

Called, Formed, & Sent

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Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

Bryan Reising

*Director, Evangelization and Catechesis
breising@dioceseofbmt.org
409-924-4323*

Twyla Satterthwaite and Bryan Reising

*Multi-Parish Coordinators
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 Two - The Process of Catechesis

Chapter Six - The Catechism of the Catholic Church

In the first section, **The Catechism of the Catholic Church**, there is a historical note that covers from the New Testament and onward on how the Church produced a summary of formulas for “professing, celebrating, and bearing witness to her faith.” These periods highlighted were the fourth century with the expansion of summaries and compendia, the Council of Trent with it producing a universal catechism and during

the years after the Second Vatican Council with its Catechism of the Catholic Church.

In 1985, during a synod of bishops with St. John Paul II, the pope at that time, they were gathering to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the end of the Second Vatican Council. Many bishops desired for the Church to have a universal catechism, and thus, this project was set into motion. In 1992, the Catechism of the Catholic Church was promulgated. A revised edition was published in 1997.

This Catechism is “an official text of the Church’s Magisterium, which authoritatively gathers in a precise form, and in an organic synthesis the events and fundamental salvific truths which expresses the faith common to the People of God and which constitute the

indispensable basic reference for catechesis.” Its aim is “to offer an organic summary of the heritage of faith, spirituality, and theology of ecclesial history. Its audience includes pastors and the faithful, among them those in the ministry of evangelization and catechesis including parish catechetical leaders, catechists, RCIA coordinators and teams, youth ministers, and those involved with adult catechetical formation.

The sources for this Catechism include Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. With Sacred Tradition, we see the writings of the early Church Fathers, various professions of faith, from councils, from the Magisterium, from popes, from various liturgy sources, and canon law. In addition, other sources include saints, ecclesiastical writers, and doctors of the Church.

The structure of the Catechism, as we all know well, are the four pillars, which matches the four tents of the new Christians found in Acts 2:42: “They devoted themselves to apostles teaching, to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Thus, we have the sections on the Creed, the Sacraments, the Moral Life, and Prayer.

This Catechism does not offer a catechetical method nor a process of catechesis. It is a reference, yet this “Catechism, in referring to the Christian life as a whole, supports the process of conversion and maturation. It fulfills its task when the understanding of the words leads to an opening of the heart, but also when conversely the grace of openness of the heart brings forth the desire to get to know him [God, Christ] better in whom the believer has placed his trust.”

The Catechism relies on both Eastern and Western Traditions as it promotes a balance and presentation of the faith. The content reflects the pedagogy of God, the way that God teaches and expresses God’s love to us – as is evident in the past and still is relevant for us today. It includes all that is necessary for a fruitful proclamation of the Gospel: “Trinitarian and Christological centrality, the account of salvation history, the ecclesial nature of the message, the hierarchy of truths, and the importance of beauty.” It explains that this Catechism is “not a static expression of doctrine, but a dynamic instrument, suitable for inspiring and nourishing the journey of faith in the life of every person.”

In the second section, **The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church**, we learn that this is a

shorter version of the Catechism in that it is “simple, immediate, and accessible to all.” Like other catechisms in the past, it has a question-and-answer format, which images a master and disciple dialogue.

We will continue our journey into this directory in the months to come. In September, we will focus on chapter seven, “The Methodology of Catechesis.”

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>

Catechetical Sunday

“Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed”

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on **September 19, 2021**, and the theme is: “*Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed.*” Those who the parish community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. These include catechists for children, youth, and adults as well as parents, RCIA teams, and youth ministers and their teams.

The USCCB has online resources that are offered free of charge to all parish catechetical leaders as well as resources for purchase. Many of the resources are also of interest to catechists, youth and young adults’ ministers, Catholic school principals and teachers, as well as other individuals who provide catechetical formation to diverse age groups and settings.

For further information in planning this special day on September 19, click the following:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/evangelization-catechesis/leadership-institute-catechetical-sunday-2021>

Make sure you honor all catechists and commission them at the Masses during that weekend. Perhaps have a special gathering after Mass in their honor as well.

COVID-19

The plan is to open up all catechetical formation to onsite at the parish, but still with safe protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We still are

monitoring all nine counties within our diocese. We will adopt the Guidelines of our Catholic Schools to parish catechetical formation in our parishes. These were sent to you in July. If you missed this, please contact the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis: breising@dioceseofbmt.org

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PCL GATHERINGS

Join us for our next PCL Gathering, which will be **Thursday, August 19 at the Holy Family Retreat Center. Lunch will be included (we will keep an eye on this pandemic to ensure that all who participate will be safe). The PCL gathering will be both a meeting with important information for the catechetical year plus a retreat experience for our PCLs.**



The theme of the retreat is **“Opening Doors to New Opportunities.”** It will be from **9:30 am to 2:00 pm.** You can register through EventBrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parish-catechetical-leaders-retreat-tickets-166076042915>.

Next month our PCL Gathering will be Thursday, September 9, 2021, beginning with lunch at 12:00 pm Noon and ending around 3:00 pm. Loyola Press will be our sponsor. It will be at the Diocese of Beaumont Pastoral Center.

CALLED, FORMED, & SENT DAY 2021

Save the Date! **November 6, 2021**

“SAY THE WORD AND MY SOUL WILL BE HEALED”

Looking At the Ministry of The Catechist

A Ministry of Healing,

and the new Directory of Catechesis

There will be a track in Spanish and learning session tracks in the following: the RCIA, Evangelization and Adult Catechetical Formation, Youth Catechesis, Elementary Catechesis, Persons with Disabilities, etc.

Called, Formed, and Sent Day will be at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Beaumont. Registration will begin at 9:00 am. The gathering will end with Mass at 5:00 pm with Bishop Touts as president.

The following is from

Called, Formed, & Sent Day 2020

View the keynote and the learning sessions online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ft9DaLirUy4&list=PLxqqaKxMSeFH0B3Lq1mBNAkaC3Jj2jll>

RCIA Coordinator Meeting

We invite RCIA Coordinators to the Holy Family Retreat Center, Thursday, August 19, 2021, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Please RSVP Bryan Reising at breising@dioceseofbmt.org by Tuesday, August 17, 2021.

Back to Better:

**Christ the King, Cristo Rey, Chúa Kitô vua,
Ang Kaharian ni Jesus na Panginoon.**

A great Diocesan event is scheduled for November 20, 2021, at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Anthony. This will be a gathering of Catholics in the Diocese of Beaumont – families and individuals, old and young, all cultures! This event begins at 11:00 am with a procession in downtown Beaumont ending at the grounds of St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica and concludes with the 4:00 pm Mass at the Cathedral Basilica. It will include family activities, speakers, music, an adoration tent, opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and much more. More information will be forthcoming.

Parish Visits

These visits will resume with all precautionary protocols. Twyla (North, West, South Vicariates) and Bryan (Central and East Vicariates) are available for parish visits. Bryan and Twyla can do visits with catechetical leaders and during your parish catechetical formation. Bryan can also visit with pastors as well. What will happen during these 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 email or phone at breising@dioceseofbmt.org or 409-924-4323 and tsatterthwaite@dioceseofbmt.org or 318-840-7785 to arrange a time for a visit to your parish.

Vicariate Meetings

We will continue the Vicariate meetings at the beginning of this catechetical year.

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.

University of Dayton (VLCFF)

Cycle 6: August 22 - September 25, 2021
(Registration Opens July 7; Closes August 18)

PCLs, take advantage of these courses and let your catechists know about these as well. They even offer a Certificate in Catechesis!

- [Administration in Ministry \(FLM\)](#)
- [Autism in Faith Formation \(SN 4\)](#)
- [Basic Catechist Formation: Seminar 1.1 \(Catechesis is...\)](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catechetical Methodology - AMS Military Only](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education](#)
- [Church History 1](#)
- [Collaboration and Community \(FLM\)](#)
- [Directory for Catechesis 2020: A General Overview](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Reframing Church](#)

- [Echoes of Racism: Whispers of Healing](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Foundations for Liturgy](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Christian Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Introduction to the Sacraments of Initiation](#)
- [Islam](#)
- [Many Faces of Adult Learners \(AFL 3\)](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Mary, Holy Possibility](#)
- [Moral Injury: When Our Pain Blocks God's Joy](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Parish and Social Action \(SJ\)](#)
- [Prayer and Worship with Adolescents \(YM\)](#)
- [Prophets](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Spirituality of the Missionary Disciple](#)
- [Study of The Joy of the Gospel \(Evangelii Gaudium\) \(Bryan will facilitate\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [The Mass](#)
- [Understanding Culture in Ministry: Building Bridges](#)

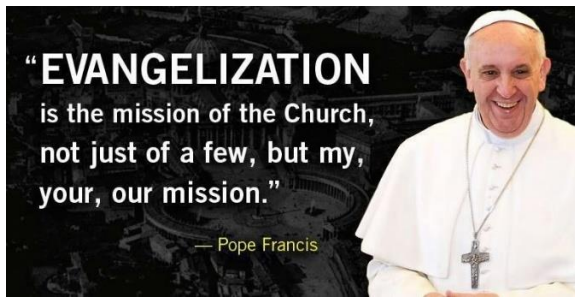
USCCB Resources and Formation



<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/>

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 in 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>

By the way, Alpha in a Catholic Context is offering a training in the Houston area on Saturday, May 22. See the following link for further information:

<https://alpha.ticketspice.com/values-culture-archdiocese-of-galveston-houston>

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>

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, 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/>

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.

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