

Selected Readings for Parish Teams Renewing Their Parish Catechetical Plan

The Church's Mission of Evangelization as the Context for all Catechesis

Readings for Reflection and Sharing:

- [Evangelii Nuntiandi](#)
- Directory for Catechesis, nn. 38-41
- National Directory for Catechesis, pp. 41-53
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults nn. 36-40

Additional Resources:

- [Catechesi Tradendae](#), nn. 18-25
- [Ecclesia in America](#)
- [Ad Gentes](#), nn. 1-15
- Catechism of the Catholic Church, nn. [849-856](#), [905-907](#)

Critical Questions:

- To what extent do you think our community embodies a missionary spirit of evangelization in its catechetical ministries? Where do you see it manifested? Lacking?
- What do you think are the biggest obstacles we face in helping members of our community to become more conscious of themselves as evangelizers?

The Challenge of Inculturating the Gospel Message

- Directory for Catechesis, §42-46
- National Directory for Catechesis, pp. 12-17, 21-40, 63-68
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, n. 35

Additional Resources:

- [Redemptoris Missio](#), nn. 52-57
- [Gaudium et Spes](#), nn. 53-62

Critical Questions:

- Which aspects of our cultural situation in the United States do you think are most representative of deep Christian values? Which are most problematic from the standpoint of the Gospel?
- Are there any particular ways of presenting the Christian message that make it easier (or more difficult) for those within our culture to come to know Jesus Christ and accept his call to conversion?

The Baptismal Catechumenate as the Inspiration for all Catechesis

- Directory for Catechesis, §61-65
- National Directory for Catechesis, pp. 57-58, 115-118
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, nn. 1-8, 75-80

Additional Resource:

- [The Baptismal Catechumenate: An Inspiration for All Catechesis](#) (sorry, I couldn't find an online edition)

Critical Questions:

- What do you consider to be the key elements of the baptismal catechumenate that serve as the inspiration for all other catechesis?
- What would be some of the implications for your community if the catechumenate truly served as the model for all your catechetical efforts?

The Primacy of Adult Catechesis

- Directory for Catechesis, §257-265
- National Directory for Catechesis, pp. 185-195
- [Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us](#)

Additional Resources:

- [Adult Catechesis in the Christian Community: Some Principles and Guidelines](#)
- [Catechesi Tradendae](#), n. 43

Critical Questions:

- What would be the implications for your community if adult catechesis assumed a place of primary importance in the allocation of resources such as budget, staff, use of facilities, etc.?
- What obstacles do you see in your community to realizing this aspect of the vision?

Tasks of Catechesis

- Directory for Catechesis, §79-89
- National Directory for Catechesis, pp. 59-63
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, nn. 75-80

Additional Resources:

- Directory for Catechesis, nn. 224-282 (lengthy section but it unpacks a comprehensive list of setting in which each of the tasks of catechesis must take place)

- National Directory for Catechesis, pp. 69-107
- General Directory for Catechesis, nn. 253-264

Critical Questions:

- Which of these tasks do you think your community accomplishes best? Which is its weakest?
- What kind of changed priorities might be necessary for your community to be more comprehensive and holistic in its catechetical ministry?