

A collective reflection as CHURCH

To be a catechist today... *A shared responsibility*

Brochure *Catechists Speak Out!*
Meetings for Catechists

Instructions for those who are animating or taking notes

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Hello, and thank you for agreeing to animate or take notes during this meeting of catechists. To simplify the task, please refer to the following instructions. There are two tasks, that of animator and secretary in each group, these tasks are to be undertaken by two different people.

The main goal of this activity is to come to a consensus. You will note that, as suggested in the brochure, only the answers to the last two questions (Reaching a Consensus) are to be sent in. A discussion of the questions will allow the groups to arrive at a concensus more easily. Limiting the number in each group from 5 to 8 people will also help to attain this goal.

We wish you a pleasant meeting.

Service d'aide aux
CATÉCHÈTES

Le Service d'aide aux catéchètes

BEFORE the meeting

A few details and suggestions

Who is invited?

Catechists...

- In the brochure Catechists Speak Out! «the term catechist refers to people who are accompanying children, youth, adults or intergenerational groups on a journey in Christian Life Formation.» (p. 3)...

...Those involved in different types of journeying, such as:

- Catechetical courses for different age groups,
- The Catechumenal Process (Christian Initiation or Confirmation of adolescents or adults),
- Marriage preparation,
- The preparation of parents requesting Baptism for their child,
- etc.

Personal preparation before the meeting

- Remember the reason for this activity: Allow time for reflection and time for the catechists to speak about their own experiences of being committed to Christian Life Formation.
- Needless to say, this animation will allow you to attain the desired goal. In order to do this, the animator:
 - plans the time for personal reflection,
 - manages the exchange among the people,
 - summarizes responses that might be very long,
 - makes any necessary adaptations,
 - calls upon the group to find another way of asking the question when there is an impasse.
- In a word, you do not need to lecture, give your own interpretation, or even less, judge the answers. All answers are acceptable.
- It is up to the the facilitator to prepare a suitable environment.

A suggestion... for follow up!

Ask someone to be a photographer during the meeting. Pictures of these different activities can be used in the following way...

- to go along with a short press release for a newspaper or the diocesan bulletin
- to be posted in the Catechetical Corner in the parishes involved
- to appear on the diocesan website or that of the Service d'aide aux catéchètes

DENDANT DURING the meeting

Suggested procedure

Getting started

- Greet the people and thank them for their presence.
- Invite each one (including the secretary and the animator) to briefly introduce themselves.
- Explain the meeting in its context as part of a vast provincial undertaking of reflection as Church, initiated by the Service d'aide aux catéchètes in collaboration with the dioceses of Quebec. This reflection is based on the theme: To be a catechist today A shared responsibility (summarize the main points on page 2 of the brochure).
- Recall the aim of the meeting: Allow the catechists time to reflect and then to speak about their experience of being committed to Christian Life Formation.
- Briefly outline the procedure: A time to dialogue leading up to a time to arrive at a consensus (cf the last part of page 3 in the brochure : A two-step process).
- Explain the role of the secretary: He/she will take note of the key words for the first part and the consensus for the second part; the people whose comments are written down are not identified.
- Express a wish: May this evening be pleasant, and may it take place with respect and confidentiality.
- Answer questions if there are any.

Speaking Out

They asked me to be a catechist...

Go through pages 4 and 5 of the brochure together, in the following way:

Read the first paragraph on page 4

(an introduction to the reflection suggested on pages 4 and 5).

- *Biblical reference :*
 - To enhance the reading of the Scripture passage, there can be a «table of the Word» set up: a candle to be lit at the time of the proclamation, an open Bible, a cross, a plant, etc.
 - The Scripture passage can be read by the animator or by a member of the group.
 - How did this reading inspire me? Invite the catechists to take a few moments of personal reflection or take time to dialogue (no notes are taken).
- *Witnessing of catechists :*

Together, read through the different examples of witnessing presented on pages 4 and 5.

DURING the meeting

Suggested procedure

Speaking out

What does my commitment consist of?

Your turn to speak! Invite people to respond briefly to the questions by each expressing one or two words. These words are noted. They will serve as reminders at the conclusion when trying to arrive at a consensus.

What motivated me to become a catechist?

What are my expectations, my needs to meet this challenge?

Reaching a consensus

What can we retain from the discussions?

Invite people to respond to the questions on page 7:

- Remember that only these answers will be sent in and compiled.
- Make sure that the answers are clear. Clarify them, if necessary.
- If needed, have people repeat or slow down when they are speaking so as to make it easier to take notes.
- It might be beneficial to have the key words which were noted by the secretary read back.

For us, «To be a catechist today» is ...

What we desire for the future of catechesis is ...

END of the meeting

To assess the work undertaken together

- Ask the secretary to read back the notes taken concerning the section Moving toward a Consensus
- Approve or, if needed, complete it.
- Evaluation: Invite the catechists to freely express their reactions:
 - to the results of the meeting;
 - to how the evening unfolded.
- Thank all those who took part in the meeting.

AFTER the meeting

Sending in the results

1) Transcript of the results of the meeting:

See that the answers to the two questions in the section Moving toward a Consensus (page 7 of the brochure) are transcribed on a computer, if possible. They will be sent to the person responsible for Christian Life Formation in your diocese.

2) Please include in your correspondence:

- The date of the meeting
- The name of the parish or region where the meeting was held
- The name of the diocese to which you belong
- The animator's name
- The secretary's name
- The names of the people who were present

3) Send to :

(To be completed by the person responsible for Christian Life Formation)

Person responsible for Christian Life Formation : _____

Diocese of _____

Address : _____

Telephone : _____

Email : _____

Deadline for returning this form : _____

Thank You!