

SUNDAY — SEPT. 16

OUT CATECHESIS IN YOUR PARISH

Catechesis Overview

PURPOSE OF CATECHESIS

... is to make a person's faith become living, conscious, and active through the light of instruction... aiming to enrich the faith life of individuals at their particular stages of development... (NCD 32).

CATECHISTS

Parish catechists, many of whom are volunteers, may be engaged in catechizing adults, young people, children or those with special needs. Theirs is a particular way of carrying out the promise which the Church makes at every Baptism: to support, pray for, and instruct the baptized and foster their growth in faith. The fundamental tasks of the catechist are to proclaim Christ's message, to participate in efforts to develop community, to lead the people in worship and prayer, and to motivate them to serve others. They recognize, however, that faith is a gift and that it is not ultimately their efforts but the interaction of God's grace and human freedom which lead people to accept faith and respond to it. (NCD 213).



Learning How to Share the Faith

"Education research supports the view that the home is the critical educational institution — Family and community are also extremely important in the catechetical process — the impact of parents is primary. The vital influence of parents on the social and religious development of their children needs to be more widely recognized." (NCD 25).



Media Centers For Levels of Catechesis

Media centers are relevant to every level of catechesis; they help foster human growth and are capable of contributing to growth in theological understanding and to faith experience itself — Media centers, established on a regional basis, can provide consulting services for catechists in their parishes. (NCD 252, 265).



Educators Benefit Parishes

"As awareness has grown of the need for continuing, comprehensive catechesis for all, an increasing number of men and women have assumed positions as parish or inter-parish directors and coordinators of religious education. Such positions vary in their specific functions, depending on factors like size of staff, scope of program and parish size." (NCD 214).

WITH THOSE WHO ARE
IN THE LIGHT OF FAITH

"Catechesis is a lifelong process for the individual and a constant and concerted pastoral activity of the Christian community." (NCD 32)