

CATECHESIS – A Worthy Calling



***“Go into all the world
And proclaim the good news
to the whole of creation”
– Mark 16:15***

Opening Prayer & Hymn

Be Not Afraid



You shall cross the barren desert
But you shall not die of thirst
You shall wonder far from safety
Though you do not know the way
You shall speak your words to foreign men
And they will understand
You shall see the face of God and Live



**Be not afraid, I go before you always
Come follow me, and I will give you rest**

If you pass thru raging waters
in the sea, you shall not drown
If you walk amid the burning flames
You shall not be harmed
If you stand before the power of hell
And death is at your side, Know that I am with you- through it all.....

Reflection –Why Am I Here?



- **Obj:** To invite clarity of calling and how we can be part of this ministry
- Passage from Mark 1: 14- 20



What verse caught my eye?
Why am I here ?
What can I offer?

Called To Share



- Serving as a Catechist is one of the most important ministries in the church as you are called to share your faith and knowledge with others.
- The word “catechesis” comes from a Greek word that means “to echo” or “hand-down what has been received”.
- A Catechist is therefore called to grow in faith so as to continue sowing the seeds by proclaiming through voice and action- *the Word of God*.

4 Key Dimensions of Catechesis *(GDC)*



- Catechesis is the work of the whole church (**agent**) -78
- The goal of Catechesis is to get people in communion with Jesus Christ (**goal**) – 80
- The object of Catechesis is to lead people to profess their faith in Christ (**object**) – 82
- The tasks of Catechesis is to produce this profession in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit- (**tasks**) -84

Called to Give



- Gift of Faith
- Gift of Prayer and Ritual
- Gift of Community
- Gift of Self



Gift of Faith



- We experience our faith differently
- As Catechists we invite others to look at their faith and add a little kindling (*to find and express meaning in their own experiences.*)
- Catechists help others to KNOW, LOVE and SERVE the Lord
 - By promoting more Knowledge of our Faith
 - Assisting in Moral Formation of our youth
 - and Emphasizing the importance of Prayer to our task
- *GDC: to put people in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ*

Gift of Prayer and Rituals



- Ways of connecting with the mystery of God
- Through common prayer and ritual our faith is nurtured and community made stronger
- Catechists help
 - Teach others to prayer
 - Promote liturgical education
 - Build community

How does
prayer strengthen
you? your family?

Gift of Community



- We experience the virtues of God's love when we experience it in Christian Life...in community
- We learn from each other when we share, give and receive hope and love from one another.
- Catechists help others
 - learn about community life (*educate for and through community life*)
 - initiate ways of extending the mission of the community into the world (*missionary*)

What has being
part of your
community taught
you about your
faith?

Gift of Self



- Faith is handed down by the people who live it! (role models)

- Catechists give of their time, energy, compassion
–witnesses of faith

Who are the role models in your life that helped your faith grow?

- Catechesis is a life long work in progress as we continue to learn and grow in our own faith too!

6 Tasks of Catechesis



- *Promoting the knowledge of our faith*
- *Moral formation*
- *Teaching others to pray*
- *Liturgical education*
- *Educating for community life*
- *Missionary initiation*



How Jesus Taught



- Jesus taught with authority
- Jesus knew who he was teaching
- Jesus built community
- Jesus taught his disciples to pray and prayed with them
- Jesus live his message
- Jesus served others and tight others to serve
- Jesus was patient
- Jesus trusted in the Holy Spirit



On the road to Emmaus

".... They asked each other "were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures with us?"..... (Luke 24:32)

Group Activity



- If you could choose ONE aspect of Faith for your “students” to appreciate or to come away with

(eg. Over a 1 yr program) , what would it be?

- **WHY?**

- What would be the ONE key quality a Catechist’s should develop to help achieve the above?



In A Nutshell.....



- Our calling is to facilitate and nurture our children's experience of the Love of Jesus Christ through:
 - *Continually sowing the seed and promoting the knowledge of our faith*
 - *Teaching our children to pray and to discern*
 - *Serving as good role-models for their Christian formation*
 - *And enabling our children to grow and to ultimately serve meaningfully in our community*

Helping to re-affirm to the children that God loves them unconditionally and that the Eucharist is a precious gift Jesus gives them.

Allowing God To Work In You



*And he will raise you up
On Eagle's Wings
Bear you on
the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you
in the palm of his hand.*

Closing Prayer & Hymn

Here I Am Lord



I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save
I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them. Whom shall I send?

**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord, if you need me
I will hold your people in my heart**

I the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Weekend Catechism
Church of St Ignatius

