

COMMISSIONING SUNDAY of CATECHISTS 2023

In all the ministries and services which the particular Church performs to carry out its mission of evangelization,
CATECHESIS OCCUPIES A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE

Commissioning Sunday is a *celebration of Faith* in which the whole community is involved.
Catechesis belongs to everyone in the Parish!



THE GOAL OF A RENEWED VISION FOR CATECHESIS

“At the centre of every process of catechesis is the living encounter with Christ. ‘Accordingly, the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ...’ (Directory for Catechesis 2020 no. 75)

“Good Catechesis enables and assists on going conversion to Christ in holiness of life; promotes and supports active membership in the Christian community and calls and prepares those being catechized to live as disciples in mission to the world.”

(Revised Statement on Catechesis SACBC)

DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL
FOR PROMOTING
NEW EVANGELIZATION



SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST : General Introduction by the Celebrant

Although the whole community must be involved in catechesis, the catechists have the most vital and extensive task in it.

Therefore at the beginning of the New Catechetical Year and during *Catechetical Month*, the catechists are introduced to the parish community and in the presence of the community they are commissioned.

At the beginning of Mass

Procession of all the children together with the catechists.

Special places can be reserved for those beginning catechesis for the first time and their parents

The priest welcomes the community as usual

The parish catechetical coordinator gives a brief explanation of the Journey of Christian Initiation and underlines the importance of the cooperation of the entire community and most of all the parents in making this journey a fruitful means of Christian formation

The Penitential Rite

Some petitions of forgiveness may be expressed by the priest, a parent, a catechist and a child following these or similar words

Priest: Lord Jesus, for all the times I failed to reflect your light and love in my ministry; for all the times I failed to do my best to ensure a proper catechesis for the parish community. *Lord have mercy*

Parent: Lord Jesus, have mercy on us parents for our lack of concern for the Christian growth of our children. For failing to ensure a faithful attendance of our children at all the activities of Christian Initiation. *Lord have mercy*

Catechist: Lord Jesus, for all the times we failed to be patient and have a loving understanding of the needs of each and everyone of the children, young people and adults entrusted to us. *Lord have mercy*

Child: Lord Jesus, you are the light that shows us the right way. We are sorry for

all the times we failed to be faithful in our journey of faith and to follow you with love and joy. *Lord have mercy*

Young person

Lord Jesus, you are the way that leads us to the truth. For the times we have neglected to turn to You for the truth in our lives and have preferred to listen to our companions and friends. Lord have mercy.

Liturgy of the Word

The Procession of the Lectionary may be done by a few representatives of the different stages of catechesis, accompanied by some catechists.

The first two readings may follow this procedure

- Parents accompanied by their child come to the altar

Suggested procedure: First parent proclaims the First Reading
The child reads the Responsorial Psalm
The second parent proclaims the Second Reading

Profession of Faith

Catechists are invited to come forward to lead the congregation in praying the Creed. The Creed could be prayed in the form of a litany with the congregation responding: I believe

Catechists:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible R/ I BELIEVE

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father. R/ I BELIEVE

Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven R/ I BELIEVE
And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man

R/ I BELIEVE

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

R/ I BELIEVE

He rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. R/ I BELIEVE

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end. R/ I BELIEVE

I believe in the Holy spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. R/ I BELIEVE

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. R/ I BELIEVE

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. R/ I BELIEVE

AMEN

Dear Fellow Parishioners. This is an important day for the catechists. The reason why we are gathered here today is to present ourselves to you so that you know who is going to pass on the faith to your children and to the adults. Today all the catechists who are present here are requesting Fr, on behalf of our Archbishop/Bishop to be commissioned to serve the parish communities with the various activities of catechesis for the year 2023

We understand the commitments that being commissioned entails in accordance with the policy of Catechesis in our Arch/diocese.

The Commissioning

Calling of the Catechists: The Parish Catechetical Coordinator calls the Catechists by name to come forward.

The mandate: The Parish Priest using these or similar words draws the attention of the catechists to the importance of this moment which requires faith and a sense of commitment.

My sisters and brothers, you have been chosen to proclaim the Good News of Jesus

Christ and to accompany adults, families, children and youth in a journey which leads to encountering Jesus, the Saviour and entering into an intimate communion with Him. You have responded generously to God's calling, which demands of you great responsibility, growth in discipleship and ability to tell about Jesus through your very lives. And so I ask you:

Do you accept the challenge to make God's love visible in the way you teach, serve the community and live your Christian lives?

The catechists: Yes, we do

Do you intend to dedicate yourself to the task of catechesis through diligent preparation, personal and community prayer?

The catechists: Yes, we do .

Do you intend to attend the meeting of on going formation in order to grow in spiritual life, in the knowledge of faith and the fellowship with all the catechists at parish, deanery and diocese level?

The catechists: Yes, we do

Let us Pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, You entrusted to me the great duty to safeguard your Gospel and make it the living and saving message for all the people of today.

Look upon these catechists who, in union with me and the whole Church, have accepted to help their communities with catechesis. Send your Holy Spirit into their hearts, so that they may be led to the full understanding of your Gospel, and be able to give evidence to it by their Christian way of life. Let them put on Your kindness, love and patience in dealing with those entrusted to them. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the faithful

The prayers are led by catechists and parents in these or similar words

1. That we and all God's people may see the light, the truth and the wisdom of Jesus' teaching, repent and believe in the Gospel. Lord hear us
2. That we may promote the ministry of catechesis, and so re-echo it in our homes and community. Lord hear us
3. That, through our catechesis and mutual good example, we may encourage each other and especially youth and children, in the works of justice, mercy and compassion. Lord hear us
4. We pray especially for our catechists today. May God bless them and their families for the many sacrifices they make to fulfil their task as volunteers in the service of the Word. Lord hear us
5. That our parish may be blessed with more generous people who will volunteer to be catechists, and thus break open the Word of God among us. Lord hear us
6. For our families and our parents in particular, we pray that our homes may be places where faith, life and wisdom is shared as much as food and clothing. Lord hear us

Celebrant: Lord God, you promised us life and blessing as your gift to us. Help us to understand the greatness of your gift to us and help us to reach out to receive it. We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who with you and the Holy Spirit, is God, always and forever. AMEN

Blessing of parents and guardians

*Following the prayers after Communion, this special blessing for **parents and guardians** may be offered as recognition of their critical role in forming their children in the Faith.*

The Celebrant: *Invites parents and guardians to stand. Stretching out his hands over them and inviting the rest of the community to do the same, he prays:*

God our Father let your peace settle in the hearts of these fathers/mothers /guardians. Give them strength and wisdom as they care for their children. Show them how to raise their families with patience and tenderness. Give them strength during the times of greatest difficulty and help them recognise the little joys that are part of each day. May they grow in wisdom, understanding and grace. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ who is one with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

After the prayer of blessing, each catechist may be presented with a Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and/or a certificate of commissioning. If desirable, the congregation may signify its support by applause, an acclamation, or an appropriate hymn

Note: Some parishes offer a “Response Sunday” the week after Catechetical Sunday.

On that day, following the homily, the celebrant reminds the community of the commissioning of the catechists.

He asks the community to respond to the parish catechetical ministry by pledging to give it the support and involvement it deserves. A statement of “I do” from the community may be the affirmative response.

**CERTIFICATE OF COMMISSIONING
2023**

**You N.N. have been called
to serve the community of**

**.....
as a Catechist.**

**May God our Father, the Father of Love,
fill you with confidence and joy
as you proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ
through the Holy Spirit. AMEN**



Signature of the Parish Priest