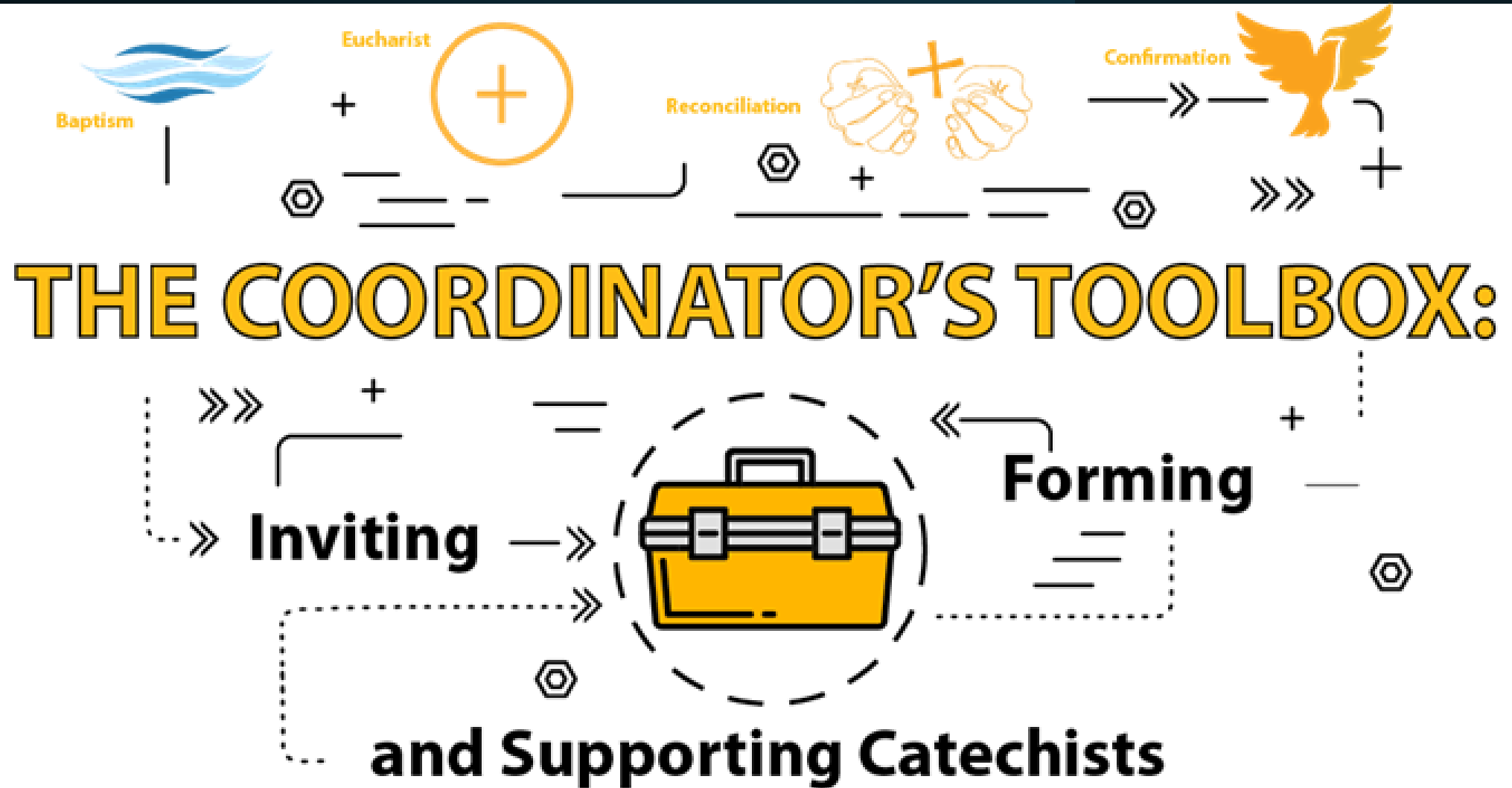


# Part 2: Forming and Supporting Catechists



# Introductions

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Name

Parish/ACC

Position

One way you support  
your catechists.





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(Luke 1:26-38)



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# Formation of Catechists



# A Formational Attitude

How would you rate yourself on a scale of 1-4?

4 – Absolutely me  
3 – Sometimes me  
2 – Rarely me  
1 – Not at all me

1. Others consider me to be an evangelizer; someone who is joyful, inviting, and present to others on their journey of faith.
2. I am an example of how to be present to others.
3. I model the importance of lifelong learning by regularly participating in workshops and gatherings offered through my diocese, nationally, or online.
4. I am current on Church documents, Catholic literature and other resources.
5. I challenge myself to seek creative and inviting ways to help children and families connect faith and life in real ways.
6. I understand that strengthening the family (domestic church) is an integral part of parish life.
7. I encourage catechists to share creative ideas, resources, methods.

# Dimensions of Formation

Directory for Catechesis

136-150



## Being

- Knowing how to be with others



## Knowledge

- Bible, theology, anthropology, social sciences



## Savoir-Faire

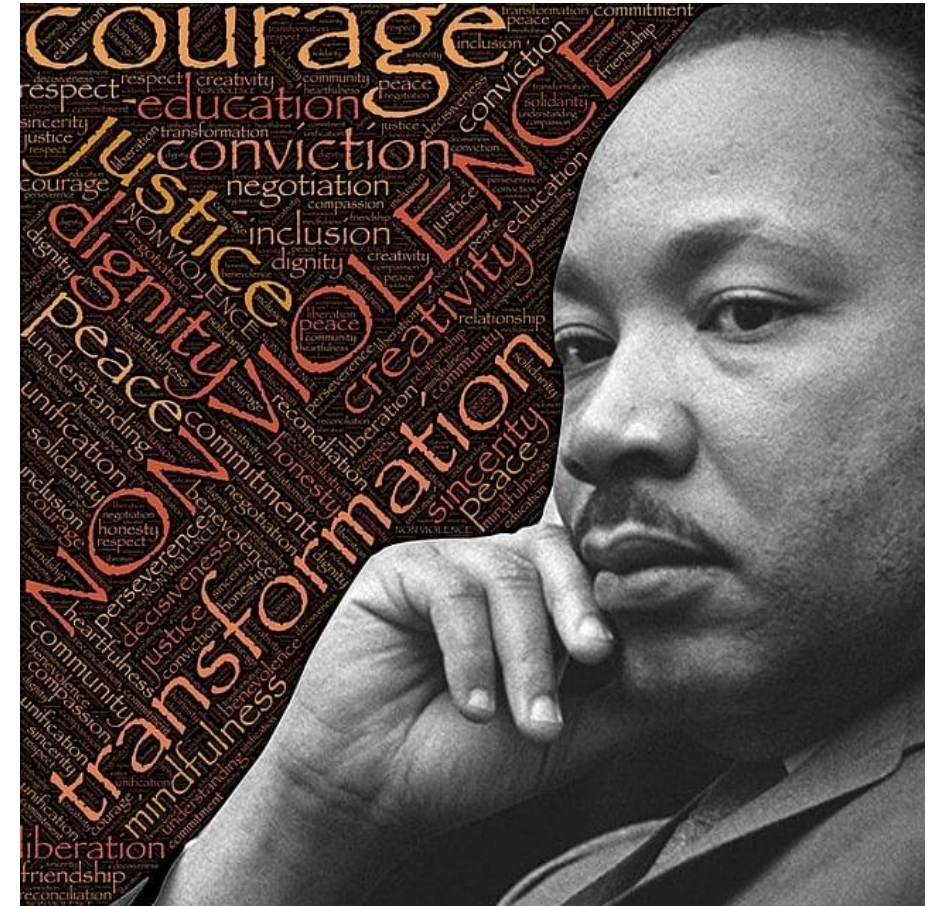
- Methods and practices



# Dimensions of Formation:

Being  
(DC 139-142)

- Nourish the spirituality of the catechist
  - So that his/her life is a witness of faith
- Know how to accompany another
  - As a natural ability and how one communicates/teaches
- Credibility of the Gospel message is lived out through personal holiness
- Respect for the conscience of the learner
- Catechist is the point of reference and authority for the faith



*“The catechist is formed to become a witness of faith and a keeper of the memory of God.” (DC 139)*

# Dimensions of Formation:

## Knowledge

(DC 143-147)

- Catechists should:
  - Know the Old Testament, New Testament, Church history in light of the Paschal mystery of Jesus Christ;
  - Know the essential core of the Christian message and experience: creed, liturgy, sacraments, moral life, and prayer;
  - Know the principal elements concerning the proclamation of the Gospel and catechesis.
- Make room for the exploration and study of the message
- Come from within the community so they understand the “way of thinking and judging as expressed in their culture.”

*“[Catechist] formation therefore makes room for the exploration and study of the message to be transmitted in relation to the cultural, ecclesial (church), and existential (life) context of the hearer.” (DC 143)*

# Dimensions of Formation:

## Savoir-Faire (DC148-150)



### Consider:

- Age
- Development
- Learning needs
- Individual/group dynamics
- Connect body-mind-spirit

*“The catechist, recognizing that his hearer is an active participant in whom the grace of God is dynamically at work, will present himself as a respectful facilitator of an experience of faith of which he is not in charge.” (DC 148)*

# Formation: What should be included?



Opportunities should be:

- applicable
- experiential
- on-the-job (ongoing)
- just-in-time
- variety of learning approaches

*Developing Leaders for Catechetical Ministry*, John Roberto, NCCL

<https://www.ncclcatholic.org/leaders>

feedback



# Supporting Your Catechists

# 7 Characteristics of a Supportive Catechetical Leader

## Support

### Mission

- Ground yourself in the Catholic faith and prayer.

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## Respect

- Respect your team's time and schedules.
- Be consistent about following policies and procedures.



# Physical Support

## **Provide Resources**

lesson plans  
supplies for lessons  
activity ideas

## **Scheduling**

childcare options,  
partner catechists,  
be prepared  
be consistent

## **Create (and follow) Policies**

plan for disruptive learners  
communication to parents

## **Financial**

waive registration fees  
pay for continuing education  
opportunities

## **Set the Environment**

have the space ready  
decorate the tables

# Emotional Support



## Be Present

observe/evaluate

consult

personal lives

## Deal with Issues

Discipline issues

Communicate with parents

## Recognition/Appreciation

appreciation event

commissioning

support of the church community

“Catechist of the Week/Month”

## Build the Larger Community

provide opportunities to get to know others

personal notes

## Build a Team


gather as a team before/after

hall monitors

co-catechists

mentors/aides

# Spiritual Support



different catechist on prayer chain each week

prayer partners from community (name of catechist/grade that people take after Mass)

team gathers to pray before/after faith formation

community sends notes of prayer periodically

formation sessions include spiritual enrichment (throughout the year)

# Closing Prayer



## Heartprints

Whatever our hands touch we leave fingerprints!  
On walls, on furniture, on doorknobs, dishes, books.  
There is no escape.  
As we touch we leave our identity.

O God, wherever I go today, help me to leave Heartprints!  
Heartprints of compassion, of understanding and love.  
Heartprints of kindness and genuine concern.  
May my heart touch a lonely neighbor or a runaway  
daughter.  
Or an anxious mother, or perhaps an aged grandfather.

Lord, send me out today to leave Heartprints.  
And if someone should say “I felt your touch,”  
May that one sense YOUR LOVE touching through me.

*~ Anonymous*