

Catechesis from Pre-K through adult formation (including adult sacramental preparation) essentially takes place in the community. It is to be, by necessity, led by catechists who witness, teach, and accompany those seeing formation. All Catechesis is to be part of a larger experience of faith, found in the parish. Any decision to move Catechesis toward an isolated, individualized presentation of information would be detrimental to not only the individual, but, also to the Faith Community. Catechists, then should consider the use of digital media and the internet only as a tool but not the primary mode of transmission of the echo of Faith

- Pope Paul VI to Pope Francis – digital media is an essential tool for Evangelization
- Archbishop John Wester, then Bishop of Salt Lake, in June 2012 addressed the USCCB General Assembly regarding the urgency of meeting the signs of the time as missionaries on the Digital Continent
- The *General Catechetical Directory*, *General Directory for Catechesis*, *2020 Directory for Catechesis*, and the *National Directory for Catechesis* all recognize the growing necessity of using digital media, the internet and new forms of communication in Evangelization and Catechesis. Each reaffirms, however, the necessity of person-to-person communication, the need for the community and the role of the catechist in Catechesis and ongoing Formation in the Faith.
- Publishers of Catechetical texts that have been declared “in conformity” with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* have made more and more digital content available via the internet. This newly abundant material is made available with the expectation that a catechist will be present as teacher, witness and who acts as one who accompanies the learner.

Below is the information from the most recent Magisterial document, *Directory for Catechesis*.

#### 2020 Directory for Catechesis on Formation in the Faith

- **Faith is necessarily ecclesial:** it is professed from within the body of Christ a concrete communion of believers.” (*Directory for Catechesis*, 176)
- **Virtual reality cannot however replace the spiritual, sacramental, and ecclesial reality experience in direct encounter among persons**
  - What is needed in order to bear witness to the Gospel is an authentic form of communication that is the fruit of real interaction among persons. (DC, 217)
- **The Christian community is the primary agent of catechesis.** For this reason, the catechetical pedagogy must make every effort to convey the importance of the community as a fundamental space for personal growth. (DC, 218)
- **The group is important in personal formation process.** This applies to all age brackets: children, who receive help in becoming properly socialized; young people, who feel very keenly the need for authentic relationships, adults who want to experience sharing and co-responsibility in the Church and in society.
  - **The catechist is called to awaken within the group the experience of community as the most coherent expression of the Church’s life**, which finds its most visible form in the celebration of the Eucharist.
  - If it is an authentic place for relationships among people, the experience of the group is fertile soil for welcoming and sharing the message of salvation.
  - Alongside the proclamation of the Gospel in community form, **the communication of the faith also requires person-to-person contact.** (DC, 219)

- In catechesis with adults there is a decisive role for the figure of the **catechist, who is situated as a companion and at the same time as an educator capable of supporting them in the process of personal growth.** (DC, 263)
- Constructive interaction among people establishes the group as a place in which exchange and profound communication blossom. When this is intense and effective, **the group is at its best in carrying out its function of supporting the growth of its members.**
  - As an ecclesial reality the group is enlivened by the Holy Spirit, true author of all progress in the faith. **This openness to grace cannot however diminish the recourse to the pedagogical disciplines which also look at the group as a social reality with its own dynamics and laws of growth.** The ability to put these contributions to good use can constitute a valid means for strengthening the sense of identity and membership in order to facilitate the active participation of each member, foster the process of the internalization of the faith, and handle interpersonal tensions in a positive way. (DC, 220)
- **The catechist** is a Christian who receives a particular calling from God that, when accepted in faith, **empowers him for the service of the transmission of faith and for the task of initiating others into the Christian life.** (DC, 112)
- By virtue of faith and baptismal anointing, in collaboration with the Magisterium of Christ and as a servant of the actions of the Holy Spirit, the catechist is,
  - a. A witness of faith and keeper of the memory of God...**the catechist keeps, nourishes, and bears witness to the new life that stems from this, and become a sign for others.** The faith contains the memory of God's history with humanity. Keeping this memory, reawakening it in others, and placing it at the service of the proclamation is the specific vocation of the catechist. The testimony of his life is necessary for the credibility of the mission. Recognizing his own frailty before the mercy of God, the catechist does not cease to be the sign of hope for his brothers.
  - b. A teacher and a *mystagogue* who introduces others to the mystery of God, revealed in the paschal mystery of Christ, as an icon of Jesus the teacher, **the catechist has the twofold task of transmitting the content of the faith and leading others into the mystery of the faith itself.** The catechist is called to open others to the truth about human beings and their ultimate vocation, communicating the knowledge of Christ and at the same time introducing them to the various dimensions of the Christian life, unveiling the mysteries of salvation contained in the deposit of faith and renewed in the Church's liturgy;
  - c. An accompanier and educator of those who are entrusted to him by the Church; **the catechist is an expert in the art of accompaniment\***, has educational expertise, is able to listen and enter into the dynamics of human growth, becomes a traveling companion with patience and a sense of gradualness, in docility to the action of the Spirit and through the process of formation helps his brothers to mature in the Christian life and journey toward God. The catechist is an expert in humanity, knows the joys and hope of human beings, their sadness and distress (sf. GS 1) and is able to situate them in relation to the Gospel of Jesus. (DC, 113)
 

\*Cf. EG 169-173: The formative process, on the personal accompaniment of the processes of growth, facilitates the act of faith and the internalization of the Christian virtues.
- **Catechesis thus presents itself as a process that allows the maturation of the faith through respect for the journey of each individual believer.** Catechesis is therefore the *pedagogy of faith in action*, together with *initiation, education and teaching*, always having clear the unity between content and the way it is transmitted.
  - **Catechesis, however, is not primarily a presentation of morality, but the proclamation of the beauty of God, which can be experienced and which touches the heart and mind, transforming life.** (DC, 175)

## ON LINE RESOURCES

RCL Benziger: Online Resources as presented to ASF Parish Catechetical Leaders 7/21/2020:

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/34t5NbqqznIJS42V0x7DVYUoQ43cT6a82iUY-ftfxR3Rx\\_qFMzRCC75yoZHcugg](https://zoom.us/rec/share/34t5NbqqznIJS42V0x7DVYUoQ43cT6a82iUY-ftfxR3Rx_qFMzRCC75yoZHcugg)

RCL Benziger offers two different basal texts: ***Be My Disciples***, a spiral textbook series in, that has both English and bi-lingual editions ***Sean Mis Discipulos*** for Student texts, Catechist Manuals and Family resource books in bound and e-editions. The second series is ***Blest Are We, Faith in Action***, also available in English and bilingual editions (***Bendecidos***), and both with bound and on-line editions.

The website is <https://www.rclbenziger.com/> and there is a wealth of information about the various programs offered by RCL Benziger from Pre-school through 8th grade and the various Sacrament Series that are offered. I will also forward a marketing email to you about the Sacrament series.

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***By Word and Example*** series helps parents nurture their children in preparing for the celebration and reception of a sacrament in the Catholic Church. Parents will be guided through basic aspects of the Sacraments and will be provided space to journal about their experiences. Parents will also have opportunities to memorialize their families witnessing the Catholic faith through acts of service to others.

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### **SADLIER:**

We have 2 catechetical programs. First, we have our longstanding flagship series called *We Believe*. It comes in traditional print and eBook. Last year during the pandemic, many of my schools and parishes had to switch to a remote/virtual learning program. Current customers who use *We Believe* ended up using eBooks combined with Zoom or Google Classroom to conduct classes.

Also last year, we rolled out our newest catechetical series called *Christ In Us*. This was a blessing for many schools and parishes as well, since it combines print with a completely online portal. This online portal allows schools and parishes to conduct faith formation 100% online, from any location, from any device, as long as you have an internet connection. Catechists can create lesson plans in the portal and assign them to students. Then, students can log on and complete assignments and activities, watch instructional videos, play learning games, takes quizzes and tests, email the catechist, and much more. The use of this portal is free and included with the purchase of print books.

Please click on any of the links below for more information:

[Christ is Us Overview](#)

[10 Reasons to Consider Christ In Us](#)

[Digital Integration](#)

[Choose Your Model](#)

[Example: Grade 2](#)

Once you've had a chance to review all this information, feel free to give me a call with any questions.

Also, we can schedule a demonstration of the portal so that you can see all its functions, and also we can give you a free 30-day trial, after you've been given the demo.

**Ed Castillo**  
**Sales Representative**

San Diego, San Bernardino, Arizona, New Mexico  
Catholic Schools and Parishes

Sadlier downloadable activities for families: [https://www.sadlier.com/religion/families-summer-support?utm\\_campaign=%2022X\\_21\\_SP\\_Nat\\_LG\\_Rel\\_General\\_Child&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=128018230&hsenc=p2ANqtz-UQemuXIT1tYzaSHznfZWJXatt9z\\_0Uzth325Kobirk6ojPi3gVjU4gwYV\\_Su8le8HxTI9f\\_aWQXfijUfvheanRIJX-Q&utm\\_content=128018230&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.sadlier.com/religion/families-summer-support?utm_campaign=%2022X_21_SP_Nat_LG_Rel_General_Child&utm_medium=email&hsmi=128018230&hsenc=p2ANqtz-UQemuXIT1tYzaSHznfZWJXatt9z_0Uzth325Kobirk6ojPi3gVjU4gwYV_Su8le8HxTI9f_aWQXfijUfvheanRIJX-Q&utm_content=128018230&utm_source=hs_email)

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### **Our Sunday Visitor:**

Our Best resource will be our Faith At Home page to give you an idea of the vast number of resources. <https://osvcurriculum.com/faithathome> These are locked for customer access, but I've included some sample links below so you can get an idea of some of the materials:

Alive in Christ e-flipbook samples: [https://aliveinchrist.osv.com/aicinfo/samples/parish/catechist\\_edition](https://aliveinchrist.osv.com/aicinfo/samples/parish/catechist_edition)

Alive in Christ – Faith Guide book for Young Adolescents  
[https://aliveinchrist.osv.com/aicinfo/samples/adolescent/faith\\_guidebook](https://aliveinchrist.osv.com/aicinfo/samples/adolescent/faith_guidebook)

Vivos in Christo – bi-lingual sample: [https://aliveinchrist.osv.com/aicinfo/samples/bilingual/student\\_edition](https://aliveinchrist.osv.com/aicinfo/samples/bilingual/student_edition)

Faith Fusion Sample - [https://osvcurriculum.com/resources/osvc/faithfusion/FF\\_Elem\\_TE.pdf](https://osvcurriculum.com/resources/osvc/faithfusion/FF_Elem_TE.pdf)

Click [here](#) for a webinar about Flipgrid.

All of our materials, Alive in Christ (basal), Encounter with Christ (Sacraments), Allelu (Kindergarten and Pre-k), Faith Fusion (student catch up), Faith Guide books, and Bi-lingual materials are available in text with free e-books or you can purchase the e-books only.



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*Our Sunday Visitor: To Serve the Church*



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St. Mary's  
Press:

<https://www.smp.org/series/93/Discover-Finding-Faith-in-Life-Parish/>

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### **Ignatius Press:**

Thank you for reaching out. For our online faith formation program (*Faith and Life Online*, through My Catholic Faith Delivered), there is a wealth of information (including a webinar walkthrough) at this link:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21A1xhZkSpu9Gsibg&id=F038115163757F1A%211174&cid=F038115163757F1A>

This is the link found on our webinar page: <https://www.ignatius.com/promotions/faithandlife/webinars.htm>

Paul Senz <[paul@ignatius.com](mailto:paul@ignatius.com)>

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**RCIA & RCIA Adapted for Children**

Apprentices in Faith: <http://apprenticesinfaith.com/>

Young Apprentices: <http://www.rclbyoungapprentices.com/>

### **RICA**

El Camino de Jesus: <https://store.rclbenziger.com/product/el-camino-de-jesus-ciclo-1-year-non-transferable-license>

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### **Baptismal Preparation**

In the Family Life Office, Beth Lukes had put together or gathered spiritual reflections, family activity and prayer guides for the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and First Holy communion. Here is the link to the website:

<https://www.familylifem.org/you-your-child-sacraments>

Other publisher's offer the following:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/sacramental-preparation/springs-of-faith/program-overview/encounter-phase/> <https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/sacramental-preparation/springs-of-faith/program-overview/encounter-phase/> [New program available July 1, print, video, App in English & Spanish]

<http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/baptismprep.html> [English/Spanish resources, books, DVD]

<http://cart.pflaum.com/product.php?productid=17793&page=1> *Welcoming God's Children* [DVD & booklet]

<https://www.avemariapress.com/product/1-64680-000-1/Together-at-Baptism-4th-Edition/pdf/15556/> *Together at Baptism* [book-English only]

<https://www.sadlier.com/religion/sacrament-preparation/catholic-infant-baptism> [*We Believe and Celebrate Baptism*-book in English and Spanish]

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### **Marriage Preparation**

Office of Family Life: <https://www.familylifem.org/marriage>