

# GENERAL CHURCH AND ACADEMY K-12 HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND VISION

Affirmed February, 2003 by the History and Social Studies Curriculum Committee

The **purpose** of this New Church History and Social Studies curriculum is to reflect the Lord and His Providence, His infinite protection of freedom and rationality and His provision for our needs, that we may be intelligent and useful citizens of this world and the next.

*AC 1121 ...Those who live in the world at this day, who love the Lord and the neighbor, have also the law written upon them, and are acceptable citizens everywhere on earth, as the same are in the other life.*

The **vision** for fulfilling this purpose can be described by the following goals.

### BROAD GOALS

- The Lord:** Assist students in appreciating and understanding how the Lord continually looks to the salvation of the human race.  
*AC 1820 The Lord's love—a most ardent love—was the salvation of the whole human race...  
Can 3 The creation of the universe has as its end an angelic heaven from the human race and in consequence with people and angels, the communication and conjunction of His love and wisdom, and thereby their blessedness and happiness to eternity.*
- The Word:** Assist students in developing an awareness that there will always be a church on earth where the Lord's Word is received and where consequently the Lord is known, and that these churches have played an important role in the history of the world.  
*AC 103555:6 From all this it may be seen how forms of revelation have followed one after another from the earliest eras down to the present, and that at the present day revelation is given through the Word alone.  
SS 105 For the Word in the church, although existing with comparatively few, is life to all the rest, from the Lord through heaven.*
- Charity:** Assist students in developing their view of the neighbor and provide opportunities to understand and love each individual, one's community, one's country, the church, the human race, heaven and the Lord.  
*NJHD 91 But the neighbor is not only a person singly, but also people collectively, as a less or greater society, our country, the church, the Lord's kingdom, and, above all, the Lord Himself; these are the neighbor to whom good is to be done from love.*
- Conjugal Love:** Assist students in appreciating and understanding how the institution of marriage and family is essential to the order of society.  
*SE 2705 For all heavenly society is founded in marriage love, from which all loves and feelings of goodness are derived.  
DP 77 Everyone is able, from [his/her] faculty called rationality, to understand that...justice, sincerity and the chastity of marriage are useful to society...*
- Spiritual World:** Assist students in seeing and appreciating the correspondential relationship of cause and effect in the natural and spiritual worlds.  
*AE 1206:2 For there is a spiritual world; and that world is prior, interior and superior to the natural world, consequently everything in the spiritual world is a cause, and everything in the natural world is an effect.*
- Order:** Assist students in appreciating and understanding how civil, moral and spiritual laws preserve the order and uses of society.  
*DP 322:8 Live these laws not only as civil and moral laws but also as Divine laws, and you will be a spiritual person.*
- Use:** Assist students in valuing and understanding the infinite variety of uses in an orderly society.  
*TCR 746 Uses are the bonds of society.... There are spiritual uses, which pertain to love of God and love to the neighbor; there are moral and civil uses, which pertain to love of the society and community in which a person lives, and of the companions and citizens with whom [he/she] lives.*
- Human Form:** Assist students in recognizing that the development of society, like the development of the individual human being, reflects the Grand Man/Divine Human.  
*TCR 762:2 In the Lord's sight the church looks like one person: and this person on the grand scale will pass through the same stages in his/her life as one on the small scale, progressing, that is, from childhood to adolescence, from that to young adulthood, and finally to old age: and then after death he/she will rise again.*
- Creation (Influx):** Assist students in appreciating and understanding how people interact with and respond to the natural world given to them by the Lord.  
*TCR 13:1, 2 ...there is no detail in [the Lord's plan for a heaven from the human race] which does not conceal services either nearly or distantly designed to benefit human beings. Their food is provided by the fruits of the earth and also by animals, their clothing from the same sources.*
- Divine Providence:** Assist students in understanding that the Lord's Providence governs all events, providing and protecting everything good, yet permitting evils (such as wars), and tragedies (such as natural catastrophes) out of which He can bring good.  
*AC 6303 For when the Lord is with someone He leads [him/her] and makes provision so that all that happens, whether sad or joyful, may bring about what is good. This is Divine Providence.*

The **strategies** for implementing these purpose and vision statements are contained in each grade level's curriculum.