

A Catechist's Prayer

Father of all families, you have called me to serve the family in truth and love as a catechist.
May I be faithful to this call, rooted in your Word, and open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
May I use these gifts, especially the gifts of faith, hope, and love, to serve the family as a witness to you, who are love and life and the source and destiny of all families.
Let your Spirit enlighten my mind and strengthen my heart so that I can be a path of Christ's love to families, especially those in need, the homebound and aged, the disabled and disheartened.
Through the intercession of Mary and Joseph, I pray for the Church, the Bride of Christ, whose mission to build a civilization of love passes through the family.
Amen.



QUALITIES OF A CATECHIST

1. Is a person of faith
2. A witness to the Gospel
3. A proclaimer of the Gospel
4. Shares in the spirit of the community of Faith
5. Servant of the Community

COMPETENCIES AS FACILITATOR OF THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

1. Understand the principles of human growth and development
2. Know your lesson content
3. Design a goal directed – learning program
4. Carryout a goal directed learning experience
5. Evaluate the learning process of your students – could they relate to the lesson?

SHARED CHRISTIAN PRAXIS

Dialogue with God

Reflect on life experience (yours and others)

Hear related Christian story (Scripture, tradition, Church teachings, etc.)

Reflect on God working in your life

Living the message, (Talk about how God works in the Children's lives.)

Medium: Dialogue, teachings, audio visuals, song, drawing, etc.

Note: Your Teacher's Manual is excellent. It can only suggest, open up ideas, and/or demonstrate ideals. You must assimilate, select, and reshape the lesson according to your knowledge of Christ in the Catholic church, and the knowledge of your students within the limitations of the time and space you have to work.

Remember that a good Catechist is just a more experienced learner!

HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CATECHISTS

1. **Be centered on Christ.**
   "It is by looking to (Jesus Christ) in faith that Christ's faithful can hope that he himself fulfills his promises in them, and that by loving him with the same love with which he has loved them; they may perform works in keeping with their dignity." *#1698*

2. **Deepen your personal relationship with God by daily prayer.**
   "The Tradition of the Church proposes to the faithful certain rhythms of praying intended to nourish continual prayer. Some are daily, such as morning and evening prayer, grace before and after meals, the Liturgy of the Hours ..." *#2698*

3. **Immerse yourself in the Scriptures.**
   "The Church forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful ... to learn the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures. Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." *#133*

4. **Avail yourself of the means to form your own conscience.**
   "Ignorance of Christ and his Gospel, bad example given by others, enslavement to one's passions, assertion of a mistaken autonomy of conscience, rejection of the church's authority and her teaching, lack of conversion and of charity: these can be the source of errors of judgment in moral conduct." *#1792*

5. **Recognize and respect the diving presence in every child you teach.**
   "Endowed with a spiritual soul, with intellect and with free will, the human person is from his very conception ordered to God and destined for eternal beatitude ..." *#1711*

6. **Be docile to the promptings of grace.**
   " ... By the working of grace, the Holy Spirit educates us in spiritual freedom in order to make us free collaborators in his work in the Church and in the world.

   Almighty and merciful God,
   in your goodness take away from us all that is harmful,
   so that, made ready in mind and body,
   w e may freely accomplish your will." #1742

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