



# *Course 1. Principles & Practices of Catechesis*

## *Part 2 (November 9, 2024)*

Instructor: Catherine LaVecchia

**Keep your cameras on please**

**Please type in CHAT:** Your first and last names

•Parish where you work or teach

**NOTICE:** The live session and chat are being recorded

# Prayer

The background of the slide is a painting of red flowers, possibly azaleas, with dark branches against a light, hazy sky. The text is overlaid on this image.

**Francesca Battistelli**  
**"He Knows My Name"**

# A prayer for today

Oh God in these shorter and darkening days anchor us in hope!

You say: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

Blessed are we with eyes open to see the accumulated suffering of danger, sickness and loneliness, oppression, greed and misuse of power, violence, intimidation, the mockery of truth.

Blessed are we who ask: *Where are you God?* Blessed are we who cry out: *O God we trust You, for we know You and love You.*

For You Oh Lord, are the One who seeks out the helpless, lifts them on Your shoulders, and carries them home no matter how broken they are, or what wrong they have done.

O God, seek us out, and find us - and lead us out to where hope lies, where your kingdom will come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

For You are the anchor dropped into our future. Amen.

# Hello

my name is

**Please share your Name and One  
thing that gives you hope right now.**

# Principles & Practices Course - Overview

## **Part 1 (October 2024)**

1. The Church's Vision of Catechesis in the *Directory for Catechesis*
2. Applying the *Directory* for Catechesis to Parish Life
3. Creating a Shared Vision of Catechesis in the Parish

## **Part 2 (November 2024)**

1. Developing Lifelong Goals for Faith Maturing
2. Developing a Catechetical Parish using the Goals for Faith Maturing
3. Envisioning a Lifelong Approach to Catechesis



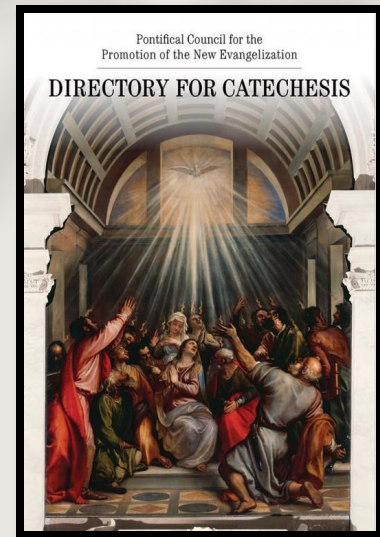
# Review of Part 1.

## The Church's Vision of Catechesis in the *Directory for Catechesis*

***Catechesis*** makes the proclamation of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ continually resound in the heart of every person, so that life may be transformed.

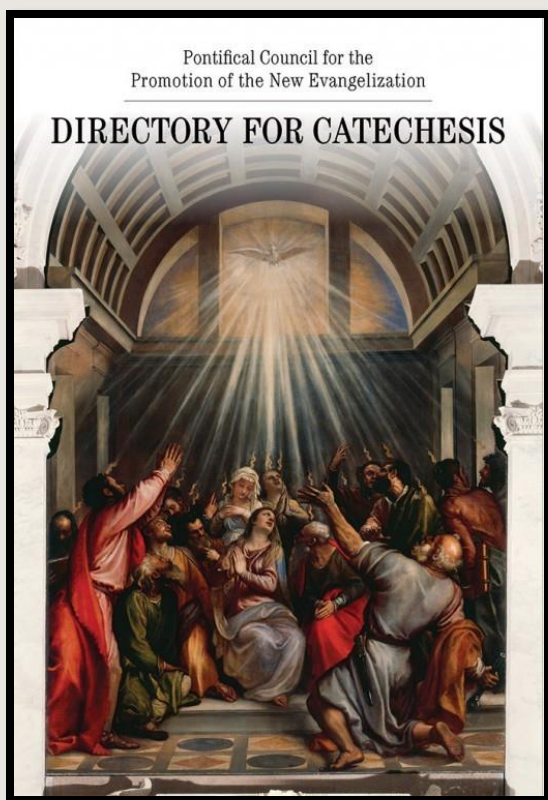
A dynamic and complex reality at the service of the Word of God, ***catechesis*** is accompaniment, education, and formation in the faith and for the faith, an introduction to the celebration of the Mystery, illumination and interpretation of human life and history.

By harmoniously integrating these characteristics, ***catechesis*** expresses the richness of its essence and offers its specific contribution to the pastoral mission of the Church.  
(*Directory for Catechesis*, 55)



- ***Directory for Catechesis vision says that***
  - **Catechesis is accompaniment, education, and formation in the faith and for the faith.**
  - **Communion with Jesus Christ is the center of catechetical action.**
  - **Catechesis is a living encounter with Jesus Christ that transforms a person's whole life – mind, heart, and body.**
  - **Catechesis is centered in the kerygma – the life, message, death, and resurrection of Jesus.**
  - **Catechesis fosters ongoing maturation in faith**
  - **Catechesis is pedagogical action at the service of the dialogue of salvation between God and humanity; and inspired by the features of the divine pedagogy: God's gratuitous love, salvation, conversion, the Word of God, centrality of Jesus Christ, community experience of faith, and pedagogy of signs.**
  - **Catechesis is carried out in fidelity to the word of God and in attention to and interaction with the educational practices of the culture.**

# Creating a Shared Vision – moving From Vision to Practice



- ✓ Whole Community / Intergenerational
- ✓ Families
- ✓ Children
- ✓ Adolescents
- ✓ Young Adults (20s-30s)
- ✓ Midlife Adults (40s-50s)
- ✓ Mature Adults (60s-70s)
- ✓ Older Adults (80+)

- @ Home
- @ Parish
- @ School
- @ Community / World



# Quick Review of some of our Vision/Purpose Statements

Looking at the bottom right column on page 15 in *Guided by the Directory*, have you looked at all of those questions? Does your Vision/Purpose Statement (revised version) reflect your answers to these questions?

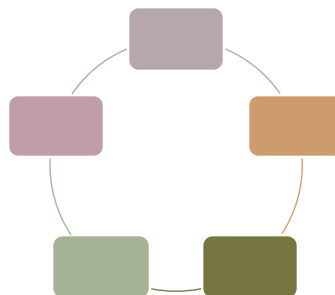
Let's share some of our Vision statements in Small Group

***(break into groups)***

Once everyone has shared visions, talk about how it felt to present your vision to someone else; offer each other feedback on what was clear and what might help you better understand what was communicated in the vision.

## Large group sharing...

**Now that You have your Vision/Purpose Statement, we have to look at the second element of your vision of maturing in faith throughout life – The Goals for Maturing in Faith.**



These five inter-related tasks are in the Directory (#75-89) and are discussed on our book on pages 16-19.

A holistic formation in faith – at every stage in life – includes five essential and interrelated elements that promote Christian life.

# Developing Goals for Maturing in Faith (tasks) (P. 16-17 in book)

1. *Knowledge of the Faith*: Fostering knowledge of and exploration of the Christian message in Scripture and the Church's tradition.
2. *Initiating into the Celebration of the Mystery*: Assisting in the comprehension and experience of liturgical celebrations: the sacraments, especially Eucharist, and the feasts and seasons of the liturgical year.
3. *Forming for Life in Christ*: Educating the believer to the good life of the Gospel through the Christian formation of the moral conscience.
4. *Teaching Prayer*: Educating the believer for prayer and in prayer, developing the contemplative dimensions of Christian experience; teaching personal prayer and liturgical and community prayer.
5. *Introduction to Community Life*: Developing the sense of belonging to the Church and contributing as active participants to building up the community and as missional disciples to its growth.

# **Creating Goals - the *what***

***Through our parish's catechetical ministry  
people of all ages are:***

Look at Activity Sheet #3 – Now we are going to take some personal time to write at least ONE Goal for each Task.

Remember, there is no right or wrong! And these can be tweaked as we go along.

I will give you 10-15 minutes then we will go into small groups.

# Small Groups and then LG feedback



# Break





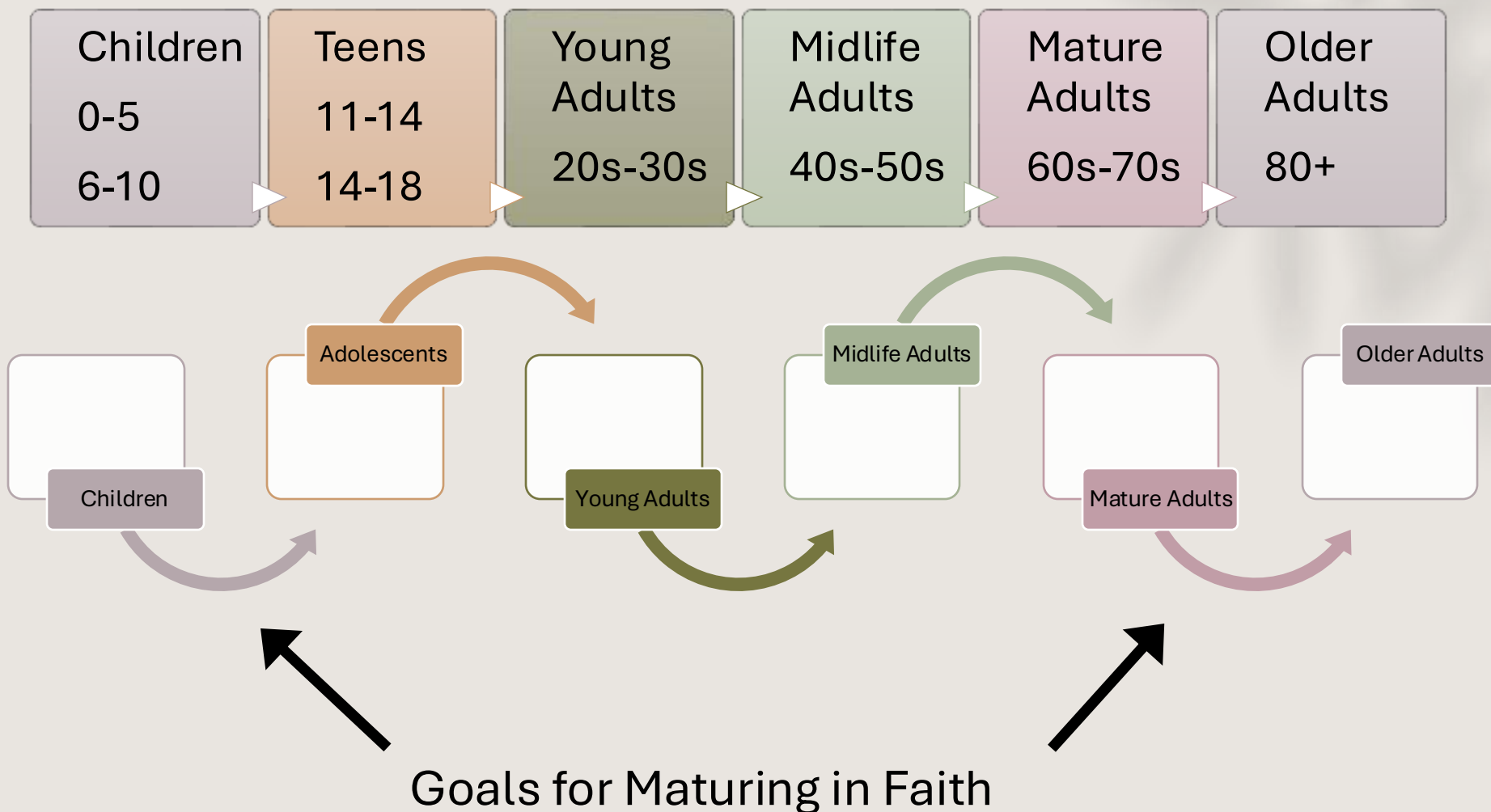
# Activity 4.

## Profile of Parish Catechesis

- Take a moment to look at Activity 4.
- Using 2 or 3 of your goals, look across the chart of age groups and fill in how that goal is being addressed by your current programming. If its not, leave it blank.
- Reflect on the questions about your Parish's strengths, where you could improve or expand, and where you might be able to initiate something new.
- Personal time – 10 min.
- Small Group Time

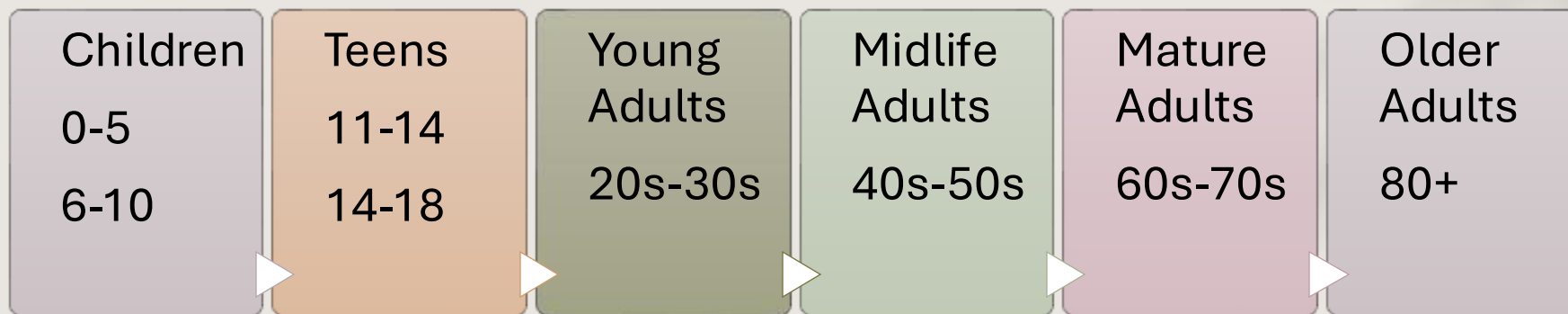
# Activity 4.

## Building Blocks of Lifelong Catechesis



# Activity 4.

## Building Blocks of Lifelong Catechesis



Goal 1					
Goal 2					
Goal 3					
Goal 4					
Goal 5					

# Building Blocks

## **Intergenerational Catechesis**

- Core catechetical experience for all ages OR
- Integrated within other catechetical models

## **Family Catechesis in the First Two Decades of Life**

- Primary catechesis for families with children through young adolescence OR
- Integrated within other settings and programming

## **Sacramental Preparation using a Catechetical Model of Formation**

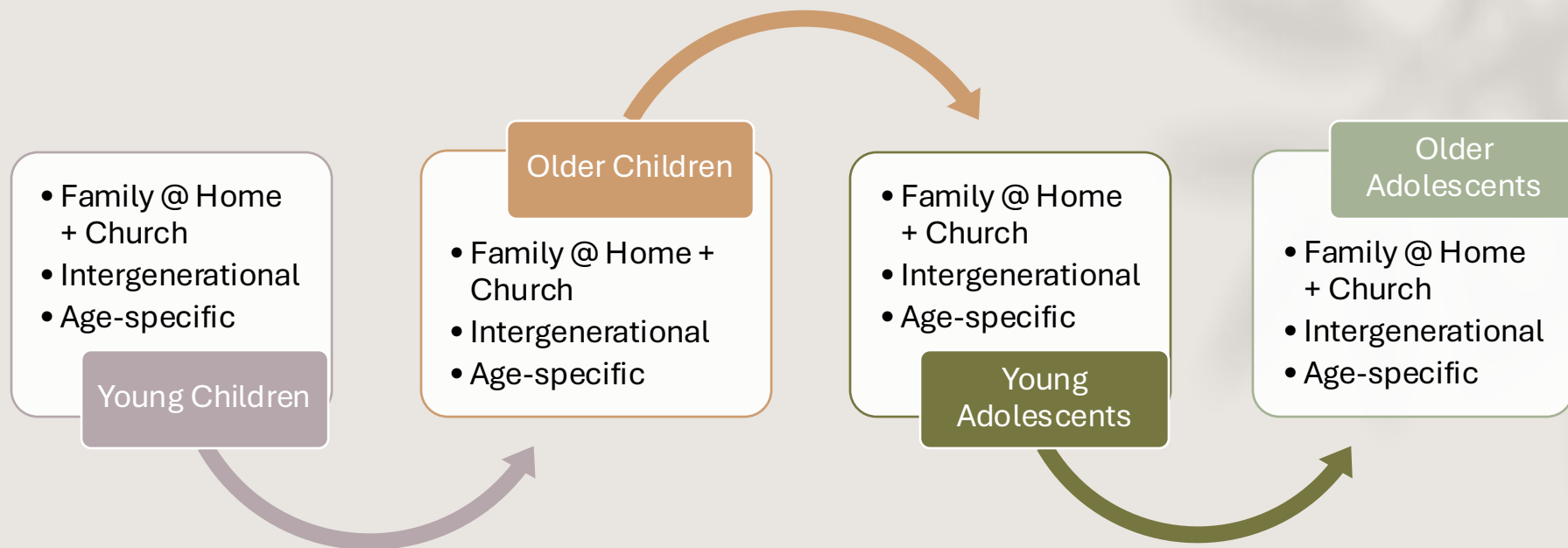
- Remote preparation / catechesis
- Immediate preparation for the sacrament
- Celebration of the sacrament
- Mystagogy / continuing catechesis

# Building Blocks

## Life-Stage Catechesis

- Catechesis is developed with content, methods, formats, and approaches that address the diverse life tasks and situations, needs and interests, and spiritual and faith journeys of people at each stage of life.
- Catechesis addresses the needs of each stage of life through
  - 1) *a variety of content*, programs, activities, and resources
  - 2) *a variety of learning methods* to address the whole person and how he or she learns best
  - 3) *a variety of catechetical formats* for learning (on your own, with a mentor, at home, in small groups, in large groups, in the church community, and in the community and world) delivered in physical, online, and hybrid settings
  - 4) *a variety of schedules* by offering programming in synchronous and asynchronous modes and making programming available anytime and anywhere.

# Faith Formation in the First Two Decades



Family faith practices  
 Sacraments & Milestones  
 Church year seasons  
 Parenting practices and skills  
 Parenting for faith growth  
 Family-centered gatherings and programs at church



# Questions or Possible Additional Resources



# Reminders and Upcoming tasks:

- Follow up Application meeting: Saturday November 23 at 10-11:30am – see class for Zoom link (same one we have been using)
- Make sure you are happy with your vision statement
- Continue to work on Activities 3 and 4
- *Focus: Highlights and challenges in completing Activity #4*
- Discussion Questions
  - What are you discovering about crafting goals for lifelong maturing in faith?
  - Where does the parish's current practice reflect the principles and vision described in the *Directory for Catechesis*
- ALL Completed Coursework (Activities #1-4 inclusively) Due by December 15<sup>th</sup>. I will post a DROP BOX LINK for you.

# Prayer

Blessed are we who have heard Your voice saying “Come, follow me.”  
and long to be drawn more and more into Your goodness.

Blessed are we who invite You once more into the home of our very hearts,  
to come and be with us, just as we are.

Blessed are we, the poor in spirit, who sit and wait and listen.

O God, tell me plainly, what should i do?  
speak to me in a way that lets me know that it's You talking  
and not just my own need or desire.

Give me courage to strip away impediments or misguided desires.  
O God, grant grace to move freely, without the self-consciousness  
that can misdirect or taint a good intention.

Show me o lord: what is the gift, the one that is mine to give?  
for this time, and for this place?

Blessed are we who ask You, God, to do in us the work that needs to be done,  
that we might do the work that You would have us do,  
according to the good purposes You had in mind for us from the beginning.

Bless our work. Bless our ministries. Bless our days.

Amen.

## Prayer Song

# GOD IS IN THIS STORY

Katy Nichole & Big Daddy Weave