

WORD ⁺of LIFE

PRE-8 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

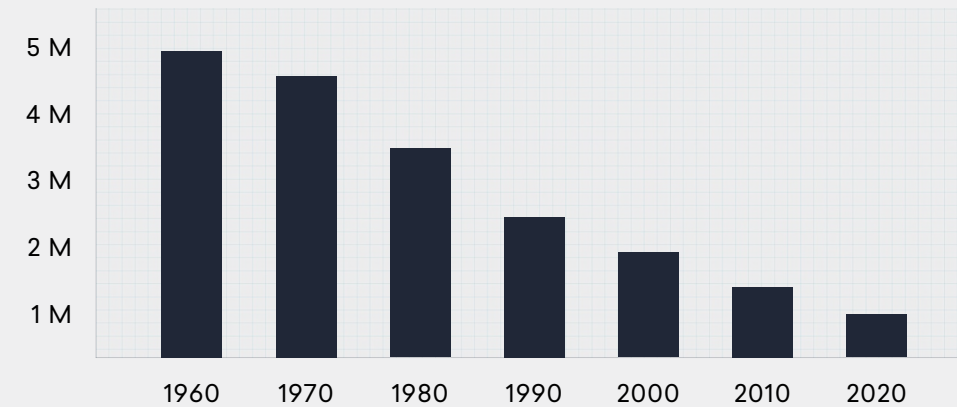
Building Strong Catholics



The Present Crisis of PreK-8 Religious Education

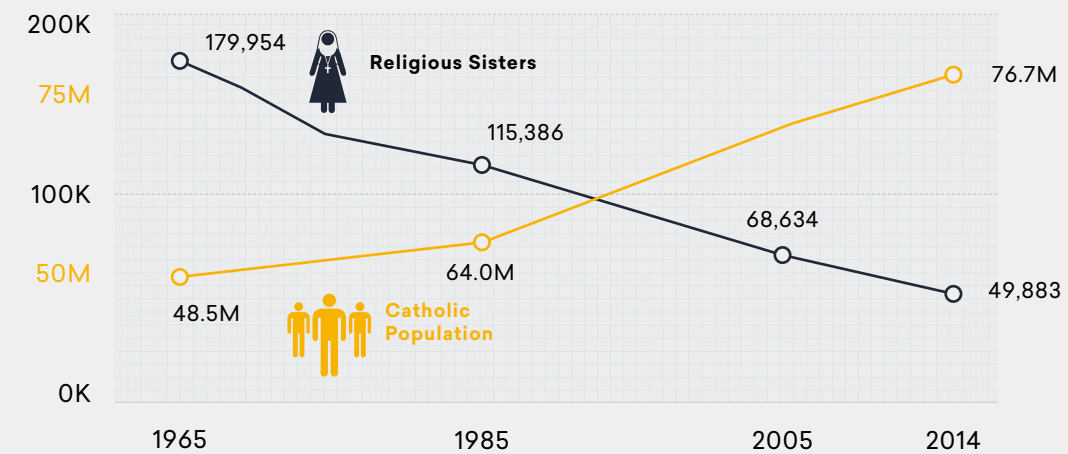
- For the last 100 years, four companies have dominated the Prek-8 marketplace with over 90% market share. During this time, over 8,000 Catholic schools closed despite the Catholic population growing by over 25M.
- There is a great need for curricula to provide comprehensive family catechesis, evangelizing and catechizing both the parents and children.³
- Deeply formed religious sisters have given way to over 150K lay volunteer catechists who often need effective and ongoing formation to communicate the faith effectively.
- Millions of parents have not been evangelized and catechized; therefore, they rely on the parish and Catholic schools to teach the faith.
- Word of Life not only provides faithful teaching, it goes beyond to explain why the faith is relevant in our modern culture. It uses a dynamic combination of print, video, and digital media that resonates with students today. Word of Life curriculum brings together faith and reason and demonstrates how the truths of the faith speak to the human heart.

Catholic Students Enrolled in K-8¹



Enrollment has **declined** by over **4 million children** since 1960

Decline in Religious Sisters and Increase in Catholic Population²



Today there are **only 4,000** religious sisters teaching in Catholic schools

1 National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2019-2020: The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment, and Staffing
 2 Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Georgetown University
 3 Although existing catechetical products teach basic tenants of the Faith, they are not evangelizing and drawing students and families to a true conversion as evidenced by the fact that only one-third of all Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Source: cruxnow.com/news-analysis/2019/08

A Loss of Catholic Identity and Mission

At the heart of the current catechetical crisis is the loss of a true Catholic identity among the faithful, especially young people. This lack of identity has resulted in declining numbers in Catholic parishes and schools as well as a drastic drop in participation in the Sacraments.

An authentic catechetical renewal requires new catechetical models that help children, parents, and families discover their authentic Catholic identity that reinvigorates fruitful participation in the Church's life and mission.

KEY METRICS



Baptism

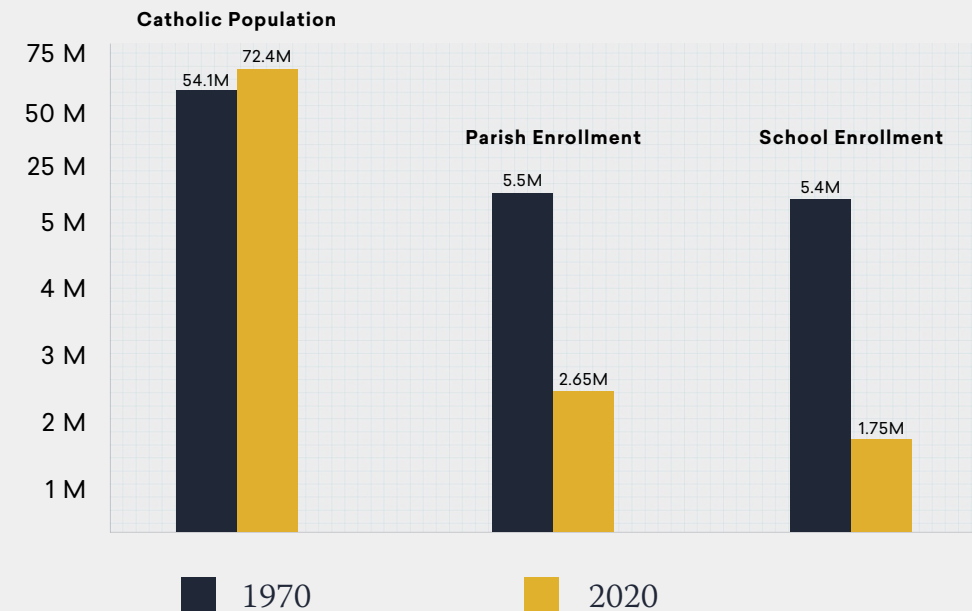


First Eucharist

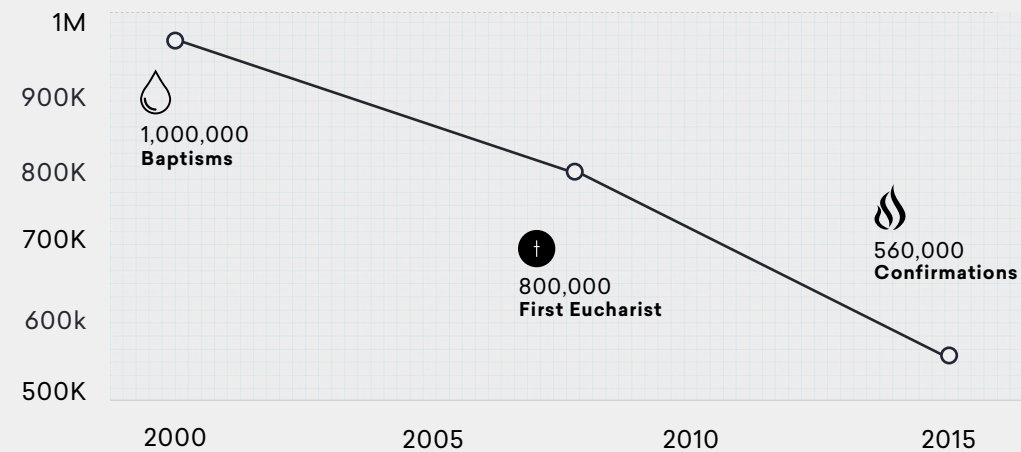


Confirmation

Declining Parish & School Engagement[†]



Losing Our Youth Over Time^{††}



[†] re et dolore magna aliquyam erat, sed diam voluptua. At vero eos et accusam et justo duo dolores et ea

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Recovering Our Catholic Identity

The Four Golden Catechetical Threads in Word of Life:

Salvation History: Revealing God's presence and plan throughout history and our place in that plan.

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

Heroic Virtue and 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.

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 provides an integrated approach that catechizes and *evangelizes* students, parents, families, and teachers.

- An engaging and relevant kerygmatic catechesis that young learners will enjoy through **a blended learning model of textbook, online learning interactions, and engaging video enhancements.**
- **A world-class technology platform** (Learning Management System) that allows young learners and parents to interact within a interact with dynamic faith formation materials both in the classroom and at home.
- **A teach-the-teacher model** that equips the teacher to effectively present the lessons and be formed in the faith as they teach. When teachers and catechists are well-formed and passionate about the content, everyone wins.
- An authentic and comprehensive program for both children and parents, providing **a complete family faith formation** with Word of Life materials and the expansive digital library of Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press.



A Powerful Combination

The Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press have assembled a **highly experienced team of teachers, catechists, evangelists, writers, video producers, designers, and digital learning experts** to create a first of its kind integrated faith formation curriculum.

This project will help fulfill Pope Saint John Paul II's call for a New Evangelization in our schools and parishes—for our children as well as for their parents.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

- Grades PreK–8
- Parish Edition and Catholic School Edition
- Fully bilingual English/Spanish Parish Edition
- World-class technology platform with a feature-rich, customizable private-labeled Learning Management System



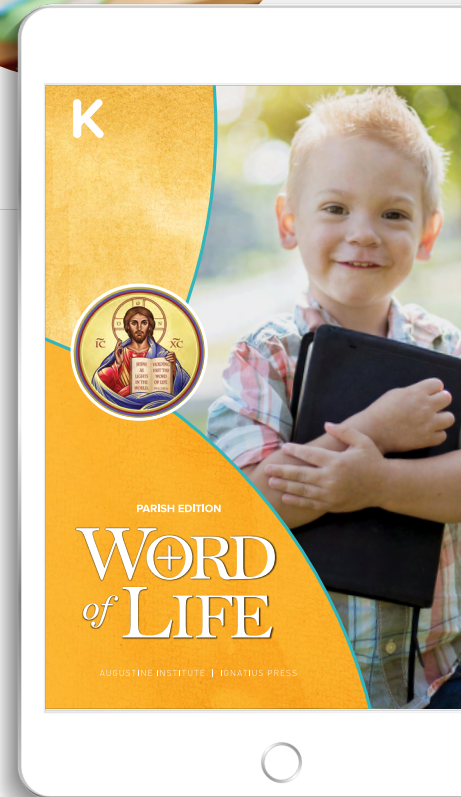
WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Parish Edition 22 Lessons per Grade

- Print and digital Catechist Manuals
- Print and digital student textbooks
- Children-engagement videos and online interactions to enhance every lesson
- Teacher-to-student virtual catechist videos
- Parent formation videos
- Teacher-to-teacher formation videos
- Life application stories by Paul McCusker with Hope Springs characters that

Catholic School Edition 24 Lessons per Grade

- Print and digital Teacher Manuals
- Print and digital student textbooks
- Children-engagement videos and online interactions to enhance every lesson
- Teacher-to-student virtual catechist videos
- Parent formation videos
- Teacher-to-teacher formation videos
- Life application stories by Paul McCusker with Hope Springs characters



Word of Life Textbooks at a Glance



Print and Digital Student Texts

Scripture focused: Every chapter begins with a key Scripture passage.

Meaningful activities: All activities reinforce a key learning point in the lesson.

- **Unit saints:** Each unit focuses on a saint who shows how to apply what is being taught in the lesson to daily life.
- **Paul McCusker stories:** Engaging stories to explore the challenges and joys of living a holy and virtuous life.
- **Activities to encourage conversion and discipleship:** Each chapter has numerous life application activities to nurture integration of the faith in daily life.
- **Family Faith Pages:** Every chapter has a page for parents that provides a brief summary of what the child learned in class, home application, and various activities.



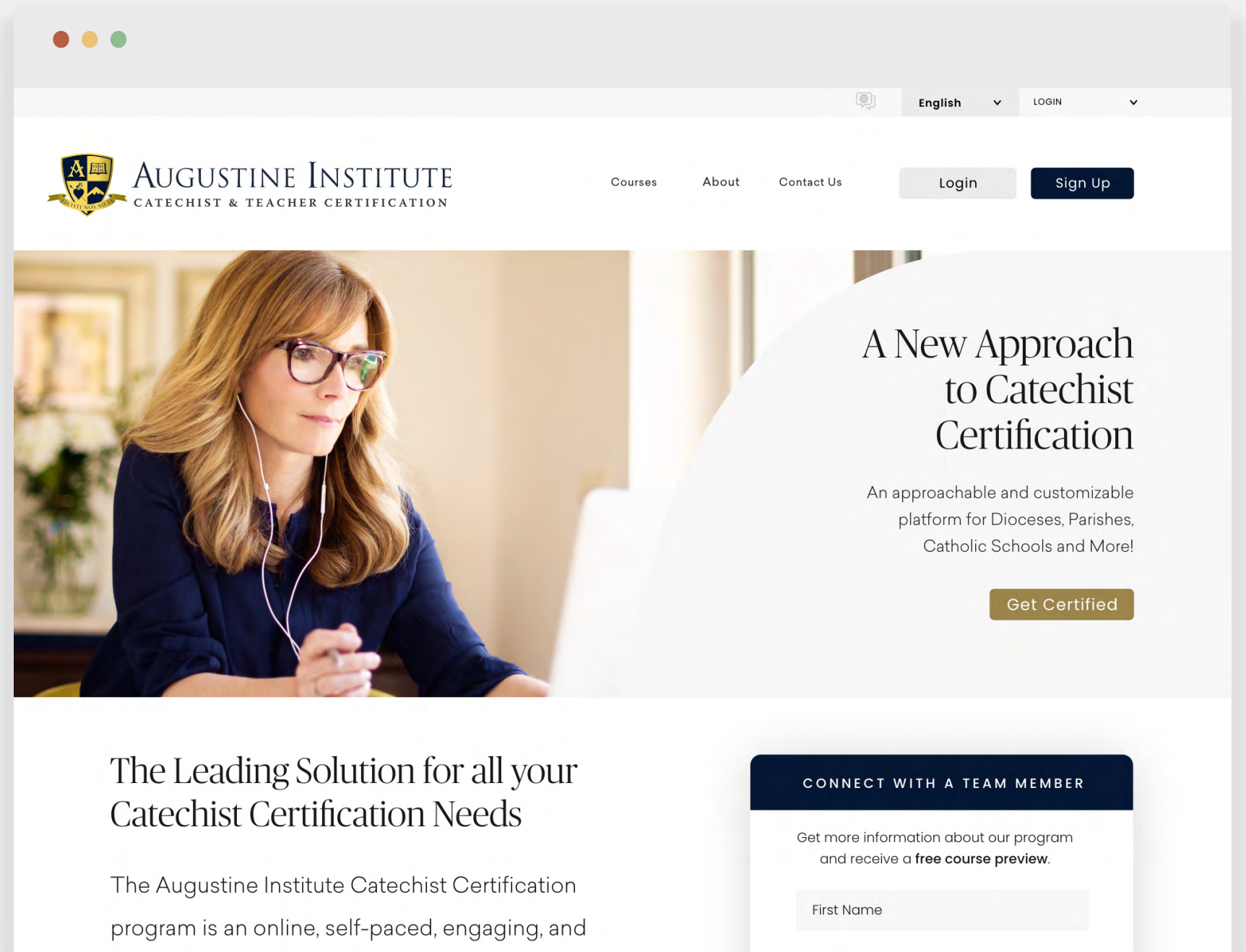
Print and Digital Teacher Manuals

- Written for catechists and teachers of all levels of formation
- Follows the Ecclesial Method
- Detailed lesson plans requiring little teacher preparation
- Facilitates meaningful presentation of lessons and classroom discussion. No reading from the text in class.
- Numerous optional activities to tailor the lesson to students' needs and interests.
- Digging Deeper: Information to allow the teachers to be formed as teach the classes Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press.



Multi-level Catechist Formation:

- Detailed lesson plans with built-in teacher formation material
- Lesson prep audios
- Eight short online courses for fundamental catechist formation
- Access to relevant catechist formation material in the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press digital library
- A full catechist certification program at no cost to Word of Life parishes and schools



Word of Life and the Augustine Institute Studios

Augustine Institute Studios is an award-winning production team with over a decade of experience creating films that inspire and awaken understanding of the Catholic Faith. Filmmakers and Theologians unite under one roof, working together to expertly craft content that teaches the faith with precision, truth and beauty.

This collaboration is the secret ingredient, propelling the Augustine Institute to the forefront of modern Catholic teaching. From here comes the best Catholic content.

AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE™ STUDIOS WILL PRODUCE

- ▶ **24 inspiring short videos** covering the big concepts for each grade year
- ▶ **24 teacher-led video lessons** for each grade year
- ▶ **Formation videos** for the instructors of each grade year
- ▶ **Audio content** of short stories and books for the students
- ▶ **Lectio divina and sacred art videos** to engage students in prayerful reflection



Word of Life Digital Platform

Easy to use digital platform created for today's child and parent designed to keep children engaged with the content even outside of the classroom. Unmatched digital features support and expand upon the rich textbook material. Supports an unrivaled and growing library of resources for continual catechist formation, catechist certification, and parent catechesis.



Multi-level Visibility

Customizable dashboards for all levels of parish and diocesan administration for Religious Education, Catechist and Teacher Certifications, Sacramental Prep, and Parent Programing.



Blended Learning

Transforms how we look at learning by combining traditional in-person class work with virtual classrooms to form an experience that reaches the millions of children not coming to Parish Religious Education (CCD).



Teacher and Catechist Formation

Complete formation program for teachers and catechists to assist them in both preparing for class and teaching their students.



Interactive Digital Textbook

The Student Guide is fully digital and interactive with voice over text, interactive activities, teacher to student videos, and online assessments.



Social Learning

Improves communication with learners through social engagement tools including discussion boards, teacher notifications, and more.



Fully White-Labeled

Completely customizes the learner experience to match the Word of Life brand with specific Parish or Diocesan curriculum additions.



Performance Reporting

Provides operational insight into the platform through advanced reporting tools and organizes learner data for deep cross-organizational or diocesan wide analysis.



Built-in Parent and Family Faith Formation

ENGAGING RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

The Word of Life includes built-in parent and family faith formation that supports parents in their important role as primary catechists of their children. Through both print and media materials, these resources engage and enrich the faith of parents at varying levels of interest, knowledge, and formation.

Online parent web portal designed to equip parents to be primary catechists of children and encouraging personal growth in knowledge and faith.

- Video clips inspire and go deeper into Word of Life children's themes
- Themed access to Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press library of digital
- Family *lectio divina* and prayers
- FAQ library
- Tips for engaging children in the faith

FOR PARENTS—BASICS OF THE FAITH, GROWTH IN DISCIPLESHIP:

- Inspirational formation
- Life integration
- Scripture reflection
- Community building

FOR FAMILIES

- Practical instruction with Whys and Hows to live a joyful Catholic life
- Hands-on activities for faith formation
- Couples programs



ENGAGING RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

Turnkey adult faith formation programs draw on the highly acclaimed programs of adult faith formation developed by Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press such as *The Search*, *Symbolon*, *Footprints of God*, and many others, tailoring them to the needs of parents of school-aged children.

WORD *of* LIFE



Thank you!
Together, we can
renew the Church.

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