

Superior Catechist



Volume 4 Number 1

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TO BE A CATECHIST BY RICHARD LYONS

It is often interesting to ask a young person, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Often times the answer tells a lot about the person's heroes and values. From my grandchildren I've heard hockey player, football player, model, architect, clothes designer, veterinarian, and marine biologist, just to name a few. I've also noticed that as the youngsters age the vocations that get mentioned are more attuned to their skills, abilities, interests and lived experience.

So far, I haven't heard any of the five grandchildren say, "I want to be a catechist." Yet, as stated in *Ad Gentes Divinitus* (Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity, Vatican II), catechists make "an outstanding and absolutely necessary contribution to the spread of the faith and the Church by their great work." As Church, when we look to the future, the need for catechists is readily apparent.

Perhaps the grandchildren don't realize the variety of ways in which one can participate in the ministry of catechesis. Catechetical ministers work in schools, in parishes, with kids, with adults both young and old. We call ourselves parents, volunteers, teachers, DRE's, CRE's, RCIA ministers, Directors of Adult Religious Education, principals, Yet in the end,

our task remains: to lead those to whom we minister to a fuller maturity in faith.

At a SUMMIT meeting last August, the catechetical leaders (CRE's, DRE's, principals, youth ministers) of our diocese identified the values that we are all striving to exemplify. Chief among these values, was the Catholic faith itself. By providing a welcoming community, caring for the welfare of that community, and seeking ongoing formation in our faith we model to our local church the importance of that faith. How clearly do the children and families to whom we minister understand our commitment to these values?



Finally, I wonder if the grandchildren understand that the ministry of catechesis is one of joy: the joy of seeing students understand a lesson; the satisfaction in seeing people we have worked with step up to greater responsibilities in the parish; the knowledge, when we go to bed at night, that we have faithfully shared our talents with the Lord.

On behalf of the Department of Christian Formation, I thank you for accepting the invitation to be a catechist in our local church. Thank you for echoing the message and the person of Christ to those you serve. Through your ministry and witness, may a seed be planted that encourages a student, co-worker or parishioner to respond to the call to share our Catholic faith with others. Perhaps, even your child or grandchild will want to be a catechist.

TO TEACH THE CHILDREN

By Peggy Schoenfuss

WE AS CATECHISTS ARE CALLED TO EVANGELIZE. It is the mission of the Catholic Church to spread the Word of God to all areas of the world – whether local or distant. In our specific communities, parishes, and vocations we have duties and responsibilities to spread God's word. A particular calling for us is to teach others about our faith and how to apply it to daily situations especially in this time of cultural struggles and moral dissent. How then through our small rural communities do we spread the greater message to the world? It is through the education of our children.

What are the ways in which we teach our children? In past generations we have taught doctrine. Other generations were given the opportunity to experience the love of neighbor through the faith. What then do we do now? It is vital that those generations that have missed out on learning our Church's teachings, get the opportunity to learn what the Church stands for, but it is also vital that they also learn to love thy neighbor. It is imperative that we teach our children to apply the doctrine of the Church and carry out the teachings through love, justice and peace.

Children of today are exposed to a wide variety of moral conflicts. The Church has clearly defined doctrine, but how do we teach children to understand? Jesus walked on this earth and said *Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter.* (Mk 10:14-15) From this we are taught that we need to look at the "problems" of the world through the eyes of a child – don't

make things more difficult than they are. The old saying *What Would Jesus Do?* stands true in our teachings to emulate Him and - ...*love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Do to others as you would have them do to you.* (Lk 6:27-28, 31)

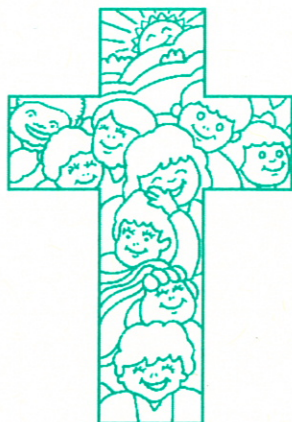
What then are ways to teach the authentic practices of our faith? There are three simple places to start. First, show respect and love for the children, their families and those we associate with. This would piggy-back on the Gospel of Luke, *Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.* (6:37). Children learn very quickly from watching their teachers, parents and friends. It only takes one incident to confuse the children in how to treat others.

Second, share the world with the children. Children, no matter their age, hear the news. If they question what is happening discuss with them the church's stand. Children are more apt to understand when given a direct answer than we as adults. They only question what adults question.

Third, listen to the children. Children have a very simple way of explaining what is happening. Listen to those explanations. We as adults tend to "read into things" whereas children see things as they are. In this respect, the children can learn how to put the doctrine of our faith into practice as well.

The church's beliefs and practices are not difficult to understand once you open your mind to the teaching of Jesus Christ

and His Church. Our parish programs are influential in teaching all members of the parish in many different ways.



Through our schools, conflict resolution and peace making opportunities are taught within the every day structure of the curriculum. Doctrine is taught through religious instruction, but the application of this doctrine is integrated into classroom instruction and the social time of the students. In reading and literature classes students learn about different cultures and social issues of the world by exploring numerous forms of text. In math classes the sense of order in the universe is taught by using numbers and patterns as a gift of God. In science classes it is reinforced that God is Creator and we have duties as stewards of creation to pass our world onto other generations. In social studies classes it is taught that no event happened by chance, human rights are a gift from God and that it is our duty to safeguard others from the crimes against humanity. Language classes provide the opportunity to connect students to the global world and technology classes enable Catholics to communicate with the world.¹

¹ Spring, Sister Joseph, SCC, M.A. *Translating From One Century to the Next. American Catholic Schools for the 21st Century: Reflections on the Future of American Catholic Elementary Schools.* NCEA. 1996.

Thus, we need to teach the children the beliefs and practices of the Church to give them the moral foundation and then help them apply the teaching in the simplest way – Love others because we are all the embodiment of Christ.

In part because the schools have the opportunity to teach children for six to seven hours a day, they are able to incorporate God's message into all areas of study – from mathematics to social studies to physical education. On the other side, religious education programs are able to pull the families as a unit together to provide a total family and multi-generational education. These are wonderful traits of each of the Church's catechetical institutions. It is now time to challenge the parishes, communities and catechists to bring these programs together in sharing resources, ideas and leadership in evangelizing God's word. Schools need to help the religious education programs implement worldly and every day events as related to core academics into their short time of faith formation with their children. In turn religious education programs need to share their family programs with the schools so that all generations of faith can be reached and catechized.

It is the children that will carry the Church into the next generation – will we give them the ability to do it well?

Peggy Schoenfuss, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools

Advent & Christmas Videos

Available from the Diocese of Superior, Media Center call Donna @ 715-234-5044 or e-mail dpieper@catholicdos.org

Ages recommended for: ps=preschool, p=primary, i=intermediate, jh=jr high, sh=senior high, a=adult

Please check the Media Catalog for details/descriptions.

We always recommend resources be previewed before showing to others.



VIDEO	TITLE	AGES	MIN
0702	ADVENT	p,i	15
0718	ADVENT EXCITEMENT	ps,p	30
0706	ADVENT ROADS	ps,p,i	8
1956	ADVENT WITH ST. NICHOLAS	p	12
0714	ADVENT: A TIME OF HOPE	a	20
2231	ADVENT: CELEBRATING THE SEASON	i,jh	20
1528	ALABASTER'S SONG	ps,p,i	30
2406	ANGEL SONG, THE	ps,p	23
1447	ANGEL'S ADVENT LESSON	p,i	11
0430	ANGEL'S CHURCH YEAR LESSON	p,i	11
0943	AWAITED MESSIAH, THE	i,jh,sh,a	28
1049	BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER, THE	p,i,jh	60
1453	BEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR	ps,p,i	11
2446	BETHLEHEM YEAR ZERO	jh,sh,a	90
1809	BIRTH OF JESUS, THE	p,i,jh	30
0944	BORN FOR US	i,jh,sh,a	28
1959	CANDY MAKER'S CHRISTMAS	p	30
0485	CHRISTMAS	p,i	30
0715	CHRISTMAS	p,i	15
1305	CHRISTMAS	i,jh,sh,a	15x2
0707	CHRISTMAS CROSSROADS	p,i	8
2587	CHRISTMAS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN, A	p	30
0929	CHRISTMAS GIFT, A	p,i,jh,sh,a	8
1390	CHRISTMAS GIFT, THE	ps,p,i	25
0541	CHRISTMAS IS	p,i	20
1960	CHRISTMAS SHOW	p,i	27
1794	CHRISTMAS STORY, A	ps,p	30
1879	CHRISTMAS WISH	ps,p	9
1791	DISCOVERING THE BABY KING	ps,p,i	25
0697	DONKEY'S TALE, THE	p,i,jh	13
0980	FIRST CHRISTMAS, THE	p,i,jh	40
1669	FIRST CHRISTMAS, THE	ps,p,i	23
2159	FIRST CHRISTMAS, THE	p	21
1635	GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS, THE	ps,p,i	44
1500	GO LOOK IN THE MANGER	ps,p,i	30
0396	GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT, A	p,i,jh,sh,a	24
0719	HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS	ps,p	30
0930	HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS	i,jh,sh,a	18
1337	HOW ST. NICHOLAS BECAME SANTA CLAUS	ps,p,i	28
1912	INFANCY NARRATIVES OF JESUS	a	78
0716	INNKEEPERS: A CHRISTMAS STORY	p,i	30
2100	JACOB'S GIFT	p,i	30

VIDEO	TITLE	AGES	MIN
2172	JESUS COMES	p,i	21
1994	JESUS FOR KIDS	p	50
0113	JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM	a	20
1503	JUGGLER OF NOTRE DAME	i,jh,sh,a	50
1961	KEEPER OF THE PEACE	i,jh,sh,a	22
2053	LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER	p,i	40
0924	LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME	p,i	71
0946	LIBERATOR OF THE OPPRESSED	i,jh,sh,a	24
1056	LITTLE DRUMMER BOY, THE	ps,p,i	30
2415	LITTLE MATCH GIRL, THE	p,i	45
2407	LITTLE SHEPHERD	ps,p	25
1502	LITTEST ANGEL, THE	p,i,jh	77
1646	LITTEST ANGEL, THE	ps,p,i	24
2658	MARTIN AND THE HEAVENLY TREE: The Message of the Christmas Tree	p,i	23
1452	MARY HAD A BABY. AMEN!	ps,p	15
1529	MICHAEL THE VISITOR	p,i,jh	27
1420	MIRACLE AT MOREAUX	p,i,jh,sh,a	58
1078	MOUSE IN THE MANGER, THE	p	25
1200	MR. KRUEGER'S CHRISTMAS	i,jh,sh,a	25
0690	NATIVITY, THE	p,i,jh	30
1872	NESTOR	p,i	23
2163	ORDINARY FIR TREE, THE	p	12
0717	PERFECT PRESENT, THE	p,i	30
0319	PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS I	p,i,jh,sh,a	15x4
0377	PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS II	p,i,jh,sh,a	15x4
1501	RED BOOTS FOR CHRISTMAS	ps,p,i	30
0542	SECRET OF THE SECOND BASEMENT	p,i	30
0945	SENT BY GOD	i,jh,sh,a	28
1790	SMALL ONE, THE	ps,p,i	25
1336	SNAG	p,i,jh	30
2429	ST. JOSEPH	p,i	18
1057	STABLEBOY'S CHRISTMAS, THE	ps,p,i	27
2405	STAR OF CHRISTMAS, THE	p,i,jh,a	45
1213	STORY BEGINS, THE	jh,sh,a	61
2122	STORY OF THE NATIVITY, THE	p,i	30
1048	TIMMY'S GIFT	ps,p,i	23
1170	TIMMY'S SPECIAL DELIVERY	ps,p,i	25
1705	TOY THAT SAVED CHRISTMAS	ps,p,i	30
1998	TRUE CHRISTMAS STORY, THE	sh,a	45
0781	TWAS THE FIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS	p,i,jh	30
1345	VISIT, THE	jh,sh,a	8
0543	WELCOME THE STRANGER	p,i	20
2078	WISH THAT CHANGED CHRISTMAS	p,i	23
2688	THE CRIPPLED LAMB DVD	ps,p,i	45
2689	THE LION & THE LAMB	ps,p,i	30



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

By Roger Cadotte, Director and Chris Newkirk, Assistant Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry

- ❖ Pray for your students and yourself
- ❖ Be enthusiastic about what you are teaching
- ❖ Have a lesson plan – be specific – ex: plan not only to pray – but what type of prayer + set times for each segment of the lesson
- ❖ Be organized early (organize your room, and be the first one there to greet your students by name at the door)
- ❖ Never leave your class unsupervised
- ❖ Develop a short list of rules (let students help develop this)
- ❖ Praise good behavior
- ❖ Help students gain skills for self-discipline
- ❖ Personal study (keep learning), seek additional training as needed
- ❖ Change types of activities during class
- ❖ Be flexible and adaptable
- ❖ When discipline is necessary, be firm but kind
- ❖ Know your building emergency procedures
- ❖ Be a good listener
- ❖ Share personal faith stories
- ❖ Invite students to share their personal experiences of faith with the class
- ❖ Get to know the parents of your students and communicate with them often
- ❖ Attempt to actively engage all students in the learning process
- ❖ Be aware of students with special learning needs
- ❖ Foster a sense of cooperation and challenge students to be and do their best



SUPERIOR CATECHIST CALENDAR

National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM)

November 30 – December 3, 2006
Las Vegas, Nevada
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

Pastoral Theology III: *Listening Techniques B*

December 9-10, 2006
Fr. Dennis Mullen, presenter
Our Lady of Lourdes, Dobie
Contact Tim Kuehn @ 715-392-2937, x 117

Catholic Schools Week

January 28 – February 3, 2007
Contact Peggy Schoenfuss @ 715-234-5044

Generations of Faith Workshop

February 8, 2007
Location TBA
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

Day of Reflection for RCIA Leaders

February 10, 2007
St. Peter Church, Cameron
Contact Rev. Gabriel Baltes, O.S.B.
@ 715-392-2937, x 145

Evening of Recollection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

February 19, 2007 @ St. Joseph Church, Hayward
February 26, 2007 @ Cathedral of Christ the King
February 28, 2007 @ St. Mary Church, Tomahawk
March 13, 2007 @ St. Joseph Church, Amery
Contact Rev. Gabriel Baltes, O.S.B.

Parish Catechetical Week

February 14 – February 20, 2007
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

SUMMIT (Superior Mutual Ministry Team)

March 6, 2007 @ Holy Trinity, Haugen
“Call to Ministry”
Tim Johnson and Chris Newkirk
May 17, 2007 @ Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Medford
“Nurturing Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord”
Sr. Jovita Winkel, CSA
Contact Diana Maki @ 715-356-2171 x 3

Charter Day

“Taking the U.S. Bishop's Charter into the Future”
April 19, 2007
Telemark Resort Cable, WI
Presenter Ms. Teresa Kettelkamp
(Executive Director of Child & Youth Protection)
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

Scout Recognition Day

May 12, 2007
Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior
Contact Kathy Drinkwine @ 715-392-2937, x 116

Summer 2007

Youth Serve: A two day service learning program for youth in 7th and 8th grades with adult chaperone/s

Handing on the Faith

A Weekend Catechetical Workshop
Location TBA
August 18 & 19, 2007
Contact Richard Lyons
@ 715-392-2937, x 103

National Catholic Youth Conference

November 8-11, 2007
Columbus, OH
For High School Students
Contact Chris Newkirk
@ 715-234-5044

World Youth Day/Australia

July 15-20, 2008
For young adults ages 18-35
Contact Roger Cadotte
@ 715-234-5044



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DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR Retreat Schedule TEC KOINONIA CURSILLO

AGAPE TEC (Teens Encounter Christ)

(www.agapetec.com)

#195 November 24-26, 2006

Our Lady of Sorrows School and
Parish, Ladysmith

#196 December 27-29, 2006

St. Anne School and Parish, Somerset

#197 March 2-4, 2007

Nativity of Our Lord School and Parish,
Rhineland

#198 June 15-17, 2007

Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior

#199 July 20-22, 2007

Osceola Elementary School and

St. Joseph Parish, Osceola

Contact Gwen Nies @ 715-472-2799



CURSILLO

Men's Cursillo

June 21-24, 2007

Location TBA

Contact Fred Schlichting @

715-742-3303

Women's Cursillo

Contact June Frey @

715-742-3907

N.E.W. KOINONIA

#24 March 16-18, 2007

St. John the Baptist, Webster

Contact Pat Cattellino @ 715-893-2278