

CALLED, FORMED, & SENT

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**NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival**

(Articles used with permission from the USCCB)

The Eucharist and Kerygmatic Catechesis

By James Pauley

This past June, the Church in the United States began an unprecedented initiative: a Eucharistic revival. We all agree, of course, that such a revival is needed today. And we know that we catechists will be vital to the revival's success.

Alongside the need for the Eucharistic revival, there is considerable enthusiasm these days for the idea that catechesis needs to become more evangelistic. Catechists today know that merely explaining the Faith is insufficient, considering the cultural challenges in which we live. The Church has, for nearly five decades, presented a new vision of catechesis: seeing it as a

“means” or a “privileged stage” in evangelization (see GDC 46 and DC 56). Catechesis carried out in an evangelistic way centers our presentation of Christian doctrine on what is most important to the Christian life, the proclamation of the essential content of God’s saving love (the kerygma). And such a proposal of the love of God is meant to stir up a response in each of us, a “yes” to God and to the call to conversion.

Let’s consider this connection between receiving the love of God and the need to personally respond to that love in how we live: two helpful points of emphasis as we teach amidst the Eucharistic revival.

The Kerygma and Catechesis

In 2013, Pope Francis called for the restoration of a “kerygmatic” approach to catechesis. Here are his exact words from *Evangelii Gaudium*:

In catechesis too, we have rediscovered the fundamental role of the first announcement or kerygma, which needs to be the center of all evangelizing activity and all efforts at Church renewal. This first proclamation is called “first” not because it exists at the beginning and can then be forgotten or replaced by other more important things. It is first in a qualitative sense because it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment. (164)

While this is a significant expression of the Church’s catechetical vision, it is not at all a new idea. The 1997 General Directory for Catechesis had described the aim of catechesis to “present Christ and everything in relation to Him” (98). In the prologue to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, we read that most important in the teaching of Christian doctrine is that “the love of our Lord must always be made accessible, so that anyone can see that all the works of perfect Christian virtue spring from love...” (25). And Pope St. John Paul II, in 1979, famously wrote of what is at the heart of catechesis: “the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ” (*On Catechesis in our Time*, 5). Eucharist. It’s been clear in the Church’s vision for quite some time that catechesis must be carried out in ways that lead people to actually know Jesus and become his disciples.

But this insight goes back even further. It was in 1936 that Austrian Jesuit Josef Jungmann wrote about the need to restore the kerygma to the way that we formulate the content of the Faith. He argued that while Catholics knew lots of doctrine, they had lost a sense of the glad tidings of Christianity. After all, central to the Christian life is the reception of the Good News of Jesus and the need to personally respond to this exhortation. He wrote:

To restore the kerygma to its full power and clarity into one single message proclaiming with joy and love the beauty and promise of the kingdom of God is the task of the kerygmatic renewal. Its chief aim is to present the truths of Faith as an organic whole. The core is the Good News of our redemption in Christ. Its fruit should be our grateful and loving response to God’s loving call.¹

Notice that last sentence: the Christian life is about receiving the content of the Good News and, at the same time, responding to God’s call. Both dimensions are integral. To leave one out is to turn away from something essential. We can’t only talk about God’s love and we can’t only exhort people to a new way of living. We can remember here the second chapter in the book of Acts, which offers us a compelling example. After Peter stood up with the eleven and proclaimed the Good News of Christ crucified and risen, his hearers were “cut to the heart” and they responded, “what are we to do?” (Acts 2: 37) The 2020 Directory for Catechesis also describes this essential facet to the teaching style of Jesus: “In all the various means he employed to teach about who he was, Jesus evoked and elicited a personal response from his hearers” (161).

There is an opportunity for us catechists in this. If we struggle at times with unresponsive students, if we’re not seeing as much fruit to our labors as we would like, it may be that a change of approach is our best way forward. Rather than seeing catechesis only as explanatory, what would happen if our catechesis were also exhortative? What if learners could perceive throughout catechesis the invitation to take steps forward in their life in Christ? A kerygmatic approach to catechesis proclaims the goodness of God and his extraordinary love for us and invites us to actually respond and change and become a disciple of Jesus.

¹ Josef Jungmann, SJ, “Theology and Kerygmatic Teaching,” *Lumen Vitae*, V (1950): 258

Questions arise here—and these are so good for us to grapple with: how can we center our teaching in the kerygma and the call to conversion? How can we teach the Faith so that the love of God is clearly accessible to them, especially since every point of Catholic teaching has its origin in true Love? How can we also make clear the change of life that is the consequence of being loved by God? How can we allow space within catechesis for such a response of faith and a “yes” to Jesus?

The Eucharist and the Kerygma

As we consider the kerygma, we remember that the Gospel Message is not just a concept, but is a person. The “it” is actually a “He.” John 3:16 tells us: “for God so loved the world that He gave his only son...” The gift of the Son is the most extraordinary gift ever given in the history of the world. And, in the Eucharist, He has made possible the “intimate communion” that is the very objective of catechesis. I frequently tell my students that the most important thing we can do as catechists is point our students to Jesus in the Eucharist. And this means not only teaching them about the Eucharist but also stirring up in them a desire to encounter Jesus and enter into Eucharistic communion with Him.

Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist as spiritual nourishment because he loves us. By eating the Body and drinking the Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, we become united to the person of Christ through his humanity. “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him” (John 6:56). In being united to the humanity of Christ, we are at the same time united to his divinity. Our mortal and corruptible natures are transformed by being joined to the source of life.

The theme for the Eucharistic revival is beautifully kerygmatic: “This is my body, given for you” (Lk 22:19). These words encapsulate so well the proposal which Jesus makes to each of us. He wishes to make a gift of himself, to give himself totally and without reservation to each of us. This is an invitation into a life of profound love, of mystery, and of deep challenge and adventure.

But notice how both the proclamation of the Gospel Message in catechesis and the giving of this life of Eucharistic communion with God are proposals. And, as with any proposal we might receive (big or small), a response is always required. Being a disciple is always a choice. To receive the Eucharist means that we are giving our “yes” to God’s gift of Himself. Consciously

receiving this gift brings deep joy, knowing that we are this loved and that our dignity is this great. But there is also a second “yes” inherent to receiving the Eucharist. And this is the same “yes” that we give in receiving the kerygma: a “yes” to truly think and see and live like a disciple of Jesus. Receiving the Eucharist means that I am committing myself to live in alignment with this communion with Jesus that I enjoy. To God who gives himself so profoundly, I am invited to give myself in return. To live this way requires grace: and certainly receiving Jesus himself in the Eucharist gives us all that we need. But it does require our free response, our “yes” to truly live as a disciple.

This is the adventure of the Eucharistic life. Receiving the Eucharist is meant to change how we see the world, how we make moral decisions, how we treat other people, especially those who are most vulnerable, to include pregnant moms and their unborn children, and those living in poverty.

This is the Christian life. This is the life into which we are immersed when we receive the basic Christian message and when we receive the Eucharist. The life of following Jesus and living in Him is the adventure for which we were made. May the grace of Jesus in the Eucharist give each of us the desire and strength to respond to this invitation with joy, and with our full “yes.” And may our witness inspire and challenge those we teach.

*Dr. James Pauley is Professor of Theology and Catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville and he has been appointed to the executive team of the Eucharistic Revival. He is the editor of the Catechetical Review and is author of two books focused on the renewal of catechesis: **An Evangelizing Catechesis: Teaching from Your Encounter with Christ** (2020) and **Liturgical Catechesis in the 21st Century: A School of Discipleship** (revised edition, 2022).*

For more information, the Eucharistic Revival has a website with videos and resources:

<https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>

Catechetical Sunday 2022 – September 18

Catechetical Sunday will be Sunday, September 18, 2022. The theme corresponds to the Eucharistic Revival, “This is my body given for you.” Be sure to commission and recognize your catechists on this special day! Included with this day are catechists for pre-school and kindergarten; catechists for all grades in elementary, middle school, and high school; catechists for those

with disabilities; catechists for RCIA teams; catechists for adult catechetical formation; and even parents and godparents.

For more information about Catechetical Sunday, go to the USCCB:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/evangelization-catechesis/catechetical-sunday-2022>

COVID-19

We are still monitoring all nine counties within our diocese. We will continue to inform you on any changes in protocol.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PCL Gatherings

Our next PCL Gathering will be Thursday, September 22, 2022. We will focus on the Eucharistic Revival. We will also open it up to you PCLs regarding your questions, concerns, and sharing of best practices. It will be held at the Cathedral Center of St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica in Beaumont. It will be from 9:30 am to noon and lunch will follow.

Please RSVP to Twyla Satterthwaite for this gathering:
tsatterthwaite@dioceseofbmt.org

PCL Gatherings for the 2022-2023 Catechetical Year

September 22, 2022

November 17, 2022

January 12, 2023

February 9, 2023

March 16, 2023

April 20, 2023

May 18, 2023

Parish Visits

Twyla (North, West, and South Vicariates) and Bryan (Central and East Vicariates) are available for parish visits. Bryan and Twyla are currently doing visits with catechetical leaders and can visit during your parish catechetical formation. Bryan can also visit with pastors as well. What will happen at these parish visits? The following are some possibilities:

- Evaluation of your evangelization efforts
- Evaluation of your adult catechetical formation
- Observation of your faith formation during the time of instruction
- An in-service with your catechists
- A presentation to parents

- A catechetical presentation – guest catechist for adults, youth, or children
- RCIA training for your RCIA team

Please contact Bryan Reising or Twyla Satterthwaite via phone or email: breising@dioceseofbmt.org or 409-924-4323 and tsatterthwaite@dioceseofbmt.org or 318-840-7785 to arrange a time to visit your parish.

Liturgical Workshop

Saturday, October 22, 2023 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. To register, email jmiller@dioceseofbmt.org. There will be specific workshops for lectors, cantors, and other liturgical ministries. The keynote presentation will be by Msgr. James P. Moroney, expert on the liturgy who will focus on the understanding and devotion to the Eucharist. PCLs can benefit from this gathering as well since there is a deep connection between the liturgy and catechesis. See the flyer for further information.

Summit 2022 - Many Faces in God's House Unity in Community

This will be at the Julie Rogers Theatre for Performing Arts. The keynote will be Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, DC, and the day will include a panel and breakout sessions. This will be for all Catholics. A suggested donation of \$10 will cover lunch. For further information and register, go to the following website:

<https://www.dioceseofbmt.org/many-faces/>

Volunteer Opportunities for Service Hours and Apprenticeship

Southeast Texas Food Bank - Beaumont The website to help volunteer: <https://setxfoodbank.org/get-involved/>

Market to Hope (Catholic Charities) in Beaumont The need for volunteers has increased recently. Contact Alexi Valastro: 409-924-4435

Hospitality Center (Catholic Charities) in Port Arthur Contact Christina Vara Green at 409-924-4406

Some Other Place – Beaumont – Morning food preparation is needed (Monday through Saturday). Phone: 409-832-7976.

University of Dayton (VLCFF)



Cycle 7: October 24 - November 27, 2022(Registration: Opens September 7; Closes October 19)

- [Administration in Ministry \(FLM\)](#)
- [Basic Catechist Formation: Seminar 1.1 \(Catechesis is...\) \(Sem\)](#)
- [Basic Catechist Formation: Seminar 1.2 \(Vocation of the Catechist\) \(Sem\)](#)
- [Basic Catechist Formation: Seminar 1.3 \(The Person of the Catechist\)](#)
- [Basic Catechist Formation: Seminar 2.1 \(Methodology\)](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catechetical Methodology – AMS Military Only](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Catholic Identity and Culture \(Sem\)](#)
- [Church History 2](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Directory for Catechesis 2020: A General Overview \(Sem\)](#)
- [Evangelization and Discipleship](#) – Bryan will facilitate this course
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Faith Formation for Adults with Special Needs \(SN 5\)](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Let This Be the Time: Spiritual Essentials for Life's Second Act \(Sem\)](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Prayer](#)
- [Mary in Scripture and Tradition](#)
- [Mercy \(Sem\)](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [On the Call to Holiness \(Gaudete Et Exsultate\)](#)

- [Our Hearts Were Burning \(Sem\)](#)
- [Parish as a Learning Community \(AFL 2\)](#)
- [Prayer and Worship with Adolescents \(YM\)](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Summary of Catholic Social Teaching \(Sem\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [The Parish Nurse: Facilitating Wholistic Health Through the Lifespan](#)
- [Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life \(Sem\)](#)
- [Veteran and Military Family Outreach \(SN\)](#)
- [Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists](#)

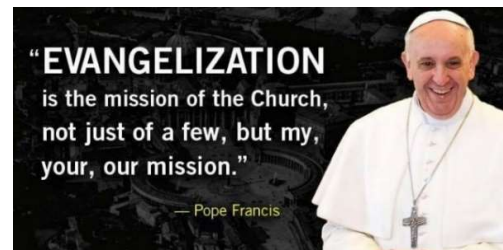
USCCB Resources and Formation



<https://www.usccb.org/committees/evangelization-catechesis>

Come to this website for great resources and formation opportunities for PCLs!

Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation



Word on Fire: Bishop Robert Barron adult faith formation series - <https://www.wordonfire.org/>

Check out this resource from Word on Fire Engage:

<https://engage.wordonfire.org/about>

Formed.org is a subscription service by parish that includes adult faith formation offerings, movies, and podcasts, and eBooks: <https://formed.org/>. They are offering discounts for parishes in our diocese currently and even have catechist certifications in English and Spanish. Please mention that you are from the Diocese of Beaumont to get the discount.

JustFaith is a small group process to learn about Catholic Social Teaching: <https://justfaith.org/>
RENEW International has a host of resources for renewal and adult catechetical formation:

<http://www.renewintl.org/>

SINE (Systematic Integral New Evangelization) is a plan for the new evangelization for parishes that offer renewal experiences, small Christian communities, neighborhood based ministries, and home visitation (resources and training in Spanish and English):

<https://sinecentral.org/>

Paulist Evangelization Ministries offers many resources for small groups, parish renewal, a process for returning Catholics (**Awakening Faith**), and outreach:

<https://www.pemdc.org/>

Amazing Parish assists parishes to maximize their efforts for evangelization and pastoral care:

<https://amazingparish.org/>

Catholic Returning Home is a process for returning Catholics: <http://www.catholicsreturninghome.org/>

Divine Renovation is a process of renewal with small Christian communities as follow-up:

<https://divinerenovation.org/>

Rebuilt is a process of thinking differently about your parishes to increase opportunities of deepening parishioners' faith, belong to small Christian communities, and involving them in parish life:

<https://www.rebuiltparish.com/>

Alpha for Catholics is a 10-week renewal process for parishes: <https://alphausa.org/catholic>

Rosary Making

The next Rosary Making Gathering will be Sunday, September 11, 2022 at the Seafarers Center in Port Arthur from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Contact Bryan at breising@dioceseofbmt.org

ACTS

To find out about upcoming ACTS Retreat and Activities: <https://beaumontacts.org/>

Interested in a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Theology or Catechesis?

St. Thomas University in Houston:

<https://www.stthom.edu/Academics/School-of-Arts-and-Sciences/Undergraduate/Theology/Index>

Catholic University of America (online Masters in Catechesis):

<https://trs.catholic.edu/academics/online/mcat-catechesis/index.html>

Loyola University Chicago (online bilingual MA in Pastoral Studies, online MA in Pastoral Studies with a focus on Religious Education, or an online Certificate in Religious Education):

<https://www.luc.edu/ips/>

Xavier University of New Orleans – Institute for Black Catholic Studies: <https://www.xula.edu/ibcs>

Mexican American Catholic College (MACC):

<https://maccsa.org/>

National Community of Catechetical Leaders (NCCL)

Professional Organization for PCLs, Evangelization Directors, and Diocesan Leadership

After a year of transition, with a commitment to continuing the good work begun almost 100 years ago, we are pleased to announce the renewal of **NCCL** - the **National Community of Catechetical Leaders**.

For decades, catechists have joined together in prayer to support one another in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus in the U.S. Now more than ever, the Spirit calls us together as a community of catechetical leaders to creatively address the new challenges and opportunities facing the ministries of evangelization and catechesis in today's world.

The mission of the **National Community of Catechetical Leaders** is to promote the ministries of evangelization and catechesis in the U.S. Catholic Church by fostering a community of leaders who proclaim and teach the Word of Jesus Christ through the witness of accompaniment, education, and formation in the Catholic faith.

As a member of NCCL, you will have access to services, resources, and events to support you in your catechetical ministry through our new NCCL Catholic website (www.ncclcatholic.org).

- A weekly menu of feature **Articles**, catechetical innovations, and trends and research reports
- A monthly free **Webinar** on catechetical ministry today
- A **Vision** section focusing on the *Directory for Catechesis* with video presentations, articles, and tools to bring the Directory alive in your setting
- Reports on effective **Practices** in faith formation with all ages
- Reports of **Research** and **Trends** and their impact on evangelization and catechesis

- A **Library** with videos from past conferences, *Catechetical Leader* magazine, and more
- An **Events** page to keep you updated on conferences, workshops, and gatherings

We invite you to become part of this mission by becoming a member of this community that shares the same joys and challenges you face. Because we want everyone to get the support they need, **there are no membership fees!** If you have not joined yet, [click here to join NCCL](#).

Out and About

by Twyla Satterthwaite



One thing I can tell you that I found out this summer as I traveled to the parishes is that it was ... **HOT!** Every day that I visited a PCL it had to be 110 in the shade! In spite of the heat, some wonderful things happened this summer.

The best thing that happened this summer is that my Great Grandson, Michael Allan Cates, aka, “MAC” and my Grandnephew, Benicio Tomas, aka “Beni with the Hair”, joined our family. These new lives bring energy and hope into our family and the world. As I travel around the diocese I feel that the diocese is experiencing new energy and hope, in part because of your hard work.

This June we had a dreams and goals workshop for PCLS. We discussed what if we changed the things that were not working. What would happen? What would it be like? After consultation with their pastors and much prayer some who attended the workshop have added some new components to their programs and some have completely re-tooled their programs.

Your summer has been filled with meetings and trainings, reviewing new products, planning and for some even remodeling the buildings. You have worked hard to make the dream you dreamed at the workshop a reality and now is the time to see what will happen.

As I spoke with many of you during our August Catechist Workshops, I sensed some uncertainty about your choices and just some plain exhaustion. It reminded me

of the times when as a younger woman, I had those product parties, Tupperware, Home Interiors, Mary Kay, etc. I would always worry, “What if no one comes”, “What if no one buys anything?” Have I done enough?

It is the same for you at this time of birth for your new vision. Now is not the time to waver, now is the time for trust in God. Call upon the gifts you were given at Confirmation:

Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Awe of the Lord and Piety.

There will be negative people; there will be bumps in the road. That is what happens when something is born. Babies are a lot of work. Trust God, and trust yourself.

Here is the meditation I used this summer for the planning workshop. I thought it may be good to reflect on it again as we enter our time of birthing.

God of Wonders

Lord, God who called us into being and called us to this ministry help us as we seek to know your will and your power.

Remind us that You created all things from nothing with just a word.

Remind us that You blessed the aged Abraham and Sara with a child long after they had given up hope for any children and that they named him Isaac, which means laughter.

Remind us that after Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery, You made him a ruler in Egypt who saved your people from starvation.

Remind us also, that You freed the Israelite slaves from Egypt, and saved them from the great army of Egypt by parting the sea for them to pass through on dry land.

Help us to remember that You fed your people in the desert with water from a rock and bread that fell from heaven like the dew.

Remind us that You protected the prophet Daniel when he was thrown into a lion’s den.

Remind us that You raised Jesus after he died on the cross.

Help us to know, that for You, nothing is impossible.

Send us your Holy Spirit to open our minds and our souls to all the possibilities that You have placed before

us, if we could only see with eyes of faith. We ask this in the name of our risen Lord and brother Jesus.

Amen.

Safe Environment

In the near future, we will be moving our background check process fully online with Virtus, our Safe Environment vendor. In the meantime, in-person PGC training sessions remain suspended, and the current levels of training are detailed below.

There are currently three levels of training for adults.

- 1.** Initial Online Training (5-year expiration)
- 2.** Initial Online Recertification (5-year expiration)
- 3.** Keeping the Promise Alive (second recertification)

For people who need to complete the initial training or the initial recertification, direct them to <https://www.dioceseofbmt.org/safe-environment/> and make sure they choose the correct menu button; either “Protecting God’s Children Initial Training” or “Virtus Recertification.” The button for “Virtus Recertification” only applies to the initial online recertification training. It **does not** apply to Keeping the Promise Alive (KPA) training. For those who need to complete KPA, they should receive an email sent to the email address used to create their Virtus Account once KPA recertification is necessary.

Please note: the procedure described above only applies to those who do not currently have a Virtus account. If you need the initial recertification and you already have a Virtus account, the link to recertify will be sent directly to your email.

Direct any PGC related questions to Joseph Blakeley at jblakeley@dioceseofbmt.org or 409-924-4309.