

DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

Catechetical Leadership Certification Program

Catechetical Planning

Handout for May 16, 2020

Shaping the Future: Catechesis for a New Millennium

1. State of the Church
2. Cultural Influences
3. Catechetical Focus
4. Catechetical Forms

Re-visioning The Parish Catechetical Program

1. Evangelization as the context for all catechesis.
2. The baptismal catechumenate as the inspiration for all catechesis.
3. The six fundamental tasks of catechesis.
4. The primacy of adult catechesis.
5. The challenge of inculturating the Gospel message.

Building Competencies

1. Called by Name - This book focused on what catechetical leaders need to be, as opposed to what they need to know or do, if they are to lead effectively.
2. Cultivating Your Catechists - This book taught catechetical leaders how to recruit, train, support, inspire, supervise, evaluate, and retain catechists in their parishes.
3. All God's People - This book considered the wide variety of people to be catechized and offered strategies for catechetical leaders to engage all of them in life-giving formation.
4. Catechetical Leadership - This book examined the specific leadership skills and competencies that are necessary for a catechetical leader to be effective in a parish setting.
5. Developing Disciples of Christ - This book centered on the inseparability of evangelization and catechesis, and gave catechetical leaders a proper understanding of their interconnectedness.
6. Excellence in Ministry - This book shared time-tested skills and strategies for successful catechetical leadership, while identifying and proposing new approaches to leadership.

Discussion:

Based on your study of these topics, which areas were most affirming, and which areas were most challenging?

Creating a Catechetical Plan

1. The activity of seeking God's will for a ministry or parish.
2. The decision to act in faith on what has been discerned.

Discussion:

Based on your studies so far, identify the kind of program your parish would benefit from, or the kind of program you would create from nothing if you had the opportunity.

Three Central Questions of Planning:

1. Where are we as a church?
 - Do we have a mission statement?
 - What is our history, i.e., what has been our historical mission(s)?
 - What are current trends?

Eight Forces (Faith Formation 2020 pages 1-4)

1. Declining number of Christians and Growing Number of People with no Religious Affirmation
2. Increasing Number of People Becoming More Spiritual and less Religious
3. Declining Participation in Christian Churches
4. Increasing Diversity and Pluralism in U.S. Society
5. Increasing Influence of Individualism on Christian Identity and Community Life
6. Changing Patterns of Marriage and Family Life
7. Declining Family Religious Socialization
8. Increasing Impact of Digital Media and Web Technologies

Two Critical Uncertainties (Faith Formation 2020 page 5)

1. Relationship with Organized Religion and Christianity
2. Hunger for and Openness to God and the Spiritual Life

Discussion:

What do you make of these conclusions?

Four Scenarios (Faith Formation 2020 pages 6-9)

1. Vibrant Faith and Active Engagement
2. Spiritual but not Religious
3. Unaffiliated and Uninterested
4. Participating but Uncommitted

Discussion: Questions (page 9)

Which scenario or scenarios are in your parish?

Use the following questions from John Roberto's article to explore how each scenario applies in your church.

- *Who are the people in your community in this scenario?
How would you describe them?*
- *What are the religious and spiritual needs of people in this scenario?
How would you describe one or two aspects of their religious and spiritual hopes or desires?*
- *How is your church addressing the spiritual and religious needs of people in this scenario through faith formation today?*

Assess the Impact of the Four Scenarios on Your Church

- *Use the following questions to explore the impact of each scenario on your church.*
- *What are the challenges that this scenario presents for the future of faith formation in your church community?*
- *What are the opportunities that this scenario presents for the future of faith formation in your Church community?*
- *What are the implications of not addressing the future of faith formation in this scenario?*
- *What are the implications of addressing the future of faith formation in this scenario?*

Another current trend we cannot avoid is the COVID 19.

1. Social Distancing
2. Challenge of being Community
3. A shift to Eucharist without walls
4. Stress placed on all ministries in the church
5. Challenging current models of programming

Discussion:

Is there anything you want to add given this situation we find ourselves in?

2. Where do we want to go?
 - Identify your preferred future
 - Establish goals or items to study

A goal is a broad statement of a desired outcome envisioned as part of your preferred future. Goals are never finished because they remain in place as part of the community's ongoing mission.

3. How will we get there?
 - Discerning how best to proceed.

Based on the strategies that John Roberto offers, will any of them get you to where you want to go? What will you do?

An objective is a measurable outcome that once achieved, advances the accomplishment of the goal.

A strategy is one or more series of actions that enable an objective to be achieved.