

## **"Do This in Memory of Me" (Lk 22:19)**

The theme for Catechetical Sunday 2012 is "Do This in Memory of Me" (Lk 22:19). This statement contains two aspects of a catechetical dynamic that must always be kept together – doing and being. Our *doing* flows from our *being*. Our *being* is nourished by the sacred mysteries of the Liturgy, which helps us to understand that events from the past (e.g. the time of Jesus) can guide our actions today and can prepare us to enter the Kingdom of God today. This past-present-future connection is what motivates us to move from *being* to *doing*.

To truly understand this concept, we must first understand the meaning of the term “memory” as it is used in the Bible. When the Bible speaks of memory, it is not talking about a subjective, psychological act. Rather for the Jews of Jesus’ time, the act of *remembering* was a ritual, usually marked by a sacrifice and a feast, and it was always connected with the renewed presence of a past event. The ritual meal of the Passover, the seder, brought about a “real presence” of the past deliverance from Egypt. It gave the Israelites a sense of being the chosen people of God and hence that nothing was impossible for them to do.

My dear catechists and parents, I exhort you to initiate the persons under your charge into such an active hope. This is truly Good News! Help them to experience how the span of sacred history—past, present, and future—converges at the Eucharist as we listen to the Word and participate in the Memorial. We truly participate in a past event that transforms our present and gives us hope for the future. Our catechesis must be a catechesis full of grace and hope! It must leave the recipient with a burning sense of mission to want to go out and tell the whole world about this great Good News that God has not forgotten us. All the difficulties we see in this world are part of an evolving tapestry of God’s plan that will result in a wonderful event for all humankind.

My dear catechists, the concrete sign that a person is well-initiated into the sacred mysteries, will be seen in their mature ability to evangelize other persons – young and old, within their own families, neighborhoods and the wider society. Their ability to “*account* for the hope that is in them” - will be the sign of a mature and ongoing process of catechesis.

I exhort you, dear catechists, to conduct your ministry of catechesis within the context of the renewed liturgical life of the Church brought about by the Revised Roman Missal. Draw strength from the new calendar of faithful witnesses, the saints, that journey with us through the entire liturgical year. May the re-worded prayers and new chants of the Missal - faithful to the original Latin sources, - grace our catechetical efforts with a quiet sense of authority and witness to the fact that indeed we do this faithful work of catechesis, - `in memory` - of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Marantha, Come Lord Jesus Come!

You have my deepest thanks, prayers and blessings on behalf of the Archdiocese of Singapore!

Yours in Christ,

Archbishop Nicholas Chia