compensated, acknowledged as a parish  staff member, given adequate and comfortable office space that is easily accessible to  the public and other staff members, and provided with the monetary resources  necessary for a good program. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 5. Faith-filled adults who practice their faith are invited to be catechists. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 6. Assistants are assigned to each class to facilitate the lesson as well as insure safety  procedures. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 7. Students are divided into groups of 10-12 maximum. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 8. All texts and manuals are current and approved by the US Catholic bishops. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 9. Each student has his/her own text that they can write in and use during class, take  home if feasible, and keep at the end of the year. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 10. Catechists use the manuals provided to create a lesson plan that actively involves  students. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 11. Parents are encouraged in as many ways as possible to share faith in the home with  their children. Religious education classes are a supplement to what is taught in the  home –not a replacement. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 12. Opportunities for parents to learn and celebrate with their children and to share faith  with other parents are offered as often as possible. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 13. Catechists and assistants are provided with opportunities to grow in their faith as  well as be trained in the ministry of catechesis. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 14. Post-Confirmation teens that are used as assistants be assigned mainly to primary  grades(K-3) |
|  |  |  |  |  | 15. Sacramental preparation for Eucharist/Reconciliation is a 2 year program with  Catholic School students/parents required to participate in the 2nd year. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 16. Sacramental preparation for Eucharist/Reconciliation involves the parents as often as  Possible by means of parent gatherings, Eucharistic celebrations, social activities,  retreats, etc. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 17. Children with special needs are identified and appropriate catechesis provided for  them. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 18. Catechetical leaders and catechists give consideration to students in Grades 7 and 8  respecting their stage of development by offering faith formation in a more creative  and interactive way. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 19. Various resources maintained and made available to catechists, students, parents. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 20. Connection with neighboring parishes, collaboration where possible, and  participation in deanery and diocesan programs to benefit the faith formation  program. |