

DIOCESE OF BOISE

OFFICE OF CATECHESIS



The Office of Catechesis supports the mission of the Diocese of Boise by assisting the Bishop in carrying out his role as the chief catechist of the diocese.

Catechist Certification

Introduction to Catechesis: Fundamental Tasks of Catechesis



Kathy Barkdull, Presenter

Opening Prayer

As we prayerfully place ourselves in the presence of the Holy Spirit, reflect on your call to be a catechist as the Scripture passage is read.

*But each of us was given grace
according to the measure of Christ's gift...
The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles,
some prophets,
some evangelists,
some pastors and teachers,
to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,
until all of us come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to maturity,
to the measure of the full stature of Christ.*

Ephesians 4:, 11-13

Introductions

When was the first time you said
“Yes” to the call of Catechist?



Questions/Comments??

Use the “Chat” box option in your tool pane on the right side of your screen.



The screenshot shows a meeting tool pane with the following elements:

- Tools | Help** (top right)
- Showing my Screen** (dropdown menu)
- Give Control** (microphone icon)
- Change Presenter** (screen icon)
- Record** (red circle icon)
- Mute Me** and **Mute All** (buttons)
- John Doe (Host, Me)** (name and status)
- Audio** section with radio buttons for **Use Telephone** and **Use Mic & Speakers**, and a **Setup** button.
- Annotation** and **Start Webcam** (icons)
- view chat history** (link)
- [type message here]** (text input field)
- All** (dropdown menu)
- Send** (button)
- Invite** (button)
- Meeting ID: 1493-1447** and **R-HUB** (text)



The Catechist

“A catechist is a person who facilitates the process of faith formation first by echoing the word of God in his or her own life and second by helping others to do so.”


The Catechist Toolbox

Essential Tasks

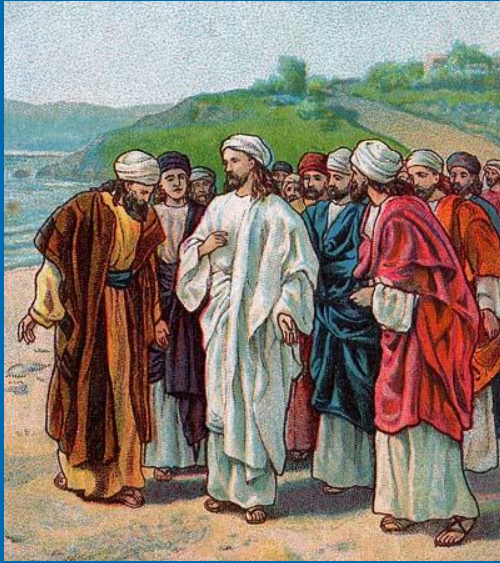
- What is one task you think would be essential in your catechetical program?



Six Fundamental tasks of Catechesis

1. Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
 2. Participation in Liturgical and Sacramental Life
 3. Moral Formation
 4. Teaching to Pray
 5. Preparation and Participation in Community
 6. Developing a Missionary Spirit
- 

The Tasks of Catechesis



Inspired by the manner in which Jesus formed his disciples by making known the different dimensions of the Kingdom of God.

- Jesus instructed his disciples
- He prayed with them
- He showed them how to live
- He gave them his mission

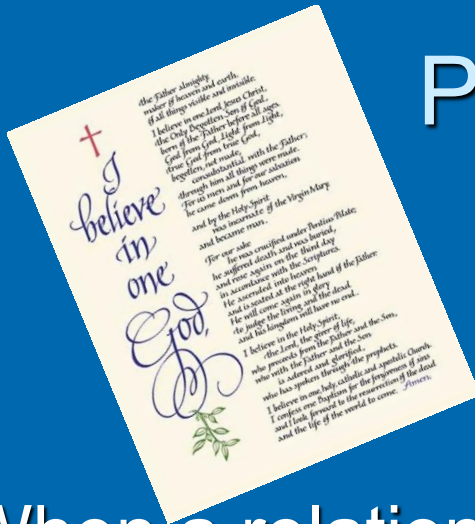
“...the faith demands to be known, celebrated, lived, and translated into prayer. Catechesis must cultivate each of these dimensions. The faith, however, is lived out by the Christian community and proclaimed in mission; it is a shared and proclaimed faith.”

GDC 84

The background of the slide features several concentric, light blue circular ripples that resemble water droplets hitting a surface, scattered across the lower half of the frame.

“These dimensions must also be encouraged by catechesis. The Second Vatican Council expresses these duties as follows:” ...”catechetical instruction, which illumines and strengths the faith develops a life in harmony with the Spirit of Christ, stimulates a conscious and fervent participation in the liturgical mystery and encourages men to take an active part in the apostolate.”

Promoting Knowledge of the Faith



When a relationship between two people deepens, they want to get to know each other. This getting to know each other lasts a lifetime. Our faith life is no different. As we come to know the other person's life story we discover the mystery of that person. This is the task of passing on the knowledge of Faith.

“Such an encounter engenders in the hearers a desire to know about Christ, his life, and the content of his message. Catechesis responds to this desire by giving the believers a knowledge of the content of God’s self-revelation, which is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, and by introducing them to the meaning of the Creed.”

NDC 20.1

Teaching the Knowledge of the Faith

A Sample of the Catechetical topics (keeping in mind the age level of the student)

- ❖ God as Creator
- ❖ The God of Mercy
- ❖ Jesus as the Bread of Life
- ❖ The Holy Spirit
- ❖ Mary and Saints
- ❖ The Bible
- ❖ The Creed
- ❖ Incarnation & the Paschal Mystery
- ❖ The hierarchical structure of the Church
- ❖ Church History
- ❖ The Precepts of the Church

Liturgical Formation




“Since Christ is present in the sacraments, the believer comes to know Christ in the liturgical celebrations of the Church and is drawn into communion with him... Catechesis should promote “an active, conscious, genuine participation in the liturgy of the Church”

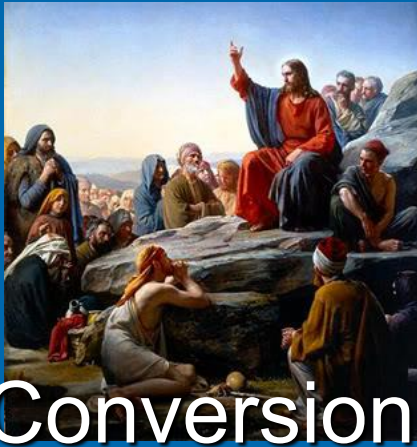
NDC 20.2

“...catechesis, along with promoting a knowledge of the meaning of the liturgy and the sacraments, must also educate the disciples of Jesus Christ “for prayer, for thanksgiving, for repentance, for praying with confidence, for community spirit, for understanding correctly the meaning of the creeds...,” as all of this is necessary for a true liturgical life.”

GDC 85

Catechesis for Liturgical Formation

- ❖ The Sign of the Cross
 - ❖ The Parts and History of the Mass
 - ❖ The Sacraments
 - ❖ Transubstantiation
 - ❖ Eucharist as the Source of Catholic Identity
 - ❖ Liturgical Seasons
 - ❖ Liturgical Symbols and Sacramentals
 - ❖ Triduum
 - ❖ Liturgical Prayer, Petition and Music
 - ❖ Liturgical Feast and Holy Days
- 



Moral Formation

- Conversion to Jesus Christ implies walking in his footsteps.
- This requires a journey of interior transformation by participating in the Paschal Mystery – from death to the old life to a life in Christ.

“Jesus’ moral teaching is an integral part of his message. Catechesis must transmit both the content of Christ’s moral teachings as well as their implications for Christian living. Moral catechesis aims to conform the believer to Christ – to bring about personal transformation and conversion. It should encourage the faithful to give witness – both in their private lives and in the public arena – to Christ’s teaching in everyday life.”

NDC 20.3



- In order to promote moral formation, we need to practice what we preach.
- The bishops speak of one who “...is a model of Christian virtue and a courageous witness to the Catholic faith.” (NDC 55)
- Notice the bishops don't say perfect people, but rather models.

Catechesis for Moral Formation

- The Beatitudes (an indispensable point of reference for the moral formation needed for full conversion)
- Development of a Moral Conscience
- An Understanding of Sin and Free Will
- Ten Commandments
- Saints as Models of Virtue
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Cardinal Virtues
- Church's View on the Sanctity of Life
- Chastity and Modesty

Teaching to Pray



“Conversion to Christ and communion with him lead the faithful to adopt his disposition of prayer and reflection.

His prayer was always directed toward his Father.

Catechesis should invite the believer to join Christ in the Our Father. Prayer should be the ordinary environment of all catechesis so that the knowledge and practice of the Christian life may be understood and celebrated in its proper context.”

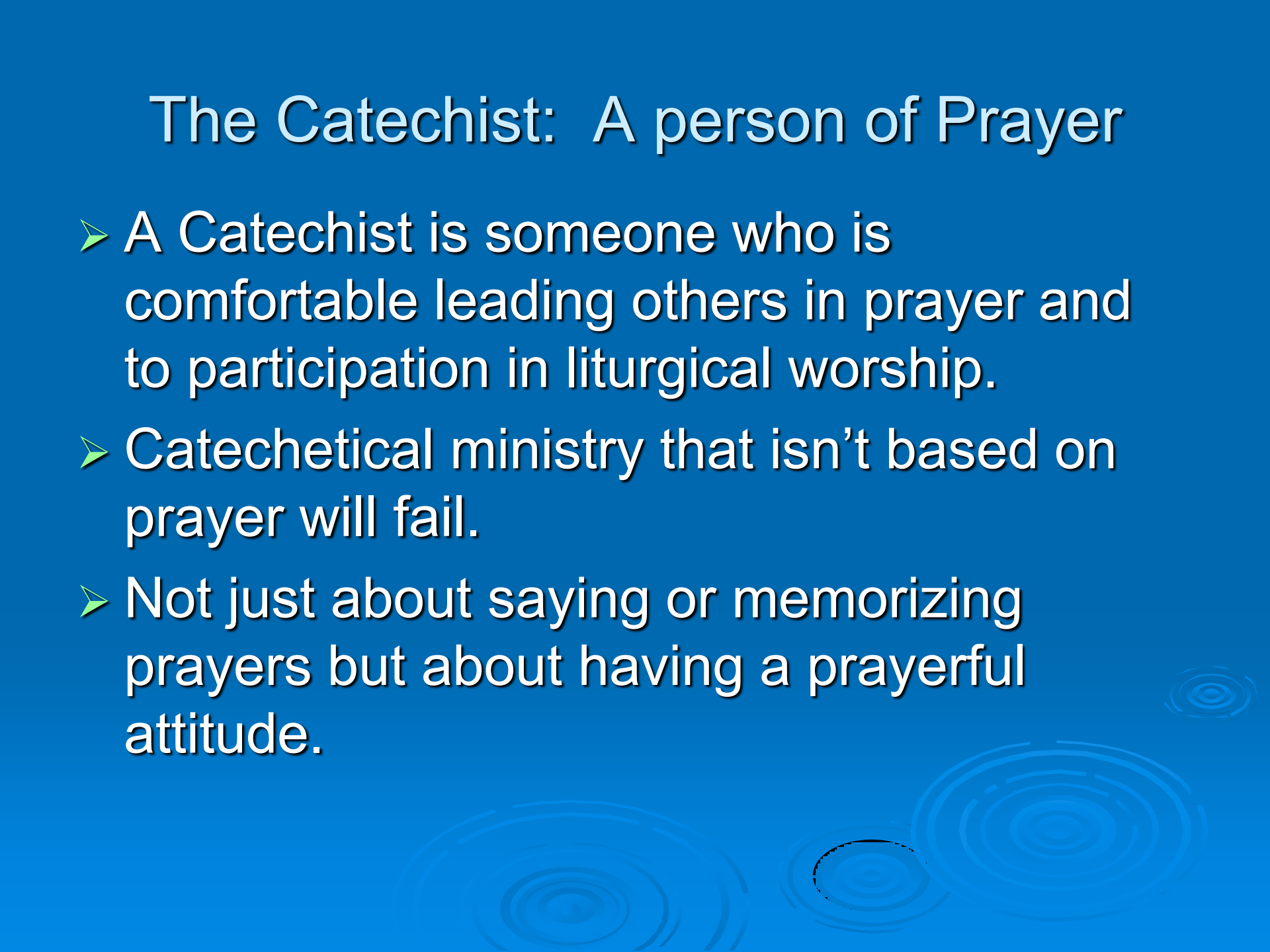
NDC 20.4

“In a good lesson, prayer is not just the frosting on the cake. It is not just a set of bookends to open and close a class. Prayer is the extension cord we need in order to reach out to and plug into our source of energy: our Creator, God. Prayer *is* part of the content and doctrine of our lessons. As we pray, so we believe. As we believe, so we pray. To teach prayer is to teach a way of life.”

The Catechist Toolbox



The Catechist: A person of Prayer

- A Catechist is someone who is comfortable leading others in prayer and to participation in liturgical worship.
 - Catechetical ministry that isn't based on prayer will fail.
 - Not just about saying or memorizing prayers but about having a prayerful attitude.
- 

Teaching others to Pray

- Become familiar with Part Four *Christian Prayer* of the Catechism
- Preparing a Prayer Center/Corner
- Teaching Traditional and Liturgical Prayers
- Leading Meditative or Reflective Prayer
- Leading Liturgical/Ritual Prayer
- Prayers of Petition, Thanksgiving, Adoration, Praise
- Invite the Parishioners to be *Prayer Partners* with the Students
- Lectio Divina (Reading Scripture, Meditation, Prayer, Contemplation)



Education for Community Life

“...catechesis encourages an apprenticeship in Christian living that is based on Christ’s teachings about community life. It should encourage a spirit of simplicity and humility, a special concern for the poor, particular care for the alienated, a sense of fraternal correction, common prayer, mutual forgiveness and a fraternal love that embraces all these attitudes.”

NDC 20.5

Attitudes for Community Life

- We all have gifts for building up the Church.
- We should prepare all to affirm their Catholic Identity while respecting the faith of others.
- For many, we are the first image of Christ for those who come to the Church.
 - ❖ Do we greet them as Jesus greeted the Samaritan woman, the woman caught in adultery and the centurion whose servant was ill?
 - ❖ Or are we more like the disciples who urged Jesus to send away the Canaanite woman?

Ecumenical Dimension of Community Life

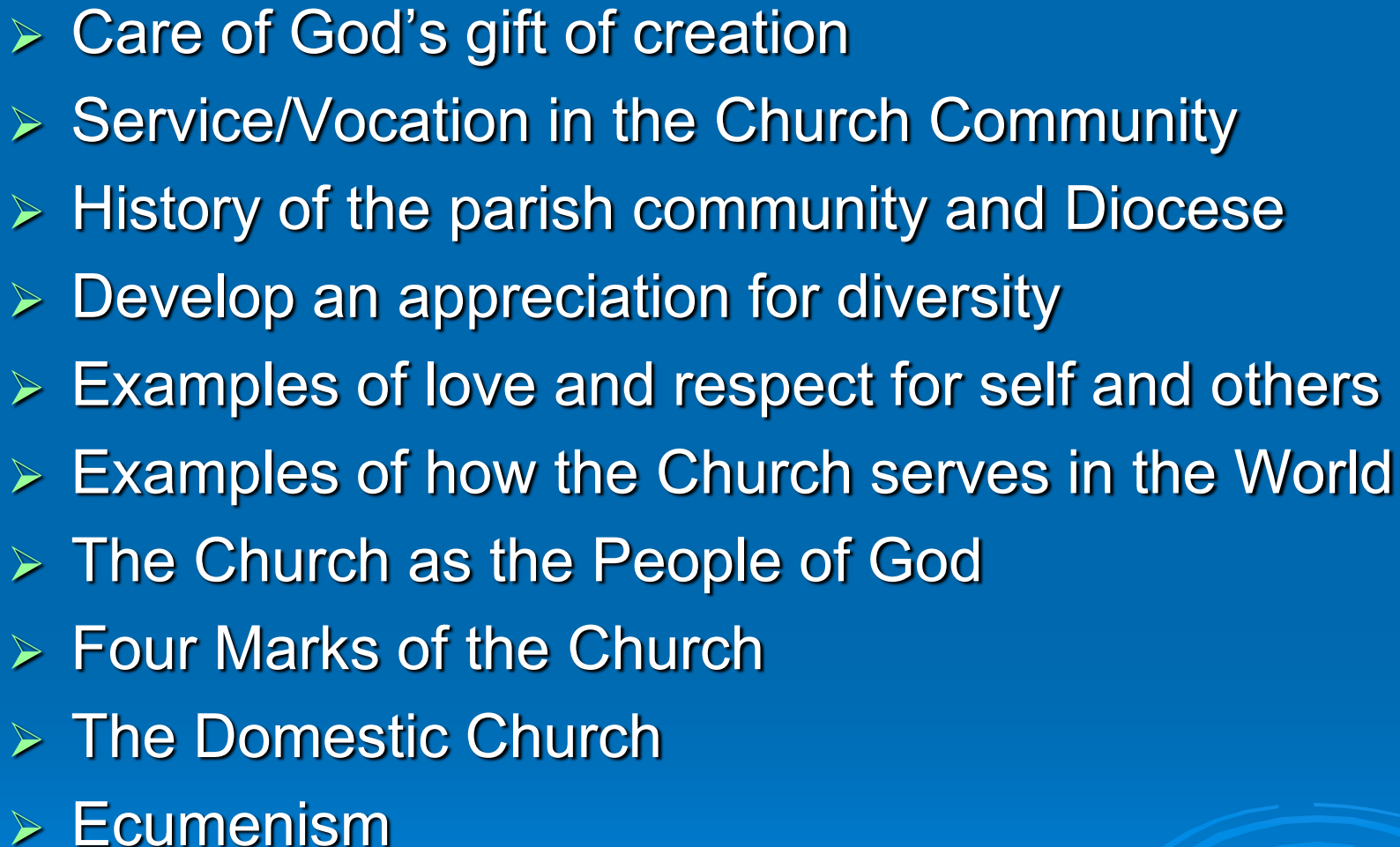
This task also calls for ecumenical awareness.

This implies having a basic knowledge of other faith traditions.

Many of our families will have a relative from a different tradition and our teens will have friends from a variety of traditions.

Knowing how to explain both our similarities and differences clearly and respectfully is important.

Educating for Community Life

- Care of God's gift of creation
 - Service/Vocation in the Church Community
 - History of the parish community and Diocese
 - Develop an appreciation for diversity
 - Examples of love and respect for self and others
 - Examples of how the Church serves in the World
 - The Church as the People of God
 - Four Marks of the Church
 - The Domestic Church
 - Ecumenism
- 

Missionary Initiation

The missionary dimension of catechesis seeks to equip the disciples of Jesus to be present as Christians in society through their work, family and social lives.

Catechesis seeks to help the disciples of Christ to be present in society precisely as believing Christians who are able and willing to bear witness to their faith in words and deeds.



“In fostering this spirit of evangelization, catechesis nourishes the evangelical attitudes of Jesus Christ in the faithful: to be poor in spirit, to be compassionate, to be meek, to hear the cry of injustice, to be merciful, to be pure of heart, to make peace, and to accept rejection and persecution.”


NDC 20.6

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. At the bottom, there are several decorative elements consisting of concentric white circles, resembling ripples in water. These ripples are scattered across the lower half of the slide, with a larger one on the right and several smaller ones on the left and center.

“Catechesis recognizes that other religious traditions reflect the “seed of the Word” that can constitute a true “preparation for the Gospel.” It encourages adherents of the world’s religions to share what they hold in common, never minimizing the real differences between and among them. “Dialogue is not in opposition to the mission *ad gentes* (to the nations).””

NDC 20.6

Teaching Missionary Initiation

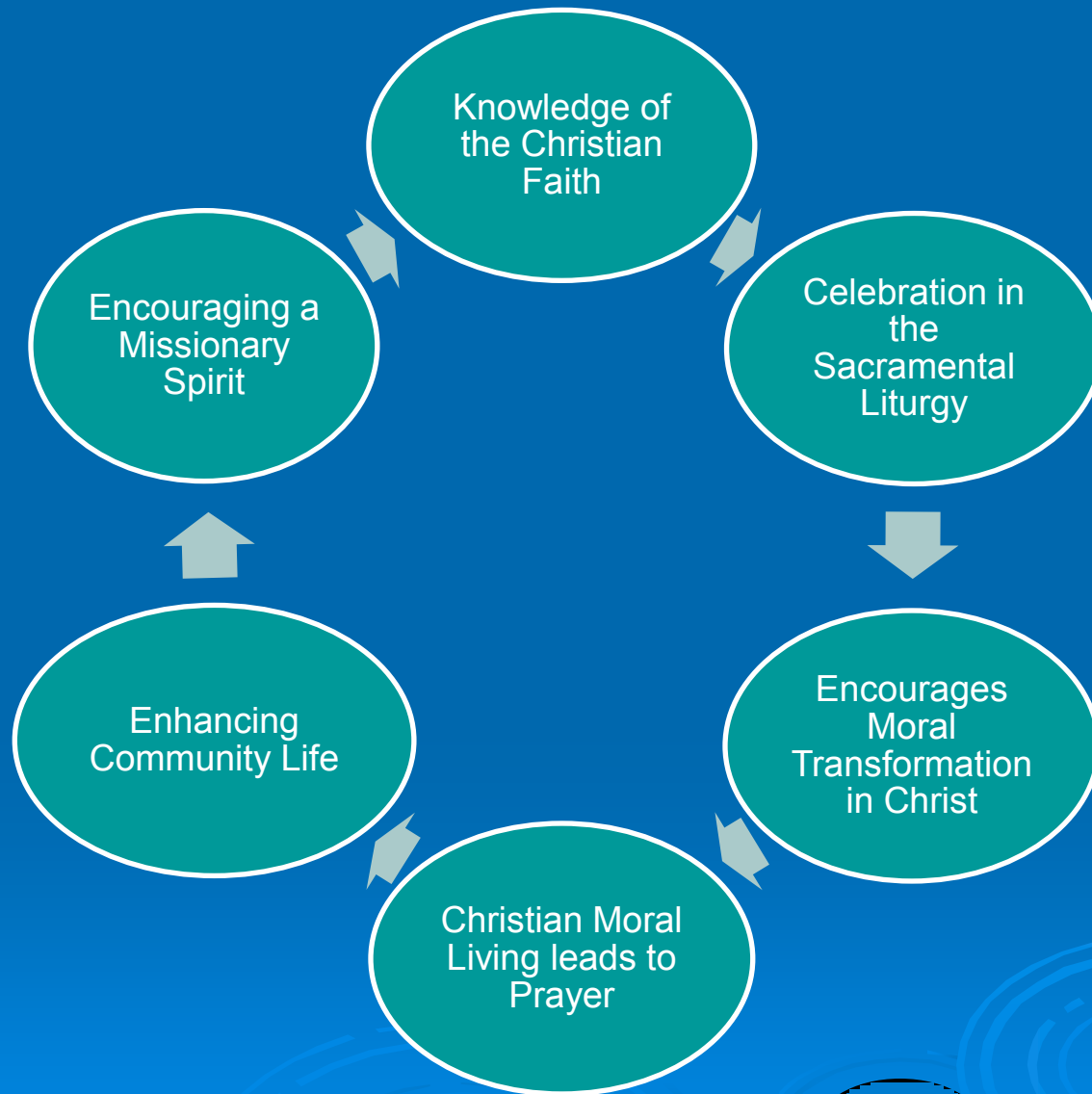
- Stewardship of Time, Talent & Treasure
 - The Christian Responsibility to Care for All especially the Poor.
 - Catholic Social Teachings – Social Justice
 - Church's Teaching on the Consistent Ethic of Life
 - Social Sin
 - Ecumenism – Love & Respect for All people and Religions.
 - Church as a Sign of Unity
 - The Call to Work for the Common Good
 - Missionary Vocation of the Church
- 

“...it is very important that catechesis retain the richness of these various aspects in such a way that one aspect is not separated from the rest to the detriment of the others.”

GDC 87

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Six Tasks as a Unified Whole



Tasks that lead to....



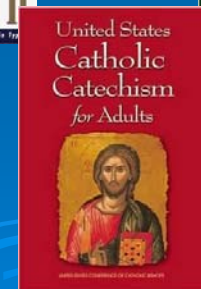
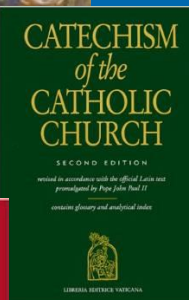
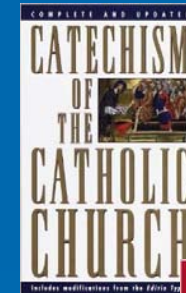
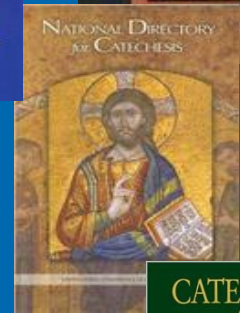
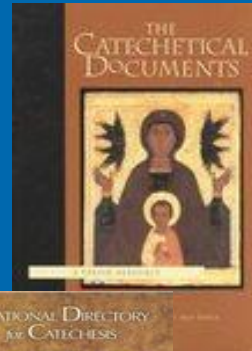
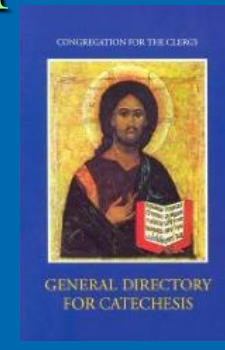
Six Tasks

- Which task comes easiest for you in your program?
- Which task is more difficult to carry out?
- How can these 6 tasks help you in the classroom?

INTERCONNECTEDNESS WITH THE GLOBAL CHURCH

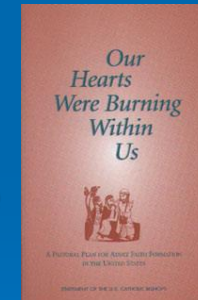
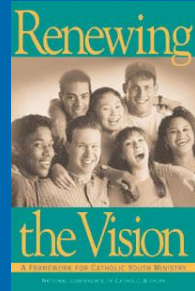
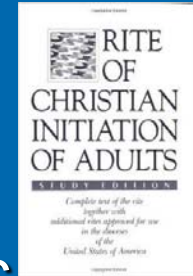
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Catechetical Focus Resources

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- Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry – 2002 (Update to A Vision For Catholic Youth Ministry – 1997)
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CATECHIST FORMATION

➤ Echoes of Faith

Catechetical Skills
Theology
Methodology

➤ Publisher Resources

The Catechist Toolbox – Loyola Press

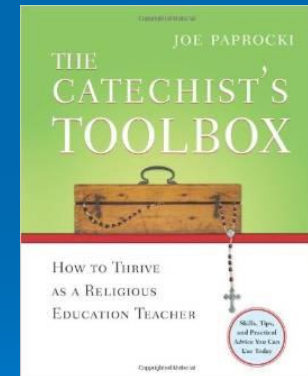
www.catechist.com - online companion to
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www.faithfirst.com/teachers.html

➤ Other Opportunities

Courses offered by & throughout the diocese

- Servant School
- Webinars
- University of Dayton (VLCFF)
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Manager

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Diocesan Religion Curriculum

www.catholicidaho.org Office of Catechesis

<http://www.catholicidaho.org/en/DiocesanOffices/CatholicSchools/Documents/Diocesan%20Religion%20Curriculum%202014.pdf>



Basic Catechist Certification

3rd Session Webinar:
“Classroom Skills”

Thursday, October 9, 2013

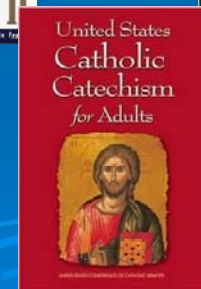
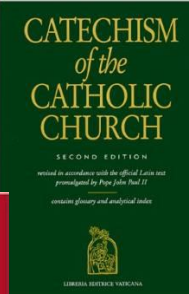
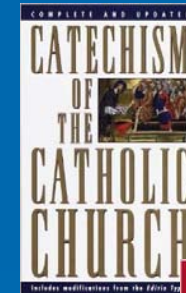
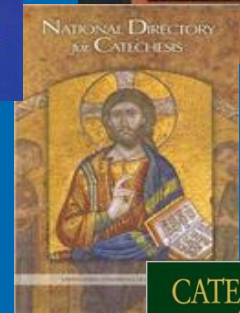
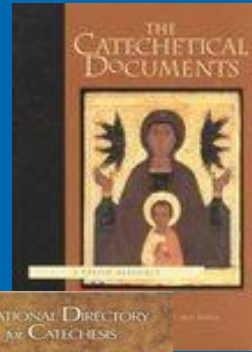
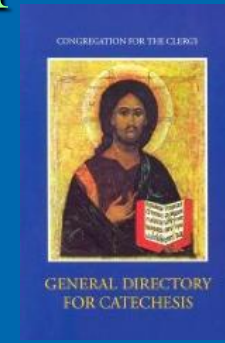
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INTERCONNECTEDNESS WITH THE GLOBAL CHURCH

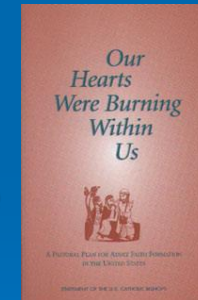
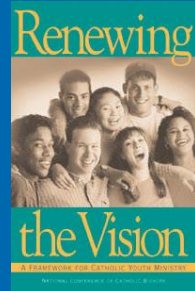
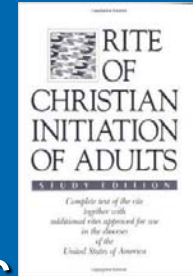
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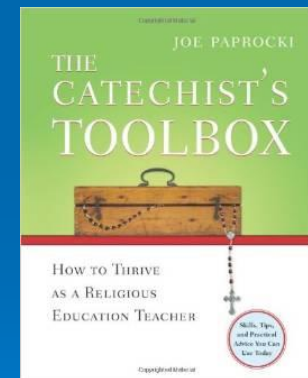
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Closing Prayer

Let us pray:

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

...and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

For all the storytellers who have influenced our lives and helped share our faith, we thank you Lord.

For all the teachers and companions who have journeyed with us and led us to new insights, we thank you Lord.

For our families, relatives and friends who taught us our first prayers and for all those who formed our community prayer life, we thank you Lord.

For those who have served as witnesses for justice, mercy and peace, we thank you Lord.

Amen