

## Loyola Press Catechetical Formation Series

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### Session Ten: The Person of the Catechist

Name	Parish
Date	

#### Focus

Catechesis is so much more than simply the conveyance of information: it is an apprenticeship in a lifestyle. While a textbook or video can show how to pray the Sign of the Cross or recite traditional prayers, they cannot share or teach about an affective relationship with God: something that can only be accomplished by a human being, namely the catechist. Only a human being can answer questions, guide conversation, tell personal stories, share feelings, empathize, or articulate the experience of mystery. Only a human being can lift up his or her heart to God and invite others to do the same. Only a human being can truly accompany another human being. Therefore, the person of the catechist is crucial to the process of evangelization and catechesis. Serving as a catechist is a vocation – a calling from God. A vocation, like a plant, needs to be nurtured and cared for. Just as we make sure that a plant receives water, sunlight, and the nutrients it needs to grow and thrive, we also need to make sure that our vocation as a catechist is being nurtured and cared for. In order for this growth to happen properly, we need to pay attention to our spiritual wellbeing. In this session, we explore the unique spirituality of the catechist.

**Learning Outcomes** – At the end of this session, the catechist will be able to...

- explain what it means to refer to the role of the catechist as a vocation;
- explain the art of accompaniment;
- identify qualities and skills that are a part of the catechist's role description;
- identify and explain the 3-dimensions of catechist formation: being, knowing, and doing;
- articulate an understanding of spirituality;
- identify and explain six characteristics of the spirituality of the catechist
  - openness to God
  - openness to the Church
  - openness to the world
  - a coherence and authenticity of life
  - missionary zeal
  - devotion to Mary and the saints
- identify spiritual practices to enrich his/her vocation as a catechist.

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#### **Pause #1: The Person of the Catechist**

Can robots serve as catechists? Why or why not? What do the following statements mean to you?  
“Unlike robots, a human catechist is capable of being “divinized.” “Catechesis is so much more than simply the conveyance of information: It is an apprenticeship in a lifestyle.”

#### **Pause #2: The Role of the Catechist**

What is your understanding of the “art of accompaniment?” How do catechists “accompany” those they are entrusted with? What qualities, knowledge, skills, and responsibilities are essential in a catechist’s role description?

#### **Pause #3: The Vocation (Calling) of the Catechist**

Tell the story of your calling to serve as a catechist: how did it happen and what was your reaction?  
What does it mean to say that “God doesn’t call the qualified, but rather qualifies the called”? What are the implications of referring to the role of the catechist as a “vocation”?

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#### **Pause #4: Understanding Spirituality**

What are the 3 dimensions of catechist formation? Describe each in your own words. What is your understanding of the word “spirituality”? What qualities does a “well-rounded” human being possess? Which of these qualities are most essential for a catechist to possess? What are you doing to grow spiritually and to remain spiritually healthy?

#### **Pause #5: The Spirituality of the Catechist**

Describe each of the following characteristics of the spirituality of the catechist in your own words: openness to God; openness to the Church; openness to the world; authenticity and coherence of life; missionary zeal; devotion to Mary and the saints. What can catechists do to grow in each of these areas? What are some things you are doing to grow in these areas?

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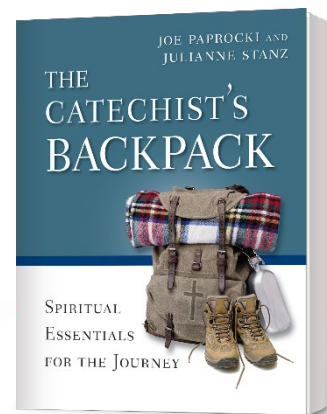
### Session Ten: The Person of the Catechist

#### Summary

What are 3 to 5 main takeaways you gained from this session? Describe how these insights will affect your approach to serving as a catechist

#### Assigned Reading

After reading *The Catechist's Backpack*, describe 3-4 main insights you gained and how they will have an impact on you as a catechist.



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***The Catechetical Formation Series***  
**Verification of Completion Form**

I hereby confirm (based on successful completion/submission of the interactive worksheets) that

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Catechist Name) (Parish Name)

has successfully completed the following module(s) of *The Catechetical Formation Series*:

(check all that apply)

- Learning Session 1: Getting Started and Getting to Know Your Learners
- Learning Session 2: The Catechetical Process
- Learning Session 3: Prayer and Leading Prayer
- Learning Session 4: Facilitation Skills and Handling Difficult Situations
- Learning Session 5: What We Believe—The Creed
- Learning Session 6: What We Believe—The Sacraments
- Learning Session 7: What We Believe—The Moral Life
- Learning Session 8: What We Believe—Prayer
- Learning Session 9: Understanding God’s Word—Scripture
- Learning Session 10: The Person of the Catechist

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Catechetical Leader Name Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Catechetical Leader Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

*Submit to local diocesan authority overseeing catechist certification*