

The Spirituality of the Catechist: Handout 1

Reflection on the Call to Ministry of the Catechist

The Call of the Catechist

The call to the ministry of catechist is a vocation, an interior call, the voice of the Holy Spirit. Catechists need to be practicing Catholics who participate fully in the communal worship and life of the Church and who have been prepared for their apostolate by appropriate catechetical teaching.

—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB),
National Directory for Catechesis, §54.B (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2005)

Questions for Reflection

How did I feel called to be a catechist this year?

How do I participate fully in the worship and life of the Church?

Which weekend parish Mass do I regularly attend?

How do I live out the dismissal: “The Mass is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord”?

How have I prepared for my ministry of catechesis?

What can I do this year to be better prepared for my ministry?

The Spirituality of the Catechist: Handout 2

Reflection on the Call to Ministry of the Catechist

Reflection on Personal Spiritual Growth

The Spiritual Characteristics of a Catechist

The spiritual life of a catechist should be characterized by

- y A love of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and of Christ’s Church, our Holy Father, and God’s holy people
- y A coherence and authenticity of life that is characterized by their faithful practice of the faith in a spirit of faith, charity, hope, courage, and joy
- y Personal prayer and dedication to the evangelizing mission of the Church
- y A missionary zeal by which they are fully convinced of the truth of the Catholic faith and enthusiastically proclaim it
- y Active participation in their local parish community, especially by their attendance at Sunday Eucharist
- y A devotion to Mary, the first disciple and the model of catechists, and to the Most Holy Eucharist, the source of nourishment for catechists

—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB),
National Directory for Catechesis, §54.B (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2005)

Questions for Reflection

Which of the spiritual characteristics of a catechist best describes you? Why?

Which characteristic provides the biggest challenge for you to work on this year? How?

Why are all these characteristics important as you seek to “echo Christ” this year?