

USCCB Conformity Update

Feb. 3, 2016 – *Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation* has been reviewed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and found to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

What does it mean for Chosen to be on the USCCB Conformity List?

Catechetical programs are reviewed by the USCCB for *authenticity*, which indicates that their teachings on faith and morals are in harmony with the doctrine and traditions of the Catholic Church, and for *completeness*, which means that the doctrines of the Church are presented as an integrated whole.

Now that Chosen is on the Conformity List, how does this affect the way I use Chosen with my students?

Ascension Press worked with the USCCB to ensure that *Chosen* fully aligns with its Confirmation preparation guidelines. During the review process, a number of minor edits and clarifications were made to both the Student Workbook and Leader's Guide.

When you order *Chosen* materials going forward, you will receive copies of the revised edition of the Student Workbook. In addition, Ascension will replace your current Leader's Guide(s) with a copy (or copies) of the revised version, at no charge to you (and with free shipping).

How do I receive my free revised Leader's Guide(s)?

Call 1-800-376-0520 to speak with an Ascension Press Study Consultant, who will confirm your previous purchase and arrange to send you a copy of the revised Leader's Guide. You are eligible to receive one free revised Leader's Guide for each one previously purchased—again, at no cost to you.

If I have "leftover" copies of the Student Workbook, can I still use them for my next class? Will I be able to use them along with the revised version?

Yes. The edits were minor and do not affect the overall usability with the original version. Your students will barely notice any difference between the two versions. (When you order additional Student Workbooks, you will receive the revised version.)

I am running a two-year *Chosen* program. Will I need to replace all my copies of the original Student Workbook with the revised version?

No. As previously mentioned, the changes to the revised version of the Student Workbook are minor, so you can continue to use your copies of the original version with your students. You can also continue using your current Leader's Guide. (We still recommend you call 1-800-376-0520 to order your free copy (or copies) of the revised Leader's Guide, however.)

How can I distinguish the revised materials from the original versions?

You can tell the revised version of the Leader's Guide by the "Book of the Year" logo in the upper left corner of the cover. The cover of the Student Workbook is unchanged, but the revised edition is noted by the Declaration of Conformity on the copyright page, immediately above the imprimatur notice.

Why is *Chosen* being included on the Conformity List at this time?

When *Chosen* was originally being developed, the USCCB reviewed supplemental catechetical materials (such as those used for sacramental preparation) only if they were direct supplements to an existing basal curriculum. Since Ascension does not publish a full basal curriculum, *Chosen* could not be submitted at that time.

In 2014, however, the USCCB altered its conformity review policy to permit "stand-alone" sacramental preparation materials to be submitted. At that point, we began working with the USCCB to submit *Chosen* for conformity review, a process that took approximately one year.

Were the Chosen video presentations also reviewed by the USCCB?

As a matter of policy, the USCCB does not review video content. It reviews only written materials. So the Declaration of Conformity applies to the *Chosen* Student Workbook and Leader's Guide.

The wonderful thing about *Chosen* is that it uses both videos and written materials to create a powerful learning experience. We believe the inclusion of *Chosen's* Student Workbook and Leader's Guide on the Conformity List highlights the effectiveness of the program's integrated methodology.

What happened to the Rites of Welcoming and Enrollment?

Since these are not official liturgical rites of the Church, they were removed from the revised *Chosen* written materials to avoid any potential confusion. In their place, we now offer a series of suggested intercessory prayers for candidates, sponsors, and their families, which can be used at Sunday Mass. *Visit ConfirmationStudy.com to download a free PDF.*