



Call to Holiness: God's Invitation & Our Response

Core Competency:

The primary focus of the Core Sessions is the evangelization and faith journey of the catechist. It is essential that these sessions invite the catechist to discipleship by cultivating their relationship with Christ and a life of holiness.

Focus of the Session:

The participants should leave this session with the desire to experience God's love and mercy. They should also have a basic understanding of how to pursue a relationship with God. God is calling each person to a life of holiness. This is a call to continued conversion and dependence on God's saving grace. The sacraments, prayer, and liturgy are essential to a life of holiness. "If we want to help families experience joyful paths of communion and be seeds of faith for one another, we must first cultivate and renew our own identity as believers." *Pope Leo XIV*

Content of the Session:

1. God's desire and plan for our holiness (*In-depth Development*)

a. God's Invitation

- God made us for life with Him (CCC 221) and we will only find meaning and true happiness in God (CCC 1718).
- Sin separates us from that life with God.
- The Trinitarian Mission: God the Father sends the Son, the Son conquers sin and gains the grace of salvation, and the Holy Spirit gives us grace and restores us to life with God (CCC 257 cf).
- God invites us to be His coworkers in the Trinitarian Mission of salvation (1Cor 3:9).
- The Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32) can be used to illustrate the whole picture: sin, conversion, reconciliation, God's loving mercy, and restoration of the Son.

b. Jesus the Redeemer

- Salvation - Apart from Christ there is no other means of salvation (Acts 4:12).
 - *Salvation from:* We are a lost and broken people, destined for hell. Jesus saves us from sin, death, and the devil (1Cor 15: 21-22, Rom 3:23).
 - *Salvation for:* We are saved for eternal life with God.
 - *Salvation accomplished:* Through the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension (Paschal Mystery) Christ gains the grace of our salvation.
- Christian Incorporation
 - Through baptism, we are incorporated into Jesus and become adopted children of God and "partakers of the divine nature" (2Pt 1:4, CCC 1265 cf).
 - Through this union with Christ, our lives and actions become meritorious and part of our own salvation and the salvation of others.

c. The Holy Spirit

- *Mercy:* The loving kindness, compassion, or forbearance God shows us when we have sinned (Ps 51).

- *Salvation applied:* The Holy Spirit dispenses the grace gained by Jesus to us.
- *Grace:* “The free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become his adopted children” (CCC 1996-97).
 - God knows how broken we are, and He still loves us and wants to save us (Eph 2:4-9, the Kerygma).
- *Sanctification:* As grace transforms us and reestablishes our life with God, we truly become holy (CCC 1999-2000).
 - Holiness is the fruit and character of discipleship.
 - Our pursuit of holiness does not mean we will be perfect (Rm 7:19).
 - We should not be discouraged by failure. Instead, we should seek greater dependency on God’s mercy and grace.
- Restored to God, our life finds meaning and lasting joy.

d. Witness of holiness through the lives of the Saints.

2. Holiness in Our Life (*Basic Introduction*)

a. Our Call to Holiness.

- We cannot give what we do not have. Striving for holiness is a prerequisite to be a catechist. We do not have to be perfect, but we must be on the path.
- Holiness is our life direction.

b. Reliance on the Holy Spirit and Grace.

- Cooperate with God’s grace. The life of faith is not passive, rather, it requires active cooperation.
- Participate in the sacraments, particularly Eucharist and Reconciliation.
- Engage in personal prayer.
- Progress in following the commandments and moral teachings of the Church
 - “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” (Jn 14:15)
- Live in communion with the Church.
- Realize that the good we do is the result of God’s grace active in us.

3. Holiness in the Classroom (*Basic Introduction*)

- When planning each lesson, ask how this lesson or activity fosters a relationship with Jesus and growth in holiness.
- Provide lesson planning activities for participants.

Additional References:

- Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2013-2014, 2813
- Directory for Catechesis: page 9 of Preface, 97-98
- Evangelization with the Families of Today and Tomorrow: Ecclesiology and Pastoral Challenges
Pope Leo XIV