

BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES FOR EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS WITH ADULTS

In 2018, we conducted a survey on evangelization and catechesis with adults in which many best practices were identified that reflect the good work that is taking place in dioceses and parishes across Canada. In order to assist you further to develop these best practices, we have compiled a resource bank using CCCB's, *On Good Soil: Pastoral Planning for Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults*. We hope that this resource will be useful as you continue to share the joy of the Gospel with those whom you work.

The bullet points under each heading are links to PDF resources from On Good Soil (OGS) and other helpful webpages/resources. More resources can be found at www.ongoodsoil.ca.

1. LEADERSHIP

Evangelization and catechesis with adults must be promoted and encouraged by pastors and leaders. Leadership is a critical factor that contributes to the success of any initiative related to evangelization and catechesis with adults.

- The Bishop as Chief Catechist (OGS)
- The Diocesan Advisory Committee: Role, Description, and Composition (OGS)
- The Diocesan Animator of Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults (OGS)
- The Parish Committee for Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults (OGS)
- Four Key Roles in Adult Faith Formation (OGS)
- Best Practices: Pastor as Catechist (OGS)
- The Various Types of Catechists Needed in the Church of Today (OGS)
- On Good Soil: Pastoral Planning for Evangelization & Catechesis with Adults (PowerPoint, OGS)

2. DISCERNMENT OF NEEDS

Effective programs and processes respond to the actual needs of the community. Pope Francis calls us to enter into discernment as we seek to know and understand how best to serve our people. "To make this missionary impulse ever more focused, generous and fruitful, I encourage each particular Church to undertake a resolute process of discernment, purification and reform" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no 30). Having gathered data which identifies the articulated needs and wants of adults we ought to engage in a prayerful consideration of them in order to find a direction to take. This process always includes prayer, consultation and reflection to identify a vision, the identification of goals and the strategies for implementation.

- Best Practices: Adult Faith Committee (OGS)
- Building a Pastoral Plan for Adult Catechesis (OGS)

- Shaping a Parish Culture (OGS)
- Suitable Resources for the Core Group of the Parish or Diocese to Read and Discuss Together as a Way of Building up a “Foundation of Understanding” (OGS)
- The Role of the Pastor in Discerning Gifts and Calling Forth Catechists (OGS)
- What is the Good News that Adults Need to Hear? Reflection Sheet (OGS)
- Naming Your Local Situation: Reflection Guide (OGS)
- The Church in Canada Called to be “Selectively Counter-Cultural” (OGS)
- Checklist: Assessing and Developing Parish and Diocesan or Eparchial Efforts (OGS)
- Lifelong Faith Formation Planning Chart (OGS)
- What is Discernment? (A Nun’s Life)
- Vocation Stories (St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center)

3. FORMATION

Leaders who are well-formed are able to accompany adults and communities of faith competently and creatively.

- The Vocation of the Catechist (OGS)
- Catechists Called Forth from the Community to Work with Other Adults (OGS)
- Catechist Formation: A Graduated Approach (OGS)
- Catechist Formation: Dimensions (OGS)
- Five Guidelines for Catechist Formation (OGS)
- Qualities of Formation for Adult Catechesis (OGS)
- Elements and Structures for Catechist Formation (OGS)
- Areas to be Addressed in an Interview with a New Catechist (OGS)
- Returning Catechist Annual Interview (OGS)
- Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (University of Dayton)
- The Benedict XVI Institute for New Evangelization (Newman Theological College)
- Echoes of Faith (RCL Benziger)
- Association for Canadian Catholic Adult Formation (ACCAF)

4. RESPONDING TO THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

Effective adult catechesis considers the ages and stages of those we serve. A one-size-fits-all model of evangelization and catechesis with adults won’t work. Young adults who are married with children and working full time will have different needs than those who are retired. Often young adults simply cannot participate in activities that require weekly commitments of one or two hours...they just don’t have time. Are there ways to meet the needs of young adults using strategies that include social media and digital resources? Likewise, retired people may prefer afternoon sessions to those held on evenings and weekends. For those who travel during the winter months a digital option could be beneficial.

Canada is rich in cultural diversity. Critical to the success of evangelization and catechesis with adults is an understanding of the impact of culture on faith development. Appreciation of the norms, customs and traditions of Indigenous People must always be considered. Awareness and sensitivity to the possibilities and challenges of Canada's ethnic diversity will assist leaders to plan programs that are culturally relevant for participants.

- Methodology Content & Structural Considerations for Adult Faith Formation Planning (OGS)
- What are they Saying About...? Issues Facing the Church Today (OGS)
- Forms and Means to Inculturate the Faith (OGS)
- Criteria for Inculturation (OGS)
- Forms of Adult Catechesis (OGS)
- Principles and Practices for 21st Century Adult Faith Formation (Vibrant Faith)
- Kateri Native Ministry (Kateri Native Ministry)
- Indigenous Pastoral Leadership Formation Program (St. Paul University)
- The Health and Vibrancy of Popular Piety (OGS)
- Book Suggestion: *Canada's Catholics: Vitality and Hope in a New Era* (Reginald W. Bibby and Angus Reid)

5. COMMUNICATION

Effective communication is a key factor in the success of an experience, event, activity or program. Successful strategies for communication include the use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter, e-mail, personal invitations, endorsement and announcements by the pastor and coordinator of pastoral services. Encourage past participants to engage and share their experiences with others.

- 5 Essentials for Parish Communication (Catholica Omnia)
- Tools to Improve Communication (Our Sunday Visitor)
- Best Practices for Parish Communications (U.S. Catholic)
- 8 Simple Ways to Improve Church Communication (Flock Note)
- Communication (Building Stronger Parishes)
- 3 Tips for Managing Church Communications (Smart Church Management)
- Communicating the "Good News" of your Organization or Campaign (Dialogue & Grace)
- Using Tools to Teach as Jesus Did - QR Codes (Catechesis 2.0)

"...THAT CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS, SINCE IT DEALS WITH PERSONS WHO ARE CAPABLE OF AN ADHERENCE THAT IS FULLY RESPONSIBLE, MUST BE CONSIDERED THE CHIEF FORM OF CATECHESIS."

Sacred Congregation for the Clergy, General Catechetical Directory, no. 20.

6. HOSPITALITY

Successful gatherings are characterized by hospitality so that those who participate are comfortable and feel that they belong. There are many ways to provide hospitality from a warm welcome at the door of the Church, to offering coffee and snacks or a full meal. If we consciously make an effort to create environments that are hospitable, people will feel comfortable, especially, if they find themselves in new situations. St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans tells us to “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God” Rom 15.7.



- Making Hospitality a Parish Priority (Handout from Archdiocese of St. Louis)
- 5 Ways Your Parish can be More Welcoming (Diocesan)
- Parish Hospitality Welcome Ideas (Archdiocese of Vancouver)
- Centre for Parish Hospitality
- The Catholic Hospitality Training Institute --- Free Resources
- Moving with Hospitality (Archdiocese of Dubuque)
- Book Suggestion: *Where Two or Three Are Gathered: Transforming the Parish Through Communities of Practice* (Jane E. Regan; See Chapter 4)

7. EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES

Any resource is simply a tool to assist in the process of evangelization and catechesis with adults. Keys to success are rooted in strong leadership, discernment, good planning and evaluation.

- Best Practices - Catechetical Activity Moment (OGS)
- Best Practices - Missionary Activity Moment (OGS)
- Best Practices - Pastoral Activity Moment (OGS)
- Forms of Adult Catechesis (OGS)
- The Tasks of Catechesis (OGS)
- Three Moments in Evangelization (OGS)
- Christological Catechesis (OGS)
- Hierarchy of Truth (OGS)
- Liturgy and Liturgical Catechesis (OGS)
- Reflection Sheet: Proclaiming the Good News (OGS)
- The Catechumenate Inspires all Catechesis (OGS)
- Checklist: Catechesis with Adults (OGS)
- Best Practices: Respecting Experience (OGS)
- Methodology, Content and Structural Considerations for Adult Evangelization and Catechesis (OGS)
- GEMS: Great Endeavors Mined and Shared (Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP)
- Lifelong Faith

8. EVALUATION

Feedback from evaluations, give critical insight to the effectiveness of a process or program and also help with future planning.

- Checklist: Assessing Adult Catechetical Opportunities (OGS)
 - Checklist: Assessing and Developing Parish and Diocesan or Eparchial Catechetical Efforts (OGS)
 - Checklist: Using the Catechumenate as an Inspiration for Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults in Your Setting (OGS)
 - Checklist: Evaluating our Progress in Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults (OGS)
 - Checklist: Assessing and Developing Catechetical Efforts (OGS)
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