

OUR DIOCESAN VISION OR WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!

The foundation of the evangelization and catechetical ministry of the Diocese of Prince Albert is that “the entire mission of the Church is concentrated and manifested in evangelization” (CL 33). Evangelizing is not simply a matter of passing on knowledge of faith practices, why and how we do what we do. Rather, faith is the personal encounter with God, and the person’s response to that encounter. The encounter with God occurs through the introduction to the Word of God, particularly through the Scripture and our Church’s Tradition. This Word is not an abstract idea but an actual person, Jesus of Nazareth. As Pope Francis wrote “Faith is passed on, we might say, by contact, from one person to another, just as one candle is lighted from another” (LF 37).

In the process of evangelization, there are three steps. Evangelization is the focus of the first step, where one encounters God. Catechesis is the focus of the second and third step, where one learns about God and deepens their knowledge and their relationship with God. As evangelization is tied to the identity of who we are as Church and our mission, catechesis then is to be “considered as one of the enduring concerns of the Church’s missionary mandate for our times” (LF 4).

Many people believe that catechism is just for children when in fact catechesis is “an education in the faith of children, young people and adults” (CCC 6). The Diocese of Prince Albert focuses on encouraging every member of the community to enter into the journey of lifelong catechesis.

POPE FRANCIS HONORED THE MINISTRY OF THE CATECHISTS ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2016



During this Jubilee Year of Mercy on September 25, 2016, Pope Francis called for a special day to honour the ministry of Catechists.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) also wished to honor the role of the catechist during this Jubilee year and so through the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis they produced a short YouTube video and resources to aid parishes and catechists to consider the role of the catechist. The YouTube clip shares catechists speaking from across Canada, a few even from the Diocese of Prince Albert. To view the clip go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uL-mpRd0gk> or go to the catechetics webpage on the Diocesan website see below for web address.

To use the resources to reflect on the role of the catechist produced by the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis go to the CCCC website at <http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/office-for-evangelization-and-catechesis/4482-jubilee-for-catechists>.

**For more information about
Evangelization and Catechesis
or to learn about upcoming events
Checkout...**

The Diocese of Prince Albert page at
www.padiocese.ca/catechetics

or



Our Facebook page at
RC Diocese of Prince Albert:
Office of Catechetics

THE CHALLENGE FOR ALL OF US... IS TO LIVE THE FAITH WE TEACH.

**Modern man listens
more willingly
to witnesses
than to teachers,
and if he does
listen to teachers,
it is because
they are witnesses.
(Paul VI - EN 41)**

THE CATECHISTS ARE THOSE WHO PASS ON FAITH TO CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS...

**You are a catechist if...
You pass on faith to Children and
Youth in such areas as:**

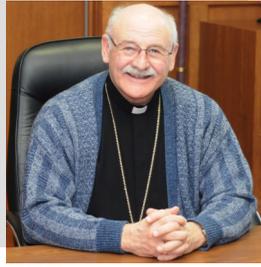
Children’s Catechetics,
Sacramental Prep, Youth Ministry or
Catholic School Teachers

**You pass on faith to Adults in
such areas as:** RCIA, Pastoral Care,

Baptismal Prep, Social Justice,
Lay Formation, Prison Ministry,
Marriage Prep, Prayer Groups,
or Lifelong Catechesis Groups
(i.e., Bible Study).

WHETHER YOUR WORK IS CHILDREN, YOUTH OR ADULTS THERE ARE THE SIX TASKS OF CATECHISTS

- 1) Communicate the Message:** Catechists promote knowledge of the faith by teaching who Christ is and what He taught using Scripture and Tradition.
- 2) Celebrate Christ’s presence in liturgy and sacraments:** Catechists provide liturgical education, which leads to a deeper encounter with Christ through the liturgy and in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist.
- 3) Foster conversion:** Catechists instil a moral formation, which prepare those they teach to hold Christ’s values and to draw on these values when making life decisions.
- 4) Encourage communion:** Catechists foster students’ development of a dynamic prayer life. Prayer draws one into a personal relationship with Christ and through Him to the Father and Holy Spirit.
- 5) Nurture community:** Catechists prepare their students for community. Building community is an intentional action, which primarily calls for us to care and to attend to the other.
- 6) Prepare missionaries:** Catechists encourage students to engage in missionary initiatives, fostering an evangelizing spirit that motivates disciples to spread the Good News.



As you know, in our Diocese, the last Sunday of September is set aside to commission those who will serve our children, youth, and adults in the ministry of catechetics. Also during this Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis has designated September 25 to be the Jubilee for Catechists. As a bishop, I celebrate this special day along with you as I too am called to be a catechist, to teach the faith to all, first by our witness and second by our words.

For a number of years, we have focused on the ministry of evangelization through the book *On Good Soil* and the presentations on the five paradigms. This year, we have focused on *Building the Parish of Mercy* and will soon begin the program on *Forming Intentional Disciples*. Catechesis is a key component of the ministry of evangelization. This is best seen through the lens of the Rite of Initiation of Christian Adults (RCIA), which is the model for all catechesis (GDC 59) and best exemplifies the fullness of the relationship between evangelization and catechesis.

On the first leg of the journey, a person encounters and responds to Christ. The encounter and response is the movement of evangelization, which occurs as one hears the Good News of salvation and answers with a desire to learn more. At this time, a person is looking for someone to respond to their questions, to help them understand what they have experienced, and to offer guidance.

Catechesis captures the next movement. This leg of the journey begins as the one who has encountered Christ desires to learn more. During this time, the catechetical learning is grounded in both Scripture and our faith Tradition. After a period of learning, the candidate enters into a period of discernment, which usually occurs during the Lenten season. If the candidate discerns that they are ready to answer Christ's invitation to full communion, they receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil and become a full member of the Church community.

The third and final leg of the journey is the period of lifelong catechesis, which covers the remainder of a person's life. As full members of the community, the primary means of growth in faith is achieved through regular mass attendance and the reading of Scripture. As needs arise, a person may require other catechesis perhaps in marriage or baptismal preparation, or maybe through a bible study where their desire to learn more about one's faith may be answered. One's baptismal commitment also demands that faith be shared with others by using one's gifts at the service of the community, be it as a music minister, a catechist of RCIA or children's sacramental preparation, as a bible study leader, as a minister of social justice, etc.

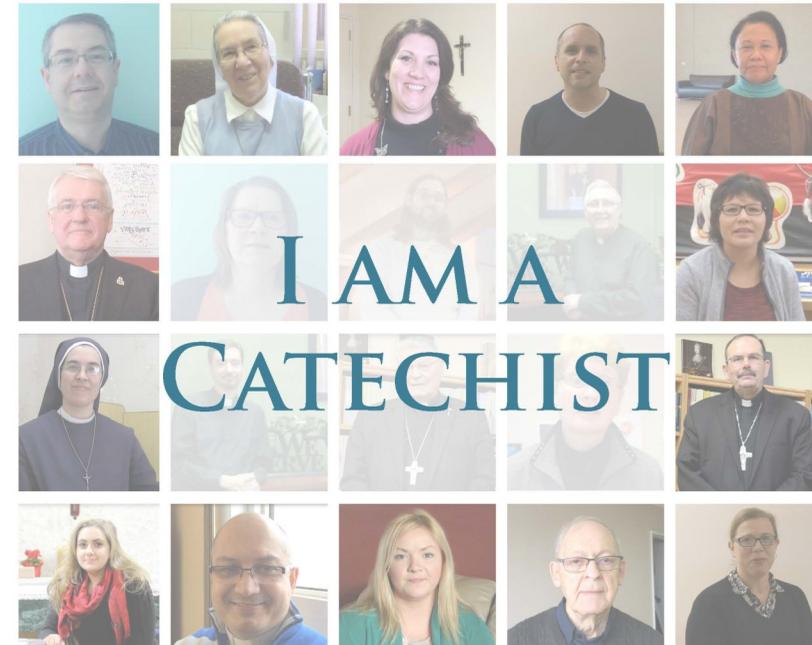
As we catechists journey through this next year, let us remember how the RCIA journey unfolds and how it relates to the particular type of catechesis we are teaching. Are we evangelizing and helping those who for the first time are learning about Jesus? Are we teaching the faith to those children or adults who are preparing to become full members of the faith community? Maybe, we are walking with members of our faith community who grow more deeply in their faith every day. Whichever path our calling as a catechist leads us down, may we continue to serve with joy and love of the Lord.

Most Rev. Albert Thévenot, M. Afr.
Bishop of Prince Albert

Evangelization

Teaching the Faith

Catechesis



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Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert
Our Church is a Family of Families



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