

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

Catechist's Self Inventory



The formation of catechists is made up of different dimensions. The deepest dimension refers to the very being of the catechist, to his or her human and Christian dimensions. Formation, above all else, must help a catechist to mature as a person, a believer and as an apostle. This is what the catechist must know so as to be able to fulfill one's responsibilities well (paraphrase of GDC, #238)

Page | 36

Catholic faith community _____ Date _____

Grade/Level/ _____

Name (Optional) _____

Part I: Myself as a Catechist

Please complete this survey using the following scale:

5 = Outstanding/Exemplary

2 = Needs Improvement

4 = Very Well

1 = Poor

3 = Satisfactory

N/A = No Evidence/Not Applicable

New Evangelization and Planning

1. _____ How well do I understand that being a catechist is a vocation to which God has called me?
2. _____ How well do I foster my personal relationship with Christ and see myself as his disciple?
3. _____ How well do I understand that the object of what I do is to bring participants into communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ and that my primary task is to form them to be his disciples?
4. _____ How well do I invite participants to conversion or re-conversion to Jesus?
5. _____ Do I plan and evaluate the success of all of my lessons in light of my objective to bring people into communion with Christ and to be his disciples?
6. _____ How well do I set up realistic lesson objectives?

Catechetical Methodology

7. _____ How well do I understand the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs of my students?
8. How well do I regularly employ the following methodologies (write NA if not age-appropriate):

- _____ Journaling
- _____ Silent Reflection
- _____ Discussion
- _____ Reading
- _____ Use of audio-visual media
- _____ Music
- _____ Problem-solving (individual or group)
- _____ Games
- _____ Art
- _____ Large/small group Activities
- _____ Brief Lectures
- _____ Memorization
- _____ Other _____

9. _____ How well do I maintain order in a positive and encouraging manner?

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization Catechist's Self Inventory



Please complete this survey using the following scale:

5 = Outstanding/Exemplary

4 = Very Well

3 = Satisfactory

2 = Needs Improvement

1 = Poor

N/A = No Evidence/Not Applicable

Page | 37

10. How well do I assess learning at every session/class by such means as (write NA if not age-appropriate):

- _____ observation
- _____ essays
- _____ interviews
- _____ performance tasks
- _____ observation of growth in spiritual maturity
- _____ objective tests and quizzes (usually not for older youth or adults).
- _____ demonstrations
- _____ journals
- _____ self- and peer-evaluation
- _____ group participation
- _____ verbal responses/discussion
- _____ puzzles/games/problem-solving
- _____ standardized testing for children in grades 1-8
- _____ other _____

3. Complete and Systematic Presentation of the Faith

The questions in this section are based upon the Six Tasks of Catechesis as outlined in the *National Directory for Catechesis* (NDC) no. 20. For more information about the six tasks and how they relate to your ministry, please refer to pp. 59-63 in the NDC.

PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH - How well do I

- 11. _____ model life-long formation in my own life, especially by working toward catechist certification?
- 12. _____ know and teach the requirements for my grade (PreK-8) as specified in the Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide?
- 13. _____ prepare carefully for each session?
- 14. _____ review each time I meet with the group?
- 15. _____ fully understand what I am trying to teach?
- 16. _____ acknowledge that I don't know the answer to all questions asked?
- 17. _____ seek an answer - when I don't know the answer to a question - and get back to the person who asked at a later time?

LITURGICAL ACTION - How well do I

- 18. _____ encourage those in my sessions to participate in the Sacraments?
- 19. _____ help them to prepare for the Sunday Liturgy?
- 20. _____ help them to understand what full, conscious, and active participation in the Liturgy means?
- 21. _____ encourage my learners to see the importance of regular attendance at Sunday Mass?

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization

Catechist's Self Inventory



Please complete this survey using the following scale:

5 = Outstanding/Exemplary

4 = Very Well

3 = Satisfactory

2 = Needs Improvement

1 = Poor

N/A = No Evidence/Not Applicable

Page | 38

MORAL FORMATION -How well do I

22. _____ keep myself informed regarding the Church's positions on issues of morality and social justice?
23. _____ help program participants to know Jesus personally and to adopt his attitudes so that they walk in his footsteps?
24. _____ know the meaning of the Paschal Mystery and how I participate in it?
25. _____ have a basic understanding of the Commandments and the Beatitudes in my life?
26. _____ help my learners to form their conscience and to know how to make a moral decision?
27. _____ make myself aware of the social consequences of the demands of the gospel and how I can make a difference?
28. _____ help my learners to do all of the above?

TEACHING TO PRAY - How well do I

29. _____ permeate my sessions with an attitude of prayer?
30. _____ teach my learners how to pray?
31. _____ model different forms of prayer (both public and personal)?
32. _____ make sure my learners understand and reflect upon the meaning of the different oral prayers we recite?

EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE - How well do I

33. _____ understand the importance of rules and structures in creating community?
34. _____ promote a sense of community in the group?
35. _____ encourage acceptance of all participants in the session?
36. _____ convey kindness and acceptance when speaking of other churches?

MISSIONARY INTIATION - How well do I/am I

37. _____ understand what evangelization means?
38. _____ understand that what I do as a catechist is evangelization?
39. _____ teach my students to reflect on God's action in their lives on a daily basis and how to tell others about this grace?

Part II: Programs and Leadership

40. _____ How sufficient are the teaching materials available to me to carry out my task?
41. _____ How supportive is the Catholic faith community to me as a catechist?
42. _____ How vital is the use of Sacred Scripture in our catechetical program?
43. _____ How well does the parish provide regular opportunities for my formation as a catechist?
44. How well am I prepared and supported through:
 - _____ catechist meetings
 - _____ prayer with my fellow catechists and opportunities for retreats/
days of reflection
 - _____ at least a yearly one-on-one meeting with my catechetical leader
 - _____ public recognition of my vocation as a catechist

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization Catechist's Self Inventory



Please complete this survey using the following scale:

5 = Outstanding/Exemplary

4 = Very Well

3 = Satisfactory

2 = Needs Improvement

1 = Poor

N/A = No Evidence/Not Applicable

Page | 39

45. How available and easily accessible are the following for my use?

- _____ *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization* Curriculum
- _____ Bibles
- _____ Current information regarding availability of catechist formation
- _____ Textbooks
- _____ Catechist manuals
- _____ Supplementary materials
- _____ Current catechetical periodicals
- _____ Fiction which can provide catechetical experiences
- _____ Audio/Visual material and machinery
- _____ Pictures and posters
- _____ Maps

Part III: Dialogue with the Catechetical Leader or designated mentor:

My strengths are...

My challenges are...

My plan for growth is:

Catechist signature: _____ Date: _____

Administrator's initials: _____ Date: _____

Journeying towards perfection, the basic maturity which gives rise to the profession of faith is not the final point in the process of continuing conversion. The profession of baptismal faith is but the foundation of a spiritual building, which is destined to grow. The baptized, moved always by the Spirit, nourished by the sacraments, by prayer and by the practice of charity, and assisted by multiple forms of ongoing education in the faith, seeks to realize the desire of Christ: "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." This is the call to the fullness of perfection which is addressed to all the baptized. (GDC, #56).