Understanding the Common Core State Standards and their Role in Catholic Education

By Annemarie Fisher, Department of Education
Advised by Dr. Jackie Arnold

What is Common Core?
- Set of academic standards
- 44 states adopted
- ELA & Math
- Created by National Governors Association for Best Practices & Council of Chief State School Officers
- Process begun in 2009

What’s different about Common Core?
- Unites country
- Common assessment tool
- Goal: college and career readiness
- 3 main shifts in approaches to education
  - Content-rich nonfiction
  - Evidence-based writing
  - Text complexity

What does Common Core mean for Catholic education?
- Private schools not dictated by states
- BUT many dioceses have adopted standards
- NCEA issued statement in support
- Creation of Common Core Catholic Identity Initiative
- Opposition: Letter from professors to USCCB

How are schools implementing Common Core?
- Focus on professional development
- College and school collaboration
- Focus on content taught and methods used
- Opportunities for active learning
- Collective participation
- Horizontal and vertical alignment

Resources include...