



Created for Community

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 will recognize that people were created to be in communion with God and each other. Sin makes this a challenge. However, in our faith communities (family, parish, diocese) we strive to live out the communion we were created for. Struggling against the effects of sin, the Church accompanies us as we journey towards our perfect union with God and each other in heaven. Pope St. John Paul II said, “communion represents both the source and the fruit of [God’s] mission: communion gives rise to mission and mission is accomplished in communion.” (CL #32) As a community of Divine Persons, the Trinity is the source of communion and our communion with God is the goal of creation and salvation.

Content of the Session:

1. Created in the “Image and likeness” of Community for Community (*Basic Introduction*)

“God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange.” (CCC 221)

a. Design

- We are created in the “image and likeness” of a Trinitarian God, a communion of love (Gn 1:26).
- “It is not good for the man to be alone.” This is because we are created to be in a community of love with other persons (human, angelica, & divine) (Gn 2:18).
- “Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it.” (RH #10)

b. Created for Community (self-giving and life-giving love)

- With God.
- With each other (marriage, family, friends, community).
- c. Sin causes disharmony in our relationships with God and each other (Gn 3:12, CCC 400).
 - Isolation from God and others leaves us empty.

2. God’s Co-Workers in Communion (*Basic Introduction- this connects to the Core Session on Discipleship*)

Despite the fall and sin, we are still meant for communion, and it is in community that our journey and formation as disciples takes place. God’s redemptive work invites us to be His “co-workers” in salvation (1Cor 3:9). As coworkers, we both give and receive accompaniment and apprenticeship.

- **Accompaniment** – Means we journey with our fellow pilgrims through life towards holiness. It requires that we invest, care about, and support each other.
- **Apprenticeship** – Recognizes that we must grow in discipleship. This requires teaching, guidance, correction, encouragement, and modeling.
- Jesus models accompaniment and apprenticeship. He loved people as they were (broken & sinful) but loved them too much to leave them there. “Go and sin no more.” (Jn 8:11)
- Explore ways to walk with and guide children, families, and adults.

3. The First Community: The Family CCC 1655-58 (*Basic Introduction*)

“The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit.” (CCC 2205). Family is the fundamental community, “the original cell of social life” (CCC 2207), the “domestic Church.” (CCC 1655)

- a. Oriented towards heaven
 - The first responsibility of a family is to help its members on their journey toward heaven.
 - The self-giving of marriage/family prepares us for total-self gift to God.
- b. True Accompaniment and Apprenticeship
 - It is in the family that “one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous - even repeated - forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life.” (CCC 1657)
 - Spouses: By the grace of the sacrament, “help one another to attain holiness...” (CCC 1641) “Marriage helps to overcome self-absorption, egoism, pursuit of one's own pleasure, and to open oneself to the other, to mutual aid and to self-giving.” (CCC 1609, 1534)
 - Children: “It is in the bosom of the family that parents are “by word and example . . . the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children.” (CCC 1656)
 - Parish programs should reinforce and partner with the family.

4. **The Local Community: The Parish** (*Moderate Development*)

The local parish/school has a significant role in salvation of its members and the surrounding community. In our call to communion:

- The parish is the curriculum (DC 133).
- We receive the grace, particularly in the sacraments, to be in communion with God.
- We encounter Christ in the Scriptures.
- We encounter Christ in the community and grow in fellowship.
- We grow through study, faith sharing, and dialogue.
- We support each other in hardship through prayer, care, almsgiving, and encouragement.
- Belonging is a prerequisite to belief and belief leads us into deeper belonging.

5. **The Universal Community: The Church** (*Basic Introduction*)

“God...willed to make men holy and save them, not as individuals without any bond or link between them, but rather to make them into a people who might acknowledge him and serve him in holiness...” (CCC 781)

- Throughout Scripture, God has been increasing His community from a single couple - Adam and Eve - to a worldwide kingdom - the Church.
- Jesus established the Catholic, “universal” Church as the kingdom (community) of God on Earth. Christ has entrusted the Church with the authority to teach, feed, and shepherd (accompany & apprentice) His people. (Mt 28:18-20, Jn 21:15-17, 14:26)
 - Christ’s assurances allow us to trust ourselves to the Church.
 - The mission of the Church is to “go make disciples” -to invite others to Divine Communion.
 - “No one is without a family in this world: the Church is a home and family for everyone...”(CCC 1658)

6. **The Eternal Community: Heaven** (*Basic Introduction*)

- Communion in Church and family prepares us for eternity.
- Through communion with one another, we prepare ourselves for communion with God.

Additional References:

- Catechism of the Catholic Church: # 1-3
- Directory for Catechesis: #129, 133, 226-231, 296, 309-310
- National Directory for Catechesis: pages 61-62, 100, 109, 168-170, 107
- Bible: Heb 10:24-25, Ecl 4:9-10, Ecl 4:12, Psalm 133:1,

Document Abbreviations: RH- Redemptor Hominis DC- Directory for Catechesis CL- Christifideles Laici