

CATHOLIC CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

Session Description:

Religious traditions are necessary to support the living faith of individuals and a community. This session traces the vast riches of the traditions, customs and ritual practices that make up the Roman Catholic experience.

Focus of the Session:

"Besides sacramental liturgy and sacramentals, catechesis must take into account the forms of piety and popular devotions among the faithful. The religious sense of the Christian people has always found expression in various forms of piety surrounding the Church's sacramental life, such as the veneration of relics, visits to sanctuaries, pilgrimages, processions, the Stations of the Cross, religious dances, the rosary, medals, etc. (CCC #1674)."

Content:

In conducting this session the instructor will:

1. Describe the nature and function of religious traditions.
2. Explain the role of culture in the origin and history of various Catholic customs.
3. Present how participation in the diversity of Catholic customs and traditions incarnate the church's faith.
4. Explore the experience of creating new customs and traditions.

Learning Outcomes:

As a result of this session the catechist will:

1. Recognize the role Catholic customs and traditions play in the lives of students.
2. Understand what Catholics believe and why we behave the way we do.
3. Gain an appreciation for the diversity of various Catholic customs and traditions.

References:

- A Catholic Edition of the Holy Bible: Acts 2:42-47
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: #1667-1679
- *National Directory of Catechesis*: pp. 151-156