Scope & Sequence

CREDO SERIES ELECTIVE III:

Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ

[Framework Elective D: Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ]
Note: The following is a provisional Scope and Sequence for Elective 3 in the Credo series, Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ.
COURSE OVERVIEW
The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. In this course, students learn how all vocations are similar and how they differ. The course is structured around married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life. Students learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community.

CHAPTER 1
God Calls Humanity to Love
CONTENT SUMMARY:
The human vocation: made by love for love / The greatest love story of all time: God's love for us and our response / The desire for God / Love—our common calling and the root of “vocation” / The universal call to holiness / How do we live out our vocation to love? / Jesus is our guide for how to love like God / Christ lives in us / God's abundant grace and sanctification / Making a gift of ourselves / Our unique, personal vocation / Vocation as distinct from career / True success lies in becoming holy / Example of Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 1:26
KEY CATECHISM SOURCES: 27
FAITH WORDS: vocation; holiness; sanctification
LEARN BY HEART: 1 John 4:12

LEARN BY EXAMPLE: Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

CHAPTER 2
Discerning God's Call
CONTENT SUMMARY:
Discerning God’s will for us / Vocation is both personal and service-orientated / Resources for discernment / Ignatian discernment / You are the “light of the world” and “salt of the earth” / The kinds of vocation open to us / The many aspects of vocation / Lay and religious vocations / Married life / Committed single life / Falling in love with God (Lonergan) / Being committed to God in all aspects of one's life / The priestly life / The three degrees of Holy Orders / The consecrated life / Vocation—a team effort; there is a role for everyone / Many gifts, one body in Christ / Lay ecclesial ministries / Lay ecclesial movements / Example of Frank Duff.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
NEW TESTAMENT: Matthew 5:13-16; Mark 10:42-45; Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 and 11-13, 12:4-6; 1 Peter 2:9
KEY CATECHISM SOURCES: 900
FAITH WORDS: Matrimony; Holy Orders
LEARN BY HEART: 1 Corinthians 12:4-5
LEARN BY EXAMPLE: Frank Duff, Servant of God
CHAPTER 3
Serving One Another in Love: The Sacraments at the Service of Communion

CONTENT SUMMARY:
Finding freedom in service / False notions of freedom; bondage in disguise / Choose your master wisely: only God can set us free / Jesus gave us a new commandment / Serving others serves us well / Jesus: God’s sacrament of salvation to the world / The Church as sacrament / Sacraments at the service of communion / Marriage: a vocation of love and service / Servant to one’s spouse, to one’s faith community and to society / Example of Pope Francis on Holy Thursday of 2013 / The ministerial priesthood / Forms of priestly service—teaching, sanctifying and guiding / Example of Maisie Ward and Frank Sheed.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 1:26-27, 12:2

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES: 1547, 1551, 1604
FAITH WORDS: sacrament; Sacraments of Initiation
LEARN BY HEART: Galatians 5:13
LEARN BY EXAMPLE: Maisie Ward and Frank Sheed

CHAPTER 4
The Biblical Roots of Marriage: A Covenant of Life and Love

CONTENT SUMMARY:
The benefits of marriage: findings from studies / Biblical foundations in Genesis 1—3 / God is the author of marriage / Marriage in the Old Testament / Marriage—a sign of salvation / No marriage without God / The marriage of Abraham and Sarah: a God-centered relationship / Marriage of Tobias and Sarah / Marriage in the New Testament / Jesus raised marriage to the status of a sacrament / The wedding at Cana / The formative influence of the married union of Joseph and Mary on Jesus / Jesus’ teaching on marriage / Jesus’ love for his disciples—the Church / The Church’s “theology of the body” / Our bodies’ glorious destiny with God / Our bodies as Temples of the Holy Spirit / Example of Saints Isidore and Maria Torribia.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES: 472, 1603
FAITH WORD: Theology of the Body
LEARN BY HEART: Matthew 16:6
LEARN BY EXAMPLE: St. Isidore of Seville and St. Maria Torribia
CHAPTER 5
The Blessings and Challenges of Marriage

CONTENT SUMMARY:
The graces and blessings of marriage / Marriage: a covenant of life and love; a reflection of God’s love; an unbreakable partnership; a free commitment / Conditions necessary for a sacramental marriage / God blesses the world through marriage / Marriage can be a source of true freedom and liberation / Married love can be both a source and an expression of God’s love at work in the world / Growth in holiness of life through faithful married love / Marriage: a wellspring of blessings / Responsible parenting: education and support / Family: a foundation for life / Challenges to marriage and family life / Real love isn’t easy / The “contraceptive mentality” / Natural family planning / Challenges to married love / Divorce / Justice in marriage / Example of St. Gianna Beretta Molla.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 1:28, 2:18 and 24, 3:16, 9:8-17, 17:1-14; Exodus 19-20; 2 Samuel 7:4-17; Psalm 136:1
NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 10:9; Luke 1:74-75; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 4:10-12 and 16-18

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES: 1625, 1653

FAITH WORD: covenant
LEARN BY HEART: 1 John 4:11-12
LEARN BY EXAMPLE: St Gianna Beretta Molla

CHAPTER 6
Celebrating and Preparing for Marriage

CONTENT SUMMARY:
Celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony / The wedding ceremony: Christian Marriage takes place within a public act of worship / Statement of intentions / Exchange of vows / Exchange of rings and the nuptial blessing / Mixed marriages and marriages with disparity of cult / Conditions for mixed marriages / Preparing for Marriage: a long-term, continuous process; building a strong foundation; early preparation; later preparation; preparing for sexual intimacy / Marriage preparation—a communal responsibility / Diocesan and parish support / Personal and spiritual concerns / Practical concerns / Immediate preparation for the sacrament / Example of Blessed Paul VI.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
NEW TESTAMENT: Matthew 5:1-16, 7:21 and 24-29, 19:3-6, 22:35-40; Mark 10:6-9; John 2:1-11, 15:9-16, 17:20-26; Romans 8:31b-35 and 37-39, 12:1-2 and 9-18, 15:1b-3a, 5-7 and 13; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a and 17-20, 12:31-13:8a; Ephesians 5:2a and 21-33; Philippians 4:4-9; Colossians 3:12-17; Hebrews 13:1-4a and 5-6b; 1 Peter 3:1-9; 1 John 3:18-24, 4:7-12; Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES: 1535

FAITH WORDS: mixed marriage; disparity of cult
LEARN BY HEART: The essential three promises of Marriage
LEARN BY EXAMPLE: Blessed Pope Paul VI
Chapter 7
Living the Married Vocation in Today’s World

Content Summary:
Living the married vocation day to day / Christians who embrace a vocational understanding of Marriage can recognize even mundane tasks as opportunities to grow in holiness / God blesses spouses with the special graces they need to live out their Marriage vows every day / A couple is forever changed by receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony / Grace to love like Christ / Grace to sanctify / Grace to parent / Grace to witness / Social challenges / The impact of weakening family values / Other challenges to family / Challenges from within / The Church offers guidance for difficult times / The question of divorce / Separation and civil divorce / Consequences of unsanctioned remarriage / Annulment / Example of St. Philip Howard.

Scripture References:
New Testament: Mark 10:1-12; Romans 15:2-5

Key Catechism Sources: 1639, 1650, 1656, 1665

Faith Word: annulment

Learn by Heart: CCC, no. 1639

Learn by Example: St. Philip Howard

Chapter 8
The Single Life

Content Summary:
Jesus: the model of the single life / Jesus modeled how single people can live holy lives without entering the priesthood or religious life / Responding to one’s vocation as a committed single person / The value of the single vocation / Discerning the single life / The different faces of single life / The witness of the single life / The blessings of the single life / Fulfilment through friends and community / Fulfilment through service / Intimacy with God / Other spiritual benefits / Some challenges of the single life: feeling different; overwork and isolation; celibacy; longing for intimacy / Example of St. Catherine of Alexandria.

Scripture References:
Old Testament: Genesis 14:17-20; Isaiah 56:3-5

Learn by Heart: Luke 18:29-30

Learn by Example: St. Catherine of Alexandria
CHAPTER 9
Ordained to Serve

CONTENT SUMMARY:
Leadership in the early Church / Ordained to serve as ministers: more than celebrating the sacraments / Oftentimes being “a servant of all” demands real sacrifice / A growing Church: the emergence of deacons, bishops and priests / The role of bishops as overseers and sacramental ministers / Heroic witness: example of Oscar Romero / FAQs in relation to bishops / The role of priests as pastors and sacramental ministers / Latin and Eastern rites and traditions / Example of St. Ambrose.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES: 1550

FAITH WORD: ministerial priesthood

LEARN BY HEART: The Joy of the Gospel, no. 102

LEARN BY EXAMPLE: St. Ambrose

CHAPTER 10
Filled with the Spirit and Wisdom

CONTENT SUMMARY:
Pope Francis compares the Church to a “field hospital” / Deacons as special servants / The works of justice / The Church as a sacrament of God’s reign / Being Church; doing Church / The duties and responsibilities of deacons: worship, word and works / Women in ministries of service / Jesus fully included women in his ministry / Women leaders in the first Christian communities / Getting in touch with Jesus the servant / Growing in holiness / Characteristics common to all of the Church’s ministries: witness, welcome, word, worship and well-being / Example of Michael Ciletti.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 1:26-28

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES: 1570, 1577

FAITH WORD: deacon

LEARN BY HEART: Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, no. 40

LEARN BY EXAMPLE: Michael Ciletti
CHAPTER 11
Prepared and Ordained to Serve the Church

CONTENT SUMMARY:
Called to collaborative leadership / The Pope: a leader like Jesus / Bishops: servant leaders / Becoming a bishop / The consecration of a bishop / Nurturing and preparing vocations to priesthood / The priest serves with “holy order” / The promises of the priest / Obedience to a bishop / The gift of celibacy / Poverty, chastity and obedience: the vows of religious order priests / Preparation of deacons / Ordination of deacons / Effects of the Sacrament of Holy Orders / We are all called to serve others / Example of Terence Cardinal Cooke.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES: 1554, 1557, 1566, 1573, 1579, 1581, 1582, 1583

FAITH WORD: Holy Orders
LEARN BY HEART: 1 Peter 4:10
LEARN BY EXAMPLE: Terence Cardinal Cooke

CHAPTER 12
A New Moment for Lay Ecclesial Ministry

CONTENT SUMMARY:
Varied models of leadership in the Bible / Ministry: meeting the needs of the community / The development of ministry from the early Church / Examples of lay ministers in the Church through the ages / Examples of lay communities within the Church / Living our baptismal vocation: a life of helping others / Vatican II’s teaching on the centrality of the Sacrament of Baptism to Christian faith / Lay ecclesial ministries / The US Bishops’ Document on Lay Ministry: Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord / Living into our vocations / Example of the National Association for Lay Ministry.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
OLD TESTAMENT: 1 Samuel 3:2-10

KEY CATECHISM SOURCES: 898-899, 900.

FAITH WORD: lay ecclesial ministry
LEARN BY HEART: Matthew 28:19-2
LEARN BY EXAMPLE: The National Association for Lay Ministry
For more information on the Credo series, visit www.veritasreligion.com