

Parish Directors: Catechist Meetings—Classroom Management

Note: This catechist meeting will be most helpful to new catechists and catechists who are having difficulty with their group.

Invite four of your experienced catechists (past or present) to each meeting to facilitate one of the four segments of this workshop.

Other options for facilitators would be to have two, and have them each do two of the following topics:

- Create an Environment
- Discipline
- Getting Started
- Asking Good Questions

Give facilitators the following instructions:

- Ask participants what they want to know.
- Be practical.
- Use real examples from catechetical sessions.
- Welcome questions.
- They may use the material on the Catechist Formation section of aliveinchrist.osv.com, their own material, or a combination of both.

You will need:

- a table covered with a white cloth
- a Bible on a stand

- a large candle
- a clear glass bowl with water
- CD player
- *Alive in Christ* Songs of Scripture CD
- If presenters will use them, handouts of Articles from the Catechist Formation section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Goals

- To equip catechists to feel confident in the catechetical setting
- To encourage experienced catechists to mentor new catechists

Welcome and Opening Prayer

- Welcome the catechists. Thank them for coming.
- Explain the purpose of the meeting.

Invite catechists to form a circle around the prayer space.

Leader: Light the candle

All: Sing together “Holy Spirit, Be My Guide” by John Burland from *Alive in Christ* Songs of Scripture.

Reader: *A reading from the Gospel according to John.*

Read aloud John 14:15-26.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent Reflection

Leader: *Let us pray:*

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Amen.*

Input

Introduce facilitators and their topics. Explain that the group will move into two or four different spaces and they will move to the next section every 20 or 40 minutes. At the conclusion of the meeting they will return to the prayer space.

Closing and Blessing

Have catechists gather seated in a circle. Ask volunteers to share the most interesting thing they learned during the meeting. Ask the group to stand and pray for God's blessing:

Extend your hands over the group and say:

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing:

Blessed are you God of mercy, through your Son, Jesus, you gave us an example of love. Send down your blessing on these your sons and daughters. Help them to generously share their faith in you.

All: Amen.