

# 6 TASKS OF CATECHESIS

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What is *catechesis*?

- From the Greek words *kata* (back) and *eche* (sound).
- *Catechesis* means “to sound back” to “to echo”.
- What are we echoing?

What is the definitive aim of catechesis?

“...to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ.”

The 6 Tasks of Catechesis

- Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
- Liturgical Education
- Moral Formation
- Teaching to Pray
- Education for Community Life
- Missionary Initiation

Your most important tool: your *witness*

“No methodology, no matter how well tested, can dispense with the person of the catechist in every phase of the catechetical process. The charism given to him by the Spirit, a solid spirituality and transparent witness of life, constitutes the soul of every method. Only his own human and Christian qualities guarantee a good use of texts and other work instruments.” (GDC, 156)

The Methodology of the Catechist

- “...the “variety of methods is a sign of life and richness” as well as a demonstration of respect for those to whom catechesis is addressed.” (GDC, 148)
- “Perfect fidelity to Catholic doctrine is compatible with a rich diversity of presentation.” (GDC, 122)

Multisensory activities that can be adapted to various content

- Visual, interactive story times
- Music
- Drama
- Creating meaningful visual symbols of the lesson
- Games
  - Tic-tac-toe
  - Game show

- Bingo
- Mystery word
- Who Am I

Knowledge of the Faith - interactive stories, object lessons, drama

Liturgy (hands-on sacramental education through props and role play, vessels and vestments, classroom altar, etc.)

#### Morality

- Ten Commandments TIC-TAC-TOE
- Beatitudes Billboards
- Acting it Out (social stories, skits with moral scenarios)

#### Prayer

- Visuals (make a picture for God)
- Make your own chaplets
- Lectio Divina and listening to God
- Music and movement

#### God is Listening

(Tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

God is listening when I pray,  
 I can talk to him each day.  
 Praise him for how great he is,  
 Thank him for the things he does.  
 Ask for help with what I do,  
 And pray for all who need him, too.

#### Community Life

- Team work
- "Peer partners"
- Service projects
- "How Can I Help?"

#### Missionary Initiation

- Every baptized person is sent forth as missionary.
- Main Point and "Ask Me" Questions
- Sharing Jesus with others (stories, pictures, etc.)
- Helping learners discover their gifts and talents

#### Active attention-getting techniques

- 1-2-3, eyes on me

- Attention cues
- Flickering lights
- “Let me see who is listening”
- “If you can hear my voice...”

### Active Questioning/ Discussion Techniques

- Choral responding
- Thumbs up then you have an answer
- Write the answer and turn over your paper when you are ready
- Incomplete printed sentence or hidden prop

### More recommendations

- Move from one activity to the other periodically (gathering to prayer to presenting the lesson to art response to discussion to practical application or practice to closing prayer to sending)
- Change position, from sitting to standing or from one part of the room to the next

### Stimulate the Imagination

- Jesus engaged people right away by telling stories.
- Use art and music to stimulate the imagination
- Invite your learners to dream
  - How would your world be different if you and those around you were living out the key themes of Catholic Social Teaching?
  - Why do you think God made you? What might his plan for you be? (2 pieces of social science research about this).
- Encourage learners to wonder

### Surprise your Learners with a Twist

### Keep a Sense of Humor