

Parish Directors: Catechist Meetings—Doctrine

You will need:

Chairs assembled in a circle around a well designed prayer space with:

- a table covered with a white cloth
- a Bible on a stand
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* next to the Bible
- a large candle
- matches or a lighter
- a large clear glass bowl with water
- a CD player
- *Alive in Christ* Songs of Scripture CD
- LCD projector
- video: Theological Foundations of *Alive in Christ's* Revelation Theme
- copies of the Apostle's Creed

Goals

- To review the role of Tradition in the catechetical setting
- To introduce catechists to the online Doctrinal formation section

Opening Prayer Service and Reflection

- Welcome the catechists. Thank them for coming. Explain the purpose of the meeting.
- Invite catechists to form groups of three to four and be seated in their small groups around the prayer space. Dim the light in the room, and light the large candle. Sit in silence for a few minutes.

Play “Come and Follow Me” from the *Alive in Christ* Songs of Scripture CD.

- Read from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 78.
- Questions for reflection to be shared in a small group:
 - What image, or phase, or thought is important for you from this reading?
 - How does this reading speak to you about being a Catholic?

When the discussion is finished, continue the prayer:

Leader: *Let us stand and pray together the Apostle’s Creed.*

All: Pray the Apostle’s Creed together.

Leader: *Let us offer each other the Sign of Peace.*

Input

- Display the chart with the titles of the three-step process in *Alive in Christ*. Explain that during this meeting the group will focus on the second step, Discover, discovering our Catholic Tradition.
- Tell catechists that the word Tradition comes from a Latin word which means to hand on or over.
- Tell a short story about a traditional belief in your family of origin and how you think it may have been handed on or how it came to be. Examples: Our family believes you must eat a certain food at Thanksgiving or Christmas; our family believes you must always pay with cash, never credit.
- Have volunteers share some of their family beliefs or traditions.

Break

- Introduce the video “Theological Foundations of *Alive in Christ’s* Revelation Theme” by pointing out that the Church family has Traditions that came down through generations. Show the video.
- Use the following discussion questions to involve the group in large or small group discussion depending on the size of the group.
 - Besides reason what other ways does God reveal himself?
 - Since Jesus is the fullness of God’s revelation what does that mystery tell us about God?
 - What role do the Pope and bishop’s play in God’s self communication?
 - Why is the faith community important?
- Go to the prayer table and hold up the Bible and the Catechism. Explain that each of the lessons in *Alive in Christ* is based on both Scripture and Tradition. Give examples from the lesson plans in the Catechist Guide.

Application

- Display the chart with the titles of the 3 step process in *Alive in Christ* again.
- Explain that what the group just did was to follow this process but on an adult level. (Invite—They were invited to share stories of their family’s experience of Tradition. Discover—They watched and listened to the podcast and then discussed it. Live—What they are doing now; connecting the first two steps to the experience of catechizing in the classroom. Suggestion: As you are doing this, you might want to project the preview Student Edition pages from the *Alive in Christ* website.)

- Show catechists the Doctrine section on the Catechist Formation site and encourage them to complete it and email their assessment reflections to you by a certain date.
- Invite questions.

Closing Blessing

Gather the catechists in a group around the prayer space.

Extend your hands over the catechists and pray in these or similar words:

May the Holy Spirit enlighten you and guide you, and fill you with wisdom and understanding so you will be a faithful witness to the Church. Grant this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.