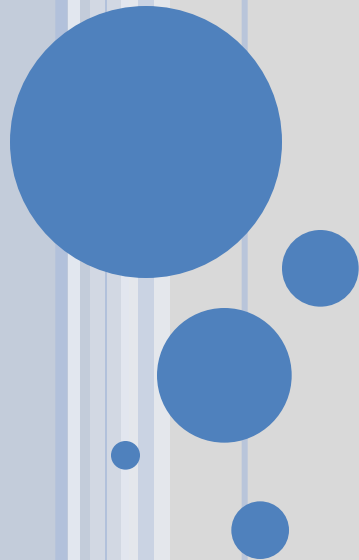


# **CALLED TO CATECHESIS**

**GLASGOW  
23 OCTOBER 2010**





Reluctance

Doubts



# Moses – a Biblical Calling

“Lord, I’m not a good speaker”

“I’m not a person for a job like that”

They will ask:  
“Which God are you talking about?” What shall I tell them?

“They won’t believe me! They won’t do what I tell them.”

“If it pleases you my Lord, send someone else”



**Gideon: “If it is really you, prove it to me with a sign”**

**Isaiah: “I am a foul mouthed sinner a member of a foul mouthed race”**

**“Jonah decided to run away from Yahweh”**

**Jeremiah :  
“I’m too young, I am only a youth”**

**Gideon: “Sir, how can I save Israel, I’m the least thought of in my entire family”**

# **Calling of other Great Biblical Heroes**

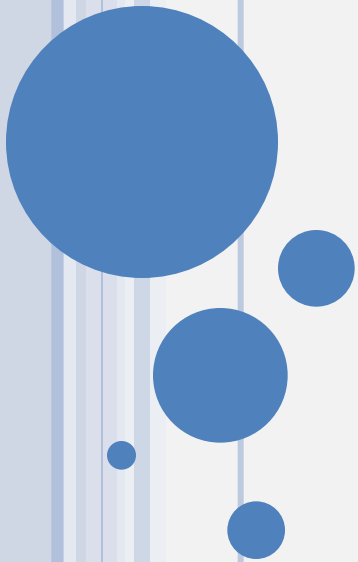


Peter:  
“Leave me  
Lord, for I  
am a sinful  
man”  
Luke 5:8

“He went  
away sadly,  
for he was a  
man of great  
wealth”  
Matt 19:22



# GROWTH IN YOUR MINISTRY



“The sower knows that he has to wait; the process demands that he wait upon the weather, the working of the soil, the slow thrust of life, before he can see the fruit of his labour..... There is a time of work, of waiting, of hazard, of slow emergence”.



DENIS MCBRIDE GOSPEL OF LUKE PP106



One swing at a time





The specific character of catechesis has the twofold objective of maturing the initial faith and of educating the disciple of Jesus Christ by means of a deeper and more systematic knowledge of the person and message of the Lord Jesus Christ. *CT19*



# Ministry is about the “whole you”

“A catechesis which inspires not only intellectual assimilation of the faith, but also touches the heart and transforms conduct is correct. Catechesis thus, generates a dynamic life which is unified by the faith”

*GDC 205*



# CATECHISTS ARE

- **The KEY players in the lives of many!**
- You can change lives!
- You can touch hearts!
- Teaching is a gift of the Spirit
- But you can be moulded and shaped



# Let us remind ourselves what ministry is for!

From the GDC

To bear witness to and make known the call of a loving God and to encourage a response

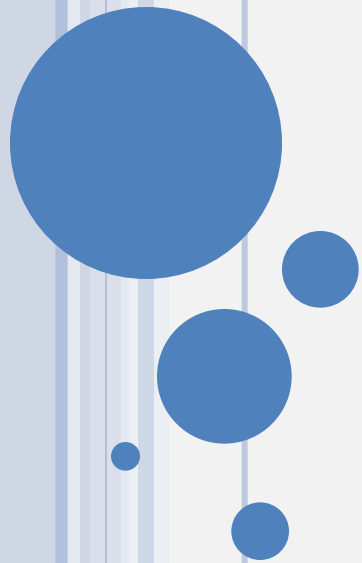
To lead to a deeper understanding of God's plan in Jesus

To play a part in achieving God's plan by working to build the kingdom

To enable us to celebrate this in liturgy



# COMING TO WHAT IS AT THE HEART OF CATECHESIS



# BASIC CATHOLIC BELIEF...



- Normal, every day life has its moments
- Sometimes of pain or joy
- These moments are **not** in themselves churchy
- But they **ARE** religious!



# THE CORE TASK OF THE CATECHIST:

- Help people identify these moments
- Help them see that they are an experience of God
- And, having recognized that,
- Then help them
  - understand a little (catechesis)
  - worship with awe (liturgy)
  - and live accordingly (pastoral care)



# BASIC CATHOLIC BELIEF...



- God is with us in all aspects of our lives
- We have an inborn hunger for God





# BASIC CATHOLIC BELIEF...



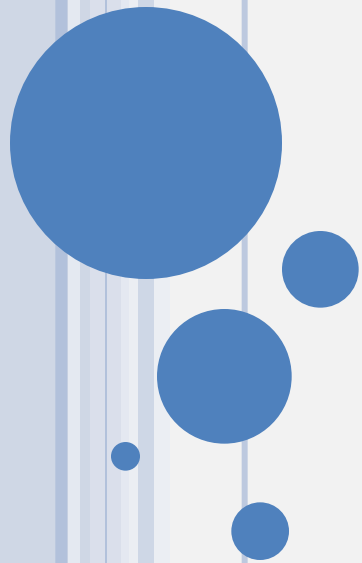
- And we are also driven to help one another
- To seek peace and justice
- To seek happiness for ourselves and others



“The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ.” *GDC 80*



# RESOURCES



**You the catechist are the most  
important resource!**

*“No method, no matter how well tested, can  
dispense with the person of the catechist”*

GDC 156

**You did not stumble into your ministry!**



# We become what we receive

“By meeting Jesus Christ and by adhering to him the human being sees all his deepest aspirations completely fulfilled”

*GDC 55*

A relationship with Jesus is the “aim” of our ministry.

We are followers not admirers....we journey onwards

Scripture becomes the basis and source material for our conversion.



**Message is eternal / methodology changes**

**Use the various resources and approaches  
that work for you**

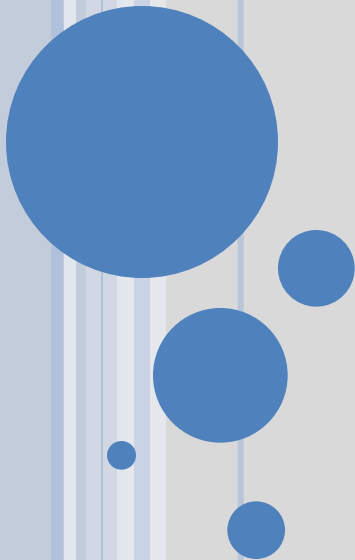
*“The variety of methods is a sign of  
life and richness”*

*GDC 148*



# **RCIA – JOURNEY OF FAITH**

**AS A MODEL FOR ALL CATECHESIS**



The model for all catechesis is  
the baptismal catechumenate ...  
This catechumenal formation  
should inspire the other forms of  
catechesis ...

GDC 59





**Tell stories from your experience.**

*Experience is necessary for exploring and assimilating the truths.”*

GDC 152b

**Listen to their stories too. Good questions are as powerful as good answers!**

*“The catechist must teach the person to read their own lived experience”*

GDC 152c



Catechesis is built on a certain number of elements of the Church's pastoral mission ...

These elements are:

- The initial proclamation of the Gospel
- Examination of reasons for belief
- Experience of Christian living
- Celebration of the Sacraments
- Integration into the community
- Witness



The Church's message  
needs to be offered  
with sensitivity and  
adapted as required  
“by the differences of  
culture, age, spiritual  
maturity, and social  
and ecclesial  
condition”

*CCC 24*



# Awareness of:

God who loves them  
and has been part  
of their lives:  
through the love of  
parents & others



# The world



– their experience



Enable them to encounter Christ and relate their experiences of life to that encounter.



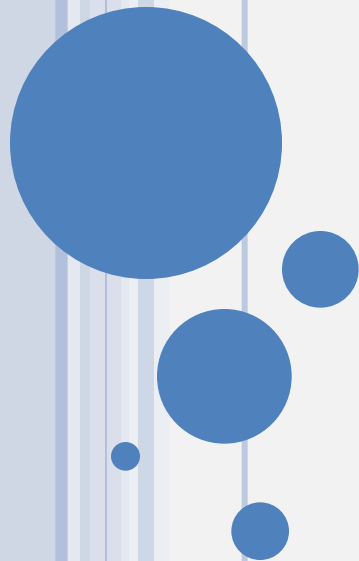
Damir Sagolj / Reuters



Find God in the messiness of today



**NOT EVERYONE LEARNS  
THE SAME WAY**



*Use “...different styles of learning...  
reflection, dialogue, silence and a  
mixture of oral and written work”*

GDC 154





### **Word Intelligence**

Using language, reading, writing, speaking, debating, creating, poetry, doing word puzzles, expressing ideas in words



### **Logic & Maths Intelligence**

Solving maths problems, calculating, predicting, using logical argument, reasoning, researching, experimenting, analysing

### **Self Intelligence**

Self-awareness, self-understanding, self-discipline, reflection, analysis of own learning & feelings, identifying own strengths & weaknesses, using own experiences to understand and explain

### **Body Intelligence**

Playing sport, controlling movement, miming, acting, learning actively, making & fixing things



### **People Intelligence**

Understanding human behaviour, social interaction, cooperation, leadership, organising & managing others, negotiation, empathy & sensitivity to others



### **Music Intelligence**

Sensitive to pitch, timing & rhythm, playing musical instrument, singing

### **Space & Vision Intelligence**

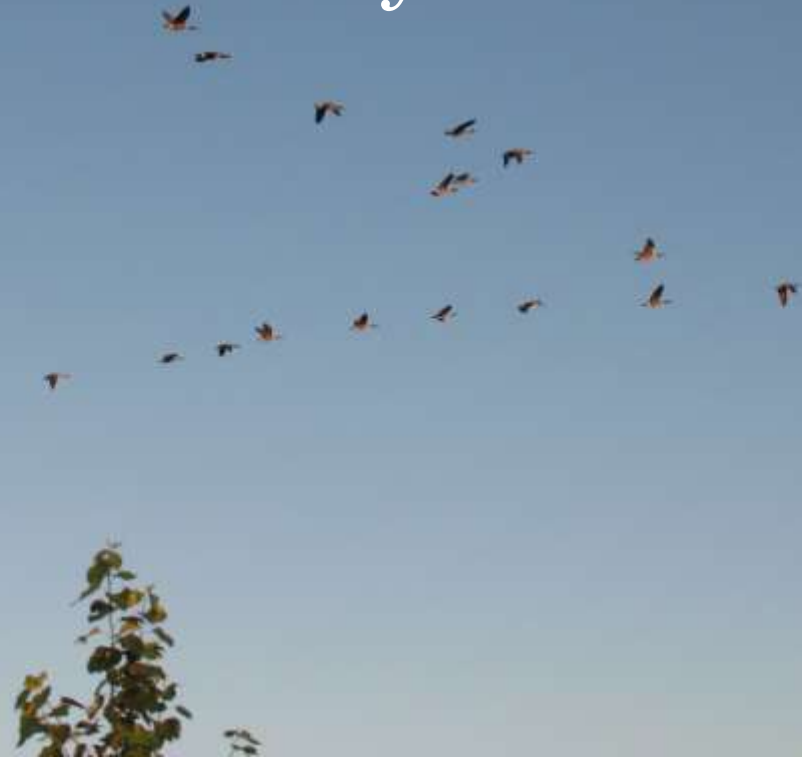
Creating artwork, drawing, painting, making diagrams, solving mazes, designs, photography, navigation,

Catechesis is a lifelong process  
and we are all apprentices.



We are always both  
“apprentice” and “apprenticing”

A structured and systematic catechesis



*“Catechesis is intrinsically bound to every liturgical and sacramental action.”*

GDC 30 [CT23]

*“Liturgical catechesis prepares for the sacraments by promoting a deeper understanding and experience of the liturgy.”*

GDC 71

- *We are apprenticing someone into a way of living*
- *We need to be aware aware of the story they are living in*



*(e.g. like living in a foreign country)*





The faith demands to be known, celebrated, lived and translated into prayer. The faith is lived out by the Christian community and proclaimed in mission: it is a shared and proclaimed faith.

*GDC 84*



*“Did not our hearts  
burn within us  
as he talked to us  
on the road” Luke 24*

*– Journey in Faith*



# OUR CHALLENGE .....

On this day when [John Henry Newman] is raised to the altars, I pray that, through his intercession and example, all who are engaged in the task of teaching and catechesis will be inspired to greater effort by the vision he so clearly sets before us.

Pope Benedict XVI

Cofton Park 19 Sept 2010

