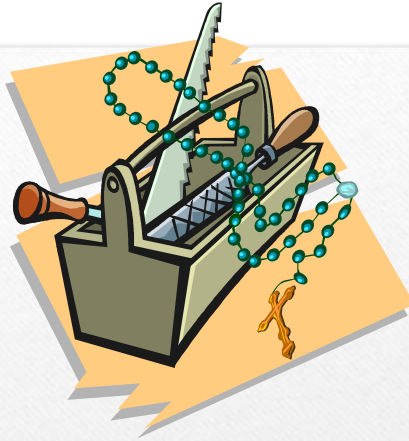


The Catechist's Tool Box



**Getting Started
with the Basics**

A Catechist Prayer

**Lord God, you are the source of all love,
truth, and goodness.**

**You are the source of my being
and your word is the true path for my journey.**

Grant me the courage in live according to your word.

**Instill in my through the gift of your Holy Spirit,
the desire and the wisdom to share your love,
your truth, and your goodness with those I serve.**

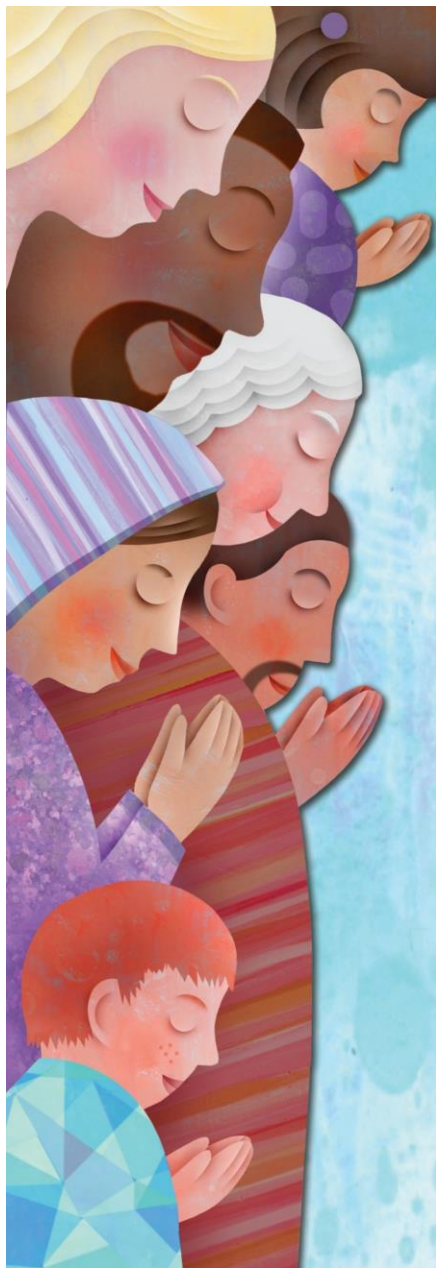
Help me use my time to better prepare myself for this sacred responsibility:

**For I need to offer myself in your service
with all of the patience, perseverance, and love
that you have first shown to me.**

**I ask no more than this, Lord,
in the name of your Son and my Savior; Jesus Christ.
Amen**

Those called to the ministry of *catechesis* should be **generous** with their time and talent, **open** to deepening their understanding of the theology and methodology necessary for teaching, and be **able** to communicate faith and knowledge effectively in both word and deed.

—Catholic bishops of New York State,
"The Catechist in the Third Millennium"



People are called to be catechists/catechetical leaders in many different ways.



In what way were you called to this ministry?

The Catechist's Toolbox

Objective: Give your tools to creatively engage in catechesis

Understanding what Catechesis is

Understanding how to catechize

Understanding what resources you need to effectively catechize others



Guide: The Catechist's Toolbox by Joe Paprocki, DMin

www.catechistsjourney.com

What is Catechesis?

*Catechesis is the
act of handing on
the Word of God*

cat·e·che·sis
,kadə'kēsəs -Greek
Noun

*To inform the faith
community and candidates
for initiation into the Church
about the teachings of
Christ, transmitted by the
Apostles to the Church.
USCCB*

Catechesis is a life-long
process of initial
conversion, formation,
education, and on-going
conversion

The Catechetical Process

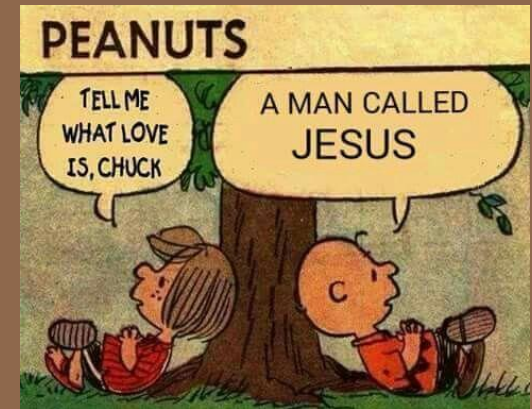
“A Catechist is a person who facilitates the process of faith formation. This is done first by echoing the word of God in his or her own life, and second by helping others to do so...Through your work with adults, families, adolescents, and children, you are passing on a lived faith.”

Joe Paprocki

- **Engaging:** The life experience of the participants
- **Exploring:** The Concepts to be Taught (Scripture and Tradition)
- **Reflecting:** Integrating Concepts with Lived Experience
- **Responding:** with a New Way of Living

Qualities of an Effective Catechist

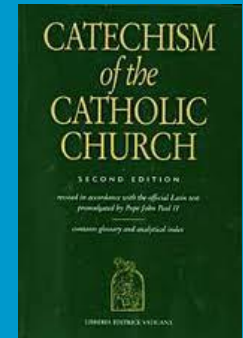
- A personal desire to grow in and share faith
- Acute awareness of God's grace & desire to respond
- Ongoing commitment to the Church, the sacraments & teachings
- Generosity, inclusion, hospitality
- Patience, responsibility, creativity



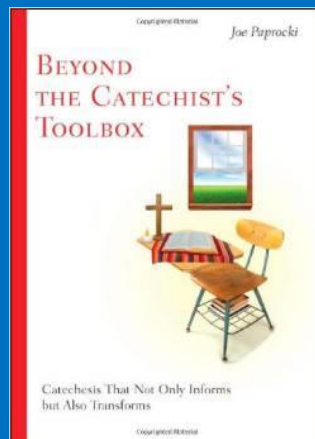
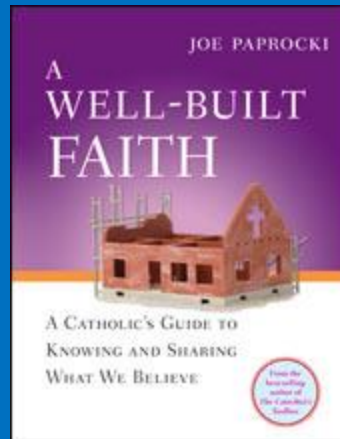
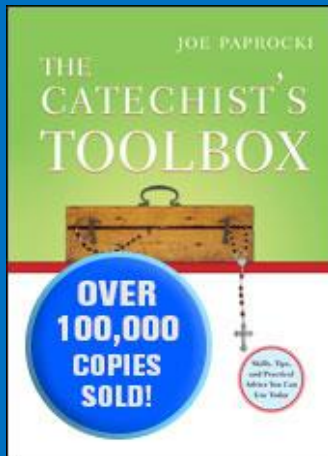


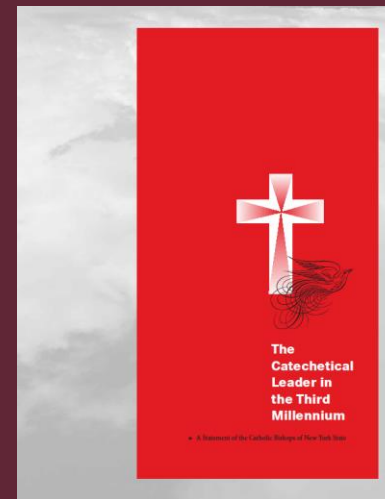
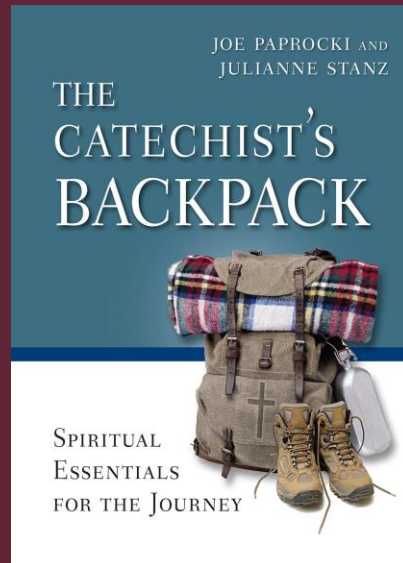
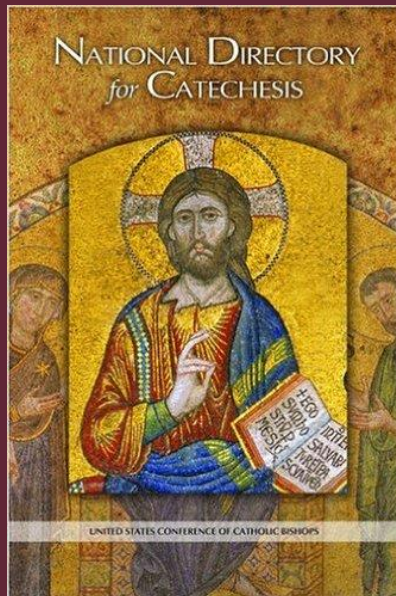
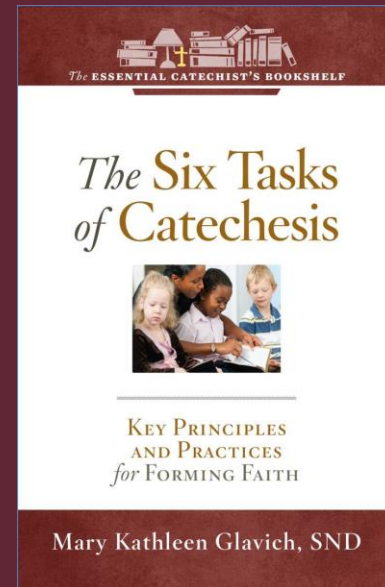
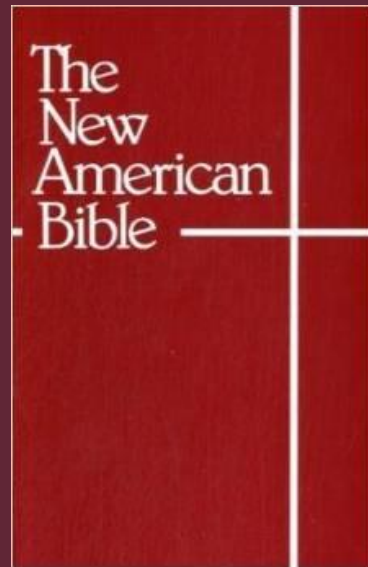
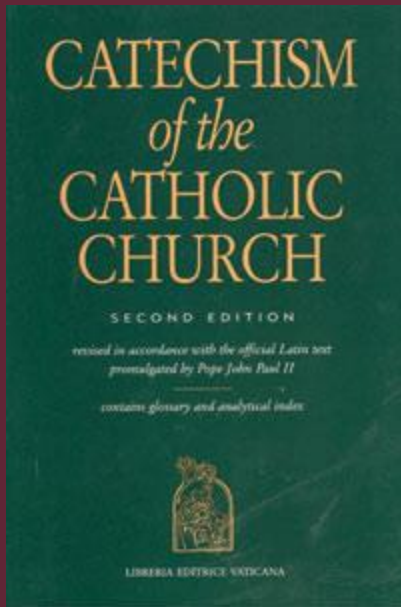
Knowledge & Skills

- A basic understanding of Catholic teaching, Scripture, & Tradition
- Honest, caring relationships with children
- Effective teaching techniques, strategies

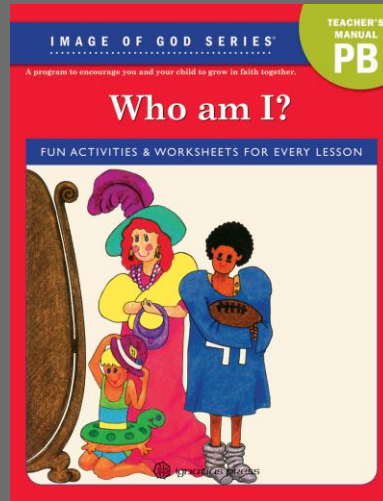
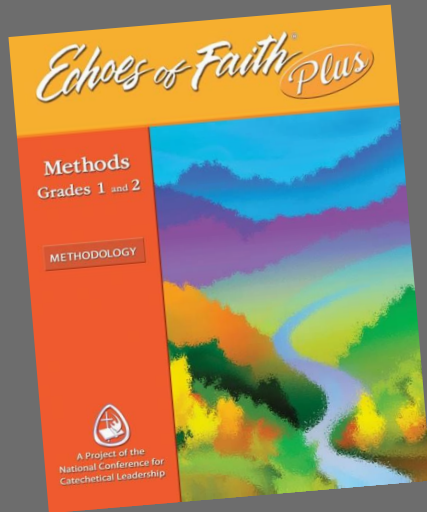


Some Tools of the Trade





Other Tools



...maybe even these



<http://bustedhalo.com/>

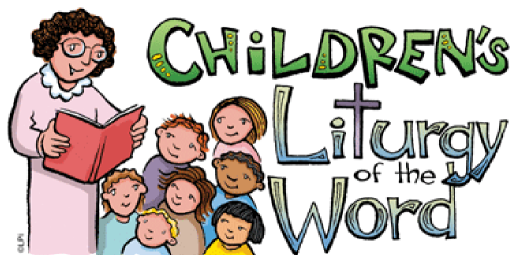
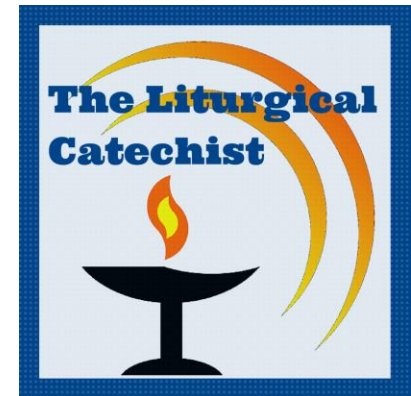
<http://brotherfrancisonline.com/>

Diocese of Ogdensburg: www.rcdony.org
Office of Faith Formation – Resources-
A Tool for Parish Catechesis

Understanding Terminology



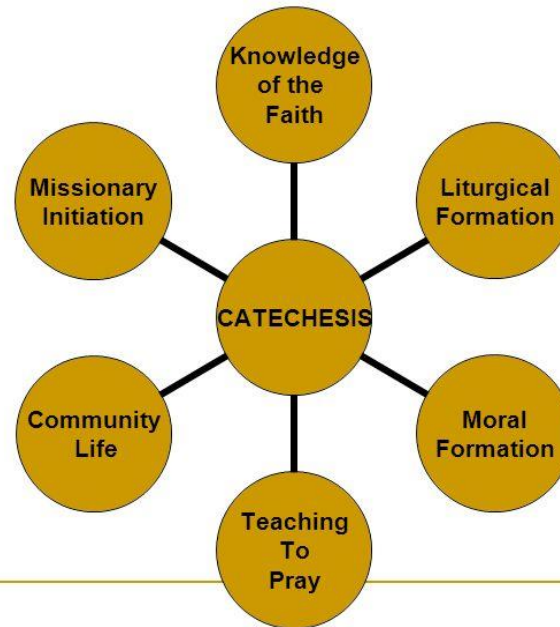
Candidate
Catechumen
Mystagogy
Scrutinies
Elect



6 tasks of Catechesis

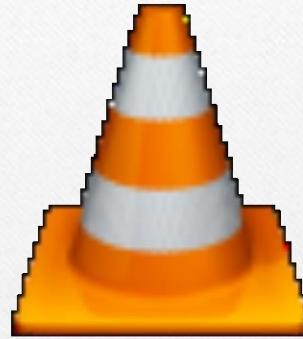
- **1. Facilitating a knowledge of the faith.**
- **2. Promoting liturgy and the sacraments.**
- **3. Encouraging moral formation in Jesus Christ.**
- **4. Teaching and promoting prayer.**
- **5. Strengthening the faith community and the Church.**
- **6. Participating in the Christian Mission to the world and society.**

Six Tasks of Catechesis



As a catechist it is not so important what is covered with the lesson but what participants will do with what is covered.





joe paprocki.webm

Knowledge of the Faith

What programs and resources are in place in your community to assist people in obtaining knowledge of their faith?

What activities take place in your community that bring the Creed to life?

How has the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* been used to promote knowledge of the faith?



Liturgical Education



How are members of your community educated about the celebration of the Eucharist?



How are young people and adults educated about the sacraments?



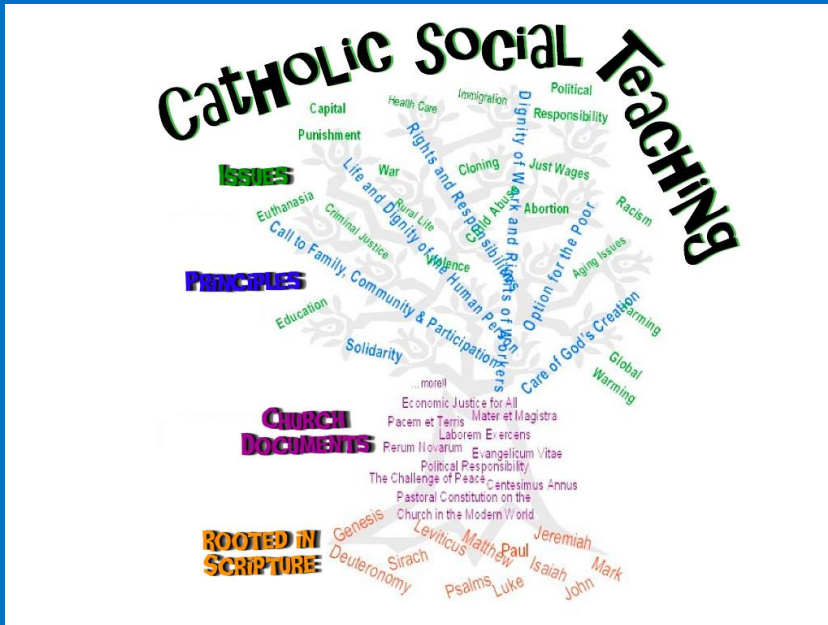
What attention is given to what is learned by the way your community celebrates liturgy?

Moral Formation

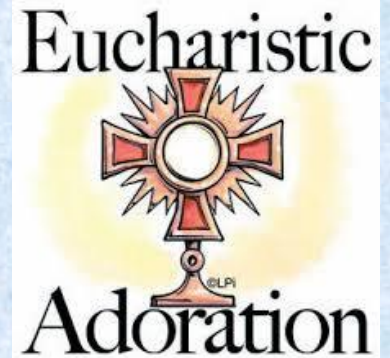
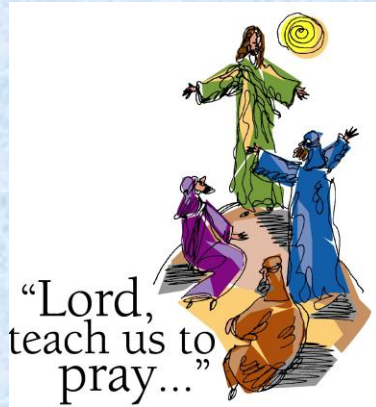
How do members of your community learn about the moral and social consequences of living the Christian life?

What opportunities are there for people to engage in and reflect on Christian service?

What opportunities exist for people to gather and read and discuss the Church's social teaching?



Teaching to Pray



How are children and adults in your community taught to pray?

How is access given to the many rich expressions of prayer in the Church – the Rosary, centering prayer, Scripture reflection and so on?

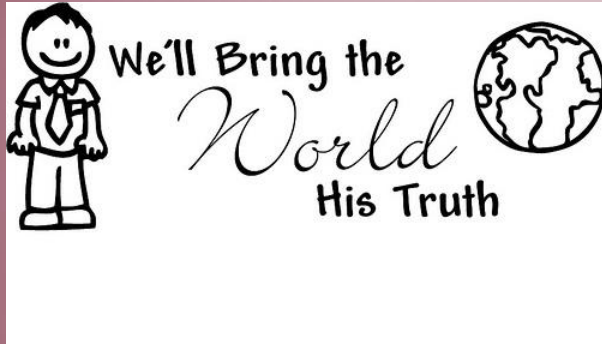


Community Life

What are three ways community is fostered in your parish or diocese?

How and when does your community engage in ecumenical dialogue and activities with neighboring Christian churches?





Missionary Initiation

What efforts are made to invite and encourage inactive Catholics back to the Church?

How does our community provide a public witness to the transforming power of the Gospel?



The background of the slide is a dense field of black umbrellas. In the center-right, one umbrella is bright yellow, standing out from the crowd. The text is overlaid on this background.

You Need to Stand Out from the Crowd

10 Points for Digital Leadership

- 1. Observe**
- 2. Step into the Educational Technology World**
- 3. Learn More via your Personal Learning Network**
- 4. Wants to Collaborate**
- 5. Identify “Best Practices”**
- 6. Adapt BP’s to the Catechetical World**
- 7. Involve small groups of catechists to be involved with you**
- 8. Advocate for \$\$\$\$ needed to bring technology into religious education**
- 9. Advocate for a “Parish Technology Plan” – include training**
- 10. Continue with Media Literacy Awareness**

21ST CENTURY CATECHETICAL LEADER:

Serving, Ministering, and Evangelizing in a Digital Culture

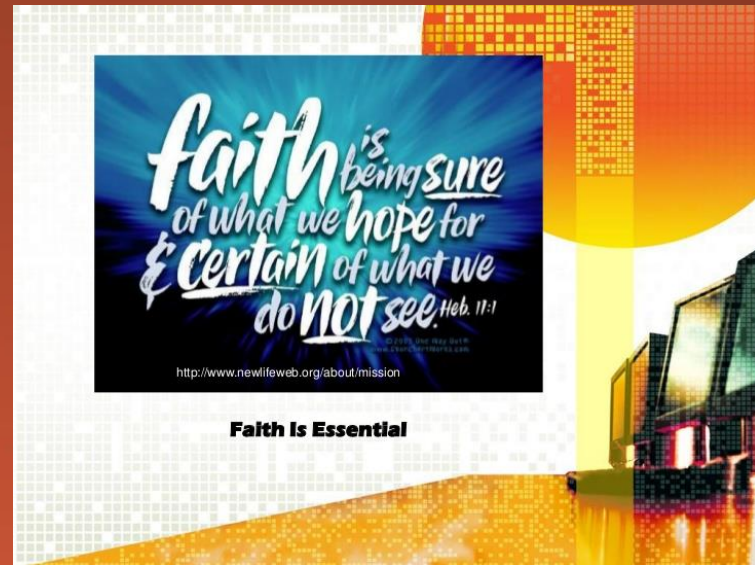


How?

- **What is happening in other places?**
- **Keep your ear to the ground?**

Step Out and Be Daring!





You can use...

- **PowerPoint Reflections**
- **Video**
- **Video – Downloaded from You Tube, and other...**
- **... and you can create your own... or students can create their own...**

DIGITAL PRAYER AND REFLECTION



A Digital Age Catechetical Leader is one who...

**... isn't afraid to use the tools of modern
technology to spread the Gospel
message. (Richard Drabik)**



A Digital Age Catechetical Leader is one who...

**...moves easily in and out of the tools
of the age, using what furthers the
mission of Jesus, while also knowing
and respecting the necessary
boundaries to protect those in our
care. (Judith Dieterle)**



A Digital Age Catechetical Leader is one who...

**... is not afraid to use social
networking, media and technology
for ministry and catechesis - and
willing to learn new technology
skills. (Joyce S. Donahue)**





Am I This Person?



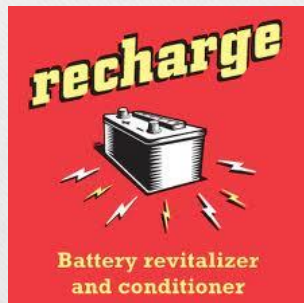
- Ideal person– Jesus Christ
- Not perfect, but committed to deepening faith and understanding of faith
- Goal– to become *more* formed in both the teachings of the church AND faith formation strategies
- Ongoing commitment to training



Love. Grow. Serve.

Plugging into the Power

What is your
power source?



How do you recharge
your battery?

Prayer- a definition

-
- Time in awareness of God
 - ‘Listening’
 - ‘Talking’
 - ‘Being With’
 - "a friendship with the One who we know loves us."
 - “a friendship, a permanent relationship with Someone”.
 - Your job– helping children know your friend!



Personal Prayer

- How's your friendship?
- Ask God for help!
- Take your planning to adoration
- Give thanks
- Remember—



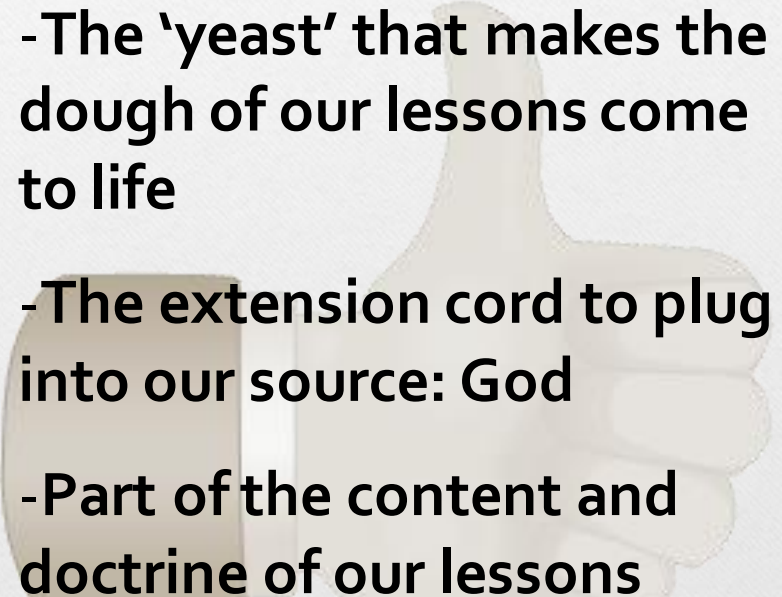
*In case of a loss in cabin pressure the air masks will deploy.
If you are traveling with a child, please put your mask on first.
Then help your child with the mask.*

Prayer in Faith Formation

Is Not

- 
- Frosting on the cake
 - Bookends to open & close
 - Mere repetition

Is

- 
- The 'yeast' that makes the dough of our lessons come to life
 - The extension cord to plug into our source: God
 - Part of the content and doctrine of our lessons

"Because catechesis seeks to lead persons and communities to deeper faith, it is oriented to prayer and worship."



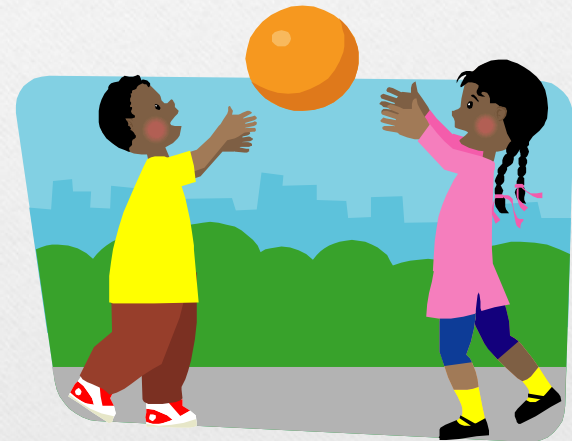
Spontaneous Prayer

- Address God
- Offer thanks
- Ask Forgiveness
- Pray for the group
- Pray for the needs of others
- Conclude

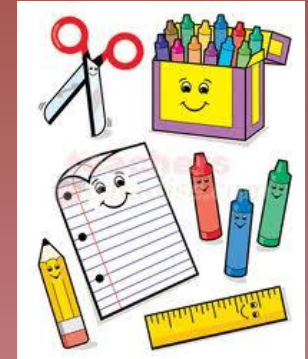
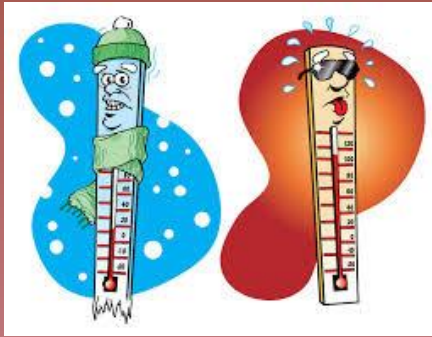


Skills, Tips and Practical Advice

- Friendship skills—
 - Acknowledging someone
 - Smiling
 - Conversation
 - Being with
- Praying skills
- Leading others into prayer is skill, too
- Use your leading skill to help their prayer skill



Checklist for Creating the Physical Environment





CREATING A CATHOLIC ENVIRONMENT

Prayer Table

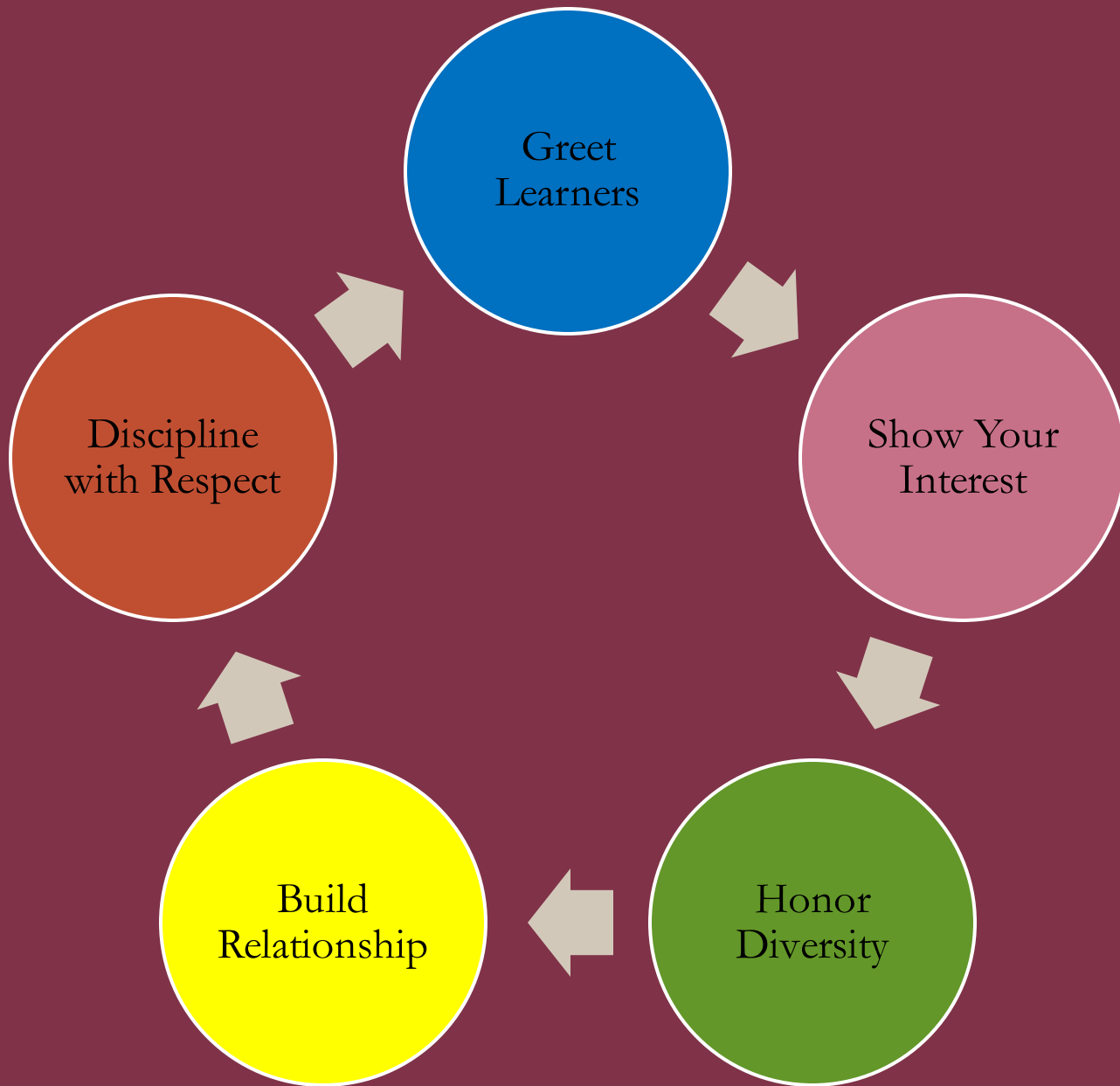
- † Designates this as special
- † Focus attention ,welcomes one into awareness of God
- † You can personalize prayer cloth and items from home
- † Reflect the lesson or the liturgical season



Nurturing the Social Environment

Recall a time when you had the opportunity to make people feel welcome and comfortable enough to share their ideas and feelings.

Share two or three actions you took to create a successful social environment.



IDEAS
CREATIVE

**Brainstorm
ideas**

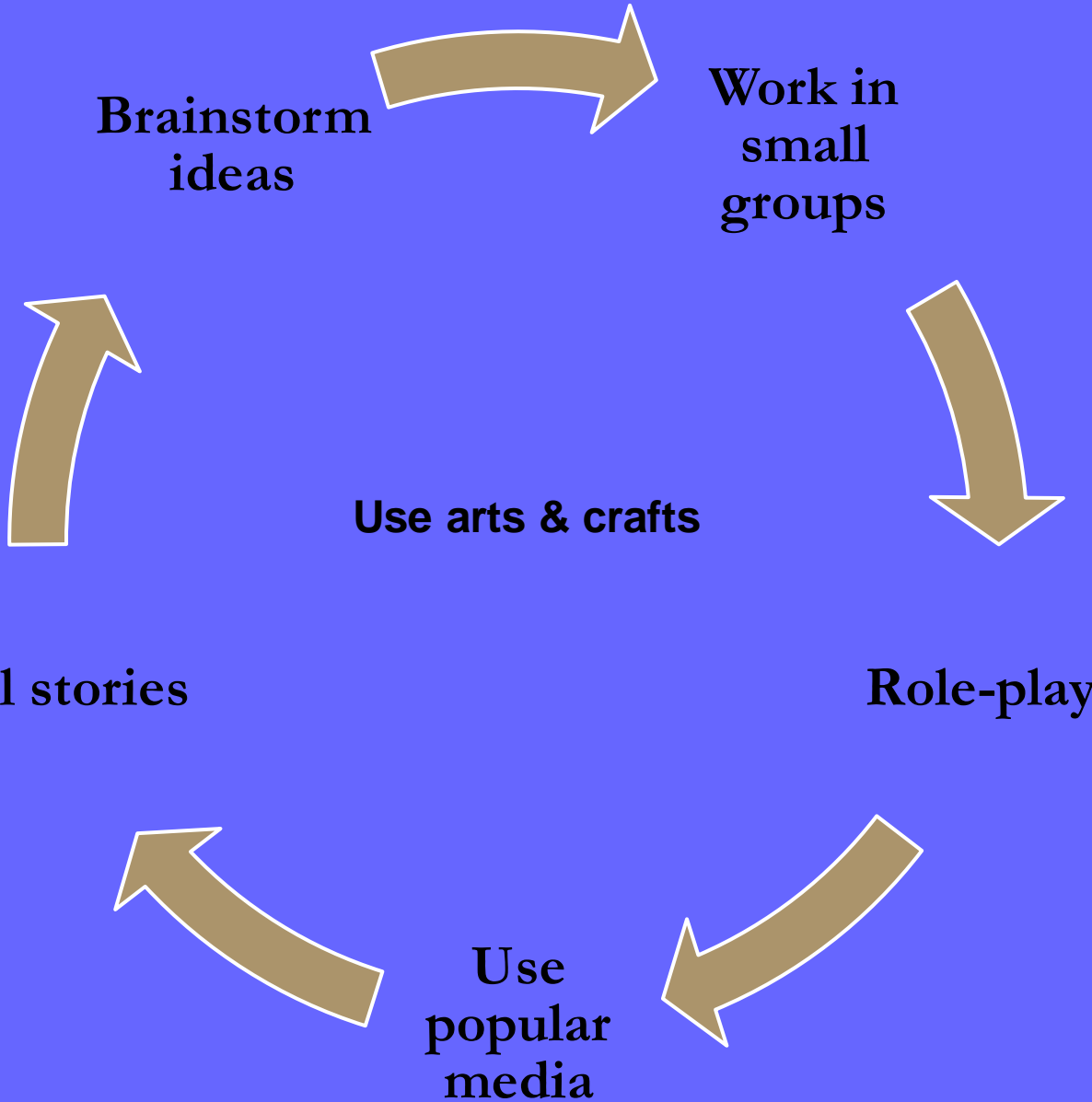
**Work in
small
groups**

Use arts & crafts

Tell stories

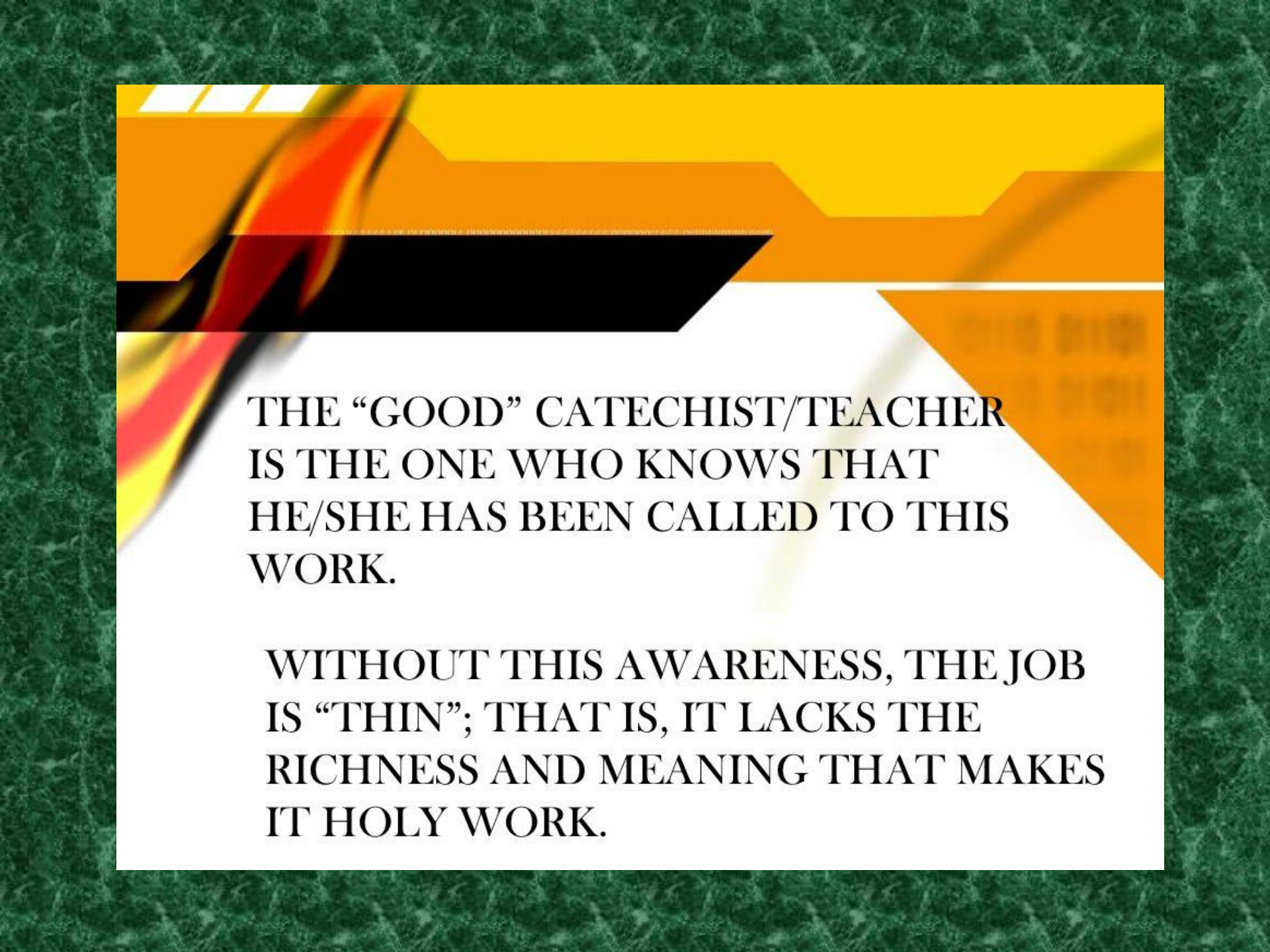
Role-play

**Use
popular
media**





PLANNING FOR
SUCCESS



**THE “GOOD” CATECHIST/TEACHER
IS THE ONE WHO KNOWS THAT
HE/SHE HAS BEEN CALLED TO THIS
WORK.**

**WITHOUT THIS AWARENESS, THE JOB
IS “THIN”; THAT IS, IT LACKS THE
RICHNESS AND MEANING THAT MAKES
IT HOLY WORK.**

Consistency & Authenticity of life



- Want gear that is made for the job.
- Our proper attire is our true being, Christ himself.
- By virtue of our baptism, we have “put on “ Christ and become a member of his body.
- Being a catechist is not a hat that we put on and take off as we please.
- We invite others into a way of life that defines who we are at our very core.
- We can’t teach what we don’t know.
- This means we have to strive to know Jesus, authentically, to internalize his message, and to follow the Catholic way of life that leads to him.



We want to be the real deal!

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

- **Make planning a priority**
- **Know your learners**
- **Determine the rules**
- **Choose appropriate words and whispers**
- **Show respect**



What is your greatest concern regarding classroom or Faith Formation Program management?



Catechesis

Not Your Job Alone

- Parents are the primary educators (CCC2223)
- Job of the entire community through liturgy, our parish life
- Our responsibility from Baptism
- Bishop is the primary catechist
- We help him in his role
- Not a job— but a vocation



a calling from the Holy Spirit, conferred as a mission by the church. The Lord Jesus invites men and women, in a special way, to follow him, teacher and formator of disciples” (GDC 231)



I learned most
not from those
who taught me
but from those
who talked with
me.

St. Augustine

What you do matters!

- It is your vocation.
- It can impact your faith life.
- The Holy Spirit can use you to form others.



Lord Jesus, Word made flesh, thank you for inviting me to proclaim your Word to others. Thank you for filling my life with your Word. Help me to speak a language of faith that will help others to recognize you in their lives and deepen their relationship with you. May your Word echo within my heart and within the hearts of those that I teach. Amen

The Catechist's Toolbox, p. 6