

Superior Catechist



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The Soul of a Catechist

Sue Grenough

The portrait of a catechist involves richly varied and diverse descriptions. Everyone can name catechists of all ages, ranges of experience, educational backgrounds and nationalities. However, within that wide assortment there is a similarity: all have received a charism in their "call" from God to be catechists.

The *General Directory for Catechesis* says, "The soul of every method is the solid spirituality and transparent witness of life" of the catechist (156). The role and responsibilities of catechists call for them to influence others. This call to influence others in the faith is the mark of a leader. A catechist is called to be a leader, to influence others mainly through his or her own faith life witness.

St. Francis of Assisi echoed this idea when he exhorted his followers to "teach in everything you do, and when necessary use words." Pope Paul VI said, "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses" (On *Evangelization in the Modern World*, 41).

This was Jesus' leadership style. He led and

taught by the example of his whole life. There was continuity between his words and how he lived. Because of this he drew people, and they followed him and changed.

Futurist Joel Barker describes a leader as someone who "leads you to places you would not go by yourself" (Leadershift, video). Jesus leads us to the Father as he himself went-by undergoing the paschal mystery of dying and rising to new life. A catechist leads the way to deeper faith in Jesus Christ, a journey not without risks or price.

Jesus Christ is the model for this style of leadership. Jesus led people by joining with them, by walking with them, by living a life of fidelity to his mission, by helping them to catch a glimpse of the abundant love of "Abba" God. He frequently answered a question with a question, leading people to the joy and wonder of discovering truth for themselves. So, too, the catechist leads with the gentleness and confidence of Jesus.

Sue Grenough is the director of religious education for the Louisville archdiocese and a past president of the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership.

Spirituality for Catechesis

Roger Cadotte

*"Our hearts are restless until they rest
in you, Oh God . . ."*

The word "spirituality" can conjure up a variety of images. Today it has become a popular part of our culture. Bookstores are filled with resources on spirituality. Many see spirituality as something only for those who intentionally seek it. However, spirituality is not an option. Everyone has one. Although there are many types of spirituality, for Catholic Christians our spiritual search should lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

As catechists we are called to share faith with those whom we teach. Catechists use a variety of methodologies to share the Good News. One of those methodologies is a healthy spirituality. What is spirituality? Ronald Rolheiser in "The Holy Longing" defines spirituality as the energy that is in us. How we channel that energy "into our disciplines and habits will either lead to a greater integration or disintegration of our bodies, minds and souls." As catechists it is important that our spirituality be nurtured in a way that helps us to share faith with those we catechize and to lead them to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

To take time in this day and age to foster a healthy spirituality is a challenge. There are many things today that keep us from developing our inner life. Rolheiser singles out an "excessive focus on work, achievement and the practical concerns of life as especially problematic." It is not that God cannot be found in the busyness of everyday life. In fact, God is present in others and world around us. The challenge is to develop an interior life that allows us to recognize God when we are engaged with the world. Therefore, it is important to *intentionally* take some time to rest, reflect and pray.

To pray, I think, does not mean to think about God in contrast to thinking about other things, or to spend time with God instead of spending time with other people. Rather, it means to think and live in the presence of God. All our actions must have their origin in prayer. Praying is not an isolated activity; it takes place in the midst of all the things and affairs that keep us active. In prayer a self-centered monologue becomes a "God centered dialogue."
Henri Nouwen

Developing a spirituality is a discipline and as disciples of Jesus we are called to discipline ourselves to develop a spirituality that gives us the passion to motivate others to be disciples of Jesus.

RESOURCES

The Holy Longing, The Search for a Christian Spirituality, Ronald Rolheiser

The Illuminated Life, Monastic Wisdom for Seekers of Light, Joan Chittister

FILMS

Pay It Forward

A young boy attempts to make the world a better place after his teacher gives him a chance.

Wide Awake

A 10 year old boy goes in search for God after his grandfather dies.

Simon Birch

A young boy with stunted growth is convinced that God has a great purpose for him.

Romero

The life and work of Archbishop Oscar Romero who opposed, at great personal risk, the tyrannical repression in El Salvador.

International World Youth Day

Cologne, Germany

August 12-22, 2005

Diocese of Superior

Pilgrimage Package

Pre-WYD Pilgrimage:

***August 13-14, 2005**

- Munich, Germany (site seeing)
- Pilgrimage to Dachau (tour, prayer time, celebrate Mass)
- Heidelberg, Germany (Rhine River cruise)

WYD Activities:

***August 12-22, 2005**

- Cologne, Germany

www.wyd2005.org

COST: *Single: \$2972 *Double: \$2495

***Above cost includes:** Roundtrip flight from Minneapolis, several meals, site seeing transportation for pre-pilgrimage, hotels, guide services for pre-pilgrimage and WYD assistance.

***ADDITIONAL COSTS:**

- ~Passport and Visa Fees (approx. \$60)
- ~WYD and Solidarity Fees (approx. \$175)
- ~Baggage handling and hotel tips
- ~Foreign & domestic airport tax, fuel increase~tips to escort and driver~several meals (either WYD meal package or on your own)
- ~Other miscellaneous fees
- ~Personal spending money (as desired)

Who: Young Adults between the ages of 18-35 yrs

(NO minors will be allowed to attend unless accompanied by their own parent/guardian.)

For more information contact Chris Newkirk,
Asst. Director of Religious Education And Youth Ministry,
Diocese of Superior (715-234-5044)

Multimedia: Positive Tools for Catechesis

Chris Newkirk

In today's day and age, where music, movies, video games and a vast array of multimedia forms are being used to educate, entertain, and engage our youth, we are obligated as Christian educators to do the same. This generation of young people is very technologically advanced and resource savvy. On the other hand, with all the resources available to them, they do not always have access to information that helps them decide which resources are credible, which ones are morally sound, and what some advancements in technology might imply for the greater good or lack of the greater good. In addition, often times young people do not have the privilege of having someone invite them into a critical thinking process regarding what they are viewing, hearing, and experiencing through multimedia usage. Many forms of multimedia, as it is used broadly in our culture, can take on a negative role --- perhaps reinforcing violence, hatred, sexual deviance, greed, and other unhealthy lifestyles. However, there are also many moral, ethical, and faith-filled examples of multimedia use as well. Hence, Christian educators do not deny the impact of technology, but rather work with it to assume the role of connecting young people with those things that are positive and life-giving. At the same time the catechist can also enter into meaningful dialogue with young people regarding those images that are destructive and lifeless. In this issue of the "Superior Catechist" you will find several helpful hints regarding the use of multimedia as a learning tool. In particular, this issue will highlight a multitude of useful websites.

Helpful Hints

*Multi-media is all around us. Use it to our advantage --- to teach Gospel values.

*Use current events and issues for topics of discussions.

*Use 5-10 minute clips. No need to show entire movie or play entire song or entire video game and so on. Small clips as discussions starters can be sufficient to make a point toward Gospel values.

*Be sure clips are appropriate to the age group that will be viewing or listening.

*Use clips that are positive/proactive. Don't show or play something just for "shock" value. No need to expose young people to additional violence just because it is already present in the world.

*Use movie clips that are rated for Family and General viewing. G and PG. With older adolescents you can use some PG-13, but be very selective for appropriateness. Use music and games that do not have "parent advisories."



*Show movies and play music that you have already experienced. Don't use something that you have not had time to process yourself.

*Use multi-media as a way to enter into Catechetical Process i.e. solid doctrine, promotes critical thinking, relates to personal experience, has obvious scripture connections, provokes transformation and personal response --- reflection, conversion, action.

Websites for Catechists/Parents/Youth

Diocese of Superior
Office of Religious Education &
Youth Ministry (Bishop Hammes Center):
<http://www.chibardun.net/~rcadotte>

Others:

- * www.vatican.va
- * www.uscatholic.org
- * www.catholicrelief.org
- * www.nacflm.org (Family Life Ministry)
- * www.search-institute.org
- * www.textweek.com
- * www.catholic1.com
- * www.mediafamily.org
- * www.spiritualityhealth.com
- * www.catecheticalresources.com
- * www.catholicweb.com
- * www.catholicfamilies.net
- * www.youthprayer.com
- * www.reled.org
- * www.catholiceducation.org
- * www.webelieve.com
- * www.homefaith.com
- * www.alapadre.net
- * www.shc.edu/thelibrary/index.htm
- * www.fcni.org
- * www.call-to-action.org
- * www.medialit.org
- * www.osv.com
- * www.sadlier.com
- * disciplesnow.org
- * usccb.org
- * aboutourkids.org
- * cornerstonemedia.org
- * americancatholic.org

CATECHIST CERTIFICATION: An Opportunity for Growth

As catechists and teachers we are called to share the faith, traditions and values of our Catholic community with students in our religious education and parochial school programs. Some of us have had formal training in teaching methods and catechetical principles. Most of us, however, have been invited to this ministry because our parish leaders thought we had the ability to share our understanding of the faith with others.

As role models for adults, youth and children in our parishes, we must faithfully present the "teaching of Jesus Christ, the Truth that He communicates or, to put it more precisely, the Truth that He is." (John Paul II: *Catechesis in our Time*, § 6) *We must also demonstrate to our students that this learning is a never-ending process to which we are all summoned.*

In 1975, the bishops of the State of Wisconsin established standards for personnel in parish religious education and parochial school programs. These standards seek to assure that we catechists and teachers are prepared to faithfully and competently present the teachings of the Catholic Church to the adults, youth and children that we serve. Included in these standards are the following:

- Teachers and catechists have basic certification in religion.
- Teachers of religion in Catholic elementary schools have, advanced certification in religion.
- Teachers teaching religion full-time in elementary schools have, at minimum, an academic minor in religion.
- Principals and teachers in Catholic elementary schools gain six semester credits or the equivalent every five years.
- Principals and teachers in Catholic elementary schools gain six semester credits or the equivalent every five years.



- Administrators of Catholic education programs have advanced certification in religion.
- Full time administrators of religious education have, at minimum, a bachelor's degree in religious education or the equivalent.
- Full time administrators of religious education gain six semester credits in religious education or a related field every five years.
- Administrators, teachers of religion and catechists are Catholics who have admission to the full sacramental life of the church and are engaged in the community of the faithful.

The catechist certification process, sponsored by the Diocese of Superior, provides catechists and teachers the means to meet the requirements for basic and advanced certification in religion listed above. The diocesan process recognizes five levels of certification: Entry, Basic, Intermediate, Advanced and

Leadership Levels. To achieve the first four levels of certification, catechists and teachers study topics in the areas of Scripture, Theology, Methodology and Spirituality. These requirements can be met through college courses, or through workshops, lecture series and other learning activities sponsored by the diocese or by local parishes. Achieving the leadership level is accomplished by the catechist/teacher planning and implementing a project that relates to the ministry of catechesis. Your principal, Director of Religious Education or Coordinator of Religious Education can provide you with more information about the Catechist Certification Process in the Diocese of Superior. You may also contact Ms. Kathy Drinkwine, Catechist Certification Coordinator at the Diocese of Superior. Her telephone number is 715/392-1042. Her email is kdrinkwine@catholicdos.org.

**"It was God who gave gifts to all:
some God chose to be apostles,
still others to be prophets,
and others evangelists,
others to be pastors and teachers."**

(EPH 4:11)

The Spirit of a Catechist

Sue Grenough

Be quick to listen, but slow to speak . . . — James 1:19

This scripture speaks to the essence of Jesus as leader. Loughlan Sofield and Donald Kuhn, in *The Collaborative Leader*, identify listening as the basis of Jesus' leadership style. He walked around with the people, listening, responding as needed, letting people know they were heard and that he cared for them.

This type of listening goes beyond the spoken word and involves listening with the heart. Jesus listened to the space between the words, to the silences, to the actions.

Catechists model this quality of listening to their learners. They listen to those speaking and not-speaking, to those in attendance and those missing, to the concerns and interests, expectations, joys and sorrows so that the learners feel valued and appreciated. Once people feel they are heard, they are more receptive to listening in return and are open to hearing God's word. Listening, then, can provide for catechists the insights and environment needed for effective catechesis.

Effective catechists will be less concerned with their own words and more concerned with listening effectively to the learners. Listening is the spirit of the catechist.

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Superior Catechist Calendar

GROWING TEEN DISCIPLES

February 6, 2004 Presenter: Frank Mercadante
Location: Plover, WI
Contact: Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

PARISH CATECHETICAL WEEK

February 18 - 24, 2004
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

SUMMIT (SUPERIOR MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM)

February 19, 2004 @ New Richmond
May 10, 2004 @ Park Falls
Contact: Sr. Marianna Ableidinger, FSPA
@715-588-7439

LENTEN WORKSHOP

March 4, 2004 @ Amery (9:45 - 2:30)
Presenter: Sr. Marla Lang, FSPA
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

CREATING SAFE & SACRED PLACES for CHILDREN & YOUTH

March 6, 2004 @ Rice Lake/WITC
March 8, 2004 @ St. Anthony, Park Falls
March 9, 2004 @ St. Anthony Abbot, Cumberland
Featured Speaker: Fr. Gerard McGlone, SJ,
PhD, Author of *Creating Safe & Sacred Places*
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

YOUTH RALLY 2004

Saturday, April 17, 2004
Presenter: APeX
Location: Ladysmith
Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

SPRING THEOLOGY DAY

The Wisdom of Psalms: Praying Oneself into Right
Relationship with God, Others & the Cosmos
May 1, 2004
Presenter: Fr. Dale Lauderville
Location: TBA
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

SCOUT RECOGNITION SUNDAY

May 16, 2004
Our Lady of Sorrows, Ladysmith
Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

CLI (Christian Leadership Institute)

June 21-25, 2004
UW Stevens Point
Contact: Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

DIOCESAN MISSION TRIP

July 17-25, 2004
Omaha, Nebraska
Contact Abbie Daigle @ 715-234-5044

BASIC CATECHETICAL FORMATION WORKSHOPS

August 14 & 15, 2004
Location: TBA
Contact Richard Lyons @ 715-392-2937

FALL REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

August 25, 2004
August 31, 2004
September 2, 2004
September 9, 2004 Locations: TBA
Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

FALL CATECHIST/TEACHER INSTITUTE

October 6, 2004 in Rice Lake
Contact Phyllis Schlagel @ 715-392-1042

NCCYM (National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry)

Pittsburg, PA
December 2-5, 2004
Contact Christ Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

WYD (WORLD YOUTH DAY) 2005

August 13-22, 2005
Cologne, Germany
Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference)

October 27-30, 2005
Atlanta, GA
Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

AGAPE TEC RETREAT SCHEDULE

#179 March 5-7, 2004 @ Rhinelander
#180 April 30, May 1-2, 2004 @ Park Falls
#181 June 25-27, 2004 @ Hudson
#182 July 30 - August 1, 2004 @ Medford
Contact Gwen Nies @ 715-646-2418

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Parish Catechetical Week *Nurturing Life-Long Disciples* February 18-24, 2004

The Diocese of Superior will celebrate *Parish Catechetical Week*. The intent is to highlight parish religious education programs in a special way and increase knowledge of and participation in parish education and formation programs.



Scouting News

The 11th Annual Diocesan Scout Recognition Sunday is scheduled for **Sunday, May 16, 2004** and will be hosted by Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Ladysmith while Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior is under renovation.

There are three new Religious Recognition Awards available beginning August 2003. We thank those of you who continue to help promote *Religious Recognition Awards*, *Scouting* and other forms of youth ministry. Your efforts are appreciated.

Diocesan Youth Rally

April 17, 2004
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish
Ladysmith, WI

10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Presenters: APeX Ministry
You can check them out at
the following website:
apexministries.com

**Catholic faith and fun
through Jokes, Juggling,
Storytelling & Drama**

**Open to students in 7th -
12th grades from the entire
Diocese of Superior.**