

## **Diocese of San Jose Parish Catechetical Leader Best Practices Catechist Recruitment, Formation and Appreciation**

Note: The Catechetical Advisory Board invites you to review these best practices and find something new and have a conversation with your catechists on how this best practice can enhance your ministry.

### **Catechist recruitment**

Help people discover their talents, their call to ministry, use St. Paul scripture passage before the invitation to become a catechist. Connect the gifts/talents to the ministry

### **Catechist Spirituality**

Foster catechist spirituality and prayer life. Give catechists specific tools for personal and spiritual growth, to discern what form of spirituality best fits them. Offer retreat opportunities for the catechists. As the catechist deepen their spirituality, help them to adapt and use it with those they catechize. Offer opportunities for catechists to share their faith with others. Encourage them to have a spiritual director or mentor

### **Echoes of Faith Plus**

\*Use Echoes of Faith Plus, Adult Faith Formation, an Introduction to Facilitators from RCL Benziger for training

### **Into the Fields**

Use Into the Fields, Years 1, 2 and 3 from TwentyThird Publications for Catechist Certification. Click for [catechist record form](#)

### **Sembrando La Palabra-Catechist Introduction Formation-Spanish**

Sowing the Word (Sembrando) Sadlier bilingual

### **FB2000**

Address in each FB2000 catechist certification session ways to help catechists connect with parents to share the faith with their children

### **ILM**

Encourage catechist to attend ILM catechist track

### **Birthday Card**

Send a birthday card to every catechist and aide with a personal note acknowledging the "gift" they are to the community and for illnesses, death, or special occasions in their lives. Send a Thanksgiving card to catechists to thank them for sharing their gifts with the community

### **Catechist Highlight**

Highlight one catechist in each weekly newsletter or parish bulletin; include their picture, ask them for an interesting fact about themselves, one of their proudest moments or accomplishments.

## **NCCL Parish Catechetical Leader Best Practices** **Catechist Recruitment, Formation and Appreciation**

### **Catechist Recruitment**

\*When a catechist is not gifted in teaching you find them another ministry but make sure you have another catechist lined up and speak to your pastor about it before you do all this so that you cover all your bases, but get them out of the classroom fast and pastorally.

\*Rita Martinez: [STPAT\\_Rita@sbcglobal.net](mailto:STPAT_Rita@sbcglobal.net)

### **Model at Catechist Meetings**

\*I model icebreakers, stories and prayers at catechist meetings so they can use these ideas in their classrooms.

\*Diane Willis: [dwillis@immaculateparish.org](mailto:dwillis@immaculateparish.org)

### **Catechist Practical Training**

Model a lesson prep process. Provide an outline of a catechetical session. Mirror how to handle classroom management, ritual, process, prayer. Catechists-especially new-get firsthand experience—a model for how to do their work. Use experienced catechists to lead the process.

\*Teri Burns: [tburns@spxcatholic.org](mailto:tburns@spxcatholic.org)

### **Catechist In-service**

\*Have 3-4 catechist in-services based on the theme of our year—informs and forms our volunteers and builds community.

\*Andrea Sabor: [natas@nativityparish.com](mailto:natas@nativityparish.com)

### **Name Tags**

\*Each year name tag inserts (for plastic holders on a lanyard) are prepared for each catechist. On the front of the tag is the name of the catechist or volunteer and the grade or name of their duty. The catechetical theme/logo also appears. On the back is the Catechist Prayer for the catechetical year.

\*Joanne Haney: [joanneh75@comcast.net](mailto:joanneh75@comcast.net)

### **Catechists in the Loop**

\*A bi-monthly newsletter that goes out to all catechists, not just one group—includes a calendar or catechetical opportunities, parish activities, etc that are relevant to catechesis. I.e. First Communion will be on May 8 and this is the list of kid's names: so the Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> grade catechist can incorporate that into the Sunday session. Helps keep catechist in the know and shows overlap.

\*Lori Crawford: [lori@ourladyoflight.com](mailto:lori@ourladyoflight.com)

\*Fatima Monterrubio: [echo@holymfamilystpete.com](mailto:echo@holymfamilystpete.com)

### **Weekly Catechist Bulletin**

\*I send an email every week with ideas and updates, substitutes, educational opportunities, reminders of rules, etc. I put a hard copy on their clipboard each week along with attendance, hand-outs, etc.

\*Brigid Johnson: [bjohnson@shcknox.org](mailto:bjohnson@shcknox.org)

### **Posting Religious Certification Certificates**

\*Posting catechist's certificates in a public place.