

As a catechist, you are important to the life of the Church and the fulfillment of its mission to evangelize. In the name of Jesus, you catechize in order to "put people not only in touch but in communities, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ" Here are the ways to be an effective, evangelizing catechist.

Pray for your learners and their families. Pray for yourself. Pray privately and within the liturgical/sacramental life of your parish community.

Provide a gentle, firm, consistent presence. Arrive early to welcome each learner by name. Strive to achieve respect prior to seeking to be liked.

Listen to and remember the significant things going on in your learners' lives. (This presumes that an environment is fostered where learners feel comfortable sharing)

Create a physical setting that is comfortable and conducive to meaningful learning.

Come to the session well-prepared and thus more confident and relaxed.

Reach out and connect with parents and guardians and families. See yourself as an evangelizer of households and not just a catechist of children. Parents are much in need of re-evangelization and faith formation today. Reach out to them and find ways to bring learning home for families to continue together.

Minister in relationship to other catechists. The personal bonds and creative sharing will be a blessing to you and your ministry as well as to them and their ministry.

Pray well with your learners. This means: Dedicate sufficient time and quality to the experience; incorporate a liturgical dimension (including ritual action) that fosters a Catholic sensibility in the learners and makes