

# Catholic Faith Formation

## Challenges, Opportunities and Guidelines



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*“GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD  
AND PREACH THE GOSPEL  
TO EVERY CREATURE.”*

*MARK 16:15*



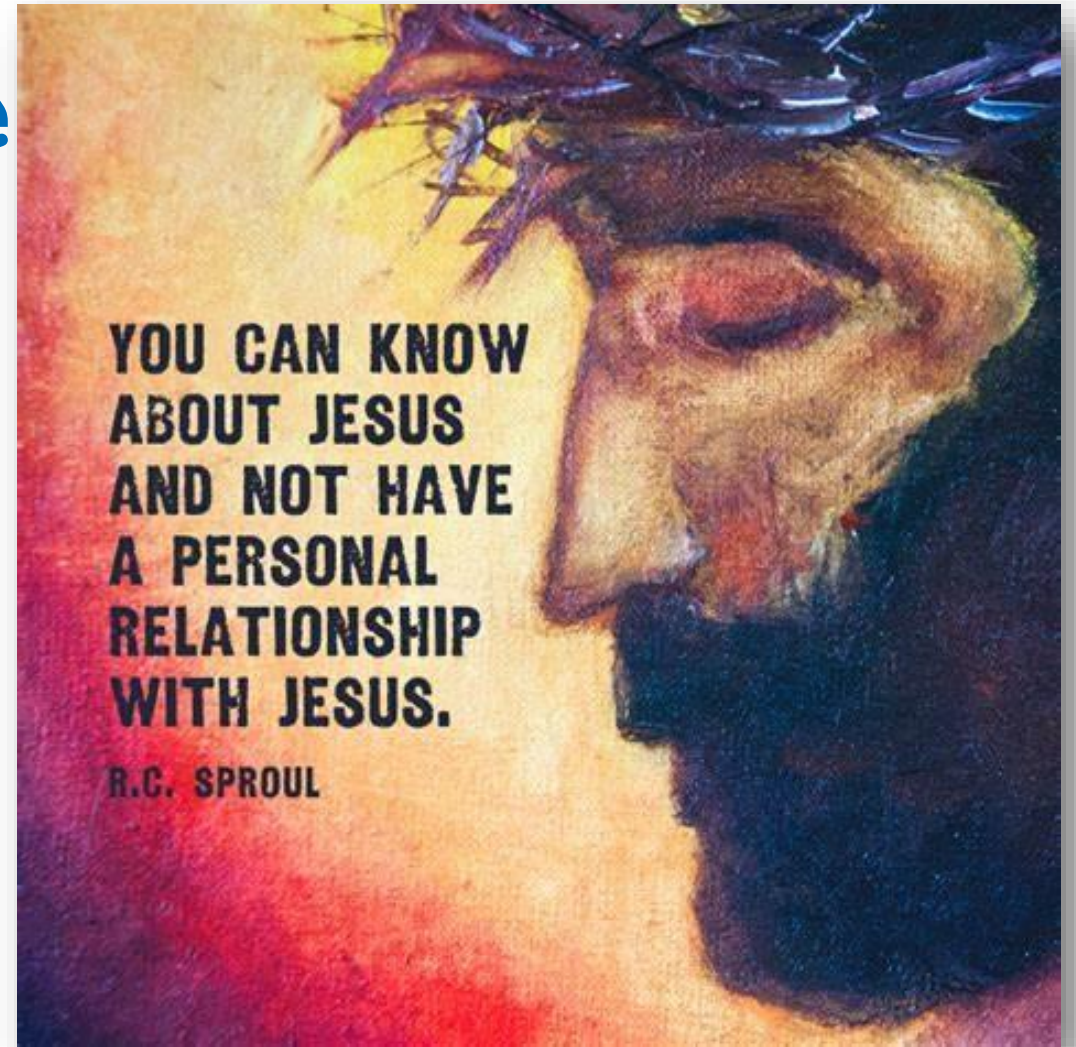
**The GOSPEL MANDATE**

*“GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD  
AND PREACH THE GOSPEL  
TO EVERY CREATURE.”*  
MARK 16:15

- The gospel mandate applies to all - ordained and non-ordained
- Both a right and an obligation of all the Church members (can. 211)
- Right to Christian Education
  - Aim of Christian education – human maturity and capacity to live the faith

# The Goal of Cate

- to bring the faithful to intimate communion with Christ (GD 2020, #3)
- Conversion, transformation, renewal
- not information but formation





# Challenges to Faith Formation

## In a family set-up

- Parents are pre-occupied with work.
- Parents are unprepared for the task of Christian formation.
- Society makes it difficult for parents to be hands-on in forming their children



# Challenges to Faith Formation

## In school or parish set-up

- Integrating faith contents with life experiences, realities, current questions and concerns of the young
- Adopting methods of teaching/passing on the faith in a creative and appealing way



# Challenges to Faith Formation

## In general

- Social media and distraction
- Contemporary cultural trends – e.g. culture of instant gratification



What difficulties/  
challenges have you  
encountered as a  
catechist/faith educator?





# Opportunities

- Ease of access to catechetical resources (printed, videos, etc.)
- Availability of training or instruction on pedagogy
- Networking with other faith educators

## Creation: A Sensory Story


This sensory story is a short story made up of brief sentences that all children can enjoy. Invite children to sit in a circle with you and share the story. For each sentence of the story, a corresponding sensory experience is suggested. Use the list of suggested materials, or substitute other resources better suited for your group of learners. There is no limit to the stories you can share and the sensory experiences you can include in this activity, making it a memorable opportunity, experience and lesson.

**Suggested supplies:**

- Flashlight
- Calendar
- Globe
- Cup of water
- Pot of soil/ house plant
- Visual image of sun and moon
- Plush or toy fish/animals
- Dolls
- Small pillow


**Suggested script and corresponding sensory experiences:**

**IN THE BEGINNING,**  
there was no earth, no sky,  
and no animals. (Motion to the  
empty space inside your circle.)




God said "Let there be light."  
And there was.  
(Shine a flashlight.)


**THIS WAS THE FIRST DAY.**  
(Share a calendar.)



**ON THE 2ND DAY,**  
God made the earth and sky.  
(Share a globe, motion to  
the sky out the window.)




**ON THE 3RD DAY,**  
God put the water in one place.  
(Share a cup of water.)




God put the land in another place.  
(Share soil/plant.)


**ON THE 4TH DAY,**  
God made the Sun,  
(Show a visual image  
of the sun.)




And the moon.  
(Show a visual image  
of the moon.)




**ON THE 5TH DAY,**  
God made fish.  
(Share a toy fish.)




**ON THE 6TH DAY,**  
God made animals.  
(Share various toy animals)




And man and woman.  
(Share dolls.)



**ON THE 7TH DAY,**  
God took a rest.  
(Share a pillow and mime a yawn.)



God saw that it was good.  
(Share a smile.)



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# Guidelines / Guiding Principles

- in teaching or passing on the Christian doctrine, propose them in a manner accommodated to the condition of its listeners and adapted to the needs of the times (can. 769)
- Give catechetical instruction by using all helps, teaching aids, and instruments of social communication which seem more effective so that the faithful, in a manner adapted to their character, capabilities and age, and conditions of life, are able to learn Catholic doctrine more fully and put it into practice more suitably

# Two important skills of catechists

- Creativity
- adaptability





"Catechists are creative; they seek to use different means and forms to proclaim Christ. This endeavor to make Jesus known as the highest form of beauty brings us to encounter new signs and ways to transmit the faith. The means may be different but what is important is to keep in mind the style of Jesus who adapted to the people he had before him in order to bring them closer to the love of God. One must know how to "change", to adapt in order to bring the message closer, though it is always the same, because God does not change, but renews all things in him. In the creative endeavor to make Jesus known, we must not have fear because he is ahead

rough contemplation of beauty  
Arts, Music, Literature



EXPO INTERNAZIONALE  
**VIA PULCHRITUDINIS**

# Guidelines/Guiding Principles

- Kerygmatic Catechesis
  - Centrality of the proclamation of Christ
  - The teacher embodies the teachings





Catechists are people who keep the memory of God alive; they keep it alive in themselves and they are able to revive it in others.

-Pope Francis



# Pope's Message to Catechists...

- **be close to Jesus**

*“Being a catechist is not a title, it is an attitude: abiding with him, and it lasts for a lifetime! It means abiding in the Lord’s presence and letting ourselves be led by him.”*

# Pope's Message to Catechists...

- **start anew with Christ by leaving oneself behind and encountering others**

*When Christ becomes the center, one is moved “to constantly go forth to others out of love, to bear witness to Jesus and to talk about Jesus, to proclaim Jesus.”*



# Pope's Message to Catechists...

- **"starting anew with Christ means not being afraid to go with him to the outskirts"**

*"To stay close to God, we must not be afraid to set out. If a catechist gives in to fear, then he or she is a coward. If a catechist is rigid, he or she will dry up and wither. [...We need] a Church, a catechist, with the courage to risk going out, and not a catechist who is studious, knows everything, but is always closed: such a person is not well."*

"To be a catechist requires love, an ever stronger love for Christ, a love for his holy people. This love comes from Christ! It is Christ's gift! And if it comes from Christ, it also starts with Christ, and we too need to

start anew with Christ from the



Sharing of Best Practices  
and  
Family Traditions...