

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

“MISSIONARY DISCIPLES IN THE
VINEYARD OF THE LORD”

**CATECHISTS ARE
CALLED TO THE ART
OF ACCOMPANIMENT**



PRAYER FOR CATECHETICAL SUNDAY



Good and gracious God,

You call us to work in your vineyard
so that others may know of your love and care for them.

Strengthen us as we set out as missionary disciples
so that we may be faithful messengers of your good news.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.



CATECHISTS ARE CALLED TO THE ART OF ACCOMPANIMENT

- “In a culture paradoxically suffering from anonymity and at the same time obsessed with the details of other people’s lives, shamelessly given over to morbid curiosity, the Church must look more closely and sympathetically at others whenever necessary. In our world, ordained ministers and other pastoral workers can make present the fragrance of Christ’s closeness and his personal gaze. The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this ‘art of accompaniment’ which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex 3:5). The pace of this accompaniment must be steady and reassuring, reflecting our closeness and our compassionate gaze which also heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 169)
- “Although it sounds obvious, spiritual accompaniment must lead others ever closer to God, in whom we attain true freedom. Some people think they are free if they can avoid God; they fail to see that they remain existentially orphaned, helpless, homeless. They cease being pilgrims and become drifters, flitting around themselves and never getting anywhere. To accompany them would be counterproductive if it became a sort of therapy supporting their self-absorption and ceased to be a pilgrimage with Christ to the Father.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 170)

CATECHISTS ARE CALLED TO THE ART OF ACCOMPANIMENT

- “...Someone good at such accompaniment does not give in to frustrations or fears. He or she invites others to let themselves be healed, to take up their mat, embrace the cross, leave all behind and go forth ever anew to proclaim the Gospel. Our personal experience of being accompanied and assisted, and of openness to those who accompany us, will teach us to be patient and compassionate with others, and to find the right way to gain their trust, their openness and their readiness to grow.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 172)
- “Genuine spiritual accompaniment always begins and flourishes in the context of service to the mission of evangelization. Paul’s relationship with Timothy and Titus provides an example of this accompaniment and formation which takes place in the midst of apostolic activity. Entrusting them with the mission of remaining in each city to ‘put in order what remains to be done’ (Tit 1:5; cf. 1 Tim 1:3-5), Paul also gives them rules for their personal lives and their pastoral activity. This is clearly distinct from every kind of intrusive accompaniment or isolated self-realization. Missionary disciples accompany missionary disciples.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 173)

FOR YOUR REFLECTION...

- Q. How would you describe the ‘art of accompaniment’?
- Q. Before whom do you remove your sandals?
- Q. As a catechist, are you convinced that you “lead others ever closer to God”? How do you know?
- Q. When in your life have you been accompanied through times of difficulty or spiritual struggle?

“ALL OF US NEED TO GROW IN CHRIST.”

READINGS OF THE DAY

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 18.25-28

A reading from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord:

“You object, O House of Israel!

You say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’

Hear now, O house of Israel:

Is my way unfair?

Is it not your ways that are unfair?

When the righteous person turns away from their righteousness
and commits iniquity,

they shall die for it;

For the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

Again, when the wicked person turns away

from the wickedness they have committed

and does what is lawful and right,

they shall save their life.

Because that person considered and turned away

from all the transgressions that they have committed,

they shall surely live;

they shall not die.”

The word of the Lord.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

Q. How might iniquities act as a hindrance to the process of evangelization?

Q. In your role as a catechist, how might you positively address these concerns?

Q. As a catechist, what is the implication of your own ongoing conversion?

How is this evident in your life?

“THE TRANSLATION OF ‘CATECHIST’ IN SOME LANGUAGES IS ‘TO GRAB A HAND AND WALK ALONG WITH.’... CATECHISTS HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING COMPANIONS... GOD IS WITHIN THOSE WHO SERVE; GOD IS ALREADY PRESENT IN THEIR LIVES.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
PSALM 25.4-5A, 6+7B, 8-9 (R.6)

R. Lord, be mindful of your mercy.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation. R.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
According to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! R.

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way. R.



FOR YOUR REFLECTION

Q. Can you name an experience you have had when you have felt led by God?

Q. As a catechist, what are some of the ways that you discern God's ways in your own life?

Q. How might the discernment of God's ways also be a communal process? Could you provide an example?

“AT THE VERY HEART OF THE GOSPEL IS LIFE IN COMMUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHERS.”



SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2.1-11

THE SHORTER VERSION (1-5) ENDS AT THE ASTERISK.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters:
If there is any encouragement in Christ,
any consolation from love,
and sharing in the Spirit,
any compassion and sympathy,
then make my joy complete:
be of the same mind,
having the same love,
being in full accord and of one mind.
Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.
Let each of you look not to your own interests,
but to the interests of others.
Let the same mind be in you
that was in Christ Jesus,*
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be
exploited,

but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

- Q. What are some of the categories that are commonly used to divide members of a faith community?
- Q. What might be some of the ways to break down barriers within a faith community?
- Q. What role does service to others play within the process of evangelization?

“INDEED, ANYONE WHO HAS TRULY EXPERIENCED GOD’S SAVING LOVE DOES NOT NEED MUCH TIME OR LENGTHY TRAINING TO GO OUT AND PROCLAIM THAT LOVE.”

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21.28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

“What do you think?

A man had two sons;

he went to the first and said,

‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’

He answered, ‘I will not’;

but later he changed his mind and went.

The father went to the second and said the same;

and he answered, ‘I am going, sir’;

but he did not go.

Which of the two did the will of his father?”

They said, “The first.”

Jesus said to them,

“Truly I tell you,

the tax collectors and the prostitutes

are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

For John came to you in the way of righteousness

and you did not believe him,

but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him;

and even after you saw it,

you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

Q. What are some of the reasons you are reluctant to go out into the “vineyard”?

Q. How can you help others to become more aware that their actions are often unknowingly in harmony with the message of the Gospel?

**“MODERN MAN LISTENS MORE WILLINGLY TO WITNESSES THAN TO TEACHERS,
AND IF HE DOES LISTEN TO TEACHERS, IT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE WITNESSES.”**

CLOSING

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

As a catechist, I am called to be a missionary disciple: to facilitate encounters with Christ, accompany others, and live in solidarity with the poor and marginalized. What is one concrete thing I can do to deepen my understanding of what it means to be a missionary disciple in my day-to-day life?

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