

# Creating a Parish Catechetical Plan

CORE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

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- **Dr. Mark Newcomb, Ph.D.** - Director
- **Brandi Borries** - Superintendent of Catholic Schools
- **Dawn Klinner** - Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools
- **Dr. Christopher Gill, Ph.D.** - Chief Administrative Officer of Quincy Catholic Schools
- **Sr. M. Clementia Toolson, FSGM** - Parish Liaison for Restored Order & Coordinator for Diocesan Celebrations
- **Kyle Holtgrave, MPS** - Director for Catechesis

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## Why a Parish Catechetical Plan?

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ..."

- Evangelii Gaudium 3

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## Where does the Church call for a Parish Catechetical Plan?

Using the guidelines and criteria found in the *National Directory for Catechesis*, a parish shall offer catechetical opportunities for all parishioners.  
Book 3: The Teaching Office of the Church §502.1

All parishes shall develop and maintain a comprehensive documented program plan including a calendar for catechesis of all parishioners.  
Book 3: The Teaching Office of the Church §502.3

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## National Directory for Catechesis 60 A

<p>Every parish needs to develop a coherent catechetical plan...</p> <p>That plan should reflect the priority of adult catechesis...</p>	<p>Accommodates the depth, width and breadth of the diverse needs in the parish...</p> <p>The plan should develop goals and objectives...</p>	<p>Devises a schedule that encourages adults to participate...</p> <p>Is adequately funded and staffed...</p>
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## Five Key Elements of a Parish Catechetical Plan

- Evangelization
- Inculturates the Gospel
- Baptismal Catechumenate
- Primacy of Adult Catechesis
- Fundamental Tasks & Settings

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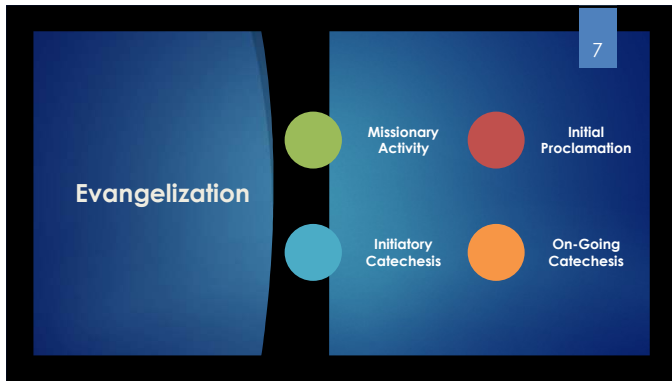
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**The Challenge of Inculturating the Gospel**

**The Gospel must incarnate (take flesh) in the real-life situation of those to whom it is addressed**

**Involves identifying areas of need which catechesis can work to address**

**Recognizes that catechists may need special preparation in order to work effectively in particular cultures**

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- Baptismal Catechumenate as the Inspiration for All Catechesis**
- ▶ Liturgical Catechesis
  - ▶ Comprehensive
  - ▶ Gradual and Progressive, unfolding in stages
  - ▶ Weds liturgy with catechesis in the work of faith formation
  - ▶ Involves the Christian Community
  - ▶ Broadly shared ownership

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“a fully Christian community can exist only when a... well-developed catechesis of adults is regarded as the *central task* in the catechetical enterprise” [emphasis original] (*Adult Catechesis in the Christian Community*, 1990).

“we, as the Catholic bishops of the United States, call the Church in our country to a renewed commitment to adult faith formation, positioning it at the heart of our catechetical vision and practice” (*Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, 1999).

## Primacy of Adult Catechesis

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## Fundamental Tasks of Catechesis

*Directory for Catechesis §79-89*

- Knowledge of the Faith
- Liturgy and Sacraments
- Moral Formation
- How to Pray
- Living in Christian Community

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## Settings for Catechesis

*Directory for Catechesis §224-282*

- ▶ Catechesis and the Family
- ▶ Catechesis with Children
- ▶ Catechesis in the Realm of Young People
  - ▶ Pre-adolescents
  - ▶ Adolescents
  - ▶ Young Adults
- ▶ Catechesis with Adults
- ▶ Catechesis with the Elderly
- ▶ Catechesis with Persons with Disabilities
- ▶ Catechesis with Migrants
- ▶ Catechesis with Emigrants
- ▶ Catechesis with People on the Margins

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**Organizing the Planning Process**

- ▶ Pre-Planning
- ▶ Forming the Core Team
- ▶ Assessing the Current Reality
- ▶ Writing the Plan
- ▶ Implementing & Evaluating

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**Phase 1: Pre-Planning**

- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the entire planning process
- ▶ Identify the stakeholders who need to be involved
- ▶ Invite key leaders to help run the planning process
- ▶ Establish core values that will guide the entire process
- ▶ Set the timeline that you will follow

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**Phase 2: Forming the Core Team**

- ▶ Create a Covenant
- ▶ Research the Tasks and Settings of Catechesis
- ▶ Publish a Mission Statement that Defines Core Values or Purpose of the group
- ▶ Create an Outline for Core Team Formation Sessions

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### Suggested Outline for Core Team Formation ~ Before the Meeting

- ▶ Read documents assigned as homework
- ▶ Reflect on what you have read
- ▶ Prepare notes on key points from the assigned readings



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### Suggested Outline for Core Team Formation ~ At the Meeting

- ▶ Guide a group discussion on key points members bring to the meeting
- ▶ Identify implications for catechetical ministry
- ▶ Record all ideas brought to the floor



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### Suggested Outline for Core Team Formation ~ End of the Meeting

- ▶ Review key points
- ▶ Remind everyone of the next meeting and assignments
- ▶ Close with Prayer



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**Phase 3: Assessing the Current Reality** 19

Objective look at the current reality within the parish community	Builds awareness of the current reality with stakeholders	What is and what is not currently happening
How stakeholders feel about the current reality	How successful efforts are perceived in the community	Basic demographic information

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**Phase 4: Writing the Plan** 20

- ▶ "Preferred Futuring" Exercise
- ▶ Drafting Goals, Objectives and Strategies as well as Identifying Accountability Markers
- ▶ Prioritizing and Consolidating

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**Preferred Futuring** 21

- ▶ Envisions the future you want for parish catechetical ministry
- ▶ Incorporates key strategies learned in the Core Team Formation phase
- ▶ Brings all possibilities to the table



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## Goals, Objectives and Strategies 22

**GOAL** – broad statement of a desired outcome

**OBJECTIVE** – a measurable outcome that, once achieved, advances the accomplishment of the goal

**STRATEGY** – one or more series of actions that enable an objective to be achieved

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## Accountability Markers 23

- ▶ Goals provide direction whereas objectives measure how you should follow that direction
- ▶ Goals should begin with the infinitive, "To..." followed by a verb that identifies the action to be taken
- ▶ Measuring accomplishment is easier if there is only one action to measure (an objective)
- ▶ Goals are usually never finished but remain in place as part of the overall mission

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## Prioritizing and Consolidating 24

- ▶ Prioritize
- ▶ New Perspectives
- ▶ Final Review
- ▶ Communicate Results with Stakeholders



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### Phase 5: Implementing and Evaluating the Plan

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Pastor

Parish Catechetical Leader

Catechetical Board

Supporting Roles

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### Summary

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- Identify stakeholders & form your core team
- Develop a mission statement & outline of formation sessions
- Assess the current reality & envision a preferred future

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### November CORE Meeting

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- Overnight retreat at Villa Maria, November 22-23
- Sharing what is learned from your parish assessment
- Create a series of goals for catechetical ministry in your parish

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