

presenter the flexibility to emphasize different aspects of each topic within a range of basic content. The presenter will find material here that contributes to the formation of catechists who are just beginning to work out an articulation of their faith, as well as catechists who come with a more developed understanding.

Before you begin using the *Curriculum Guide*, take a few moments to walk through its components. Fostering Faith is divided into eight topics: Catechesis, Scripture, Theology, Moral Life, Sacrament, Prayer, Church, and Liturgy. Catechist certification requires that six hours of formation be received in each of the eight topic areas, for a total of forty-eight hours. In the Guide the topics are divided into sessions envisioned to last about two hours. (It is recommended that the fourth sessions on "The Last Things" under Theology and on "Mary and the Saints" under Church be combined with their respective topic's third sessions.)

Each session has the following components.

Session Description

This brief sketch is meant to provide an idea of the substance of the session at a glance, as well as a succinct reminder of the focus to be maintained in developing the session.

Themes

The short descriptions survey as it were the "chapter headings" of the session as a way of indicating the different aspects of the subject to be covered.

Focusing the Session

This paragraph speaks to the rationale for presenting this material and unfolds in more detail the essence of what is to be taught in formation. It may also show the interconnection between the themes or give a sense of the priorities among them to be noted.

Instructional Objectives

Without giving a lesson plan or suggesting specific methods, this list proposes a general description of the active "means" of doing the formation. Its stress is on verbs which describe the mode rather than the content of the formation: "In conducting this session the facilitator will ... present techniques... provide examples ... offer criteria ... model methods ...," etc.

exercises during the session, or for weaving Scripture into the presentation as guide and support for the approach to a given topic.

Suggested Participant Resources

A few sessions call for materials to be supplied as aids to the learning process.

Finally, notice should be taken of the expanded bibliographies which are part of this revision of *Fostering Faith*. The Primary Bibliography lists the Church's documents since Vatican II which have a bearing on catechetical ministry. The Secondary Bibliography lists and annotates new works as well as most works which appeared in previous bibliographies.

1. Catechesis

I: Vision and Methods

Session Description

This session introduces the catechist to the basic vision of catechesis, and to the aims, tools and techniques of catechetical ministry.

Themes

- ÿ Catechesis as a ministry of the Word
- ÿ Basic skills necessary for effective catechetical ministry
- ÿ Design and implementation of lessons which come alive for learners

- ÿ Classroom management techniques
- ÿ Catechesis for people of culture

Focusing the Session

Catechesis "echoes" the ancient Gospel message to the present day. Because it is a form of the Church's ministry of the Word of God, the proper content of catechesis is not head knowledge but instruction which strengthens faith, and its proper context is not the classroom but the worshipping Church community. In order to help children, youth and adults to grow in faith, and to gain both a sense of community and a better understanding of their faith, catechists need to have a variety of resources at their command. Among these are the ability to relate to

- ÿ Provide a variety of teaching methods which catechists can use to facilitate the Christian understanding of death, judgment and final union with God.

Catechist Competencies

As a result of this session catechists will be able to:

- ÿ Discuss the relationship of personal death to the renewal of creation and God's saving love.
- ÿ Explain how Christ's resurrection is the foundation for our resurrection of the body.
- ÿ Describe the relationship between Christian hope for the future and faithful work in the present.

Special Points from the Documents

- ÿ Death is the path to living in the risen Lord (*Sharing* #108; CCC #988–1009)
- ÿ Judgment should be seen in the light of Christian hope (*Sharing* #109; CCC #1020–1041)
- ÿ Christ's resurrection signals the conquest of death (*Sharing* #110; CCC #988–1009)
- ÿ Human hope is ultimately oriented to the renewal of all creation (CCC #1042–50)

Documentary References

(see Bibliography for secondary sources)

- Ÿ The content of catechesis recognizes a hierarchy of truths: some parts are based on others which have a higher priority (*General Catechetical Directory* #43, *Sharing* #47)
- Ÿ Methods of catechesis must be adapted to the age, culture and aptitude of the persons concerned (*On Evangelization in the Modern World* #44)
- Ÿ Methods must also seek to fix in the memory, intelligence and heart the essential truths that must impregnate all of life (*On Evangelization in the Modern World* #44)
- Ÿ Catechists draw on biblical, liturgical, ecclesial and natural sources (*Sharing* #60a)
- Ÿ Catechesis should be systematic; it should deal only with essentials while being sufficiently complete, and it should be integrated with the rest of Christian life (*On Catechesis in Our Time* #21)

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary source.

Vatican II, *Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church* #14

General Catechetical Directory #10-35, 43, 70-76

On Evangelization in the Modern World #44

On Catechesis in Our Time #20-22, 30-31, 51-55

Code of Canon Law #774, 776

Sharing the Light of Faith #176, 212

A Family Perspective on Church and Society

Scripture Contexts

Isaiah 40:6-8	Humans pass away, but the Word of God stands forever
Isaiah 55:10-11	God's Word unfailingly accomplishes its mission
Matthew 13:51-52	The trained teacher brings new and old from her treasure
1 Corinthians 13:1-13	No matter how much you know, the point of catechesis is love
1 Corinthians 14:33,40	Work for the God of peace is to be done with a sense of order
1 Thessalonians 2:13	The divine Word comes to us through human words
Colossians 1:29	Christ is the living center of catechesis
1 Peter 1:22-25	We are born anew by the imperishable Word
Hebrews 4:12	The word of God is living and active, piercing deep into life

Suggested Participant Resources

Catechist/teacher religion manual
Calendar of sessions for the current year

- Ÿ Provide a variety of teaching methods which catechists can use to facilitate the understanding of the meaning of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and in the personal lives of their students.

Catechist Competencies

As a result of this session catechists will be able to:

- Ÿ Write a reflection of no more than one page on the relationship between the work of the Holy Spirit in their individual lives and in relationship with the Church.
- Ÿ Articulate the work of the Holy Spirit in the formation, guidance and continued inspiration of the Church.
- Ÿ List and explain the gifts and fruits of the Spirit, and how they come to expression in their personal lives.

Special Points from the Documents

- Ÿ The Holy Spirit continues the work of Christ (*Sharing* #92; CCC #689-690, 727-730)
- Ÿ The Holy Spirit forms and inspires the Church (CCC #737-741, 799-801)
- Ÿ The moral life of Christians is sustained by the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit (CCC #1830-1832)
- Ÿ The Holy Spirit is the Teacher Within (*On Catechesis in Our Time* #72)

Documentary References

(see Bibliography for secondary sources)

Catechism of the Catholic Church #683-747, 1830-1832.

On Catechesis in Our Time #72

Sharing the Light of Faith #54, 92

Scripture Contexts

Numbers 11:24-30	Moses wishes for the day when the Spirit will fall on all people
Isaiah 44:1-5	God promises the Spirit to all God's people
Isaiah 61:1-3	The Spirit anoints God's servant to proclaim good news
Psalms 51:13	Holy Spirit as the special presence of God to us
Psalms 139:7-12	There is no place in creation where the Spirit is not present
Joel 3:1-5	Announcement of the future outpouring of the Spirit
Zachariah 4:4-6	Not by the human power and devices, but by God's Spirit
Luke 1:26-35	Spirit to "overshadow" the Virgin at Jesus' conception
Luke 11:9-13	God will not deny his Spirit to anyone who asks
John 7:37-39	Streams of water flowing from within signify the Spirit
John 14:15-26	The "Paraclete" calls to mind everything Jesus taught
John 16:12-15	Father, Son, and Spirit have and share all things together

- ÿ Use disciplinary techniques which maintain dignity and respect between the group and the catechist.
- ÿ Discuss varieties of learning styles (visual, audio, tactile) and the need to include varieties of learning activities in their plan for catechesis.

Special Points from the Documents

- ÿ Communications media shape the environment of learning (*Sharing* #252)
- ÿ Communications foster human development and are capable of contributing to the growth of theological understanding and faith experience (*Sharing* #252)
- ÿ Catechists must look for the most suitable ways and means of catechizing through use of social communications (*On Catechesis in Our Time* #46)

Documentary References

(see Bibliography for secondary sources)

General Catechetical Directory, #116–124

Sharing the Light of Faith, #261–266

Scripture Contexts

Deuteronomy 11:18-21	Etch these teachings into life: your wrists, foreheads, doorposts
Matthew 13:1-23	We scatter our seed everywhere without controlling outcomes
Matthew 13:34-35	Jesus used well thought out methods for teaching the Word
Acts 8:26-35	Understanding Scripture often requires a Spirit-led interpreter
1 Corinthians 9:19-23	Paul used every kind of method for communicating the Gospel
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12	Teaching is effective out of deep personal affection for learners
1 John 1:1-4	Catechesis requires a shared personal experience of Christ

III: Faith and Human Development

Session Description

This session explores the stages of human development, and how these relate to faith growth in the catechist and in the learner.

Themes

- ÿ Introduction to psychological, personal and faith development
- ÿ Method of catechizing according to faith development

Special Points from the Documents

- ÿ The greatest of God's works is the incarnation of his Son, Head and Lord of the universe, who as a man worked with his hands, thought with a human mind, and loved with a human heart (*General Catechetical Directory* #50, 53)
- ÿ Jesus is true God and true man in the unity of one Person (CCC #464-469)
- ÿ Jesus has a human nature, knowledge and will (CCC # 470-478)
- ÿ The meaning and destiny of human life is most fully revealed in Jesus (*Sharing* #91)
- ÿ The person of Jesus Christ is "the heart of catechesis" (*On Catechesis in Our Time* #5; CCC #426-429)

Documentary References

(see Bibliography for secondary sources)

General Catechetical Directory #50-54

Sharing the Light of Faith #53, 87-91, 98–100

Scripture and Christology (Pontifical Biblical Commission, 1984)

Catechism of the Catholic Church #142–184, 422-478, 512-682

Scripture Contexts

2 Samuel 7:8-16	David receives the astonishing promise of God's everlasting love
Psalms 22	The righteous sufferer prays with words Jesus used on the cross
Wisdom 2:12-20	Godless people plot to take the life of the righteous person
Isaiah 9:1-6	Great light shines, for "unto us a child is born"
Isaiah 11:1-9	The reign of Messiah-king will be wise, just and full of peace
Isaiah 42:1-4	The Chosen One in whom God delights will bring justice
Isaiah 52:13-53:12	The Suffering Servant gives his life so God's people may live
Jeremiah 23:5-6	The Righteous Shoot of David will reign wisely and justly
Daniel 7:9-14	"One like a son of man" receives glory and dominion from God
Micah 5:1-4	From Bethlehem will come forth the one to rule Israel
Matthew 3:13-17	John reluctantly baptizes the One on whom the dove descends
Mark 14:60-62	Jesus testifies before the high court he is God's Son and Messiah
Luke 1:30-35	Angel Gabriel tells Mary of the future greatness of her son
John 1:1-18	The Word of God, who is with God and is God, becomes flesh
John 14:1-11	Jesus is way, truth and life, for whoever sees him sees the Father
John 20:24-31	"My Lord and my God!" says Thomas to the risen Christ"

Documentary References

(see Bibliography for secondary sources)

Vatican II, *Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church* #14

Vatican II, *Declaration on Christian Education*

General Catechetical Directory #77-97

Sharing the Light of Faith #173-175, 177-189, 191

On Catechesis in Our Time #35-45

Scripture Contexts

Psalm 131	Each of us has a level of faith where we are nurtured best
John 16:12-15	I have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now
1 Corinthians 2:6-3:3	From milk of fleshly knowledge to solids of spiritual wisdom
2 Corinthians 3:16-18	As we grow we advance from one degree of glory to another
Philippians 3:12-16	"Perfection" isn't being flawless, but always making progress
Hebrews 5:11-6:12	Let us always press beyond basics to whatever the next level is

Suggested Participant Resource

Catechist/Teacher Religion Manual

2. Church

I: The Theology of Church

Session Description

This session introduces ecclesiology, the study of the Church. It considers biblical images and theological models, the teaching office (magisterium) of the Church, the formation of the believing community, and the structure of the Church as institution.

Themes

- Introduction to models and biblical images of the Church
- Structure of the Church's teaching office and its role in the formation of the believing community
- Organization of the Archdiocese of Chicago under its Archbishop

Focusing the Session

The Church shares with Israel, God's ancient people, a calling as God's chosen people in the world. A number of biblical images and theological models reflect on the mystery of the Church. Leadership in the Church exists to serve the whole of the Mystical Body.

Psalm 103	The Lord's justice, mercy and grace stir us to blessing and praise
Psalm 104	A majestic vision of God working throughout all creation
Isaiah 6:1-8	Isaiah is stunned to see a vision of the Lord's glory in the temple
Isaiah 40:12-31	God's greatness over all the earth and over his dispirited people
Isaiah 45:1-25	No one can compare with God, the Lord, Creator and Redeemer
Matthew 11:25-27	The Father's deep mystery fully known only
Matthew 28:19	Baptism brings us into communion with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by the Son
Acts 17:22-31	People have always groped after God, in whom is all their being
Romans 1:20	God's power and nature known from the things he has made
Romans 11:33-36	God is a vast mystery whose ways are unsearchable
2 Corinthians 13:13	Christians bless each other in name of the Father, Son, and Spirit
1 Timothy 6:16	God alone immortal, invisibly dwelling in unapproachable light
James 1-16-17	The "Father of lights" in whom is neither shadow nor change
1 John 1:5	God is light itself, completely free of error and deceit
1 John 4:8	We are born to life by loving one another, for God is love

II: Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior

Session Description

This session introduces the branch of theology called christology, the study of the person of Jesus Christ, and the redemption he effected by his incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

Themes

- Church's fundamental beliefs about the Second Person of the Trinity incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth
- Salvation in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection
- Imagery of Christ the Lord and Savior in the Scriptures and traditions of the Church
- Jesus as the model of the Christian life
- Connection between Christ and grace
- Faith as an essential characteristic of the Christian life

Scripture Contexts

Exodus 19:1-8	God chose his people and redeemed them for himself
Psalms 48	Church as Jerusalem: the beauty of the city of God
Psalms 84	Longing to be in the place where God dwells on the earth
Psalms 87:1-3	Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God
Psalms 100	We are God's people: God made us, we did not make ourselves
Isaiah 43:1-12	God promises to be with his people wherever they go
Matthew 16:13-20	Jesus builds his Church on Peter and his confession of faith
John 15:1-5	We live from Jesus: he the vine, we the branches
1 Corinthians 12:12-31	Organic and complementary unity in the body of Christ
Ephesians 1:15-23	The Church as the fullness of Christ
Ephesians 4:7-16	The gifts of Christ help the body to grow together
Ephesians 5:23-32	Christ and Church as husband and wife
Colossians 1:24-27	The Church somehow continues the suffering of Christ
1 Timothy 3:1-13	Requirements for ministers in the Church
1 Peter 2:9-10	Once not a people, now we are the people of God

II: The Church as Sacrament

Session Description

This session explores the nature of the Church as the sacrament of Christ according to its creedal characteristics, and examines the social mission of the Church: the relationship to society, politics and the Church, and its members as citizens.

Themes

- ✚ Church as the continuation of Christ's life and ministry in the world
- ✚ Marks of the Church according to the Creed: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic
- ✚ Various roles in the Church's mission to the world
- ✚ Social mission of the Church and the variety of roles assumed by its members

Focusing the Session

The Church is the sacrament of Christ, i.e. the sign and instrument of his continuing presence in the world. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ makes the Church one (in unity with God and each other), holy (continually being sanctified for God by Christ), catholic (all the members in communion in Christ and commissioned to serve the whole world), and apostolic (rooted in the teaching office of the Apostles). The Church expresses these qualities in the "domestic Church" of the family, in its relationship to civil society, and in the formation of the

8. Theology

I: The Mystery of God, Three in One

Session Description

This session introduces the Creed as the basic theological source of catechesis, and introduces theology as disciplined reflection on the mystery of God as triune (three Persons in one divine nature) and as the creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all that exists.

Themes

- ✚ Development and importance of the Church's creeds for the articulation of faith
- ✚ Church's fundamental beliefs about God as Trinity
- ✚ Intimate life of love among the three Persons, and their cooperation in the work of creation and redemption
- ✚ Images of God as author of creation and redemption in the Scriptures and in the Tradition of the Church
- ✚ Revelation of the First Person of the Trinity, God the Father, as the Source of being and salvation

Focusing the Session

All catechesis is meant to increase understanding and love of God. The revelation of the God, the Three-in-One who is responsible for creating every form of life and for saving creation from death, is at the heart of faith. This session explores the revelation of God's loving care for all life as creator, redeemer and sustainer.

Instructional Objectives

In conducting this session the facilitator will:

- ✚ Explain the historical background of the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed, and give an outline of their structure.
- ✚ Explore the Christian revelation on the Trinity.
- ✚ Address the issue of language and the incomprehensibility of God.
- ✚ Lead a prayer that affirms the goodness of creation as upheld by the creating and loving God.
- ✚ Use a variety of teaching methods in order to offer ways catechists can teach about God so that their students may grow in knowledge of God's love for them and in a positive image of God in their own lives.

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Vatican II, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* #1, 39-51

General Catechetical Directory #55

Catechism of the Catholic Church #823-865, 2207-2213

Sharing the Light of Faith #72-74, 151-154

Follow the Way of Love

Scripture Contexts

Genesis 17:1-8 The people of God from Abraham will cover the earth
Numbers 22-24, esp. 23:8-10, 21-24; 24:5-9) Despite Israel's rebellion, and his commission to curse them, Balaam cannot help but bless the people of God

Isaiah 58:1-14 The true fast of the renewed holy community

Amos 5:7-15, 21-24 Justice and injustice in the people of God

Matthew 10:40 Whoever receives the disciple receives the Lord

John 15:12-17 Jesus no longer calls us "servants," but "friends"

Romans 13:1-7 The Christian's duties toward the state

1 Timothy 2:1-4 Prayer enjoined for those in authority

The Church is One John 17:20-23
Galatians 3:27-28
Ephesians 4:1-6

The Church is Holy (though always mixed with unholiness)
Matthew 13:24-30
1 Corinthians 3:16-17
1 Corinthians 5:7

The Church is Catholic Matthew 28:18-19
Mark 16:15
Acts 1:8

The Church is Apostolic Acts 2:42
2 Timothy 1:13-14

III: A Survey of Church History

Session Description

This session outlines significant periods in the history of the Church for the purpose of exploring how each continues to influence our understanding of the Church today.

Themes

• Survey of the beginnings and historical development of the Church

• Great events, characters and movements of the Church's history

• Divisions in the Church and movements toward unity

Themes

• Historical development of the oral and written traditions of the early Church

• Literary forms and characteristics of the individual books

• Basic theological themes of the New Testament, e.g. kingdom of God, salvation, eternal life, grace and justification

• Early Christians' experience of God's presence in their midst

Focusing the Session

This session explores the development of the New Testament and some basic themes of its overall message, and surveys major characteristics and themes of the Synoptic Gospels, the letters of Paul, and the Gospel and letters of John. It also emphasizes the relationship between truth, Tradition and history as outlined in the Pontifical Biblical Commission's Instruction on the Historical Truth of the Gospels.

Instructional Objectives

In conducting this session the facilitator will:

• Provide a survey of the overall organization, major themes, and chronology of the New Testament.

• Outline the main points of the Instruction on the Historical Truth of the Gospels, emphasizing its importance in a Catholic understanding of Scripture.

• Provide opportunities to understand the similarities and differences of the Four Gospels.

• Model methods of reflection with Scripture that elicit a faith response, deepen understanding, and relate Scripture to everyday life and culture.

• Show how the New Testament Scriptures express the way the early Christians experienced God in their midst.

• Offer age-appropriate resources and interactive methods for presenting Scripture.

Catechist Competencies

As a result of this session, catechists will be able to:

• Trace the basic development and major theological themes of the New Testament.

• Demonstrate through comparison of texts the primary message of the Four Gospels.

• Articulate the broad outlines of the message of the apostle Paul.

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Vatican II, *Decree on the Catholic Eastern Churches*

Vatican II, *Decree on Ecumenism*

Vatican II, *Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions*

Sharing the Light of Faith #75-80

Catechism of the Catholic Church #836-856

Scripture Contexts

Joshua 1:1-9	After the leader's death, God hands on the reins to another
Sirach 44:1-15	Recalling figures of holy memory
Matthew 16:18	The gates of the underworld will never prevail
Matthew 28:20	Jesus promises to remain with his people till the age's end
John 10:14-16	The Good Shepherd has sheep in other flocks
1 Corinthians 1:10-13	Division is unthinkable in the true body of Christ
1 Corinthians 11:17-19	Division brings error out into the open
1 Timothy 3:15	Church as the pillar and ground of the truth
Revelation 2:1-3:22	The Risen Christ judges each particular church on its own

IV: Mary and the Saints

Session Description

This session offers a basic understanding of the meaning of the communion of saints, Mary's special vocation in the Church and an appreciation of the role of the saints in Christian life.

Themes

- ÿ Church's fundamental beliefs about Mary and the Saints
- ÿ Images of Mary and the saints in the Scriptures and the Church's Tradition

Focusing the Session

The unity of the Church extends in time to the past to consider those who have modeled what it means to live in the grace of Christ. Mary's role as Mother of God and Mother of the Church is explored. The lives of the patron saints of catechists are briefly explored.

Instructional Objectives

In conducting this session the facilitator will:

- ÿ Articulate the meaning of "Communion of Saints" to catechists.
- ÿ Explore the mission of Mary in the context of Scripture and the Church.
- ÿ Discuss the tradition of patron saints, including special patrons of peoples of diverse cultures as well as the patrons of catechists.

Themes

- ÿ Historical development of the oral and written traditions of Israel and the Jewish people
- ÿ Literary forms and characteristics of the individual books and groups of books
- ÿ Basic theological themes of the Old Testament, e.g., creation, covenant, Israel, law (Torah), wisdom
- ÿ Hebrew and Jewish people's experience of God's presence in their lives

Focusing the Session

The session examines the canon of the Hebrew Scriptures (with some attention to the differences between the Protestant and Catholic versions of the Old Testament canon), and explores the major texts concerning creation and redemption in order to show their importance in salvation history and to the rest of the Scriptures.

Instructional Objectives

In conducting this session the facilitator will:

- ÿ Provide an overview of the content of the Hebrew Scriptures.
- ÿ Express verbally and in writing the overall organization, major themes, and chronology of the Old Testament.
- ÿ Model methods of reflection with Scripture that elicit a faith response, deepen understanding, and relate Scripture to everyday life and culture.
- ÿ Show the Hebrew/Jewish roots of Christian faith, along with an emphasis on the Church's condemnation of anti-Semitism.
- ÿ Demonstrate a Catholic view of the Old Testament in terms of salvation themes fulfilled in the New Testament.
- ÿ Show how the Hebrew Scriptures express the way the Hebrew and Jewish people experienced God in their midst.
- ÿ Demonstrate age appropriate resources and interactive methods for presenting Scripture.

Catechist Competencies

As a result of this session catechists will be able to:

- ÿ Articulate the Catholic understanding of the Old Testament canon.
- ÿ Demonstrate with age-appropriate methods the ability to present Scripture stories which help the Bible "come alive."
- ÿ Express the Church's positive appreciation of the Jewish faith.

3. Liturgy

I: Celebration and Ritual

Session Description

This session explores ritual liturgy in the Christian life, distinguishes types of liturgy, reflects on the "language" of liturgy (gestures, actions, objects, music, words), and explores the structure of the liturgical year.

Themes

- Ÿ Relationship between liturgy and catechesis
- Ÿ Dynamics of symbol and ritual action
- Ÿ Relationship between ritual and the experience of daily life
- Ÿ Church's understanding of its celebration as it has developed through history
- Ÿ Liturgical year
- Ÿ Signs and symbols used by people of other cultures

Focusing the Session

There is a dynamic relationship between catechesis and liturgy. In liturgy Christians find a visible sign of communion in Christ between God and humankind. "Full, conscious, and active participation" results when people are taught to bring to the liturgy both head and heart: by stimulating their religious imagination, reflecting on the many ways liturgy communicates, showing the roots of ritual in lived experience (e.g. bathing, dining), recognizing the many uses of Scripture in liturgy, and appreciating the shifts in our understanding of liturgy throughout history. Exploring the liturgical year allows catechists to appreciate the rhythm of the Church's life of prayer.

Instructional Objectives

In conducting this session the facilitator will:

- Ÿ Familiarize catechists with the relationship between liturgy and catechesis.
- Ÿ Sensitize catechists to the symbolic language of liturgy, and to the relationship between human experience and ritual action.
- Ÿ Identify the uses of Scripture in the Mass.
- Ÿ Explain two major shifts in the Church's understanding of liturgical actions during its history.

- Ÿ Basic skills for interpreting the Bible
- Ÿ Use of Scripture in catechesis

Focusing the Session

The story of salvation history, of God's calling a people and their response, is the story of us all. We discover in the Bible, guided by the interpretative tradition and the Magisterium of the Church, who God is, what God has done for us, and what God asks of us. This session addresses the relationship between the Church and the Bible: the Bible as the expression of the faith of the Church, and the Church as the community context where the meaning of Scripture comes alive.

Instructional Objectives

In conducting this session the facilitator will:

- Ÿ Introduce the Catholic perspective regarding Scripture
- Ÿ Provide an awareness of the Catholic approach to Scripture by addressing especially:
 - § the relationship of Scripture to Tradition and
 - § a Catholic way of life
 - § biblical inspiration
 - § the role of reading the Scriptures in the context of faith and community.
- Ÿ Trace the historical background of the development of Catholic and Protestant editions of the Bible and the formation of the Canon.
- Ÿ Provide exercises designed to introduce the overall organization and chronology of the Bible.
- Ÿ Use various teaching methods which catechists can use with their students.

Catechist Competencies

As a result of this session, catechists will be able to:

- Ÿ Articulate the overall organization, chronology and formation of the Bible.
- Ÿ Connect Scripture to their own lives and to Catholic teaching.
- Ÿ Distinguish between the Catholic tradition of reading Scripture in the context of the Church community, and the fundamentalist traditions of individual interpretation of the Bible.
- Ÿ Identify the roles played by literary forms in the process of interpretation.

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Vatican II, *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* #1-20, 102-30, Appendix

General Instruction of the Roman Missal

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1066–1112, 1135–1209

On Catechesis in Our Time #23

Sharing the Light of Faith #36, 112–113, 144

Scripture Contexts

Exodus 25:1-40	The beginning of prescriptions for the place of worship
Numbers 6:22-27	The Lord instructs his priests on how to bless God's people
Deuteronomy 27:1-26	Israel ritually prepares to enter into the Promised Land
1 Kings 8:1-66	Solomon and the nation of Israel dedicate the temple
Psalms 118	A song from a thanksgiving liturgy in the temple precincts
Isaiah 6:1-3	Worship of the seraphim given to the "thrice-holy" God
Luke 19:28-40	With explicit arrangements, Jesus processes into the holy city
Luke 22:7-13	Jesus instructs disciples precisely about Passover preparation
John 13:1-15	Jesus ritually washes feet to show the meaning of his passion
2 Corinthians 13:13	Christian blessing in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit
Revelation 4:1-5	A vision of the heavenly liturgy before the slain Lamb

II: The Liturgy of the Word

Session Description:

This session explores the dynamics and content of the first part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word, and introduces the lectionary's role in both liturgy and catechesis.

Themes

- Symbols and ritual actions in the Liturgy of the Word
- Liturgical actions which frame the readings ("Lord be with you ..., " the Alleluia, procession with the Gospel book, three-fold signing, etc.)
- Role of the assembly in the liturgy
- Scripture readings and the homily as intimately related to the Eucharist, as a kind of "storytelling" which precedes the "banquet"
- Catechetical use of the Lectionary
- Dynamics of different languages in proclamation (e.g. non-English, sign language)

Focusing the Session

This session presents the Liturgy of the Word: its symbols and ritual actions, the listening and responding role of the assembly, the liturgical

sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and the Church's requirements for their proper celebration.

Instructional Objectives

In conducting this session the facilitator will:

- Examine the requirements for sacramental celebrations, relating them specifically to the Church's overall sacramental vision.
- Explore the differing requirements of celebrating certain sacraments (e.g. Confirmation) within the disciplines of various Catholic rites.
- Provide examples that help the catechist understand the sacramental requirements at the age level of the catechist's students and how these sacraments can be taught and be made more meaningful, including family involvement.

Catechist Competencies

As a result of this session, catechists will be able to:

- Articulate the Church's vision of and requirements for fruitful sacramental celebrations.
- Distinguish some of the ways certain sacraments (e.g. Confirmation) are celebrated within the Church.
- Provide examples of meaningful ways to teach about the Church's requirements for sacramental celebration, especially in a family context.

Special Points from the Documents

- The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) provides a guideline for catechesis on the sacraments of initiation (*Sharing* #117, 119 122; CCC #1230–33; *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*)
- Where infants are being baptized and children are being prepared to receive Confirmation, first reception of Eucharist and Reconciliation, it is important that parents and other adults be intimately involved in each stage of catechesis (*Sharing* #117, 122, 126; CCC #1231, 1253–55, 1311)
- Catechesis recognizes the Eucharist as the heart of the Christian life (*Sharing* #121–122; CCC #1324–1327) which is both a sacrificial offering of Christ and a meal of communion with Christ (CCC #1357, 1382)
- Because sin has both spiritual and social effects, the sacrament of Reconciliation restores communion both with God and with the community (CCC #1468–1469)

- Ÿ Scripture and the Eucharist belong together, and both come from "the one table of the Word of God and the Body of Christ" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* #21)
- Ÿ The Liturgy of the Word and the Eucharistic Liturgy are so closely connected that they form but one single act of worship (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* #56)
- Ÿ In the Liturgy of the Word the Holy Spirit "recalls" to the assembly what Christ has done for us (CCC #1103)
- Ÿ The Lectionary presents the principal portions of God's revealed Word over a suitable period of time (*Lectionary for Mass*, Introduction)

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Vatican II, *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* #21-46, 51-54, 56

On Evangelization in the Modern World #43

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1099-1103

Lectionary for Mass

Directory for Masses with Children

Scripture Contexts

Deuteronomy 8:3	Humans live not only by material bread but by God's Word
2 Kings 22:8-23:3	Rediscovery of Torah in the temple gives new life to faith
Nehemiah 8:1-12	The people are profoundly moved by Ezra's reading of Torah
Luke 4:16-30	Jesus announces his mission from the reading of Isaiah
Luke 10:16	Jesus is present in the words of his disciples
Luke 24:13-27, 32	Two disciples' hearts burn as the Lord opens the Scriptures
John 14:26	The Holy Spirit recalls the Church to Jesus' teaching
Acts 13:16-43	Paul evangelizes at worship using the community's readings
1 Thessalonians 2:13	In receiving Paul's word his people receive the word of God

III: The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Session Description

This session explores the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the implications of the Eucharist for building Christian community and empowering the Church's service in the world.

Themes

- Ÿ Eucharist as the center of Catholic spiritual life
- Ÿ Variety of theological understandings of the Eucharist
- Ÿ Relation of the Eucharist to mission
- Ÿ Eucharistic Prayer as catechetical resource

- Ÿ Demonstrate an ability to lead students to experience and appreciate the sacraments more deeply through catechesis.
- Ÿ Identify meaningful ways to teach and celebrate the sacraments, including those emphasizing family participation.

Special Points from the Documents

- Ÿ The Sacraments of Initiation make new Christians by communicating the benefits of the Paschal Mystery, incorporating people into the Church and including them as participants of its mission in the world (*Sharing* #115-116, 118, 120; CCC #1212-1322)
- Ÿ These three sacraments form "a unity which must be safeguarded." At the same time, the Eucharist has a unique place as "the Sacrament of sacraments," and all other sacraments are ordered to it (CCC #1211)
- Ÿ The sacraments of Reconciliation and Healing bring wholeness to Christians broken by sin or sickness (*Sharing* #123-124, 127; CCC #1422-1449, 1499-1516)
- Ÿ The Sacraments of Commitment sanctify and fortify Christians to live out their calling to serve God and neighbor in the vocations of family life or priestly ministry (*Sharing* #129-130, 132; CCC #1533-1571, 1601-1620)
- Ÿ There is a resemblance between the stages of natural life and spiritual life (CCC #1210)

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #47-82

General Catechetical Directory #56-59

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Catechism of the Catholic Church

General #1113-1130

Initiation #1212-1322

Reconciliation and Healing #1422-1449, 1499-1513

Commitment #1533-1571, 1601-1620

Sharing the Light of Faith

General #112-113

Initiation #115-116, 118, 120,

Reconciliation and Healing #123-124, 127

Commitment #129-130, 132

Scripture Contexts

See Liturgy III Scripture Contexts for Eucharist.

- Y On the liturgical celebration of the Eucharist (CCC #1345–1355)
- Y Eucharist as sacrifice, meal and memorial (*Sharing* #120; CCC #1341–1344, 1356–1372)
- Y Concerning the fruits of Holy Communion (CCC #1391–1401)

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Vatican II, *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* #47–50, 55-57

General Catechetical Directory #58

Sharing the Light of Faith #120–122

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1322–1419

Scripture Contexts

Genesis 14:17-20	Mysterious priest-king with bread and wine blesses Abraham
Exodus 12:1-28	Preparation and celebration of the first Passover
Exodus 16:4-15	God feeds his people with bread from heaven
Isaiah 25:6-8	The promise of a sumptuous feast of joy when God destroys death
Isaiah 55:1-3	Invitation for all to come to the table and eat rich fare freely
Mark 6:30-44	Jesus wondrously feeds the crowd of 5000 with bread and fish (parallels are found in Matthew 14:13-21, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-15; the feeding of the 4000 appears in Matthew 15:32-39, Mark 8:1-10)
Luke 5:27-32	Jesus used shared meals to enact the kingdom of God (see also Luke 7:36-50, 14:7-24, 15:1-32; John 21:1-14)
Luke 24:28-35	The Risen Jesus is revealed in the breaking of the bread
John 2:1-12	Jesus nourishes the joy of the wedding feast with a gift of wine
John 6:22-59	Our Lord's meditation on the meaning of his body and blood
Acts 2:42-47	Breaking bread an essential part of the early Church's worship

The accounts of the Last Supper may be found in the following passages:

Matthew 26:26-30

Mark 14:22-26

Luke 22:14-20

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

the fruit of redemption, and call individuals to a greater participation in community.

- Y Trace the broad outline of the Church's understanding of the sacraments as it has developed through history.

Special Points from the Documents

- Y Sacramental celebrations are woven from signs and symbols (*Sharing* #114; CCC #1145–1152)
- Y The mysteries of Christ's life, death and resurrection are the foundations of the sacramental "economy" or "dispensation" (CCC #1114–1116)
- Y The Church has discerned over the centuries that seven sacraments were instituted by Christ (CCC #1117, cf. #1447 as an example)
- Y Sacramental celebrations are a form of dialogue through actions and words (CCC #1153–1155)

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Vatican II, *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* #7

General Catechetical Directory #55

Sharing the Light of Faith #97, 114

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1076–1134

Scripture Contexts

Exodus 12:1-28	Instructions and celebration of the first Passover of the Lord
Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Feast of thanksgiving and confession using the harvest crops
Psalms 51:18-19	The sacrifice God desires is the contrite heart
John 2:1-12	Jesus uses water and wine to show his glory
John 6:60-65	The words Jesus speaks about his body and blood give life
John 9:1-5	Jesus uses dirt and spit to heal
John 13:1-15	Jesus ritually washes feet to show the meaning of his passion
1 Corinthians 10:16-17	Loaf and cup signify communion in Jesus' body and blood

II: The Seven Sacraments

Session Description

This session will introduce the Sacraments of Initiation, Healing, and Commitment.

Themes

- Y Christ and community as source and context for each person's experience of the grace of salvation
- Y Sacraments in the context of ordinary life experience as lavish resources for the journey to God

Ÿ Demonstrate an ability to use age-appropriate ways for presenting Christian morality according to the developmental needs of the learner.

Special Points from the Documents

- Ÿ The image of God is the basis of human dignity (CCC #1700–1715)
- Ÿ Christian morality is a response to God's goodness. God gives us the freedom to make responsible choices (CCC #1730–1737)
- Ÿ The home is well suited for education in the virtues (CCC #2223)
- Ÿ Catechesis for justice, mercy and peace first occurs in the family (Sharing #170)
- Ÿ The family is the most basic way the Lord forms us and acts in the world (Follow the Way of Love #1)

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Vatican II, *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* #1-32

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1700–1876

Sharing the Light of Faith #100–105

Follow the Way of Love

A Family Perspective on Church and Society

Scripture Contexts

Genesis 1:26-27	God created humans as male and female in the divine image
Genesis 3:1-24	Evil seduces us from hearing God's word and doing God's will
Psalms 8	A meditation on the magnificence of creation, especially humanity
Proverbs 4:1-27	A family style exhortation to seek wisdom for living
Matthew 5:17-20	In God's kingdom right living is more than adherence to externals
Romans 2:12-16	Even those without God's instruction have a sense of what is right
Colossians 3:1-21	Made new in Jesus, we seek what is above and lead lives of love

II: Living in Relationship with God

Session Description

This session explores the call to obedience in the context of a loving relationship with God.

Special Point from the Documents

- Ÿ All catechesis is oriented to prayer and worship (Sharing #145)
- Ÿ Basic prayers such as the Sign of the Cross, the Lords' Prayer, Hail Mary, Apostle's Creed, Acts of Faith, Hope and Charity, and Act of Contrition are learned for a lifetime and can contribute to the individual's continued growth in understanding and living the faith (Sharing #176e)

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Sharing the Light of Faith #145, 176e

Scripture Contexts

Matthew 6:5-13	Jesus teaches his prayer; the traditional form
Luke 11:1-13	Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer, with teaching on prayer
Luke 18:1-14	Parables on persistence and humility in prayer
Acts 12:1-17	To its shock, the early Church learns the power of its prayer
Romans 8:25-26	The Spirit helps us in our inability to pray

The following prayers from the letters of St. Paul are excellent models for specific use by catechists as they pray for their learners:

Romans 15:13
Ephesians 1:15-23
Ephesians 3:14-21
Philippians 1:3-11
Colossians 1:9-12
1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
1 Thessalonians 5:23-25
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
2 Thessalonians 3:5

6. Sacrament

I: The Theology of Sacrament

Session Description

This session will introduce the Church's sacramental vision of the wisdom and power of God conveyed in its use of divinely instituted signs and symbols.

Y Demonstrate an ability to use age-appropriate methods to teach the Ten Commandments in the context of relationship with God.

Special Points from the Documents

Y Humans can ignore the gift of being created in God's image, and choose to sin; but through grace one is reconciled with God (CCC #1739-1742)

Y Christian morality entails duties towards God, neighbor and self (*Sharing the Light of Faith* #105)

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1949–2195

Sharing the Light of Faith #98–99, 105

Scripture Contexts

Exodus 20:1-11	The part of the Ten Commandments on relating to God
Deuteronomy 6:5	Our God is one: Love your God with all of your being
Deuteronomy 29:1-14	All God's people in every age enter into covenant with God
Deuteronomy 30:1-20	God circumcises the heart to choose the way of life over death
Proverbs 1:1-7; 9:10	The fear (reverence) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
Matthew 5:1-16	Our Lord's vision of blessedness for the poor in spirit
Mark 12:28-34	Pharisees question Jesus on the two greatest commandments
John 8:1-12	Jesus unforgettably teaches that mercy is ground of judgment
Romans 5:20-6:23	Our union with Jesus brings the grace which conquers sin

III: Living in Relationship with Our Neighbor

Session Description

This session explores, in the context of the grace-filled life, the process of conscience formation, personal responsibility and participation in social justice.

Themes

Y Role of conscience in the application of Christian moral principles

Y Moral decision-making today: human life and sexuality, social justice, war and peace, prejudice, racism, discrimination, and other issues

Y Influence of contemporary society on moral decision-making

Y Ten Commandments as the outline of the graced relationship with our neighbor, whether defined as individual, family, group, or society

Y Trace the relationship between prayer, sacramental celebrations and service to others.

Y Introduce various popular religious practices of people from other cultures, showing their relationship to the liturgical life of the Church.

Y Emphasize the importance of promoting and helping to facilitate family prayer.

Y Examine difficulties that arise in prayer and techniques for overcoming them.

Catechist Competencies

As a result of this session, catechists will be able to:

Y Express the interrelation between personal and communal forms of prayer.

Y Describe some of the various forms of prayer in the Christian life.

Y Provide examples that demonstrate the relationship between one's prayer life and Christian responsibilities.

Y Describe some popular religious practices associated within the diversity of cultures.

Y Express the meaning of prayer in their personal relationship with God.

Y Articulate ways to overcome difficulties in prayer.

Special Points from the Documents

Y Four general purposes of prayer: adoration, thanksgiving, petition, contrition (*Sharing* #140)

Y Christian tradition has three major modes of prayer: vocal, meditative, and contemplative (CCC #2699)

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Vatican II, *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* #83–101

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1174–1178, 2653–2724

Sharing the Light of Faith #140–143

Scripture Contexts

Selections of typical forms of prayer in the Psalms:

Trust 23, 27

Thanksgiving 30, 116

Lament/ petition 42-43, 69

Praise 33, 46

Church's traditional seven "penitential" psalms: 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143

- Y The Church is called upon to engage in the problems of contemporary society (*Sharing* #166–171; CCC #2302–2317, 2419–2449; *The Gospel of Life*)
- Y The morality of human acts (CCC #1749–1756)
- Y The family is the first community in which the Lord acts in the world (*Follow the Way of Love* ch. 1)

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Vatican II, *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* #33-93

General Catechetical Directory #60–64

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1749–1756, 2302–2317, 2419–2449, 2234–2246

Sharing the Light of Faith #101–105, 149–171, 190

The Gospel of Life

Follow the Way of Love

Scripture Contexts

Exodus 20:12-17	The part of Ten Commandments on relating to the neighbor
Leviticus 19:18	You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself
Psalms 15	Reminder of the need for holiness to enter God's presence
Jeremiah 7:1-15	Worship of God inextricably linked to justice and morality
Amos 5:14–15	Justice toward the neighbor a basic part of the sanctified life
Micah 6:6-8	Physical sacrifice is less important than the ways of the heart
Matthew 5:21-48	Jesus affirms the importance of the heart to fulfill God's will
Matthew 7:12	Treat others as you want to be treated: the "Golden Rule"
Romans 13:8-10	Love toward the neighbor fulfills all commandments
Galatians 5:13-14	Redemption buys us the freedom to serve one another in love
1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Service in love takes precedence even over spiritual freedom
James 2:1-13	One doing the "royal law" doesn't prefer the rich to the poor
1 John 3:11-18	We know we have passed from death to life because of love
1 John 4:7-12	Whoever loves is born of God and knows God, for God is love

5. Prayer

I: Foundations for Prayer

Session Description

This session introduces the catechist to the foundations of Christian prayer and the relationship of spirituality to catechetical ministry.

Themes

- Y Roots of prayer in Scripture

- Y Traditions of prayer in Christian history
- Y Spiritual attitude necessary for prayer

Focusing the Session

Prayer grows out of a personal, covenant relationship between God and humankind. The history of the Church's spirituality provides a treasury of forms of prayer that help Christians to discern the possibilities of communing with God in prayer. Catechesis for prayer calls catechists to create personal space within themselves for communion with God.

Instructional Objectives

In conducting this session the facilitator will:

- Y Introduce prayer as the expression of covenantal love between God and the human heart.
- Y Trace the roots of prayer in the Scriptures.
- Y Outline the development of prayer traditions in Christian history.
- Y Provide examples that illustrate the relationship of Christian prayer to catechesis.
- Y Use various teaching methods which catechists in turn can use with their students.

Catechist Competencies

As a result of this session, catechists will be able to:

- Y Explore the roots of Christian prayer in Scripture.
- Y Provide examples of some of the various traditions of Christian prayer in the history of the Church.

Special Points from the Documents

- Y Prayer is part of our covenant relationship with God (CCC #2562–2564)
- Y God calls everyone into a relationship of prayer (CCC #2566–2567)
- Y The Old Testament teaches the presence of God in prayer (CCC #2568–2597)
- Y Jesus learned to pray in his human heart (CCC #2599)
- Y Jesus prayed in all his decisions and teaches us how to pray (CCC #2600–2616)

Documentary References

See Bibliography for secondary sources.

Catechism of the Catholic Church #2562–2616