

Section One: The Person of the Catechist¹

No methodology, no matter how well tested, can dispense with the person of the catechist in every phase of the catechetical process.²

Most people working in dioceses and eparchies know that finding parishioners willing to be catechists can be a challenge. Yet some of those who come forward with the desire to become catechists may not be formed or suited for the task.

This first section of the evaluation tool will help dioceses or eparchies to know:

- whom they are forming, and
- where individuals are on their faith journey.

Knowing this will guide formation sessions regarding depth and particular emphasis. If you find that you are answering ‘no’ to many of these questions about your catechists, consider advising them that their gifts may lie in another area of ministry.

This section may also be used as a personal evaluation tool for catechists. The purpose of a self-evaluation tool is to help the catechist determine their own formation needs.³

Part One - Coordinators tool for evaluation:

Is the person mature?⁴

- Yes
- No

Does the person have a deep, mature faith?

- Yes
- No

Does the person have a prayer life?

- Yes
- No

Does the person have a clear Christian and ecclesial identity?

- Yes
- No

¹ The *GDC* paragraphs referenced for this section are 156, 237, 239, and 247.

² *GDC*, 156

³ *Ibid*, 245.

⁴ *Ibid*, A mature person – “[the catechists’] cultural vision, social condition and lifestyle must not be obstacles to the journey of faith.

Does the person have an understanding of the communal dimension of the Christian faith?

- Yes
- No

Does the person have a zeal for the Reign of God/a desire to be a witness for the faith?

- Yes
- No

Does the person have the ability to communicate the Gospel message in the name of the Church (are they able to share faith)?

- Yes
- No

Does the person have a social sensitivity?

- Yes
- No

Does the person have the ability to help others identify with Jesus through the sacraments (whether a catechumen, a child preparing for sacraments of initiation, a couple preparing for marriage or the baptism of their child...⁵)?

- Yes
- No

Does the person have the ability to help others identify with Jesus through Sacred Scripture?⁶

- Yes
- No

Does the person have the skills to teach, to be attentive, to interpret and respond to educational situations, and lead a group to maturity⁷?

- Yes
- No

Does the person have the ability to facilitate group discussions?

- Yes

⁵ *GDC* 176

⁶ *Ibid* 127-128

⁷ *Ibid* 244

No

Is the person able to work collaboratively?

Yes

No

Does the person see that the ministry of catechesis is that of being a companion on the journey of faith “a willingness to act as a guide”⁸?

Yes

No

Does the person have the ability to listen without reacting or judging (“serenity of judgment”⁹)?

Yes

No

Is the person grounded in reality (“understanding and realism”¹⁰)?

Yes

No

Is the person a person of hope and affirmation (“a capacity to give consolation and hope”¹¹)?

Yes

No

Is the person willing to follow the leadership of the particular Church: the diocese or eparchy (“an awareness of being sent by the Church”¹²)?

Yes

No

What is the catechist’s level of formation?

a basic understanding of the faith.

initial catechetical formation

ongoing catechetical formation

⁸ *GDC 239* which uses as its source the *GCM 21*

⁹ *Ibid*

¹⁰ *Ibid*

¹¹ *Ibid*

¹² *GDC 247a*

Self-reflection tool for catechists:

After each question rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 4.

- 1 Not at all
- 2 Somewhat
- 3 Usually
- 4 Always

I am a mature person.

1 2 3 4

I am a person of deep faith.

1 2 3 4

I have an active prayer life.

1 2 3 4

I am a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ.

1 2 3 4

I am a member in good standing of the Catholic Church.

1 2 3 4

I am an active member of the local Catholic community.

1 2 3 4

I have a desire to tell people about the Reign of God and to be a witness for the faith.

1 2 3 4

I am able to tell others about Jesus.

1 2 3 4

I am concerned for people and the world I live in.

1 2 3 4

I understand the sacraments are one of the principle means through which I encounter God.

1 2 3 4

I understand Sacred Scripture is one of the principle means through which I encounter God.

1 2 3 4

I am able to share faith with others.

1 2 3 4

I am able to facilitate communication within a group.

1 2 3 4

I am able to work collaboratively with others.

1 2 3 4

I understand a catechist is a companion on the journey with other followers of Jesus.

1 2 3 4

I am a good listener.

1 2 3 4

I am understanding.

1 2 3 4

I am empathetic.

1 2 3 4

I am tolerant.

1 2 3 4

I am able to be objective.

1 2 3 4

I am a person of hope.

1 2 3 4

I am able to console others.

1 2 3 4

I am willing to take direction.

1 2 3 4

I am willing to honour the norms and directives of the diocese or eparchy.

1 2 3 4

The level of catechist formation I have is...

- a basic understanding of the faith.
- initial catechist formation.
- ongoing catechist formation.

