

## Parish Directors: Catechist Meetings—Catechist and Catechesis

### You will need:

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

- a table covered with a white tablecloth
- 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
- LCD projector
- *Alive in Christ* Songs of Scripture CD
- LCD projector
- video: Faith Formation (Linda Gaupin)
- Blessing Prayer: *Alive In Christ* Grade 2, Chapter 20
- index cards
- pens and pencils
- chart listing the tasks of catechesis or handouts

### Goals

- To explore the meaning of *Catechist* and *Catechesis*
- To introduce catechists to the formation sites for Catechist and Catechesis

### Opening Prayer Service and Reflection

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

- Invite catechists to form a circle around the prayer space.
- Light the candle.
- Use the Blessing Prayer in Grade 2, Chapter 20, as the Opening Prayer.

## Input

- Distribute index cards and pens or pencils.
- Have catechists spend a few minutes jotting down their response to the question: How would you respond to the request: “Describe yourself as a person of faith.”
- Have them share their responses in small groups or in pairs. When the sharing is finished, ask volunteers to share any thoughts or insights they had with the larger group.
- Summarize their sharing, and point out that first and foremost a catechist is a person of faith. When all is said and done, catechesis is the handing on of faith. Not just “book” faith but personal and communal faith.
- Play the video Faith Formation (Linda Gaupin) and ask the small groups to respond to these questions:
  - In what ways do you feel “called”?
  - How does your faith affect the way you live on a daily basis?
- When the discussion is finished, tell the small groups they are to come up with one song or artistic piece (drawing, collage, clay mold) that represents for their group “a person of Faith.” When their creations are finished, have them share for the whole group.
- Summarize by pointing out that being a catechist is an important ministry in the Church and we give what we have so it is important to nurture our faith. Encourage catechists to go

to the Catechist Formation section of [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com) and use it for reading and reflection. Call attention to the Assessment instrument.

## Break

- Use the “What is Catechesis?” material on the Catechist Formation section of [www.aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://www.aliveinchrist.osv.com) for this section. Explain that the method we use to hand on faith is called catechesis.
- Have catechists volunteer responses to the question: “What is the most important task of a catechist?”
- In your own words, summarize the points that are in the article “What is Catechesis?” You may wish to have a chart of the tasks of catechesis on display or handouts of the tasks.
- When you are finished, have catechists reflect on the question: Besides instruction in the faith which of the tasks of catechesis given above are you most comfortable with and how will you accomplish it with your group? Have volunteers share their responses.
- Encourage catechists to go to the Catechist Formation section [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com) and use it for reading and reflection. Call attention to the Assessment instrument.

## Concluding Prayer

- Ask catechists to pause for a moment of silence.
- Show the Video Reflection Mark 1:16–20 as a quiet meditation.
- When the meditation is completed, ask catechists to stand, face a partner and sign each other with the Sign of the Cross.