

Intended Uses

This presentation is intended as a guide for offering the single-session format of the “**Catechetical Sunday 2013 Catechist Opening In-service**” (Dahlhoff, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC: 2013). It may be adapted for use in the multi-session format.

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Catechist Formation

Rediscovering, Cultivating, and Bearing Witness to Jesus Christ and the Gift of Faith



Welcome and Introduction



Session Goal

Increase abilities and confidence to "open the door of faith" for self and others using the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC)



Objectives (Four Movements)

- **Join** our hearts, minds, and voices in praise of God and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in special way during this session
- **Rediscover** the beauty of the faith as presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- **Cultivate** an appreciation for utilizing the art included in *the Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- **Identify** one concrete way that you will bear witness to Jesus Christ and the gift of faith in the coming months



Prayer

Please silence (preferably, turn off) cell phones and other electronic devices to create the gift of uninterrupted time together



Rediscovering



Your familiarity with the organization and instructive design of the CCC?

- ❖ Never thought about it before
- ❖ Familiar with the four pillars
- ❖ Aware the art in the printed edition is also instructive
- ❖ Very familiar with how the CCC is put together
- ❖ Use the CCC to help me teach



Spirit of Wonder and Discovery

Look at the ordinary or familiar with new eyes and hearts to discover how God is speaking now

Excitement of children unwrapping gifts: Jesus and the Catholic faith



CCC Logo and the Symphony of Truth

Image adapted from 3rd century Christian tombstone

“... suggests certain characteristic aspects of this Catechism: Christ, the Good Shepherd who leads and protects his faithful (the lamb) by his authority (the staff), draws them by the melodious symphony of the truth (the panpipes) and makes them lie down in the shade of the ‘tree of life’, his redeeming Cross which opens paradise.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, p. ii



Sacred Art

"Authentic Christian art is that which, through sensible perception, gives the intuition that the Lord is present in his Church, that the events of salvation history give meaning and orientation to our life, that the glory that is promised us already transforms our existence. Sacred art must tend to offer us a visual synthesis of all dimensions of our faith"

Pope John Paul II, *Veneration of Holy Images*, no. 11



Sacred Art

"Genuine sacred art draws man to adoration, to prayer and to the love of God, Creator and Savior, the Holy One and Sanctifier."

CCC, no. 2502



Art Reflection Process

Exercise to Awaken a Sense of Wonder and Intentional Discovery

- A. Look and Receive Without Judgment
- B. Wonder
- C. Connect
- D. Witness



Art Reflection Process: Look & Receive

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind

Simply identify what you see and feel without assigning meaning at this point

- ❖ Who or what is depicted in the work?
- ❖ Which colors are included in the art?
- ❖ What art medium is used (e.g., fresco, sculpture, oil painting)?



Art Reflection Process: Wonder

Look at the image again, asking deeper questions

- ❖ How is God represented in the art? people?
- ❖ What do I feel as I look at the piece?
- ❖ Why might the original artwork have been created?
- ❖ Is there an image or element in the work that keeps drawing my attention? If yes, what?
- ❖ Does this work remind me of a Scripture passage, Catholic teaching, hymn, or other aspect of faith? If yes, what?



Art Reflection Process: Connect

Seek out further information related to your responses to the "wonder" reflections

- ❖ Use primary sources such as the CCC, Sacred Scripture, the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, and the *National Directory for Catechesis*.
- ❖ Record what you find.
- ❖ Review your findings. Note common themes or any questions or insights that emerge.



Art Reflection Process: Witness

Describe in your own way what you discovered about Christ and the gift of faith through this process

- ❖ How might you incorporate this insight into your daily life?
- ❖ How might you incorporate this insight into your service as a catechist?



Cultivating



Individual Reflection

What is one insight from the “Rediscovering” movement that I want to explore further in this next movement of “Cultivating?”



Contemplation

"a form of wordless prayer in which mind and heart focus on God's greatness and goodness in affective, loving adoration; to look on Jesus and the mysteries of his life with faith and love."

CCC, Glossary, p. 872



Art Reflection Process – Small Group

Exercise to Awaken a Sense of Wonder and Intentional Discovery

- A. Look and Receive Without Judgment
- B. Wonder
- C. Connect
- D. Witness

REPORT: group discoveries about Jesus, the faith, and/or the CCC during the exercise



Discovery Reports from the Groups



For Reflection

What do the discoveries from the exercise suggest about using the CCC and sacred art as a catechist?



Bearing Witness

*Radiating the beauty of the faith in
your service as a catechist*



“While the particular expressions of sacred art vary from culture to culture, authentic sacred art turns human minds, hearts, and souls, toward God” and urges catechists to revive the traditional practice of using great works of art “to instruct the faithful on the fundamental truths of the faith.”

National Directory for Catechesis, no. 37 B,1



Individual Reflection

How might the insights from this session impact:

- ❖ my own faith life?
- ❖ what I do as a catechist?

How will I bear witness to Jesus Christ and the beauty of the faith in my service? (concrete goal)



Aura of Mystery

"In order to communicate the message entrusted to her by Christ, the Church needs art. Art must make perceptible, and as far as possible attractive, the world of the spirit, of the invisible, of God. It must therefore translate into meaningful terms that which is in itself ineffable. Art has a unique capacity to take one or other facet of the message and translate it into colors, shapes and sounds which nourish the intuition of those who look or listen. It does so without emptying the message itself of its transcendent value and its aura of mystery"

Pope John Paul II, Letter to Artists, no. 12



Wrap-up



Session recap

- **Joined** our hearts, minds, and voices in praise of God and asked the Holy Spirit to guide us in special way during this session
- **Rediscovered** the beauty of the faith as presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- **Cultivated** an appreciation for utilizing the art included in *the Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- **Identified** one concrete way that each of us will bear witness to Jesus Christ and the gift of faith in the coming months



References

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[Catechism of the Catholic Church](#), (2nd ed), Libreria Editrice Vaticana—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC: 2000.

[National Directory for Catechesis](#), United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC: 2005.

Pope John Paul II, [Letter to Artists](#), Libreria Editrice Vaticana: 1999.

Pope John Paul II, [Veneration of Holy Images](#) [Duodecimum Saeculum], Libreria Editrice Vaticana: 1987.

Catechetical Sunday 2013 Catechist Opening In-service, Lori Dahlhoff, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC: 2013.



May God bless us in our service!

*Thank you for radiating the beauty of the faith
as a catechist and in your life.*



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