

Correlation to the Six Tasks of Catechesis

The fundamental purpose of catechesis is to form disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus formed his disciples into a community of faith in different, yet related, ways—by teaching, praying, celebrating, sharing the Good News of the Kingdom of God with them, and living in community. After Jesus’ Death and Resurrection, the disciples, inspired by the Holy Spirit, followed his command to be his witnesses in the world.

All catechesis should stem from the Six Tasks of Catechesis. The Six Tasks of Catechesis seek to attain the full development of faith. Each distinct yet complementary task relates to an aspect of faith. The tasks are interdependent and develop together: “It is very important that catechesis retain the richness of these various aspects in such a way that one aspect is not separated from the rest to the detriment of the others.” (*General Directory for Catechesis* 278)

The following correlation chart shows how *Finding God: Our Response to God’s Gifts, Grade 4* aligns with the Six Tasks of Catechesis as outlined in the *National Directory for Catechesis* (20):

1. Catechesis promotes knowledge of the faith.

The initial proclamation of the Gospel introduces the hearers to Christ for the first time and invites conversion to him. By the action of the Holy Spirit, such an encounter engenders in the hearers a desire to know about Christ, his life, and the content of his message. Catechesis responds to this desire by giving the believers a knowledge of the content of God’s self-revelation, which is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, and by introducing them to the meaning of the Creed. Creeds and doctrinal formulas that state the Church’s belief are expressions of the Church’s living tradition, which from the time of the Apostles has developed “in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit.”¹⁶⁵

3–6, 12, 13–16, 20, 21–24, 28, 29, 36, 37–40, 42, 45–50, 54, 55–58, 62, 63–68, 70, 71, 72, 74, 78, 79, 84, 87–92, 94, 96, 97, 98, 104, 105–108, 112, 113–116, 118, 120, 121, 122, 126, 129–131, 134, 138, 139, 141, 142, 146, 147, 150, 152, 154, 155, 156, 158, 162, 164, 168, 171–176, 178, 180, 181–184, 188, 189–193, 196, 197–200, 204, 205, 206, 208, 210, 214, 218, 219, 222, 226, 227, 230, 231, 234, 238

This task is covered on the Prayers and Practices of our Faith pages: 244, 253–255, 274, 275.

2. Catechesis promotes knowledge of the meaning of the liturgy and the sacraments.

Since Christ is present in the sacraments,¹⁶⁶ the believer comes to know Christ in the liturgical celebrations of the Church and is drawn into communion with him. Christ’s saving action in the Paschal Mystery is celebrated in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, where the closest communion with Jesus on earth is possible, as Catholics are able to receive his living Flesh and his Precious Blood in Holy Communion. Catechesis should promote “an active, conscious, genuine participation in the liturgy of the Church, not merely by explaining the meaning of the ceremonies, but also by forming the minds of the faithful for prayer, for thanksgiving, for repentance, for praying with confidence, for a community spirit, and for understanding correctly the meaning of the creeds.”¹⁶⁷ Sacramental catechesis prepares for the initial celebration of the sacraments and provides enrichment following their reception.

14, 24, 31, 37–42, 49, 57, 64, 79–84, 90–92, 94, 107, 111, 115, 121–126, 131–138, 139, 141, 142, 144–146, 147–150, 153, 155–158, 160, 161, 163–168, 200, 205–210, 211, 212, 213–215, 221, 222, 224, 225, 229, 233, 234, 237, 239

This task is covered on the Prayers and Practices of our Faith pages: 264–273.



3. Catechesis promotes moral formation in Jesus Christ.

Jesus' moral teaching is an integral part of his message. Catechesis must transmit both the content of Christ's moral teachings as well as their implications for Christian living. Moral catechesis aims to conform the believer to Christ—to bring about personal transformation and conversion. It should encourage the faithful to give witness—both in their private lives and in the public arena—to Christ's teaching in everyday life. Such testimony demonstrates the social consequences of the demands of the Gospel.¹⁶⁸

5–7, 11, 18, 19, 23, 26, 27, 29–36, 38, 41, 47–54, 55–62, 71–74, 77, 83, 88, 95, 102, 103, 105–112, 115, 118, 119, 125, 131–133, 137, 145, 153, 156, 161, 164, 167, 168, 172–180, 181–184, 186–188, 189–196, 197–204, 209, 213

This task is covered on the Prayers and Practices of our Faith pages: 269, 272–281.

4. Catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ.

Conversion to Christ and communion with him lead the faithful to adopt his disposition of prayer and reflection. Jesus' entire life, Death, and Resurrection were an offering to his Father. His prayer was always directed toward his Father. Catechesis should invite the believer to join Christ in the Our Father. Prayer should be the ordinary environment for all catechesis so that the knowledge and practice of the Christian life may be understood and celebrated in its proper context.

4, 5, 9–12, 13–15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 33, 35, 36, 37, 40–42, 47, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55, 59, 61, 62, 63, 67, 69, 70, 71, 75–78, 80, 81, 83, 84, 89, 90, 93–96, 97, 101, 103, 104, 105, 109, 111, 112, 113, 117–120, 121, 125, 126, 131, 133, 135–138, 139, 140, 143, 145, 146, 147, 151–154, 155, 159, 161, 162, 163, 164, 167, 168, 173, 177, 179, 180, 181, 185, 187, 188, 189, 192, 193, 195, 196, 197, 201, 203, 204, 205, 209, 210, 213, 215, 216, 217, 220, 221–224, 225, 227, 228, 229, 232, 233, 236, 237, 240

This task is covered on the Prayers and Practices of our Faith pages: 246–263.

5. Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Love one another. As I have loved you."¹⁶⁹ This command provides the basis for the disciples' life in community. Catechesis encourages an apprenticeship to Christian living that is based on Christ's teachings about community life. It should encourage a spirit of simplicity and humility, a special concern for the poor, particular care for the alienated, a sense of fraternal correction, common prayer, mutual forgiveness, and a fraternal love that embraces all these attitudes. Catechesis encourages the disciples of Jesus to make their daily conduct a shining and convincing testimony to the Gospel.¹⁷⁰ "He also distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. By these gifts he makes them fit and ready to undertake various tasks and offices for the renewal and building up of the Church, as it is written, 'the manifestation of the Spirit is given to everyone for profit.'" (1 Cor 12:7)¹⁷¹ Preparation for community life has an ecumenical dimension as well: "In developing the community sense, catechesis takes special note of the ecumenical dimension and encourages fraternal attitudes toward members of other Christian churches and ecclesial communities."¹⁷² It should always provide a clear exposition of all that the Church teaches and at the same time should foster a "true desire for unity"¹⁷³ and inculcate a zeal for the promotion of unity among Christians. Catechesis will have an ecumenical dimension as it prepares the faithful to live in contact with persons of other Christian traditions, "affirming their Catholic identity while respecting the faith of others."¹⁷⁴

12, 13, 15, 18, 20, 28, 36, 38, 42, 49, 50, 54, 62, 70, 73, 74, 76–78, 84, 89–92, 94–96, 97–99, 103, 104, 112, 113–116, 118–120, 126, 130, 138, 146, 154, 155–158, 160–162, 168, 180, 188, 191, 192, 194, 196, 197–199, 202, 204, 210, 219, 234–236, 237, 239, 240

This task is covered on the Prayers and Practices of our Faith pages: 265, 269, 276–279.



6. Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society.

“The ‘world’ thus becomes the place and the means for the lay faithful to fulfill their Christian vocation.”¹⁷⁵ Catechesis seeks to help the disciples of Christ to be present in society precisely as believing Christians who are able and willing to bear witness to their faith in words and deeds. In fostering this spirit of evangelization, catechesis nourishes the evangelical attitudes of Jesus Christ in the faithful to be poor in spirit, to be compassionate, to be meek, to hear the cry of injustice, to be merciful, to be pure of heart, to make peace, and to accept rejection and persecution.¹⁷⁶ Catechesis recognizes that other religious traditions reflect the “seeds of the Word”¹⁷⁷ that can constitute a true “preparation for the Gospel.”¹⁷⁸ It encourages adherents of the world’s religious to share what they hold in common, never minimizing the real differences between and among them. “Dialogue is not in opposition to the mission *ad gentes*.”¹⁷⁹

6–7, 11, 15, 20, 28, 34, 36, 37–42, 46, 54, 60, 62, 70, 71–78, 80, 84, 88–92, 96, 97, 104, 110–112, 115, 118–120, 122, 126, 136, 138, 146, 154, 155–162, 164, 165, 168, 172, 173, 180, 188, 192, 196, 197, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 231

This task is covered on the Prayers and Practices of our Faith pages: 280, 281.

Find more information about the tasks of catechesis in the *General Directory for Catechesis* (85, 86).

165 *DV*, no. 8.

166 Cf. *SC*, no. 7.

167 *General Catechetical Directory*, no. 25.

168 Cf. *CT*, nos. 29ff.

169 *Jn* 13:34.

170 Cf. *CL*, nos. 34, 51.

171 *LG*, no. 12.

172 *GDC*, no. 86.

173 *CT*, no. 32.

174 *CT*, no. 32.

175 *LG*, no. 16.

176 Cf. *Mt* 5:3–11.

177 *AG*, no. 11.

178 *LG*, no. 16.

179 *RM*, no. 55. Cf. Second Vatican Council, Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions (*Nostra Aetate*) (*NA*).