



# Mid-Year In-Service for Catechists and Catholic School Teachers

The purpose of this in-service is to acquaint the catechist and Catholic school teacher with an understanding of the proclamation of the Word in liturgical celebrations and in the global mission of the Church. Catechists and teachers will become aware of their role in proclaiming the Gospel. They will be introduced to resources and strategies for liturgical catechesis and for engaging their learners in the missionary activity of the Church.

## Materials Needed

- Tables and chairs, arranged for groups of 4 to 6 participants
- Table with refreshments
- One smaller table to be used as a prayer setting
- Book stand, covered with a colorful or liturgically appropriate cloth, for Bible or Lectionary
- Candles, to be placed on either side of the enthroned Scriptures
- Flip chart and markers
- Overhead projector, or equipment for a PowerPoint presentation
- Musical instrument for accompanying the cantor, or tape or CD player and appropriate religious music
- Copies of the program for the opening prayer service and the schedule for the in-service
- Copies of the articles “*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi: The Word of God in the Celebration of the Sacraments*” by Fr. Rick Hilgartner, “The Great Commission: *Ad Gentes*” by Sr. Judith Gomila, MSC, and “What Does Evangelization Look Like? Mind the Gap” by Fr. J. Brian Bransfield, STD, downloaded from the online resources for Celebrating the Catechetical Year 2009-2010: [www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday](http://www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday)
- Copies of selected materials downloaded from the Web site [www.iamamissionary.org](http://www.iamamissionary.org)
- Copies of recent parish bulletins
- Sufficient copies of any other handouts
- Podium or small table for the presenter
- Microphone, if needed

## Schedule

Welcome (5 minutes)

Opening Prayer Service (15 minutes)

Session 1: “*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi: The Word of God in the Celebration of the Sacraments*” (30 minutes)

Break (10-20 minutes)

Session 2: “The Great Commission: *Ad Gentes*” (20 minutes)

Summary Activity (5-7 minutes)

Evaluation (5 minutes)

## Preparation

When preparing this in-service, please read the articles “*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi: The Word of God in the Celebration of the Sacraments*” by Fr. Rick Hilgartner, “The Great Commission: *Ad Gentes*” by Sr. Judith Gomila, MSC, and “What Does Evangelization Look Like? Mind the Gap” by Fr. J. Brian Bransfield, STD, which can be found in the “Teaching Aids” section of the online resources for Celebrating the Catechetical Year 2009-2010: [www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday](http://www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday).

Before the in-service, the following steps will help you prepare:

- Select a prayer leader, 1 or 2 readers, and a cantor.
- Provide the leader, readers, and cantor with the appropriate materials ahead of time so they can prepare their readings and songs.
- Create the handout for the prayer service, and make copies for all participants.
- For Session 1 in this in-service, prepare a PowerPoint slideshow or a handout to summarize the main points, if possible. Be sure to make sufficient handouts available for participants.
- When you set up the room where the in-service will be held, prepare the prayer table by placing the cloth over the table with the book stand that will hold the Bible or Lectionary. The prayer table should be set away from the podium but be in a prominent location in the room, visible to all participants.
- Create the handout for the prayer service, and make copies for all participants.
- After you set up the tables for the in-service, place on each table enough copies of the parish bulletin from the same Sunday for each participant. All tables need not have copies of the same Sunday’s bulletin, but all participants at a table should have the same bulletin.
- Place on each table copies of a resource from one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies for each participant. Download the resources from the Pontifical Mission Societies’ Web site, [www.iamamissionary.org](http://www.iamamissionary.org). All tables need not have copies of the same mission resource, but all participants at a table should have the same resource.

Have copies of the schedule and prayer service available at the door as participants sign in. Have appropriate instrumental or religious music playing as participants gather.

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## Welcome (5 minutes)

When it is time to begin the in-service, welcome everyone. Explain the purpose of the workshop, and review the schedule. If certification is available for the day, explain the procedure for obtaining credit. Also explain that the materials used to prepare the presentations come from the online resources for Celebrating the Catechetical Year 2009-2010, from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

## Opening Prayer Service (15 minutes)

### **Gathering Hymn**

Begin the prayer service with a song from among the suggestions for the Closing Hymn, or choose another with an appropriate theme.

### **Opening Prayer**

After the gathering hymn has concluded, continue with the following prayer:

*Leader:* In the name of the Father . . . *(All make the Sign of the Cross.)*

Lord, your Word stands forever. It is as firm as the heavens. Through all generations your truth endures, fixed to stand firm like the earth. Your word is a lamp for our feet, a light for our path. With your grace may we be worthy ministers of your word (see Ps 119:89-90; 105). We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **First Reading**

One of the readers now proclaims the first reading, Romans 10:9-15.

*Reader:* A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. For the scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach?

And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring [the] good news!”

The Word of the Lord.

*All:* Thanks be to God.

After the first reading, pause for a brief period of silent reflection.

### **Gospel Reading**

One of the readers now proclaims the Gospel, Matthew 28:18-20.

*Reader:* A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*All:* Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the proclamation of the Gospel, pause for a brief period of silent reflection. Continue with either a reading from the Second Vatican Council’s *Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity (Ad Gentes Divinitus)* (Option A, below) or intercessory prayers (Option B, below).

**Option A: Reading from the Second Vatican Council’s Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity (Ad Gentes Divinitus)**

One of the readers now reads the selection from the *Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity*, no. 15.<sup>1</sup>

*Reader:* A reading from the Second Vatican Council’s *Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity*.

The Holy Spirit . . . calls all men to Christ and arouses in their hearts the submission of faith by the seed of the word and the preaching of the Gospel. . . .

Therefore, missionaries, the fellow workers of God (cf. 1 Cor 3:9), should raise up communities of the faithful, so that walking worthy of the calling to which they have been called (cf. Eph 4:1) they might carry out the priestly, prophetic and royal offices entrusted to them by God. In this way the Christian community will become a sign of God’s presence in the world. Through the eucharistic sacrifice it goes continually to the Father with Christ, carefully nourished with the word of God it bears witness to Christ, it walks in charity and is enlivened by an apostolic spirit. . . .

This community of the faithful . . . must be deeply rooted in the people; families imbued with the spirit of the Gospel should flourish . . . groups and associations should be set up so that the spirit of the lay apostolate might pervade the whole of society. . . .

In achieving all this, the laity, that is Christians who have been incorporated into Christ and live in the world, are of primary importance and worthy of special care. It is for them, imbued with the Spirit of Christ, to be a leaven animating and directing the temporal order from within, so that everything is always carried out in accordance with the will of Christ. . . .

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<sup>1</sup> Second Vatican Council, *Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity (Ad Gentes Divinitus)*, in *Vatican Council II: Volume I: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents*, new rev. ed., ed. Austin Flannery (Northport, NY: Costello Publishing, 1996).

Various types of ministry are necessary for the implanting and growth of the Christian community, and once these forms of service have been called forth from the body of the faithful, by the divine call, they are to be carefully fostered and nurtured by all.

Among these functions are those of priests, deacons and catechists, and also that of Catholic Action. Brothers and nuns, likewise, play an indispensable role in planting and strengthening the kingdom of Christ in souls, and in the work of further extending it, both by their prayers and active work.

After the reading, pause for a brief period of silent reflection, and then continue the prayer service from the section “Closing Prayers,” below.

**Option B: Intercessions**

Introduce the intercessions with the following prayer.

*Leader:* Jesus calls us to go to all nations, to proclaim his Gospel and build his Church. Let us ask God’s blessing that, through our prayers and offerings, the Good News of Jesus may be proclaimed to the entire world.

A reader now reads the petitions.

*Reader:* The response is:

**R/.** Lord, hear our prayer.

All repeat the response.

*Reader:* For our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, chief missionary of the Church, and for all missionaries who give their lives to tell the glory of the Lord to the world, that they may be loving, wise, and holy witnesses of Christ, our Savior. Let us pray to the Lord. **R/.**

For the leaders of nations, that they may be committed to justice for all peoples and dedicated to building a world at peace. Let us pray to the Lord. **R/.**

For an increase in our own missionary spirit, so that, nourished by the Eucharist, we may help the message and love of our Lord be made known in every corner of the world. Let us pray to the Lord. **R/.**

Conclude the intercessions with the following prayer.

*Leader:* God, our Father, you bless us with the gift of faith. Increase our faith as we answer the call to take part in the worldwide mission of Jesus. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the world.

All: Amen.

After the intercessions, continue the prayer service with the next section, “Closing Prayers.”

### **Closing Prayers**

Invite the participants to rise and recite together the Our Father, using the following introduction or other appropriate words.

*Leader:* Let us now rise and pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

All: Our Father . . .

If you choose, after the Our Father you may invite those gathered to share the sign of peace with one another. Bring the prayer service to an end with the following closing prayer and blessing.

*Leader:* Lord, help us please to always make a home for you in our hearts and to receive within that home the neighbors and friends and especially the strangers whom we meet.<sup>2</sup>

All: Amen.

### **Closing Hymn**

After the closing prayer, sing one of the following suggested hymns, or choose another with a similar theme.

- Psalm 19: “Lord, You Have the Words” (David Haas, GIA, 1983)
- “Go Make of All Disciples” (Leon M. Adkins, Abdingdon Press, 1955, 1964; available in GIA’s *Worship*)
- “As a Fire Is Meant for Burning” (Ruth Duck, GIA, 1992)
- “The Word of Life” (John L. Bell, Iona Community, GIA, 1987)
- “Praise to You, O Christ Our Savior” (Bernadette Farrell, OCP, 1986)
- “The Word Is in Your Heart” (Bob Moore, GIA, 1993)
- “How Shall They Hear the Word of God” (Michael Perry, Hope Publishing, 1980)
- “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” (Albert Bayly, Oxford University Press)
- “Whatsoever You Do” (Willard F. Jabusch, GIA, 1975)

## **Session 1: “Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi: The Word of God in the Celebration of the Sacraments” (30 minutes)**

Begin by reviewing with the participants the place of Scripture in the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. Put the following information on a PowerPoint slide or transparency. You may also make it available as a handout.

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from the Web site of the St. Louis University Center for Liturgy for Sunday, October 19, 2008: [www.liturgy.slu.edu/29OrdA101908/prayerpathmain.html](http://www.liturgy.slu.edu/29OrdA101908/prayerpathmain.html).

**Liturgy of the Word: First Reading**

From the Old Testament or the Acts of the Apostles

**Reader:** *The word of the Lord.*

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Liturgy of the Word: Psalm**

**Reader/Cantor:** Leads refrain, sings or speaks verses

**People:** Sing or speak refrain

**Liturgy of the Word: Second Reading**

From the New Testament writings, other than the Gospels

**Reader:** *The word of the Lord.*

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel**

**Priest or deacon:** *The Lord be with you.*

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Priest or deacon:** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to [name of evangelist].*

**People:** *Glory to you, Lord.*

**Priest or deacon:** *The Gospel of the Lord.*

**People:** *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**General Intercessions**

Prayers for the needs of the world and the Church

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

After reviewing the liturgy, ask participants the following question: “Recall, if you can, a liturgical celebration in which a particular reading or ritual experience made an impression on you, made you smile, gave you a sense of hope, or was particularly memorable. See if you can identify the ritual element that struck you most. Why do you think it spoke to you so powerfully?” This question can be adapted to the recent liturgical celebrations of the parish—for example, Sunday celebrations, RCIA rites, baptismal celebrations, funerals, feast day liturgies, and so on.

After discussing the first question for a moment, ask the participants a second question: “When did a homilist engage the community in a new or compelling way? What was it about his presence or words that engaged you?” Discuss this question briefly, and then use that discussion as a springboard into your presentation on the article “*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi: The Word of God in the Celebration of the Sacraments.*” Use the PowerPoint presentation or the handout you prepared to help participants follow along.

**Presentation**

Be sure to cover several key points in your presentation:

- The translation and source of the phrase “*lex orandi, lex credendi*”
- The idea that the faithful are engaged in making an act of faith in celebrating the liturgy

- The idea that the preaching of the Apostles from the earliest days of the Church was manifest in a particular way in the liturgy
- The relationship between liturgy and faith, that is, the notion that “faith gathers the community for worship, and worship renews the faith of the community”
- The idea that the rites themselves and the Liturgy of the Word catechize
- The prominent role of the Scriptures in the Liturgy of the Word
- The response of the faithful to the Word
- The ways catechists can use the worship experience as a starting point for mystagogy, helping learners to reflect on their liturgical experience
- The ways catechists can prepare learners to encounter Christ in the liturgical celebrations
- The formative role of the liturgical experience

### **Reflection and Sharing**

Invite participants to reflect on their experience as catechists. Ask them to keep these questions in mind: How do they as catechists prepare their learners to experience the liturgical celebrations more fully, actively, and consciously? How have they helped learners to reflect on their liturgical experience? When, in relation to a liturgical experience, have they noticed a deeper level of understanding or participation among their learners?

Give participants time to reflect and make notes on their response to the questions.

Next, invite participants to discuss their responses with those at their table, sharing one way they have found to prepare their learners for liturgy, or one way that they have helped their learners reflect on their liturgical experience.

Finally, invite each table to share with the larger group the methods they heard that would be most helpful for making the connection between catechesis and the liturgy. Record these responses on the flip chart or chalk board.

### **Break (10-20 minutes)**

Break for 10-20 minutes, depending on the needs of the group.

### **Session 2: “The Great Commission: *Ad Gentes*” (20 minutes)**

Begin your presentation on the article “The Great Commission: *Ad Gentes*” by describing the images she writes about: the men riding piggy-back in the stained glass windows in the Cathedral of Chartres, France. Invite participants to name someone on whose shoulders they stand. Who are the parents, catechists, mentors, soul-friends, or heroes whose witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ has drawn them into communion with Christ? What was attractive, engaging, or compelling about their witness? What is the legacy of their witness in the participant’s life now? What qualities, decisions, choices, behaviors, or virtues inspire the participant? How might the participant thank them, or honor them?

Invite participants to share their responses with those at their table, if time allows, or allow them to just offer silent prayers of gratitude.

Conclude the introductory part of this session by reminding participants that one of the tasks of catechesis is missionary initiation. Then continue with one of the activities described below: either a presentation on a local connection to the global mission of the Church (Option A), or sharing related to one of the resources from a global mission organization (Option B).

***Option A: Activity on Local Contributions to the Church's Global Mission***

Tell a story related to the global mission of the Church with a local connection: for example, a diocesan mission, the missionary work of local religious communities or a sister parish, or the activities of a member of the parish or diocese who is serving as (or has served as) a missionary. If possible, have a local representative tell the story and describe the work and needs of this apostolate. Ask the speaker to identify possible ways that the in-service participants can support and connect with this mission.

With the participants, identify the ways that your local community supports the global mission of the Church. What practical steps might catechists take to involve those being catechized in the global mission of the Church through the parish, in a program or class, or as individuals?

***Option B: Mission Resources Activity***

Invite participants to quietly read the mission resource at their table. The materials you provide should be no longer than one page. If you choose to use a longer resource, divide the reading assignment at the table, and have tablemates share the information with each other.

After adequate time for reading, invite participants to share their impressions and insights with those at their table.

Next, invite tables to identify the highlights of the work of the apostolate they read about, as well as the current needs of the organization.

Finally, have each table share what they discussed with the larger group. With the group, identify the practical steps that catechists could take to involve those being catechized in the global mission of the Church.

**Summary Activity (5-7 minutes)**

To help participants consolidate what they've learned during the in-service, invite them to pick up a parish bulletin from the table. Based on what they know and have learned about proclaiming the Word, invite them to review the bulletin and identify indications that the parish is committed to the proclamation of the Word.

Be sure to recognize any of the following examples:

- Inclusion of the Scripture readings for liturgical celebrations
- Information about how homilies can be accessed (on the parish Web site, on CDs, or in print form)
- Reflection questions on the Sunday readings
- Information about lector training

- Information about ministries related to the proclamation of the Word, such as RCIA (including sponsors), training for lectors and cantors, catechist formation, catechetical activities, and Bible study programs
- Welcoming language in announcements regarding faith formation activities and sacramental preparation
- Opportunities for parishioners to live out their Christian faith in service and advocacy for others
- Opportunities for parishioners to be involved in witnessing to their Christian faith through local and global missionary activity
- Information about parishioners witnessing to the Gospel in the world

## **Evaluation (5 minutes)**

At the end of the in-service, ask the participants to complete a brief evaluation.

1. During our in-service today, what surprised you, challenged you, or encouraged you about the link between liturgy, world mission, and catechesis?
2. Describe one new insight you now have as a result of reflecting on the importance of catechesis for a more complete participation in liturgical celebrations.
3. Describe one new idea you plan on using during the coming year to encourage your learners to better understand and participate in the Church's missionary activity.

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