

Am I Called to be a Catechist?

“Dear catechists, ... I thank you for everything that you do, but above all, because you are part of the Church, the pilgrim People of God, and you accompany God’s People on that pilgrimage.” Pope Francis

Have you ever wondered “Should I be a catechist?” Or are you already a catechist who occasionally wonders if you should stick with it another year? You may want to consider a deeper question, “Am I *called* to be a catechist?” In order to respond to this question, you may need to consider ...

What is a catechist?

A catechist is a person who “hands on” the faith to another. This involves not just educating about Church teaching and doctrine, but also helping another person encounter Jesus.

What does a catechist do?

With the help of the Holy Spirit, the catechist opens up the possibility for others to encounter the Lord.

A catechist engages both hearts and minds by:

- Praying (personal and communal)
- Participating in the sacramental life of the Church
- Nourishing and giving witness to the Faith
- Sharing the Faith
- Immersing themselves and others in the mysteries of the Faith
- Walking with others on the journey of faith
- Educating the whole person – intellectual, spiritual and physical

Who “calls” catechists?

There are many reasons that catechists begin to consider this ministry – through an invitation from the pastor/director of parish life or the faith formation leader, by reading a bulletin announcement, or by observing a friend or family member who is a catechist. Who really calls a catechist, though? The *Directory for Catechesis* says this, “The catechist is a Christian who receives a particular calling from God that, when accepted in faith, empowers him for the service of the transmission of faith and for the task of initiating others into the Christian life.” So the calling is from God! The invitation may come from someone else, but the “pull” on your heart is from God. By responding you participate in Jesus’ mission of introducing disciples into his relationship with the Father. And the Holy Spirit is right there helping and working through you!

What should I do next?

Talk to your pastor/director of parish life or your faith formation leader. Let them help you discern if this is a calling for you, or if there is a better way for you to share your gifts.

Parish contact info:

Directions for using “Am I Called to be a Catechist?” and “Catechist Job Description”

These forms have been created for parish leaders to assist in the search for catechists if they find them helpful. Both are fillable PDFs which means that you will be able to customize them to fit your particular parish. They could also be used as a model to create your parish’s own version with more specific details, but you will not be able to change any text in these PDFs other than adding information specific to your parish and program.

For both:

1. Download the form onto your computer.
2. Save the PDFs somewhere that you can locate it if needed later.
3. Once downloaded, open the PDF and locate the grey fillable boxes.
4. Enter your information into the grey boxes.
5. Right click somewhere on the PDF and choose “save as.”
6. When you save it give it a title different than the original, so that you know that this is the one with your information already in it.
7. The text entered into the grey boxes looks washed out, but it will not come through that way when you print it.

For “Am I Called to be a Catechist?”:

This is intended to be a discernment and conversation aid as you encounter people who are considering being a catechist in your parish program.

1. Locate the contact information grey boxes at the bottom of the page.
2. Fill in the correct contact information.
3. Use “Save as” (see directions for both above).
4. Print it.

For the “Catechist Job Description”:

1. Locate the first grey box at the top of the page and fill in your parish name.
2. Locate the second grey box and fill in when your sessions meet.
3. Locate the contact information and fill in the name of the person in the first box and phone and/or email in the second.
4. Use “Save as” (see directions for both above)
5. 5. Print it.