



# NEWMAN INSTITUTE

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## KNOWING, LOVING AND SHARING THE FAITH

### II. Methods of Faith Formation (2 Sessions)

*“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am meek and humble of heart....”*  
(Mt 11:28-29)

*“...the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people  
not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ:  
only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit  
and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.”*  
(Pope John Paul II, *Catechesis tradendae*, n. 5)

**Course Description:** Teaching the faith in a systematic and organic way requires that catechists imitate the way that God draws us to Himself—that is, by *preparing* the setting and audience for an encounter with Christ, by *proclaiming* the truth to be examined, by *explaining* this “good news” in greater depth, and by *relating* it to everyday life.

#### **Reading and Reference Material:**

Joe Paprocki’s website, <http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/>

#### Recommended References:

Judene Coon, *How to Be a Good Catechist*.

Bernadette Stankard, *How Each Child Learns: Using Multiple Intelligence in Faith Formation*

Joseph White, *What Every Catechist Should Know and/or Do*

Joe Paprocki, *The Catechist’s Toolbox*

Eric Law, *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community*

**Course Sequence:**

Session One: Understanding Students and Leading them to Christ\*

*How can we meet students "where they are"  
and help them grow closer to the Lord?*

1. Employing a “catechesis that evangelizes” and nurturing disciples
2. Understanding the need to reach the whole person
3. Identify the stages of personal development, basic learning styles, and issues faced by children with special needs
4. Understanding students of different cultures and how different cultures relate to the Gospel message

Session Two: Planning an Engaging Catechetical Session\*

*How can we teach as Jesus taught?*

1. Exploring instructional strategies that are unique to faith formation
2. Preparing a lesson plan for a variety of learning styles
3. Discussing classroom environment, management and discipline strategies
4. Assessing Jesus' teaching methods and exploring ways to teach his parables

\*Each Session is 2 Hours long, plus one hour of individual follow-up work

**Session One:** Understanding Students and Leading them to Christ (2 hrs.)

*How can we meet students "where they are"  
and help them grow closer to the Lord?*

1. Employing a “catechesis that evangelizes” and nurturing disciples
2. Understanding the need to reach the whole person
3. Identify the stages of personal development, basic learning styles, and issues faced by children with special needs
4. Understanding students of different cultures and how different cultures relate to the Gospel message

*Learning Objectives*

\*Discuss how we can use stories to unite “head and heart”, as well as how we can engage the heart through the music, art and prayer

\*Identify major learning styles: visual, auditory, kinesthetic; introduce basic stages and characteristics of human development, as well as issues faced by children with special needs

\*Discuss strategies for assessing prior knowledge of the faith and cultural context of the students

\*Distinguish “*inculturating* the Gospel” from “*acculturating* a culture to the Gospel”; contrast planning “with” the people of other cultures versus “for” them (e.g., liturgies, workshops, presentations, activities); discuss multi-cultural differences in religiosity and spirituality

**Independent follow-up** (1 hour):

- 1) Listen to the webinar entitled “Getting Started as a Catechist” found at <http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/webinars/#catechist>; reflect on your particular class and then post a response identifying the cultural backgrounds, cognitive and developmental level of the students.
- 2) Research and select one work of art, one song, or one devotional practice which could help put students “in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ,” and which would complement the cultural background and developmental level of the students.
- 3) Complete the online course evaluation.

**Resources:**

Teaching the whole person: mind, heart and hands

[http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=2538](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2538)

Take learning styles inventory. <http://people.usd.edu/~bwjames/tut/learning-style/>

Multi-Cultural Awareness & Children with Special Needs:

[http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref\\_Hispanic\\_American/](http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_Hispanic_American/)

<http://www.as.wvu.edu/~equity/african.html>

<http://www.specialeducationalneeds.com/inclusivecurricula/sen/re.htm>

[http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=2501](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2501)

## **Session 2: Planning an Engaging Catechetical Session (2 hours)**

*How can we teach as Jesus taught?*

1. Exploring instructional strategies that are unique to faith formation
2. Preparing a lesson plan for a variety of learning styles
3. Discussing classroom environment, management and discipline strategies
4. Assessing Jesus' teaching methods and exploring ways to teach his parables

### *Learning Objectives*

\*Compare and contrast faith formation with instruction in other subjects; describe the role of the Scriptures and the Sacraments in faith formation

\*Analyze the main elements in the lesson plan format: preparing, proclaiming, explaining, and applying; discuss the link between the objective of a given lesson and the assessment of whether students met the objective

\*Develop strategies for assessing student learning; explore how art, music, devotional practices, and stories (particularly biblical passages) help express the richness of the faith

\*Assess basic elements of classroom management and discipline, and discuss specific strategies for both; discuss how role playing, group activities and small group discussions can be used with learners at different developmental stages

### **Independent follow-up** (1 hour); choose ONE of the following:

- 1) Read the following article, "The Keys to Successful Lesson Plan" [http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=2572](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2572), and post a response reflecting on how this might help you prepare your lesson plans.
- 2) Review "Ten Tips for Maintaining Discipline" at [http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/DisciplineTips12\\_06.pdf](http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/DisciplineTips12_06.pdf). Decide which of the 10 tips is the most important or helpful reminder to you at this point of your journey as a catechist, and post a brief reflection explaining why.
- 3) Complete a website review of "Catechist magazine" at <http://catechist.com/>; select one idea or insight that would help you "Teach like Jesus did," and post a reflection on the online learning platform.

**Resources:**

Exploring Different Catechetical Learning Styles

[http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=516](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=516)

All God's Children have a place in the choir

[http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=283](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=283)

Encountering God with Adolescents

[http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=1919](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=1919)

What can I do for gifted students

[http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=1924](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=1924)

Managing time in the classroom successfully

[http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=2669](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2669)

Best practices for teaching religion

[http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=2720](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2720)

The search for silence

[http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=2488](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2488)

You Tube resources

Prepare the environment

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaWfNWp4tw8&feature=related>

Getting the most out of small groups

[http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=2322](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2322)

Making banners [http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=2313](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2313)

Creating simple classroom plays

[http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles\\_view.php?article\\_id=1940](http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=1940)

Use the following instructional powerpoint on You Tube regarding assesment

<http://www.youtube.com/user/thereligionteacher?blend=10&ob=5#p/u/0/MvUUDH-EiLI>