

## ***What is Faith Foundations?***

The Faith Foundations course provides a 24-lesson overview of the Catholic faith for adults. It was developed by School of Faith, a public association of the faithful based in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas as part of its commission by Archbishop Joseph Naumann to provide ongoing doctrinal and spiritual formation throughout Eastern Kansas.

The online version of the course, produced by My Catholic Faith Delivered (“MCFD”), offers dynamic videos of instruction along with many exciting, high-tech supplemental features to enhance the learning experience. These features are described in more detail below.

The Faith Foundations program combines doctrinally solid content with a continual summons to conversion and prayer. The course thus covers all four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in a way that moves both the head and the heart.

## ***What is the intended audience?***

Faith Foundations is appropriate for anyone wanting an overview of what the Catholic Church teaches and why it matters. The course is suitable as a basic adult enrichment course, as a supplement to RCIA or to diocesan programs such as *Why Catholic?*, or even as a tool for the ongoing formation of Catholic school teachers and catechists.

The state-of-the-art technology allows the course to accommodate diverse learning styles, so no one is left behind. The learner may repeat a lesson or part of a lesson multiple times to ensure mastery.

In addition, the learner is continually invited, by means of links and various supplemental media, to go ever deeper in his or her exploration of the Catholic faith.

### ***How long is the course?***

The full Faith Foundations contains 24 lessons, with four additional mini-lessons that are optional. One may, however, opt to take the course on a semester basis. The first semester (Faith Foundations I) is lessons 1-12, while the second semester (Faith Foundations II) is lessons 13-24. The timing of the lessons (e.g., one lesson per week, or perhaps one lesson every other week) is completely up to the individual. For some dioceses, there is also an option of an 8-lesson course entitled Liturgy & Sacraments.

### ***Has the course received Church approval?***

In fidelity to the Church and in furtherance of our mission to provide authentically Catholic material, we seek ecclesiastical approval for all My Catholic Faith Delivered courses. We have submitted the online version to appropriate authorities for an *imprimatur* and *nihil obstat*, which are pending.

### ***Is Faith Foundations suitable for catechist/teacher certification and/or continuing education?***

Yes! Several dioceses are now using the Faith Foundations course for that purpose. Consult the director of religious education (or its equivalent) for your diocese to see if the course is already used for that purpose in your locality. If it isn't, you may ask the diocesan representative to review the course and consider approving it for your diocese.

The MCFD platform is especially well suited for this purpose, given its superior record keeping, assessment, and reporting capabilities, which can be readily tailored to meet the specific needs of the individual diocese.

### ***What are some advantages of this online course for individual users?***

The Faith Foundations course allows for learning about the Catholic faith on an “anytime, anywhere” basis. Learners may take the course on the day and hour that works best for their busy schedule, and without having to drive to the parish or some remote location.

This format also allows students to navigate through individual lessons at his or her own pace, and always with opportunities to go deeper on a particular topic. And with pre- and post-assessments built into the course, the individual student is challenged to master the subject matter of each lesson.

### ***Can the course be used in a group setting?***

Yes! We offer what is called a Group Display License that allows for the course to be shown in a classroom, parish hall, or other public setting when at least 8 individual user licenses are purchased as well.. See the next question for more details as to how this may be done.

### ***How is the course used in a group setting?***

The course can and should be adapted to meet the needs of the particular group. Here are three suggested ways that the course may be used in a group setting:

With a Group Display License, the learners would be encouraged to go through a lesson before they gather as a group. That way, when the group comes together, they can go deeper in their prayer and discussion. The learner would have the opportunity to interact with each other via the discussion boards and utilize all the aspects of the online course.

In this model, the individual members of the group take the course individually, but then gather periodically, perhaps weekly, every two weeks, or once a month. Gatherings are up to the discretion of each group. The group could gather for an evening/day of recollection, discussion of the last few lessons, a presentation by a guest speaker, a family potluck and fellowship, or other activities that would both reinforce the lessons and build community.

When the group comes together, the materials may be shown on a large screen by means of a projector. The group leader can then take advantage of hovers, links, and other more interactive features, and also to skip around the parts of the lesson as desired. Additional live teaching may take place as the leader desires.

It should be noted here that there is a social networking feature associated with the Faith Foundations course that will allow the members of the group to continue their discussion beyond the confines of the group's gathering.

### ***What components of the course are most beneficial for group study?***

While each group is free to design its own group program around the online course, the following features may be most conducive to a larger gathering, in whatever shape that might take:

***(a) Opening Prayer*** The opening prayer video, led by Archbishop James P. Keleher with music provided by Eric Genuis, uses traditional Catholic prayers to introduce the subject matter of the lesson. These meditative, aesthetically pleasing videos will put the group in the right frame of mind as the new lesson begins.

***(b) Video Lectures*** The instructional videos provide on average 25-30 min. of instruction. This will give everyone a good overview of the lesson. Even for those who have individual licenses for the course, this half-hour review could help reinforce the learning in an easy-to-watch format.

***(c) Discussion and Reflection*** These are one-minute, meditative videos that invite the learner to reflect and apply what was learned in the preceding video segment. There are usually two of these per lesson. The group as a whole or in smaller groups may wish to share on these topics before moving on to the next video segment.

***(d) Questions for Reflection*** After the videos we have provided questions to help learners apply the lesson to their own lives, in their own words. This exercise, done individual, in small groups, or as one larger group, will help bring closure to the lesson and foster godly resolutions for growing in one's faith and prayer life during the upcoming week and beyond.

The lesson could then conclude with the leader inviting people to offer their intercessions for the coming week, followed by a prayer or inspirational hymn.

### ***Are there any discounts available?***

Yes, if your diocese is an “institutional partner” of MCFD. Contact your diocesan religious education office or the MCFD office to find out if your diocese is an institutional partner. If it is, you will be given instructions as to how to access the discount. If your diocese is not already an institutional partner, you may want to gently ask, “Why not?”! Moreover, as noted above, aside from “institution partnerships” discounts may still apply for bulk purchases.

### ***All this sounds interesting, but can I first sample a lesson to see if this is what I’m looking for?***

Yes! Here’s how to do it:

- (1) Return to the MCFD home page: [www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com](http://www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com)
- (2) Click “Free Lessons”
- (3) Provide requested information, click “create account.”
- (4) Back to MCFD
- (5) Click “My Curriculum.”
- (6) Click Faith Foundations, Lesson 6.

Review Lesson 6! Once you’re registered at the site you will also be able to review sample lessons from other MCFD course offerings, which are also accessible on the “My Curriculum” page.

### ***What’s the “Supporting the Lesson” feature?***

Each lesson begins with these “Supporting the Lesson” sections to help the learning get the most out of it:

***Opening Prayer:*** Each lesson begins with a traditional Catholic prayer associated with the subject matter of the lesson. The prayer is led by Most Reverend James P. Keleher, Archbishop Emeritus of Kansas City, Kansas, with music provided by composer/pianist Eric Genuis.

***Objectives:*** We concisely set forth the learning objectives of each lesson.

***Pre-Assessment:*** This multiple-choice assessment will test what you already know about the subject matter of the lesson. Once the assessment is completed, the system not only scores it, but also provides clear rationales as to why a given answer is correct or incorrect.

***Vocabulary:*** We define at the outset some of the key terms that will be used in the lesson. In addition, during the lesson you may move your cursor over a term to get a brief definition without having to leave the page.

***Words to Live By:*** We provide a recommended memory verse for each lesson, which may also be used as a screen saver for your computer.

### ***What are the components of a lesson?***

After “Supporting the Lesson” section, the student comes to the lessons themselves. The components of the lesson may be taken at one’s own pace, or the student may set the lesson on “autoplay.” The sequence of the lesson is displayed along the left side of the screen, and at any time the student may click on to whatever component he or she wishes to view or re-view.

The heart of each lesson is the ***video*** presentation by School of Faith’s Michael Scherschligt. The video presentation is broken up into approximately six to eight bite-sized segments. Each video segment includes helpful b-roll footage as well as the text of scriptural passages mentioned during the course of the video.

In between each video segment are other features to enhance the learning experience. Most lessons have two ***Discussion and Reflection*** sections. As noted

above, these are one-minute, meditative videos that invite the learner to reflect and apply what was learned in the preceding video, with opportunities if desired to journal and/or share one's responses within a defined population of learners.

Various other features supplement the video presentation, appealing to various learning styles. These sections provide concise summaries of Church teaching, multi-media presentations, and also "hovers" and links to other supplemental resources.

After a concluding video in which Scherschligt ties together the themes from the lesson, we provide additional resources to help the learner to digest the material:

***Additional Questions*** This section offers additional tracts on issues related to the subject matter of the lesson.

***Questions for Reflection*** These questions help the learners individually or as a group to apply the lesson to their daily lives.

***Post-Assessment*** This section ensures that the learner has an adequate grasp of the subject matter of the lesson.

***Closing Prayer*** We conclude with a Glory Be, praising the Holy Trinity from whom all blessings flow.

### ***What if faith-related questions arise while I'm taking the course?***

That would be great! That means that you're actively engaging the subject matter of the course!

There are several ways to get answers for your faith-related questions:

(1) Toward the end of each lesson is a section entitled "Additional Questions." These are tracts on issues related to the subject matter of the lesson. One of them may address your particular question.

(2) Click on the "live chat" at the MCFD homepage and there click on "ask a theologian." One of our theologically trained staff members will respond to your question.

(5) We warmly invite Faith Foundations learners to visit *Catholic Hour*, the official blog of My Catholic Faith Delivered. It may be accessed at the bottom of the MCFD homepage, or by going directly to <http://blog.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com/>. There are already over 200 archived articles on faith-related topics, with new material posted each day.

***What do I do if I need technical support or other assistance?***

There are several ways to contact the MCFD staff for technical support:

(1) Call: 1-866-981-8964

(2) Fax: 1-866-981-8964

(3) Email: [admin@mycatholicfaithdelivered.com](mailto:admin@mycatholicfaithdelivered.com)

(4) Online: click the “online support” button on the lower-left side of the homepage and then follow the prompts.