

Final Performance Task Options for Unit 7

Important Information for Both Options

The following are the main ideas you are to understand from this unit. They should appear in this final performance task so your teacher can assess whether you learned the most essential content.

- The Magisterium interprets how the Scriptures and Tradition relate to the events and challenges of today.
- The Magisterium communicates its teaching in a variety of different ways and at different levels—from the Vatican, national conferences of bishops, bishops' teachings, the preaching of the priests at Mass, teachers and catechists, and the conduct and words of everyday Catholics.
- Church members must learn how to make decisions about applying Church teaching to their individual circumstances.
- The Church makes moral judgment about political and social matters when human dignity or salvation is at risk. The Church's mission is distinct from political authorities, even when it speaks in the political arena.

Option 1: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops General Assembly Meeting

You have been asked to research and create a 15- to 20-minute presentation on the most recent meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) General Assembly meeting (held the previous November) for an RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) session at your parish. The purpose of the presentation is to help new members of the Church to understand the role of the Magisterium and topics the Magisterium is addressing in the United States. Your presentation is to explain what the general assembly is, what the agenda was for the most recent meeting, and the key topics addressed by the assembly. Follow these guidelines in creating your presentation:

- Include a brief description of what the USCCB General Assembly is, who comes to it, and what its role is.
- Summarize the agenda for the most recent meeting, including the length of the assembly gathering and the role of prayer over the days of the assembly.
- Describe three of the topics discussed.
- Identify three Church documents or teachings that are relevant to each of the topics discussed and cite a specific part of these that is relevant to the debate.



- Summarize the actions taken or decisions made by the USCCB General Assembly in relation to the three topics you identified.

Additionally, you are to write a two-page reflection on the role of the bishops' conference, concluding with a summary of your impressions of the bishops' conference and a response to this question: How will the decisions made at the most recent general assembly meeting impact your daily life, the lives of other Catholics, and your parish over the next three years? Provide specific examples.

As part of this final performance task, you may choose to contact the bishop's office of your local diocese and ask to speak with the bishop or his representative about this project. Before contacting your local bishop, review with your teacher questions you would like to ask and receive approval to proceed. Here are some questions you might consider asking:

- What are the procedural processes for the USCCB General Assembly? How does a topic get placed on the agenda, and what goes into addressing that topic before the assembly?
- What do you believe are the benefits and challenges of the USCCB General Assembly process?
- What topics addressed by the general assembly do you have particularly strong feelings about? Why?

Option 2: Bulletin Article Series

You are on the parish council. The social justice committee has expressed the need to educate the parish about the connection between the Gospel and action on behalf of justice. The council wants to educate the parish members about how the teaching of the Church can serve as a guide in making decisions that influence their lives and the lives of others. Your task is to write five one- to two-page articles to publish as bulletin inserts for Sunday liturgy. Follow these guidelines in writing your articles:

- The first article is to explain the role of the Magisterium for the faith community today.
- The second, third, and fourth articles are to address specific justice issues relevant in the United States.
- The fifth article is to identify a local justice issue, cite the Gospels and Church documents that address the issue, and challenge the parish community to take action.
- Incorporate basic definitions as well as quotations from the Scriptures and Church documents that summarize the teaching role of the Church.
- For each article write one reflection question that challenges parish members to consider their own individual response to the issue presented. Include your personal reflection on each of the questions.

