

# Course #1. Principles and Practices of Catechesis

## Project Report for Cohort #1

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Every Certificate course has a final Project Report that compiles your course assignments from the course into one document. In the Practices and Practices of Catechesis course you were asked to complete the following:

- Activity 1. Applying the Directory for Catechesis to Parish Life
- Activity 2. Creating a Shared Vision of Catechesis
- Activity 3. Developing Lifelong Goals for Faith Maturing
- Activity 4. Envisioning a Lifelong Approach

### Directions

**#1. Save this document as a Word file and rename it in the following way:**

**Last Name – First Name – Cohort # - Course 1**

For example: SmithJohnCohort1Course1.docx

**#2. Complete the information below:**

Your Name:

Your Email:

Your Parish Name and Location:

Your Diocese:

**#3. Record your responses in this Project Report Form for the four Activities for Course 1.**

- Activity 1. Applying the Directory for Catechesis to Parish Life
- Activity 2. Creating a Shared Vision of Catechesis
- Activity 3. Developing Lifelong Goals for Faith Maturing
- Activity 4. Envisioning a Lifelong Approach

**#4. Upload your completed project file to the online DropBox provided by NCCL.**

**Cohort #1:** <https://www.dropbox.com/request/czFWjQ8bVOe0lV4Z4i4h>

# Activity #1. Applying the *Directory for Catechesis* to Parish Life

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**Write-in the rating for each item:**

*How well does this characteristic describe catechesis in your church?*

1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=agree, and 5=strongly agree.

1. Our parish has a shared vision for catechesis that embraces the *Directory's* vision of catechesis as a living encounter and communion with Christ – forming families and people of all ages in getting to know Jesus Christ and his Gospel of liberating salvation, and choosing Jesus' way of life, and living the mission of Christ.

**Rating:**

2. Through our catechetical ministry (programs, activities, experiences) families and people of all ages experience an encounter with Jesus Christ that involves their whole life – mind, heart, and body.

**Rating:**

3. Through our catechetical ministry (programs, activities, experiences) families and people of all ages hear the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus and his saving death and resurrection so their lives may be transformed into disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Rating:**

4. Our catechetical ministry for families and all ages is guided by an understanding of catechesis as *accompaniment, education, and formation* in the faith and for the faith.

**Rating:**

5. Our catechetical ministry (programs, activities, experiences) provides a holistic formation each year for families and people of all ages that includes five interrelated elements: 1) knowledge of the faith, 2) understanding and experience of liturgical celebrations, 3) Christian formation of the moral conscience, 4) educating for prayer and in prayer, and 5) developing belonging to the Church and living its mission.

**Children**

**Rating:**

**Adolescents**

**Rating:**

**Young Adults**

**Rating:**

**Adults (40 and older)**

**Rating:**

**Families**

**Rating:**

6. Our catechetical ministry embraces the baptismal catechumenate as an inspiration for catechesis by utilizing the journey of the faith in the baptismal catechumenate to develop holistic models of formation that incorporate: 1) a first proclamation of the Gospel (kerygma); 2) a comprehensive introduction to the Christian life; 3) liturgies, rituals, and symbols that engage the heart and the senses; 4) a community of faith and support; 5) engagement in the mission of the Church; 6) formation that fosters conversion of heart and mind in a new way of life; and 7) ever deeper formation in faith and the life of the community.

**Children**

**Rating:**

**Adolescents**

**Rating:**

**Young Adults**

**Rating:**

**Adults (40 and older)**

**Rating:**

**Families**

**Rating:**

7. Our catechetical ministry (programs, activities, experiences) sees human experience as integral to catechesis – in content and methods – and we seek to help illuminate and interpret people’s experiences of life in the light of the Gospel. We recognize that in order to make the Christian message intelligible to people of all ages, catechesis must value human experience.

<b>Children</b>	<b>Rating:</b>
<b>Adolescents</b>	<b>Rating:</b>
<b>Young Adults</b>	<b>Rating:</b>
<b>Adults (40 and older)</b>	<b>Rating:</b>
<b>Families</b>	<b>Rating:</b>

8. Our catechetical ministry employs a variety of methods and tools for educating and forming people in the faith and for the faith in ways that are appropriate to the age and intellectual development of people. (This includes a variety of ways to learn; a variety of media – print, audio, video, digital; a variety of formats - on your own, mentored, small group, at home, large group; a blend of settings – gathered, online, and hybrid; and variety of timing - synchronous and asynchronous.)

<b>Children</b>	<b>Rating:</b>
<b>Adolescents</b>	<b>Rating:</b>
<b>Young Adults</b>	<b>Rating:</b>
<b>Adults (40 and older)</b>	<b>Rating:</b>
<b>Families</b>	<b>Rating:</b>

9. Our catechetical ministry (programs, activities, experiences) engages each distinct culture in our parish community by getting to know deeply the culture of persons, understanding how the Gospel and the faith is already present in each culture, recognizing the significance of popular piety as it celebrates the faith, and, together with people of each culture, developing catechesis that speaks to the needs and spirituality of each culture.

**Rating:**

10 Our catechetical ministry (programs, activities, experiences) utilizes a variety of digital tools and approaches, including online-only learning and hybrid models of learning that integrate online and face-to-face learning, such as the flipped classroom approach.

**Rating:**

**Reflection:** Write a one-paragraph summary your reflections on the four questions.

1. How well does our catechetical ministry embrace and apply the vision of catechesis in these ten characteristics from the Directory for Catechesis?
2. What are the areas of strength in your community?
3. What are the areas for improvement or enhancement in your community?
4. What did you learn about the Directory for Catechesis from this assessment?

**Your Summary Reflections**

## Activity #2. Creating a Shared Vision

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### Part 1. Vision of Catechesis

Write below the statements that capture the parish's purpose (vision) for catechetical ministry that aligns with the *Directory for Catechesis*.

**We believe the purpose of catechesis in our parish is to:**

## Activity #3. Developing Lifelong Goals

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The *Directory for Catechesis*, like the 1997 *General Directory for Catechesis*, proposes tasks for catechesis that promote an integral Christian life and a holistic formation in faith: 1) knowledge of the faith, 2) understanding and experience of liturgical celebrations, 3) Christian formation of the moral conscience, 4) educating for prayer and in prayer, and 5) developing belonging to the Church and living its mission. These five tasks provide the framework for developing goals for maturing in faith for a lifetime.

Using the five tasks, create your parish goals for maturing in faith for a lifetime. These goals apply to all of the seasons of life, presenting a lifelong vision of faith maturing. At each stage of life life-stage appropriate catechesis is developed to bring the goals to life with families and age groups.

**Knowledge of the Faith:** Fostering knowledge of and exploration of the Christian message in Scripture and the Church's tradition.

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

**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.

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

**Forming for Life in Christ:** Educating the believer to the good life of the Gospel through the Christian formation of the moral conscience.

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

**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.

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

**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.

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

## Activity #4. Profile of Parish Catechesis

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Explore how the goals are being practiced in your parish today by creating a profile of your current catechetical programs, activities, and initiatives. Write-in your goals and then list what your parish is currently doing to implement each goal with families and age groups. [Copy the template below if you have more than 5 goals.]

<b>Goal #1</b>	
<b>Families</b>	
<b>Children (0-10)</b>	
<b>Youth (11-19)</b>	
<b>Young Adults (20s-30s)</b>	
<b>Midlife Adults (40s-50s)</b>	
<b>Mature Adults (60s-70s)</b>	
<b>Older Adults (80+)</b>	

<b>Goal #2</b>	
<b>Families</b>	
<b>Children (0-10)</b>	
<b>Youth (11-19)</b>	
<b>Young Adults (20s-30s)</b>	
<b>Midlife Adults (40s-50s)</b>	
<b>Mature Adults (60s-70s)</b>	
<b>Older Adults (80+)</b>	

<b>Goal #3</b>	
<b>Families</b>	
<b>Children (0-10)</b>	
<b>Youth (11-19)</b>	
<b>Young Adults (20s-30s)</b>	
<b>Midlife Adults (40s-50s)</b>	
<b>Mature Adults (60s-70s)</b>	
<b>Older Adults (80+)</b>	

<b>Goal #4</b>	
<b>Families</b>	
<b>Children (0-10)</b>	
<b>Youth (11-19)</b>	
<b>Young Adults (20s-30s)</b>	
<b>Midlife Adults (40s-50s)</b>	
<b>Mature Adults (60s-70s)</b>	
<b>Older Adults (80+)</b>	

<b>Goal #5</b>	
<b>Families</b>	
<b>Children (0-10)</b>	
<b>Youth (11-19)</b>	
<b>Young Adults (20s-30s)</b>	
<b>Midlife Adults (40s-50s)</b>	
<b>Mature Adults (60s-70s)</b>	
<b>Older Adults (80+)</b>	



## Analysis

After you have completed the profile, analyze the results by reflecting on these questions and writing your responses under each question.

### **Strengths**

What are the strengths in lifelong catechesis with families and age groups?

Which goals are being addressed most effectively through catechetical programs, activities, and experiences with families and age groups?

### **Improve or Expand**

Which goals need to be addressed more effectively by strengthening or improving catechetical programs, activities, and experiences with families and age groups?

Which areas of lifelong catechesis need to be expanded or extended to reach and engage more people?

### **Initiate**

Where are the gaps in the lifelong profile?

What are potential new initiatives that could address the gaps in the lifelong profile?