



2023 NCCL Convocation Design – Version 2

Journey toward the Future of Catechesis with All Ages and Generations is designed to engage the catechetical community in envisioning new directions and initiatives for proclaiming and teaching the Catholic faith in our world today guided by the vision and practices of the *Directory for Catechesis* (Vatican, 2020). Building on the vision of the 1971 and 1997 Directories, the new *Directory for Catechesis* (2020) provides a fresh vision and blueprint for developing catechesis in the 2020s and beyond.

The Convocation seeks to address the question: How can the vision and practices of the *Directory for Catechesis* guide catechetical ministry in parishes across the United States. The Convocation will explore how the catechetical vision of the *Directory* and the practices that flow from that vision can transform catechesis with all ages and generations in a parish community.

Design

Audience

- Diocesan catechetical leaders
- Parish and Chapel catechetical leaders

Required Reading

Everyone is expected to be familiar with the *Directory for Catechesis* and bring a copy to the Convocation. In preparation for the Convocation program, participants should focus their attention on the following chapters:

- Chapter Two: The Identity of Catechesis
- Chapter Three: The Catechist
- Chapter Four: The Formation of Catechists
- Chapter Seven: Methodology in Catechesis
- Chapter Eight: Catechesis in the Lives of Persons
- Chapter Ten: Catechesis in the Face of Contemporary Cultural Scenarios
- Chapter Eleven: Catechesis at the Service of the Inculturation of the Faith

Online Platform

NCCL will build an online platform for the Convocation using Kajabi (<https://kajabi.com>).

- *Resources*: The online platform will include resources (print, audio, video, websites) for each topic of the Convocation.
- *Online Sessions*: Several Convocation topics will be online-only learning sessions that people can experience after the Convocation.

- *New Initiatives*: The online platform will provide space for kindred groups to work together to design and pilot new catechetical initiatives to implement the *Directory*, guided by a NCCL facilitator.
- *Reports*: NCCL will publish the results of the Convocation online and continue to add strategies and ideas for implementing the *Directory*.

Logistics

- Convocation Manual: printed, saddle stitched
- Journals and pens for each person
- Name tags
- A-V: projector, screen, audio, microphone, power strip, extension cord
- Set-up: groups of 6-8 at round tables and chairs
- Presenter set-up and panelist set-up
- Registration tables

Resource Team

The Resource Team will serve two primary roles: 1) as **Facilitators** in each session guiding the work of kindred groups: diocesan, parishes (urban, suburban, small town/rural, multi-cultural, monocultural, etc.), and 2) as **Panelists** in selected sessions presenting insights on a focusing question. Resource Team members can participate in each panel or choose the sessions they are most comfortable with. Questions for the panel presentations will be prepared in advance.

Convocation Report

Throughout the Convocation the work product of groups will be collected digitally. One option is to use Google Docs or Forms to collect the reports. A Report from the Fall 2023 Convocation will be prepared incorporating the Convocation Program Manual, the results from group work, and strategies and ideas for the new initiatives. The Report will be distributed to Bishops, diocesan leaders, and parish leaders.

Convocation Manual Contents

Introduction

1. Schedule and Team
2. Prayer Experiences
3. Storytelling Experience

Session 1. Vision

4. Directory Themes
5. Directory and catechetical practice
6. Directory Terms / Glossary
7. Worksheet: Individual reflection on how well these features inform catechesis

Session 2. The New Context for Catechesis Today

8. Summary of key challenges facing catechesis with all ages
9. Worksheet: Analysis of back-home context and challenges and opportunities in parish catechesis

Session 3. Catechesis for All Ages in the Contemporary Context

10. Models of faith formation for families, children, youth, adults, and the whole community (intergenerational)
11. Worksheet: Discerning new models for their parish communities

Session 4. Educational Approaches and Methods for Catechesis at Each Stage of Life

12. A guide to new educational approaches and methods for catechesis
13. Examples of new methods, and guidance and support for kindred groups during the activity.

Session 5. Formation of Catechists and Catechetical Leaders in Today's Context

14. New educational models and approaches grounded in the best understanding of adult learning as applied to catechist formation
15. A guided process for participants to re-imagine catechist formation in their diocese or parish

Convocation Program Online Version

In early 2024 the Convocation program will be designed as an online learning program for individuals or parish teams. The online program will be available through NCCL's Kajabi platform.

Online Sessions

We would develop online learning sessions for topics not covered during the Convocation, for example: interreligious dialogue, ecumenism, catechesis with cultural groups, et al.

Convocation Program

Day Before Convocation

Resource Team arrives at location by 2 pm for an afternoon preparation meeting, followed by dinner.

Day One

Morning Set-up

11 am Arrival and registration (no lunch for participants)

1 pm **Opening Activity**

1. Program Overview and Team Introduction
2. Organize People into Kindred Groups of 6 people
 - Diocesan Leaders
 - Parish Leaders in kindred groups, e.g., urban, suburban, small town/rural, multi-cultural, monocultural, etc.
3. Opening Prayer Experience
4. Storytelling Experience (in Kindred Groups): We Are All Catechists – The Calling and Vocation of the Catechist
 - *Introduction:* Three roles of the ministry of the catechist (from the *Directory*) - we are called to be a witness of faith and keeper of the memory of God, a teacher and mystagogue, and an accompanier and educator.
 - *Activity:* Describe and illustrate your call to catechetical ministry and your journey as a catechetical leader using the image of the chapters in a book (worksheet).
 - *Small Group Storytelling*

2:00 pm **Session 1. Vision of the *Directory for Catechesis*: Essential Features**

Focus: Exploring the *Directory's* fundamental theological-pastoral principles and guidelines for the practice of catechesis within the evangelizing mission of the Church; analyzing how the *Directory* informs current catechetical practice.

Learning Process

1. Presentation & Panel: Essential Features of the Directory for Catechesis
 - *Introduction* to Essential Features
 - *Resource Team Panel:* A facilitated panel discussion on what each person sees as one or two of the most important features of the new *Directory*.
2. Individual Reflection
 - Individual reflection on how well the essential features inform catechesis in participants' parishes and dioceses using an assessment tool.
3. Kindred Group Discussions
 - Participants share reflections on their assessment of how the *Directory* informs and guides their catechetical practice.
 - Participants conclude the discussion by sharing how the Directory can inspire their ministry and catechesis in the parish.

Session 2. The New Context for Catechesis Today

Focus: Identifying features of the new context for forming all ages and generations in the Catholic faith and discipleship with a focus on the systemic issues challenging catechesis today (e.g., one systemic issue is the breakdown in the socialization and faith transmission of the Catholic faith in the first decade of life).

Learning Process

1. Introduction to the Activity
2. Naming Features of the New Context
 - Participants in Kindred Groups name 5-6 significant, systemic features of the new context
 - Each Kindred Group writes one systemic feature on a large post-it note and posts them in clusters of similar findings so that the whole group can see the features that surfaced.
3. Resource Team Panel: Features of the New Context
 - A facilitated panel discussion on what each person sees as one or two important, systemic features of the new context and comments on the findings from the Kindred Groups.
4. Application
 - Each Kindred Group will analyze how the changing context is having an impact on catechesis in their parishes.

5:30 pm Dinner

7:00 pm **Session 3. Catechesis for All Ages in the Contemporary Context (Part 1 - Explore)**

Focus: Developing lifelong catechesis, informed by the vision and practices of the *Directory for Catechesis*, for the whole community, for families, and for each stage of life from childhood to older adulthood.

Focus: Imagining new catechetical models – for families, age groups, and the whole parish – that address the new context and are informed by the vision and practices of the *Directory for Catechesis*.

Resource Team provides guidance, facilitation, and support for kindred groups during the activity.

Activity: Jigsaw Learning

Topics

1. Family
2. Intergenerational
3. Children
4. Adolescents
5. Young Adults
6. Adults (40s+)

Resource Sheet for each topic with the following information:

1. Directory's Vision
2. Research Findings
3. Emerging Models
4. Application

Jigsaw Learning Process

1. Introduction to the activity and Resource Sheets
2. In Kindred Groups as each person to become the resource person for one topic:
 - Family
 - Intergenerational
 - Children
 - Adolescents
 - Young Adults
 - Adults (40s+)
3. Organize new Topic Groups – one for each of the 6 topics (above). People will read their Resource Page with the Directory's Vision, Research Findings, Emerging Models, and Application Ideas.
4. In Topic Groups participants discuss what they have learned from the Resource Sheet and they prepare what they will “teach” their Kindred Group about their topic.
5. People rejoin their Kindred Group and one-by-one each person “teaches” the group the key points on their topic from the Resource Sheet.
6. Reflection (Homework): How can our parish utilize the new insights and approaches?

9:00 pm Close

Day Two

Option for Mass

7:30 am Breakfast

8:30 am Morning Prayer

9:00 am **Session 3. Catechesis for All Ages in the Contemporary Context (Part 2- Application)**

1. Introduction to the activity.
2. Resource Team Panel: Promising New Approaches in Catechesis
 - A facilitated panel discussion on what each person sees as the most promising new models and approaches in catechesis with particular audiences.
3. Participants reflect individually on how their parish can utilize the new insights and approaches in enhance and expand catechesis. Each participant develops recommendations for action over the next three years in the parish.
 - *What new directions, approaches, and strategies can adopt over the next several years to enhance and expand catechesis with all ages and generations?*
4. In Kindred Groups participants share their ideas and solicit ideas from the group.

Session 4. Educational Approaches and Methods for Catechesis at Each Stage of Life

Focus: Utilizing contemporary educational approaches and methods in designing catechetical programs and learning experiences for children, youth, adults, and families.

Learning Process

1. Introduction: the *Directory for Catechesis* on educational methods
2. Overview of the methods described on the Resource Sheets
3. Assessment: Contemporary Methods and Approaches
 - Participants use the assessment tool to examine their current faith formation programming by assessing how often they use a method/approach and how well they implement the method/approach in faith formation programming
4. Using Contemporary Methods in Catechesis
 - Participants organize themselves in groups of 3 based on target audiences: Children, Adolescents (young and older), Young Adults, Adults (40+), Families, Parents, Intergenerational (All Ages Together).
 - Participants, in groups of 3, explore how they can use new methods in their faith formation programming with the target audience
5. Personal Application
 - Participants develop a personal plan for incorporating new methods in faith formation programming in their parishes

12 noon Lunch

1:00 pm

Session 5. Formation of Catechists and Catechetical Leaders in Today's Context

Focus: Developing new educational models and approaches for equipping and forming catechists of all ages as witnesses of faith and keepers of the memory of God, as teachers and mystagogues, and as accompaniers and educators.

Learning Process

1. Identify: What's Changed in the Formation of Catechists and Catechetical Leaders
 - Participants in Kindred Groups name 5-6 significant challenges
 - Each Kindred Group writes one challenge on a large post-it note and posts them in clusters of similar findings so that the whole group can see the features that surfaced.
2. Overview: the *Directory for Catechesis* on the Ministry of the Catechist
3. Envision: What if we used adult learning principles and methods in the formation of catechists and catechetical leaders
 - Presentation of principles and methods grounded in the best understanding of adult learning as applied to catechist formation
4. Application: A guided process for participants to re-imagine catechist formation in their diocese or parish

Closing Experience & Prayer

4:00 pm

Depart