

CALLED, FORMED, & SENT

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Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

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Happy Epiphany!

From Bryan and Twyla, the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis

The new Directory for Catechesis

By Bryan Reising

This will be a series to look at the new Directory for Catechesis. We will read, discover, and learn about the directives the Church gives us regarding evangelization and catechesis within our parishes and diocese.

Part Three – Catechesis in Particular Churches, Chapter Ten Catechesis in the Face of Contemporary Cultural Scenarios. In the first section, **Catechesis in Situations**

of Pluralism and Complexity, it mentions several possible situations within our culture. Before we get into those situations, this chapter lays the groundwork. It recognizes the complexities of society, which includes a blending of various realities: progress of understanding and cultural tendencies, the globalization of models of life and influences of economic-political systems, ethnic and religious identities, old and new social questions, and so on. It also mentions the

importance of synodality, of journeying together as a Church and having more participation in its evangelizing mission.

The Urban Context

It describes that other institutions within an urban population, that are other than Christian, often generate cultural models with new language, symbols, messages, and paradigms, much of which is in contrast to the Gospel. However, the church is not absent from urban life and still can be important in its impact and influence. Interaction with urban cultures requires an understanding of these cultures so that the kerygmatic proclamation can be effective and so that catechetical formation and creating a community of communities can reach out to all circles of influence.

The Rural Context

It recognizes the land, the care of animals and crops, and the change of seasons that can remind us of the divine providence of our God. They all influence how we approach faith, the Liturgical year, and the care for God's creation.

Traditional Local Cultures

The Church understands that the downfall of globalization is the loss of local cultural traditions. "The Church has always reiterated the need to pay special attention to local specificity and cultural diversity." Regarding catechesis and indigenous people, special care is to be taken, such as to strive to get to know the language, ceremonies, stories, customs, and showing great respect.

Popular Piety

It describes popular piety as "a spirituality incarnated in the culture of the lowly." It is unique, but does not compromise the Catholic faith, but enhances it for a local situation. It celebrates the central mysteries of our faith, namely the life of Jesus, but also venerates Mary, the Mother of God, local saints, and it focuses on sacramentals like the rosary, the Divine Mercy chaplet, novenas, processions, visit to shrines, and pilgrimages. Regarding catechesis, it recommends that it stay away from being a superstition and focus as a prayer experience and to keep a Christocentric instrument of faith.

In the second section, **Catechesis in the Context of Ecumenism and Religious Pluralism**, it looks at the reality of many places in the world where there are many faith traditions living side by side.

Catechesis in the Ecumenical Context

Here it talks about how the Church by its very nature is dialogical - meaning, the very word, catholic, means universal, and we must engage in dialogue with other Christians, other faith traditions, other new movements and philosophies. Regarding ecumenism, this means we are relationship with other Christians. We must dialogue to understand the things we have in common, understand the differences, pray together, and help to build a more just and peaceful society. Regarding catechesis, we realize that some of the families in our parishes are made up of a Catholic and another Christian tradition. With this in mind, we must hold fast to the areas mentioned above without watering down the essentials of our doctrine.

Catechesis in Relation to Judaism

Special attention is given to Judaism, since this is our roots. Catechesis must take into account this reality, that Jesus himself was Jewish and immersed himself in that faith tradition and culture. It must take into account that the Old Testament is important because it unfolds the story of salvation, and that story anchors Christianity. Regarding the New Testament and Judaism, catechesis helps us to understand that revealed Word and Jesus are the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, not a replacement of them.

Catechesis in the Context of Other Religions

Regarding catechesis and other faith traditions, Catholics must receive a strong formation in the Catholic faith plus a better understanding of the other faiths, which exist within their communities. This also leads to discernment of "recognizing and appreciating the seeds of the Word that are present" in other faiths, such as the Golden Rule can be found in many faith traditions. Dialogue is necessary, and at times, there may be opportunities to proclaim the faith and invite them to our faith, yet still respecting religious liberty.

Catechesis in the Context of New Religious Movements

Regarding evangelization and catechesis with those involved with these new movements, we need to come to an understanding of their beliefs and background. Then, we as a Church must also stand out as a community of love, witnessing our faith through our attitudes and actions. With these, the kerygma of Jesus can be presented in a bold, yet respectful way. When people of these new movements ask further questions, we can be ready to answer them with Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition plus faith and reason. We can then invite them to encounter the rituals, symbols, gestures,

and ceremonies of our liturgical tradition and other prayer experiences. Here they can encounter the living God as these experiences do touch the human heart.

We will continue our journey into this directory in the months to come. In February, we will continue this series by looking at chapter ten, "Catechesis in the Face of Contemporary Cultural Scenarios," section three. To purchase this important directory, a must for all PCLs, the USCCB is selling this book at the following link: <https://store.usccb.org/directory-for-catechesis-p/7-669.htm>

COVID-19

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

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PCL Gatherings

Join us for our next PCL Gathering, on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at the Catholic Pastoral Center "Chancery". Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) Curriculum Division will be the sponsor. This gathering will start with lunch at 12:00 pm and last until 3 pm. Our speaker will be José Hernandez-Aguirre of Our Sunday Visitor. His presentation is titled, "OSV Perspectives: How do we continue to move forward post pandemic?" As we adapt to new ways of enriching our lives with the living word, how do we shift from fear to trust. We have gained a new perspective with imposed restrictions and now have an improved blueprint. Please RSVP to Twyla Satterthwaite: tsatterthwaite@dioceseofbmt.org



This is a special worldwide synod that will begin in each diocese throughout the world. A synod is a listening process of the Church that calls for widespread input from Catholics. Special questions, which can help facilitate this synod, can be found at this website: <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/09/07/210907a.html> (the questions can be found in numbers 26 and 30). You may share your answers, reflections, observations, and

concerns to the following email: lookingforward@dioceseofbmt.org. Share this with your parishioners! Thank you!



FULLNESS OF TRUTH

Why Go to Mass?

Grasping the Source
of Your Salvation!

St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church
6825 Gladys Ave, Beaumont, TX 77706

March 11-12, 2022

General Admission Pass - \$55 | Virtual General Admission Pass - \$55
EARLY BIRD General Admission Pricing through 1/15/22 - \$45
Family Pass - \$150 | Priority Seraphim Pass - \$110
Youth Pass - \$20 | Clergy/Religious Admission Pass - FREE



Bishop David Toups | Dr. David Anders | Dr. Michael Barber

For tickets, schedule and more information, call 877.218.7884 or visit FullnessOfTruth.org

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/why-go-to-mass-grasping-the-source-of-your-salvation-beaumont-tx-tickets-170192228537>. Notice that early bird pricing at \$45 is until January 15, 2022.

Parish Visits

Parish visits have resumed with all precautionary protocols. Twyla (North, West, 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.

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 Chris Robertson: 409-924-4419

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.

Special Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities for Service Hours and Apprenticeship

Rosary Making at the Seafarers Center in Port Arthur on Sunday afternoon, January 9, 2022 from 2 pm to 5 pm. Contact Doreen Badeaux at 409-985-4545

Encounter Catholic – Mardi Gras in Beaumont – We need people or groups of people from parishes or other organizations to help at the Encounter Catholic booth (held at the Great Lawn of the Event Center in Beaumont) on February 24 through February 27, 2022. We need help Thursday evening, February 24, from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Friday evening, February 25, from 6:00 pm to 12:00 am, Saturday, February 26, from 12:00 pm to 12:00 am, and Sunday, February 27, from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Contact Bryan at 409-924-4323 to sign up.

University of Dayton (VLCFF)



Cycle 1: January 17 - February 19, 2022 (Registration: Opens October 13, 2021; Closes January 12, 2022)

- [Advanced Catholic Social Teaching \(SJ\)](#)
- [Basic Catechist Formation: Seminar 1.1 \(Catechesis is...\) \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catechetical Methodology – AMS Military Only](#)

- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Christology](#)
- [Church History 1](#)
- [Directory for Catechesis 2020 \(5-week course\)](#)
- [Directory for Catechesis 2020: A General Overview \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Echoes of Racism: Whispers of Healing \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Emotional Intelligence and Its Impact on Faith Formation \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Foundations for Liturgy](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Christian Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Paul's Life and Letters](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Leadership Roles and Skills for Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 5\)](#)
- [Let This Be the Time: Spiritual Essentials for Life's Second Act \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Music in Liturgy](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [On the Call to Holiness \(Gaudete Et Exsultate\)](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Principles for Addressing Diversity Issues in Youth Ministry \(YM\)](#)
- [RCIA: A Process of Conversion, Catechesis and Community](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Study of The Joy of the Gospel \(Evangelii Gaudium\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [The Mass](#)
- [Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists](#)

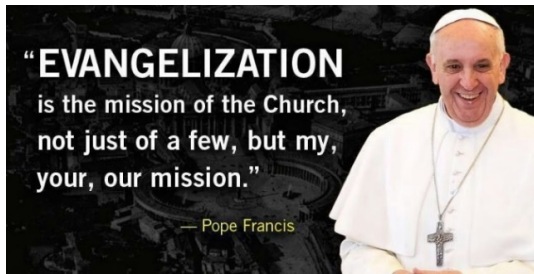
USCCB Resources and Formation



<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>

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>

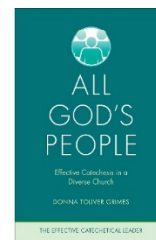
Mexican American Catholic College (MACC): <https://maccsa.org/>

In Word and Witness

Professional Organization for PCLs, Evangelization Directors, and Diocesan Leadership

Become a member of In Word and Witness, a national organization for PCLs, diocesan leadership, those involved in evangelization and RCIA, and others! They have a free membership and a paid membership. The paid membership is only \$75 a year and has extra benefits. For information on those benefits and how to register as a free or paid member, go to <https://inwordandwitness.org/membership/>

Effective Parish Catechetical Leader



We have been offering a virtual study on the **Effective Parish Catechetical Leader** series by Loyola Press for over two years and it has been very successful. This series is designed to be a practical tool for PCLs to use in their ministry. The PCLs who have participated in the study recommend it to everyone.

Kerri Bartee PCL at St. Joseph the Worker in Dayton says, "This series is a great tool for any PCL and use the app too...it's very helpful. I'll keep this series of books around always!"

Susan Dengler PCL at St. Elizabeth in Port Arthur has said, "I hesitated to commit to the chapters to read for each week, but I am so glad I decided to attend. The chapters are very relatable to my daily life."

This series is especially helpful for new PCLs such as Dora Cortez, PCL at Holy Trinity, Mt. Belvieu. She expressed, "These books challenge me to think outside the box. They are very innovative and thought provoking. Our discussions have opened up new ways for me to minister."

During this virtual study we discuss the points in the chapter and reflect on how they pertain to our individual ministries. Another benefit is that we share with other PCLs what is happening in our ministry. This networking enhances each of our parishes and ministries. Consider joining us as we begin a new book, **"All God's People"**, in January. We meet for an hour on Wednesdays at 10 am.

To participate fully in this study you will need:

1. A copy of the book found at Loyolapress.com
2. A commitment to meet for 10 weeks or do the makeup work
3. Read the chapter being discussed **BEFORE** we meet
4. Do suggested activity during the week

Email Twyla at tsatterthwaite@dioceseofbmt.org to register or for more information.

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.