



## **Encountering God: Kerygma, Encounter, Evangelization**

### **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 catechist will realize that all catechetical efforts are at the service of forming disciples. This life changing relationship begins by encountering God's love and mercy in the proclamation of the Kerygma. The kerygma is a personal and intimate message that opens our heart to deeper evangelization and formation. It becomes the lens through which we understand ourselves, God, and the entire deposit of faith. As a parish, we must intentionally work to create an environment that fosters an encounter with God that can mature into lifelong discipleship.

### **Content of the Session:**

#### **1. Discipleship** (*Basic Recap from previous session*)

- The goal of catechesis is to make disciples.
- God is inviting everyone to know, love, follow, and share Him with others.
- Our relationship with God is the only true source of meaning and joy in life and the afterlife.

#### **2. Kerygma and Kerygmatic Catechesis** (*Moderate Development*)

##### a. Kerygma

- The core message of the Gospels, that God loves us and wants to save us (Jn 3:16-17).
- Evangelii Gaudium #164 (also DC # 68) says the Kerygma:
  - Is the "first" and "principal proclamation" of our faith.
  - It cannot be "forgotten or replaced by other more important things."
  - "We must hear again and again in different ways... at every level and moment."

##### b. Kerygmatic Catechesis

- "All Christian formation consists of entering more deeply into the kerygma" (EG #165).
- All teachings need to flow from and back to this central teaching (God's love and gift of salvation).
- God is the source of all beauty, truth, and goodness, which always leads back to God.

#### **3. Evangelization** (*Moderate Development*)

- a. Evangelization is our hearing, receiving, and sharing the Gospel with others so that they also might have fellowship with God and us (1Jn 1:3-4, 2Tim 2:2).
  - In a secular culture, many people, including Catholics, are unevangelized. They may know about Christ, but they do not know Him personally.
  - We are not teaching a subject; we are inviting people to encounter Jesus (DCE #1).
- b. Our Role in Evangelization
  - In the *Great Commission*, we are sent to share Jesus and His teachings. (Mt 28:19-20).
  - “The Church exists in order to Evangelize” (EN #14).
  - We must share the good news of our salvation through our words, actions, attitudes, and life.
- c. Evangelizing Catechesis
  - Catechesis is ineffective if the person being catechized has not first been evangelized.
  - “The definitive aim of catechesis is... intimacy with Jesus” (CT#5, DC #75).

#### 4. Fostering Encounter (*Moderate Development*)

“What great need there is to promote an encounter with God, whose tender love values and loves the story of every person! It is not a matter of giving hasty answers to difficult questions, but of drawing close to people, listening to them, and trying to understand together with them how to face their difficulties.” Pope Leo XIV

- a. Our faith is interpersonal and includes multiple types of encounters, all of which need to be healthy and support discipleship.
  - The participants and Christ
  - The participant and the catechist
  - The participant and clergy (priests & deacons)
  - Between participants
  - The participant and the parish community
- b. Create Opportunities for encounter
  - In session: Small groups, discussion, reflections, personal witness, retreats, prayer...
  - In the parish: liturgy, ministries, community celebration, adoration, service opportunities, parish missions...
  - At home: Scripture, prayer, family conversations.

#### Additional References:

- Catechism of the Catholic Church: #516, 604, 776, 2658
- Directory for Catechesis: #28-30, 57-60, 68, 75
- *Joy of the Gospel*: #164, #165

#### Document Abbreviations:

DC- Directory for Catechesis  
 EG- Evangelii Gaudium  
 EN- Evangelii Nuntiandi

CT- Catechesis Tradendae  
 DCE- Deus Caritas Est