



# Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year the Church in Canada will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on October 1, 2017.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Office for Evangelization and Catechesis is pleased to announce the release of the 2017 Catechetical Sunday English materials focused on the theme: *"Missionary Disciples in the Vineyard of the Lord."* There are four sub-themes: 1) Catechists are called to be missionary disciples; 2) Facilitating encounters with Christ; 3) Accompanying others; 4) Living in solidarity with the poor and marginalized. These resources are available on the website of the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis at <http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/office-for-evangelization-and-catechesis/4757-catechetical-sunday-2017>

These resources can be used at any time throughout the pastoral year by clergy, directors of religious education, parish pastoral workers, chaplains, Catholic teachers and parents to emphasize the special role of the catechist. They have been designed in such a way that they can be used for reflection by individuals or in a larger group setting.

Those who are designated to serve as catechists are called forth by their pastors to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of their Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is also an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith with their Archbishop presiding at the commissioning.

The Archdiocese of Winnipeg will celebrate the blessing and commissioning of catechists on Sunday on September 17, 2017 at Good Shepherd Parish - 1125 Saskatchewan Ave East, Portage la Prairie, MB ([Map](#)) at 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm. For inquiry and RSVP contact the Office of Catechetics at 204-452-2227 extension 243 or [catechetics@archwinnipeg.ca](mailto:catechetics@archwinnipeg.ca)

Along with the Church throughout Canada, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg celebrates Catechetical Sunday with prayer for all catechists and teachers, including parents, guardians, women and men living the consecrated life, deacons, and priests. Through their dedication and witness, may they inspire those whom they teach and serve to draw closer to the Lord in a loving dialogue of prayer so that all may abide in God as branches in the vine.

Yours in Christ,

+Richard Gagnon  
Archbishop of Winnipeg