

RESOURCE TO CELEBRATE CATECHISTS

“WHAT DO YOU SEEK?”

**WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE HOLY BY LIVING OUR LIVES
WITH LOVE AND BY BEARING WITNESS IN EVERYTHING
WE DO, WHEREVER WE FIND OURSELVES.**

(Gaudete et Exsultate, no. 14)



“WHAT DO YOU SEEK?”

RESOURCE TO CELEBRATE CATECHISTS

What Do You Seek? has been developed with two purposes. On the one hand it is an invitation for catechists to reflect on their faith journeys and the important role that discernment plays in their lives as they strive to live out their vocation. On the other hand, because the resource has been developed in consideration of the upcoming **Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment**, it is an invitation for catechists to enter into dialogue with the young people whom they serve, to accompany them as they grow in faith and assist them as they discern their own vocations.

“...CATECHESIS IS NOT A “JOB” OR A TASK THAT IS EXTERNAL TO THE PERSON WHO IS A CATECHIST; BECAUSE ONE “IS” A CATECHIST AND ALL OF LIFE REVOLVES AROUND THIS MISSION. IN FACT, “BEING” A CATECHIST IS A VOCATION OF SERVICE TO THE CHURCH; WHAT WAS RECEIVED AS A GIFT FROM THE LORD SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED IN ONE’S TURN. THUS, CATECHISTS MUST CONSTANTLY RETURN TO THAT FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF “KERYGMA” WHICH IS THE GIFT THAT CHANGED THEIR LIFE.”

Message of Pope Francis to Participants in the First International Catechetical Symposium



GUIDE FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP USE

HOW TO USE THE CCCB RESOURCES TO CELEBRATE CATECHISTS

These resources are available as individual documents and have also been compiled into easy-to-use PowerPoint presentations to assist you.

Whether you choose to use these materials on your own, as part of a parish event, or with the staff of a Catholic school or other Catholic workplace, we hope you find them helpful as you consider the important role of catechists.

The purpose of the PowerPoint is to

- Help focus and guide the session.
- Give people a visual on which to focus. Some people find this particularly helpful.

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR YOUR SESSIONS

A session can last anywhere from a few minutes for individuals viewing these presentations on their own to 45 minutes or longer for those who enjoy extended reflection time. Where a large group is gathering as part of a formation event, reflection time could be further extended to include personal journalling time and a longer group discussion. Find a time and a format that will work best in your community.

These are the common features of a session:

- Opening prayer
- Reflection on the themes of “Faith,” “Vocation” and “Discernment”
- Readings of the day and reflection questions
- Closing

OPENING PRAYER

Invite the group to prayer, saying, “Let us pray.”

We have provided a prayer for each theme that you may wish to use.

(Cont'd on next page...)

REFLECTION ON THE THEME: FAITH, DISCERNMENT AND VOCATION

Part One

Read each quote aloud or invite participants to read the quotes silently. Consider giving participants a few minutes to sit quietly with these quotes. Then ask them to share with a partner their understanding of the quote as it relates to the theme: i.e., faith, discernment or vocation. Come back to the large group for discussion by asking this question: What strikes you as you read/hear these words?

Part Two

Included in each section are links to resources for further reflection. You may use all of the links or only choose one or two as you feel appropriate. Click on the link to read or view the content. Have participants consider the reflection questions and invite them to jot down any reactions or thoughts they may have. Allow time for them to share their responses in small groups. Once they have had time to discuss in small groups, facilitate a large-group sharing.

REFLECTION ON THE SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Have one person proclaim each Scripture slowly from a Bible or Lectionary. It may be desirable, after a period of silence, for the entire group to repeat the reading slowly (in the case of a small group), or for the reader to repeat it for the larger group. You may begin a discussion with this simple question: What strikes you as we read/hear these words?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Reflection questions are provided for some of the Scripture readings. You may give the group an opportunity to answer each question, or you may ask group members to discuss the questions in small groups and then report back to the larger group about the insights that were most meaningful to them from their discussions.

CLOSING

A reflection question to close the session has been provided. You may give an opportunity to the group to reflect individually, or to discuss as a group.

LITURGICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF CATECHISTS

Liturgical suggestions for the celebration of catechists from *Celebrations of Installation and Reconciliation* and samples from dioceses across Canada are provided for your consideration and use.



FAITH

O God,
protector of the poor and defender of the just,
in your kingdom the last become first,
the gentle are strong,
and the lowly exalted.

Give us wisdom from above,
that we may find in your servant Jesus
the pattern of true discipleship
and the grace to persevere in following him,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.¹

Amen.

“If the vocation to the joy of love is the fundamental call that God has placed in the heart of every young person so that each one’s existence will bear fruit, faith is both a gift from on high and a response to feeling oneself chosen and loved.”

(Preparatory Document of the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on
“Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment” p. 9)



Image: The University of Prince
Edward Island

Libby Osgood worked for NASA as an engineer. In the course of time she has discerned that she is called to serve God as a member of the Congregation of Notre Dame. Read Libby’s story [here](#).

¹ *Sunday Celebrations of the Word and Hours* – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B (Ottawa: CCCB, 1995), p. 139.

Faith “is no refuge for the fainthearted, but something which enhances our lives. It makes us aware of a magnificent calling, the vocation of love. It assures us that this love is trustworthy and worth embracing, for it is based on God’s faithfulness which is stronger than our every weakness.”

(*Lumen fidei*, no. 53)

Image: Ramon FVelasquez

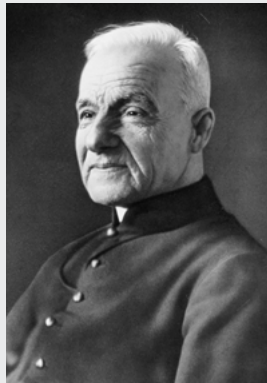


In this short video clip, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle defines faith as a “relationship with Jesus Christ which is a gift.” Click [here](#) to learn more.

“Faith is seeing things as Jesus does.”

(cf. *Lumen fidei*, no.18)

© L'Oratoire Saint-Joseph du Mont-Royal



The founder of Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal, the world’s largest shrine dedicated to the Spouse of Mary, Brother André (Saint André Bessette) was above all a man of prayer. Click [here](#) to learn more about Brother André’s story.

FOR REFLECTION...

- What do these stories suggest to you about your faith? Reflect on your own experience of faith.
- What feelings do you associate with these stories? Do the stories resonate in some way with your own journey of faith?
- What images or symbols come to mind as you reflect on your own faith journey?
- What insights have come to you from this reflection?
- How might these reflections about Libby Osgood, Cardinal Tagle and Brother André assist young people along their journeys of faith?

DISCERNMENT



O God,

You tell me that you have plans for me, “plans for welfare not for woe, plans for a future full of hope” (Jeremiah 29:11). Give me the wisdom of your Spirit so that I can see the shape of your plans in the gifts you have given me and in the circumstances of my daily life. Give me the freedom of your Spirit, to seek you with all my heart and to choose your will above all else.

Amen.

How can we know if something comes from the Holy Spirit or if it stems from the spirit of the world or the spirit of the devil? The only way is through discernment, which calls for something more than intelligence or common sense. It is a gift which we must implore. If we ask with confidence that the Holy Spirit grant us this gift, and then seek to develop it through prayer, reflection, reading and good counsel, then surely we will grow in this spiritual endowment.²

“What do you seek?” Jesus asks this question of the apostles, and if we listen closely, we can hear him asking us the same question, “What do you seek?”

What do I seek? What do I desire? What are my deepest desires? Discernment is learning to identify and acknowledge my desires and discover what those desires are moving me towards. Practising discernment can bring us to deeper freedom to respond to God’s invitation to receive love and give love in the concrete opportunities of daily life.

Check out **this article** for more information and a guide to learning to discern.

² Pope Francis, *Gaudete et Exsultate: On the Call to Holiness in Today’s World* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2018).

“The Spirit speaks and acts through the happenings in the life of each person, which in themselves are inexplicit or ambiguous, insofar as they are open to different interpretations. Discernment is required to reveal their meaning and to make a decision.”³

Taking time for silence and prayer is necessary so we can discover what God is saying to us in the happenings of our lives. In silence we can discern the paths of holiness to which the Lord is calling us.

Prayer is a key element of discernment. The **brief vocation stories found here** all speak of the importance of prayer in the process of discernment.

“... how does a person live the good news of the Gospel and respond to the call which the Lord addresses to all those he encounters, whether through marriage, the ordained ministry or the consecrated life?”⁴

The call common to all human beings is the call to be holy. The universal expression of holiness is love of God and love of neighbour. This universal call plays out in the particulars of each person's life and the concrete path of our journey. Responding to God's particular calling for us involves trusting in God's goodness, interior freedom from our attachments, and courage to take a step forward.

Here you can discover five concrete places where we can find God and live out the good news of the Gospel – loving God and loving our neighbour.

FOR REFLECTION...

- What do these reflections suggest to you about your idea and practice of discernment? Think about your own experience and understanding of discernment.
- When you reflect on your experience of discernment, what feelings arise?
- What insights have come to you from this reflection?
- How might you use the guides for discernment to assist a young person?

³ Preparatory Document of the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment,” n. 2.

⁴ Preparatory Document of the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment,” n. 2.

VOCATION

Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi

“The Bible has numerous accounts of young people receiving a vocational call and their making a response. In the light of faith, they gradually become aware of God’s plan of profound love for each person. This is God’s intention in every one of his actions...”⁵

It is difficult not to be inspired when a young person goes above and beyond to do their part in creating a more just world.

Malala Yousafzai is an example of a young person who understood herself within a much greater context and courageously spoke out against injustice.



Photo: Ryan's Well Foundation

While still in the first grade, Ryan Hreljac decided to raise enough money to drill one well to give clean water to a school in Uganda. He ended up raising \$45,000, which led to the establishment of Ryan's Well Foundation. Check out his story **here**.

FOR REFLECTION...

- What justice do you seek? Thirst for? What ignites your passion for a more just world?
- What lessons can we glean from the stories of young people responding to a vocational call?
- What response does God call you to make?
- What do you need to do to respond to this call?

⁵ Preparatory Document of the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment,” n. 1.

Teach me your ways, O Lord;
make them known to me.
Teach me to live according to your truth,
for you are my God, who saves me.
I always trust in you.⁶

Amen.

FOR REFLECTION...

- Can you think of a time when you made a choice (or choices) that led you away from your true purpose? How did you know?
- Were you able to forgive yourself for making errant choices?
- Did making this choice help you to understand your true calling in a different way?
- What response does God call you to make?
- In what ways could you assist a young person who still hasn't found what her or she is looking for?



The Irish band U2's "**I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For**" has been cited as one of the greatest rock songs of all time, but have you paid close attention to the lyrics? Listen to the song **here**. No one said following God's call would be easy, and it may involve some missteps!

*"The Lord asked Abraham and Sarah to leave their country, but only in a gradual process - not without mistaken steps - which clarified what was initially a mysterious 'land that I will show you.'"*⁸

It is comforting to know that as far back in time as Abraham and Sarah, people didn't always get it 100% right the first, or maybe even second, or third time.



⁶ Psalm 25.4

⁷ U2 (music) and Bono (lyrics), "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" (from the album *The Joshua Tree*, 1987).

⁸ Preparatory Document of the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment," n. 3.

Lord Jesus, in journeying towards the Synod, your Church turns her attention to all the young people of the world. We pray that they might boldly take charge of their lives, aim for the most beautiful and profound things of life and always keep their hearts unencumbered. Accompanied by wise and generous guides, help them respond to the call you make to each of them, to realize a proper plan of life and achieve happiness.

Keep their hearts open to dreaming great dreams and make them concerned for the good of others. Like the Beloved Disciple, may they stand at the foot of the Cross, to receive your Mother as a gift from you. May they be witnesses to your Resurrection and be aware that you are at their side as they joyously proclaim you as Lord.⁹

Amen.

“...as for all important things in life, vocational discernment is a long process unfolding over time, during which one continues to monitor the signs used by the Lord to indicate and specify a vocation that is very personal and unique.”¹¹

Fr. Michael Schmitz speaks of vocation on three levels: the **universal call to holiness**, the **primary relationship** by which we become the persons we are called to be, and the **mission** that we are called to respond to each day. Click **here** to learn more.



Photo: Ascension Presents, YouTube Channel

Pope Francis said, *“The Lord’s call – let it be said at the outset – is not as clear-cut as any of those things we can hear, see or touch in our daily experience. God comes silently and discreetly, without imposing on our freedom. Thus it can happen that his voice is drowned out by the many worries and concerns that fill our minds and hearts.*

We need, then, to learn how to listen carefully to his word and the story of his life, but also to be attentive to the details of our own daily lives, in order to learn how to view things with the eyes of faith, and to keep ourselves open to the surprises of the Spirit.”¹⁰

FOR REFLECTION...

- To whom is the universal call to holiness directed?
- What is the primary relationship by which you will become the person you are called to be?
- What is the mission that God is calling you to right now?
- What feelings arise when you think about this?
- How could you assist a young adult to know the relationship by which he/she will become the person he/she is called to be?

⁹ Prayer for Young People in View of the Forthcoming Synod of Bishops 2018: Young people, faith, and vocational discernment, http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/prayers/documents/papa-francesco_preghiere_20170408_giovani.html

¹⁰ Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 2018 World Day of Vocations.

¹¹ Preparatory Document of the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment,” n. 3.

READINGS OF THE DAY

FIRST READING: WISDOM 2:12, 17-20

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

The godless say,
“Let us lie in wait for the righteous one,
who makes life inconvenient to us and opposes our actions;
who reproaches us for sins against the law,
and accuses us of sins against our training.
Let us see if his words are true,
and let us test what will happen at the end of his life;
for if the righteous one is God’s son, God will help him,
and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.
Let us test him with insult and torture,
so that we may find out how gentle he is,
and make trial of his forbearance.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death,
for, according to what he says, he will be protected.”

The word of the Lord.

FOR REFLECTION...

- Q. In what ways do you test God? Bargain with God?
- Q. Is your faith in God contingent upon material proof?
- Q. Where does your faith reside?



RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 54:1-2, 3, 4+6 (R.4B)

R. The Lord upholds my life.

Save me, O God, by your name,
and vindicate me by your might.
Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth. R.

For the insolent have risen against me,
the ruthless seek my life;
they do not set God before them. R.

But surely, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.
With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;
I will give thanks to your name, for it is good. R.



SECOND READING: JAMES 3:16 – 4:3

A reading from the Letter of Saint James.

Beloved:

Where there is envy and selfish ambition,
there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.

But the wisdom from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,
full of mercy and good fruits,
without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace
for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you,
where do they come from?

Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you?

You want something and do not have it;
so you commit murder.

And you covet something and cannot obtain it;
so you engage in disputes and conflicts.

You do not have, because you do not ask.

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly,
in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

The word of the Lord.



FOR REFLECTION...

Q. Do you seek to reap that which you have not sown?

Q. Where do you see the fruits of God in your life...gentleness, peacefulness?

Q. Where do you see the conflicts in your life...disputes, restlessness?

Q. What is the invitation at this time in your life to turn towards God?

GOSPEL: MARK 9:30-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

After leaving the mountain
Jesus and his disciples went on from there
and passed through Galilee.
He did not want anyone to know it;
for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them,
“The Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of men,
and they will kill him,
and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”
But they did not understand what he was saying
and were afraid to ask him.
Then they came to Capernaum;
and when he was in the house Jesus asked them,
“What were you arguing about on the way?”
But they were silent,
for on the way they had argued with one another
who was the greatest.
Jesus sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,
“Whoever wants to be first
must be last of all and servant of all.”
Then he took a little child and put it among them;
and taking it in his arms, he said to them,
“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me
welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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FOR REFLECTION...

- Q. Do you compete with others over who is the best or greatest?
- Q. How does this differ from striving for your personal best?
- Q. What did the disciples seek as they walked to Capernaum?
- Q. What did Jesus seek for the disciples?
- Q. What does this reading say to you about hospitality?
- Q. What does it say to you about Jesus' relationship with children?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

CLOSING



For Reflection...

As a catechist, I am called to give witness to my faith as I help others discern where God is calling them. How can I give witness as I live more intentionally the universal call to holiness in the day-to-day activities of my life?



LITURGICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF CATECHISTS

FROM *CELEBRATIONS OF INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION*

Parishes are invited to honour the work and dedication of catechists. *Celebrations of Installation and Recognition*, pages 158–167, provides options for celebrating within Mass or outside of Mass.

Please note: it is always best to use a Bible or Lectionary when proclaiming Scripture.

The liturgical celebration concludes with this simple blessing:

*Blessed are you, Lord God,
king and ruler of heaven and earth:
through your Son you have brought us salvation,
and in his Holy Spirit, you lead us to all truth.*

*In your mercy and love, help these men and women
who are prepared to help your people to grow in faith.
Give them your blessing and cleanse their hearts,
so that they may proclaim your Word in their daily lives.
Help them to be men and women of faith and prayer,
guided by your Spirit and filled with your love.*

*Let them share their faith and love
with their families, their friends, their students,
at home, in the classroom, and in our community.
May their words and their lives
lead your people to stronger faith and love.
Through their work, may your kingdom come among us,
and lead us to serve you each day.*

*Loving Father, listen to our prayer,
which we offer through Christ our Lord, in your Holy Spirit:
all glory to you, one God, for ever and ever.*

Amen.



If your parish does not have a copy of *Celebrations of Installation and Recognition*, you can order one [here](#).
Discounts are applied when purchased through your diocesan office.

“Prayer of Recognition for Catechists” from *Celebrations of Installation and Recognition*, copyright © Concacan Inc., 2005.
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SAMPLES FROM CANADIAN DIOCESES THAT HAVE CELEBRATED CATECHISTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

CEREMONY OF RECOMMITMENT AND COMMISSIONING

Presider: Throughout our Diocese on this Sunday, we are celebrating “Commissioning Sunday”. Our faith community is nurtured and grows through catechesis. Flowing from the Bishop’s ministry as teacher, catechesis is the process of “echoing the Gospel”, the passing on of the essentials of our faith. Catechesis is a whole parish project and a life-long work. Every baptised person has a responsibility to seek catechesis and a place in helping provide catechesis for others in the community. Today we focus on those people in our parish community who are involved in catechesis in a special way.

Let us rededicate ourselves to our particular role within the Catholic community.

I now invite those involved in the catechetical and religious education ministries to stand: our coordinator(s) for catechetics, our teachers of the young or of adults (including those who teach in our parish school), our team responsible for the sacraments, the RCIA and other adult faith education groups to stand (pause).

Presider: Are you willing in this new year to receive those who come to you, as Jesus did, with love and care?

Catechists: We are.

Presider: Are you willing, to the best of your ability, to help those who come to you for instruction, to grow in faith?

Catechists: We are.

Presider: Are you willing by word and the example of Christian living to lead those who come to you, to live in faith and love?

Catechists: We are.

Presider: May God watch over you and strengthen you in your efforts to help others know and love Jesus and to live according to his way.

Presider: I now invite all of our children and youth, including those enrolled in parish catechesis and all students at local or parish schools, those schooled at home, and those who will be receiving the Sacraments of Initiation this year to stand (pause).

Are you willing to do your best to learn all that you can from your catechists and teachers to show them respect? Are you willing to do all that you can to follow Jesus?

Students: We are.

(Cont'd on next page...)

Presider: May God watch over you and strengthen you and all your efforts to learn and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Presider: I now invite all the parents of these children and young people to stand (pause).

Presider: Are you willing to work with the catechists and teachers to ensure that your children grow in knowledge and faith? Are you willing to model at home, the life you are calling them to live?

Parents: We are.

Presider: May God bless you and strengthen you as you seek to journey with your children and guide them in the footsteps of Jesus.

Presider: I now invite our extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to stand (pause).

You are to be entrusted with administering Communion at the parish Eucharist, and with taking Communion to the sick. Are you resolved to be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct, striving to grow in holiness through this sacrament of unity and love?

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
We are.

Presider: Are you resolved to undertake the office of giving the Body and Blood of the Lord to your brothers and sisters and to serve to build up the Church?

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
We are.

Presider: Are you resolved to administer the holy Eucharist with the utmost care and reverence?

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
We are.

Presider: I now invite our lectors to stand (pause).

Are you willing to proclaim the Word to us with faith, with clarity, and with conviction?

Lectors: We are.

Presider: Are you willing to become familiar with God's Word, to meditate on it often, so that you will grow daily in God's love?

Lectors: We are.

(Cont'd on next page...)

[At this point any other parishioners whom you have chosen to identify would be invited to stand, and the appropriate scrutiny and blessing (composed beforehand) would be voiced.]

Presider: I now invite the congregation to stand (pause).

Are you willing to support by your prayers and sacrifices the work of catechesis in this parish?
Are you willing to model for others a life of discipleship of Jesus?

Parish
Members: We are.

Presider: May God bless all of us in this new catechetical year with the spirit of enthusiasm and with a deep faith. May we work, pray, learn and grow together as a faith family. We ask these things in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



RITE OF COMMISSIONING

(BEFORE FINAL BLESSING)

Introduction

Presider: For the pastoral activity of the Church, the cooperation of a great many people is needed so that communities as well as individuals may advance to full maturity in faith and continually show forth their faith through study, and through their manner of life. This cooperation is provided by those who devote themselves to catechesis.

Enlightened by God's Word and the teaching of the Church, catechists impart to others an initiation – a deeper formation in those realities that they themselves have learned as truths to be followed in living, and to be celebrated in liturgy.

In this celebration we bless the name of the Lord for giving us such co-workers and pray that through the Holy Spirit they will receive the grace they need in their service to the Church.

Commitment

(The Presider pauses, and then addresses and questions the catechists)

Presider: God, our Father, revealed the mystery of salvation to us and brought it to completion through Jesus Christ. After proclaiming all that the Father had done, Christ entrusted the Church with the task of preaching the Gospel to all, both adults and children, so that everyone might hear the loving and merciful Word of God. You are called to share in that mission of proclaiming the Word of God to our children.

Are you willing to proclaim that Word to them with faith and conviction?

Catechists: I am.

Presider: It will be your duty to see that our children hear the Word of God with understanding so that its power takes hold of their hearts.

Are you willing to become familiar with God's Word so that you may share the Word with them in simplicity and love?

Catechists: I am.

Presider: Are you willing to let the Word of God permeate your entire way of life so that you might show forth to the world our Saviour Jesus Christ?

Catechists: I am.

(Cont'd on next page...)

Presentation of the Word

(The catechists will come forward two at a time to where the Presider is standing. The Presider will hand a scroll to each of the catechists.)

Exhortation

(Once all of the catechists have returned to their places, the Presider will say,)

You have received the Word of God;
be worthy of the message you teach to the people of God,
and build up the faith and love of his children.

Response: Amen.

Prayer of Blessing

(From *Celebrations of Installation and Recognition*, pp. 163–164)



PRESENTATION AND BLESSING OF THE CATECHISTS

The Pastor, or someone appointed by Pastor, invites all who are catechists to stand:

I now invite the catechists of children to stand (or come forward), which would include anyone serving in the ministries of

- Children's Liturgy
- Catechism Sessions
- Sacramental Preparation Sessions
- Catholic School Teachers

I also wish to invite the catechists of youth to stand, which would include anyone serving in youth ministry programs.

And finally, I invite all who are catechists of adults to stand, which would include anyone serving in the ministries of

- Baptism and Marriage Preparation
- RCIA
- Bible Study Groups
- All formation programs for and with adults

Prayer of Blessing

(From *Celebrations of Installation and Recognition*, pp. 163–164)

