

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

September 17, 2004

Jerome F. Coniker, President
Apostolate for Family Consecration
3375 County Rd. 36
Bloomington, OH 43910

Dear Mr. Coniker,

I understand that Francis Cardinal Arinze, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, Fr. Pablo Straub, Redemptorist priest, and Sr. John Vianney are your primary teachers on audio (for use in the home) and on video and DVD (for use in schools and religious education programs). Cardinal Arinze teaches the older children and teens (levels 5-12) and adults and Sr. John Vianney speaks to the children K-4 with stories and illustrations. Fr. Pablo's teachings in Spanish make the Faith come alive for both children and parents. These resources make your catechetical programs for levels K-12 valuable tools for teaching the Faith to our media generation.

I am pleased that the two-volume edition of "The Apostolate's Family Catechism" has been approved by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger and the Apostolate's complete "Consecration in Truth Catechetical Program" for levels 1-12, which includes your unabridged and fully illustrated catechism, your two-volume catechism, teaching guides and student workbooks, has been found to be in conformity with the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" by the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

I understand that this multi-media approach will simultaneously teach children and parents the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," Scripture, Vatican II, and major documents of Pope John Paul II, with emphasis on Veritatis Splendor, using the modern means of communications. Particularly important are the Teacher Prep CD's for each lesson.

It would be good for our parishes, schools and religious education programs in the Archdiocese of Chicago to consider using your complete "Consecration in Truth" Catechetical program that includes the Apostolate's two-volume Family Catechism and its related audio and videos for levels K-12.

May God bless you and all those who participate in this program.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

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Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

February 7, 2006

Mr. Jerome F. Coniker
Apostolate for Family Consecration
3375 County Road 26
Bloomington, OH 43910-7903

Dear Mr. Coniker,

Thank you for your letter of January 16, 2006, alerting me of the omission of the Apostolate's Family Catechism from our list of approved texts. All of the Directors of Religious Education in the Archdiocese of Chicago have been informed that any materials found in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church by the Bishops' Committee are approved for use in the Archdiocese of Chicago. I am pleased that the parishes and schools are eager to verify that what they use for teaching the faith is both doctrinally correct and complete.

In the orientation process for new catechetical leaders the Office for Catechesis provides information about the approved texts to the DREs and the list is posted and updated as needed on the OFC website as well as on the webpage of our Jegen Center for Catechetical Media and Research coordinated by Sr. Judith Dieterle. The Jegen website also has a direct link to the USCCB's most up-to-date posting on the materials that have been found in conformity with the Catechism. I am enclosing that as well.

I will make Sr. Judith aware of this situation and ask that she reiterate to the catechetical leaders how they can find out what is approved for use. If you find any other parish that is still in doubt, have them call Sr. Judith at the Office for Catechesis, 312-243-3700.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

Enclosures