# DIOCESE OF BOISE
## OFFICE OF CATECHESIS

The Office of Catechesis supports the mission of the Diocese of Boise by assisting the Bishop in carrying out his role as the chief catechist of the diocese.

Catechist Certification

## Age Development and Special Needs in the Classroom

Kathy Barkdull, Presenter

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God, You created us in your image.

You breathed into us Your Spirit, that Your life in us can grow.

We praise and thank You, O God, for the marvels of Your wondrous deeds.

All-knowing God, You gave us the power to grow in knowledge.

Grant us the understanding to recognize the process of this growth, that we may help others to know You.

All-loving God, You gave us the ability to grow in relationship.

Grant us the awe and wonder to reverence all growth, that we may guide others in their desire to relate to you.

All-creative God, You endowed us with the ability to choose – between good and evil, between right and wrong, between life and death, between growth and stagnation.

Grant us the wisdom to know the steps that lead to right choice, that we may encourage others along the way.

All-generous God, You give us the gift of faith in You, as You help us to believe in ourselves.

Lead us to grow from the dependence of a child, through the commitment of a disciple, to the deep peace of a steward in the service of Your reign.

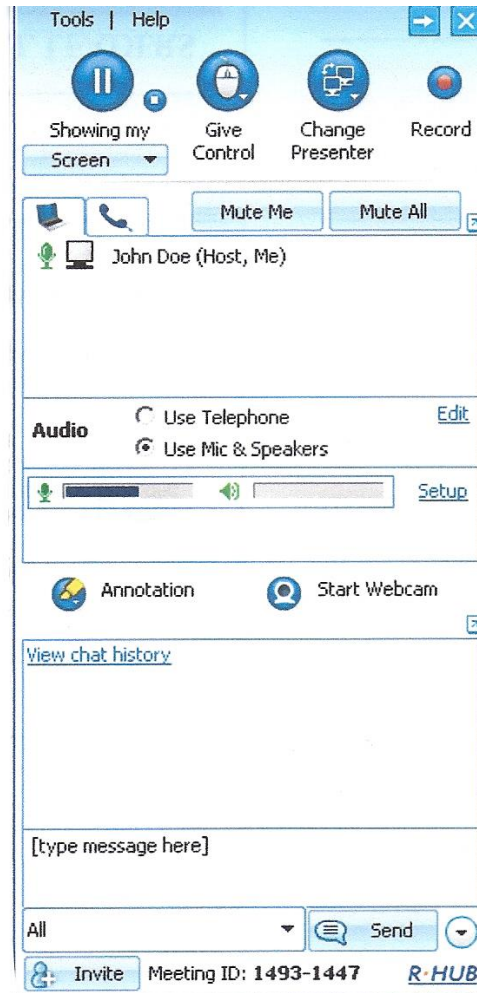We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# Introductions

Questions/Comments??

Use the "Chat" box option in your tool pane one the right side of your screen.

"Teaching was central to the ministry of Jesus. …He taught with authority, and people from every walk of life and from every age and circumstance followed him into synagogues, up hillsides, through towns and villages, and to the seashore. He taught them in places familiar to them, and he taught them according to their capacity to understand his message. He taught them that the Kingdom he came to announce was intended for all, especially the poor and vulnerable. And he commissioned his disciples to continue his teaching ministry for all time."

NDC 47

"All the faithful have a right to receive Christ's authentic teaching.  Hearing Christ's proclamation of the good News that the Kingdom of God is at hand is essential to their salvation.  Because the word of God is a saving word, the faithful, who are called to salvation in Christ, must have access to it and to him.  All the baptized, because they are called by God to maturity of faith, need and have therefore a right to adequate catechesis.

NDC 47

Just as Christ instructed his followers according to their capacity to understand his message, the Church also must take serious account of the circumstances and cultures in which the faithful live in order to present the meaning of the Gospel to them in understandable ways.

NDC 47

# The Role of Catechist

Lay catechists have a special solidarity with those whom they catechize and a particular sensitivity to their needs.

Catechists must be attentive to adapt their method of catechesis to the needs of particular groups they serve.  Catechists serve a wide variety of persons and the message of the Gospel must be proclaimed in such a way that they can understand it, and that it is applied to their life situations.

NDC 54.B.8

# Who do we Catechize?

Those who are in need of catechesis include those who do not have the constant presence of a priest; families; adult, young adults, children and adolescents; those preparing to receive sacraments; those with special needs: immigrants, migrants, refugees, and people on the move; those in campus ministry programs; Catholic school children; members of movements and associations; those in hospitals and the military; those in prisons.

NDC 54.B.8

Catechists are to identify and create "suitable conditions which are necessary for the Christian message to be sought, accepted, and more profoundly investigated" for each of the various groups they serve.

NDC 54.B.8

# Catechesis according to Readiness and Age Levels

Growth in faith is related to human development and passes through stages.  Individuals develop as human beings and faithful followers of Christ in different ways and according to their own pace.

The Church's catechesis – and even more so, the catechist – must take into consideration all the human factors of a particular age level in order to present the Gospel message in a vital and compelling way.  From infancy through maturity, "catechesis is thus a permanent school of the faith and follows the major stages of life."

NDC 48

# Preschoolers 3-5 yr olds Characteristics

❑Interest in self & nature, curiosity is at its peak, short attention span.

❑Learn through their senses.

❑Not yet capable of accurate reasoning but often ask "why".

❑Like to engage in physical activity.

❑Assertion of own power and independence.

❑Beginnings of recognition of cooperation & rules.

# Preschoolers 3-5 yr. old

- Primary catechesis is within the Family.
- God's love is communicated to young children through parents.
- Parents are catechists precisely because they are parents.
- Their role in the formation of Christian values is irreplaceable.
- Parents are the most effective catechists of prayer for their young children.

# Catechesis for Preschoolers

- Opportunities to participate in simple celebrations that deepen the child's sense of wonder.

- Experiences of spontaneous and formal prayers, prayerful silence and simple acts of worship.

- Catechesis that involves the whole family because it helps parents become confident in sharing their faith as a child's primary catechist.

# Grades K-3 Characteristics

- Draws knowledge & reactions from personal world centered in home and family.
- Primarily interested in the concrete, the real surrounding world.  Cannot handle abstract concepts.
- Ego-centric, center of attention
- Relative short attention span.  Needs much bodily activity to balance quiet times.
- Responds enthusiastically to strong rhythms.
- Learns through senses, needs to involve whole body learning experiences

First Holy Communion

"Do this in remembrance of me."

# Grades K-3

- Entering a world wider than the family through the school environment.
- A time of intellectual, affective and behavioral development.
- A time for considerable cooperation between parents, pastors and catechists in their mission to hand on the faith.
- An excellent occasion for adult catechesis.

# Catechesis for K-3 Grade

- Introduce the concept of the "family of God" as an introduction to development of a sense of community.
- Sacrament preparation for Eucharist and Reconciliation.
- Provide experiences that link liturgy and catechesis
- Help develop a personal relationship with Christ.
- Stress God's love in creation using examples from the real world.
- Provide experiences in which they can live out their faith and apply the message of salvation to real-life situations.

# Intermediate (Grades 4-6) Characteristics

- ❑ Entering period of transition discarding childish patterns of behavior.
- ❑ Seeking to develop their own attitudes and values, independent of adult standards.
- ❑ Inconsistent and disorganized conduct: restless, sensitive, moody, sometimes reverting to infantile behaviors
- ❑ Age of "gang" influence: group competition, teamwork, cooperation, loyalty to and pride in group, family.
- ❑ Hero worship
- ❑ Longer attention span & increased memory
- ❑ Increased "tool" skills especially reading
- ❑ A collector, model-builder

# Intermediate: Grades 4-6

- Need people who understand their puzzling, inconsistent behavior.
- Require clear limits on behavior from someone with a sense of humor coupled with firmness.
- They thrive on the positive witness of adults.

# Catechesis for Intermediate: Grades 4-6

- Catechesis that includes observing, exploring, interpreting, and evaluating their experiences; in learning to attribute a Christian meaning to their lives and learning to act according to the norms of faith and love in light of the many conflicting values in today's society.

- Emphasize that growth in faith includes growth in the desire for a deeper, more mature knowledge of the truths of faith.

- Present private prayer as a means of "individual reflection and personal communication with God".

# Early Adolescence: Grades 7-9 Characteristics

❑ Period of rapid growth: physically, mentally, emotionally.

❑ Acute sensitivity about being different.

❑ Deep, close friendships.

❑ Standards of peers are more important than that of adults. Acceptance is crucial.

❑ Ability to reason, questions authority, can handle abstract concepts.

❑ Awakening of sexual awareness, searching for self-image.

❑ New sense of history, of chronology.

❑ Strong sense of social justice.

# Early Adolescence:  Grades 7-9

- Use experiences of deep friendship to orientate to friendship with Christ.
- Use their challenge of authority to show the necessity of people acting responsibly in the Church today.
- Equip them with the necessary facts of the sexual make-up of both sexes and instill respect and love as the basis of sex.
- As acceptance is crucial, help them to experience Christ's consistent deep love for each one of us as individuals.

# Catechesis for Early Adolescence: Grades 7-9

- Scripture study to present the historical, biblical themes in their true perspective.

- Catholic Social Teaching providing opportunities for them to experience these concepts in hands on activities.

- Help them to discover how Christ is relevant, real in the modern world.

- Promote Christian attitudes toward human sexuality.

# Later Adolescence:  Grades 10-12 Characteristics

- ❑Goes from extroverted to introverted, intensely concerned with self-image.
- ❑Wavers between idealism & doubting cynicism.
- ❑Observes the conflicts of the adult world.
- ❑Capable of intense dedication to a cause.
- ❑Craves affection, understanding & acceptance especially by peers.
- ❑Capable of deeper reasoning & understanding.
- ❑Can evaluate and analyze logically.
- ❑Takes little at face value.
- ❑Makes snap judgments.
- ❑Is impressed by the sensational.

# Later Adolescence: Grades 10-12

- Examples of adults are important to them so participation in the Mass, the sacraments, and other rituals alongside adults incorporates them further into the life of the Church.

- Can take a more active role in planning and celebrating liturgical experiences.

- Frequent and regular opportunities for the sacrament of Reconciliation is important.

- This is a time for catechesis on Christian vocation as they prepare for their important Christian commitments in adult life:  marriage, chaste single life, priesthood, consecrated life or lay ecclesial ministry.

# Catechesis for Later Adolescence: Grades 10-12

- The core content of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation with an emphasis on the need for life-long faith formation.
- Recognizes and celebrates cultural diversity.
- Opportunities for social justice activities.
- Christian vocation and ministry discernment.
- Vibrant Youth Ministry Programs that incorporate the elements of Catechesis, Community Life, Evangelization, Justice and Service, Leadership Development, Pastoral Care and Prayer and Worship.

# Young Adult Characteristics

- ❑ Persons in their late teens, twenties and thirties representing diverse cultural, racial, ethnic, educational, vocational, social, political and spiritual backgrounds.
- ❑ They search for meaning, value solidarity with the rest of humanity and seek to commit themselves to the cause of social justice.
- ❑ Many have been captivated by consumerism and materialism of our society and have become apathetic and cynical.
- ❑ It can be a world of boredom, disillusionment and indifference to the Church. "The first victims of the spiritual and cultural crisis gripping the world."

# Young Adults

- Many young adults welcome Christ's invitation to: "Come follow me".
- They are looking for opportunities to grow in the knowledge of their faith and in their ability to make good moral decisions.
- They need a non-threatening place where they can freely express their questions, doubts and even disagreements with the Church.
- The teachings of the Church must be clearly articulated and relate to their experience.
- Young adults make some of the most important decision in their lives about their Christian vocation, their career, and their choice of spouse.
- Marriage and Baptism preparation are significant opportunities for catechesis.

# Catechesis for Young Adults

- Connect young adults with Jesus Christ through spiritual formation/direction, religious education/formation, and vocation discernment.
- Connect with the Church through evangelizing outreach, formation of the faith community, and pastoral care.
- Connect with the mission of the Church in the world through forming a Christian conscience, educating and working for justice, and developing leaders for the present and the future.
- Connect with a peer community through developing peer leadership and identifying a young adult team for the purpose of forming faith communities of peers.

# Adult Characteristics

- ❑ Capable of a free and informed response of faith to God's initiative of love.
- ❑ They have experienced the joys and challenges of life and have the capacity to question the truth and meaning of life.
- ❑ Adults enter a learning activity with an image of themselves as self-directed, responsible grown-ups.
- ❑ They enter a learning activity with the intention to apply learning to life experience and require practical results from learning.

# Adult Catechesis

Adult catechesis should be the *organizing principle,* which gives coherence to the various catechetical programs offered by a particular Church…

This is the axis around which revolves the catechesis of childhood and adolescence as well as that of old age.

Adult catechesis promotes mature adult faith: the faith of the disciple who has been saved by Christ's redemptive love and who is being continually converted to him.

NDC 48.A

# Goals of Adult Catechesis

1.  It invites and enables adults to acquire an attitude of conversion to the Lord.

2.  Helps adults make a conscious and firm decision to live the gift and choice of faith through membership in the Christian community.

3.  Helps adults become more willing and able to be a Christian disciple in the world.

# General Task of Adult Catechesis

To propose the Christian faith in its entirety and in its authenticity, in accordance with the Church's understanding.  It must give priority to the proclamation of salvation, drawing attention to the many challenges to living a Christian life posed by American society and culture.  It must introduce adults to a faith-filled reading of Sacred Scripture and the practice of prayer.

NDC 48.A.2

# The Major Tasks of Adult Catechesis

- To promote formation and development of life in the Risen Christ through the sacraments, prayer life of the Church, works of charity and justice, retreats, and spiritual direction.

- To promote evangelization as the means of bringing the Good News to all states of humanity.

- To educate toward the development of an informed moral conscience.

- To clarify religious and moral questions.

- To clarify the relationship between the Church and the world, especially in light of the Church's social doctrine.

- To develop the rational foundations of the faith and demonstrate the compatibility of faith and reason.

- To encourage adults to assume their baptismal responsibility for the Church's mission and to be able to give Christian witness in society.

- To develop creative ways to interest and encourage adults to take advantage of the various programs of enrichment and spiritual development being offered.

# Effective Methods for Adult Catechesis

- Self-directed, independent learners who can identify their catechetical needs.
- Respect for the rich and varied experiences, skills and talents of adult learners.
- Catechesis based on the circumstances of adults (race, culture, social, economic, education & spiritual maturity).
- Catechesis that involves the entire community.
- Catechesis that is a comprehensive, multifaceted, coordinated approach with a variety of learning activities.

# Catechesis for Adults

- Sacred Scripture and Tradition, the Creeds and doctrines of the faith, the hierarchy of the truths, and the history of the Church.

- The Mass, the sacraments, and the daily prayer life of the Church.

- The universal call to holiness, including a study of the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and Jesus' commandment to love one another.

- The Church's teaching on the dignity of the human person, sin, grace, the virtues, and conscience formation.

- Catholic Social Teaching and the implications of social sin.

- Prayer and traditions of spirituality within the Church.

- The Hierarchical structure of the Church and the rights and responsibilities of the baptized.

- Marriage and family life; single life.

- The ecumenical movement and interreligious dialogue.

- The church's mission in the world; the lay apostolate.

# The Elderly: Characteristics

- A rich diversity of personal, family and social conditions.

- A maturity of faith.

- They make significant contributions to the entire community through their wisdom and witness.

- Providers, not simply recipients, of pastoral care.

# The Elderly

In light of the courageous and faithful witness they have born to the Gospel over many years, the elderly are natural catechists, especially for their own grandchildren.

NDC 48.B

# Catechesis for The Elderly

- Catechesis to help develop an attitude of thanksgiving and hopeful expectation.
- Opportunities to rediscover the experience of God in their lives.
- Foster an attitude of prayer, forgiveness and inner peace.
- Encourage the virtue of hope in eternal life.
- Catechesis that connects them to the larger faith community.
- Equivalent opportunities for formation that is offered to the entire community.

# Persons with Special Needs

"We are a single flock under the care of a single shepherd. There can be no separate church for persons with disabilities." Persons with disabilities, especially children, are particularly beloved of the Lord and are integral members of the Christian community. They include those with cognitive, those with developmental disabilities, those with learning disabilities, the emotionally disturbed, persons with physical disabilities, the hard of hearing, the deaf, the visually impaired, the blind and others. All persons with disabilities have the capacity to proclaim the Gospel and to be living witnesses to its truth within the community of faith and offer valuable gifts.

NDC 49

- Persons with special needs should be integrated into ordinary catechetical programs as much as possible unless their special needs make it impossible for them to participate in the basic catechetical program.
- Catechesis for persons with special needs is most effective when it is carried out within the general pastoral care of the community.
- As much as possible, persons with special needs should guide the development of curricula to their particular needs.

- Catechesis must be adapted in content and method to their particular situations.
- Catechesis for some persons with special needs require more personalization and involvement of their families can be indispensable.
- Specialized catechists should help them interpret the meaning of their lives and give witness to Christ's presence in the local community in ways they can understand and appreciate.

# Paying Attention to Special Needs

**Orthopedic Impairment**: Adapt activities as necessary; develop a Buddy System.

**Visual Impairment:** Consider lighting needs, provide large-print, audio and manual materials; allow them to work orally with a partner.

**Deafness or Hearing Impairment:** Seat them near the front of the room; face the individual and speak clearly using normal tone and pace; write keywords and directions on the board, provide written materials; arrange for an interpreter if possible.

**Speech or Language Impairment:** Speak clearly and in short phrases; use visual and written instructions, arrange for an aide; allow extra time for an individual to respond to questions and comments.

**Social or Behavioral Problems, Attention Disorders, and Learning Disabilities:** Work with the family to identify the type of disorder or disability; arrange the room to avoid distractions; give, review, and clarify directions, expectations and explanations; monitor and affirm appropriate behavior; rely on visual aids or gestural cues; arrange for an aide for individual attention.

**Mental Impairment:** Adapt activities to the participants attention span and levels of coordination and skill; individualize learning with the help of an aide; simplify concepts; repeat statements periodically.

**Giftedness:** Challenge them through independent study, small-group work, enrichment activities, and discovery learning related to his or her interest; provide supplementary resources; use creative puzzles and games; ask the gifted student to help with preparing materials or helping slower or younger participants.

# Cultural Inclusivity

- Be aware of the diversity in your group and do your "homework" about traditions, customs, and values of the various groups present.
- Awareness of participants that come from families experiencing divorce, mixed-families, forms of abuse, lack of attendance at Sunday Mass.
- Visually reflect the diversity of the group through posters, pictures, figures of Jesus, the saints and bible characters.
- Be aware of various prayer styles and devotions of certain ethnic groups.
- Guard against stereotypes in materials, images and situations.
- Identify by race or ethnic origin only when relevant.
- Be aware of possible negative implications of color-symbolic words and phrases.
- Avoid tokenism toward any racial or ethnic group.

A good catechist is able to: identify weaknesses but emphasize strengths; feel learners' fears but fortify their faith; see their anxieties but free their spirits; and recognize special needs but promote possibilities.

The Catechist Toolbox

# Social Media Guidelines

"Communications is a means of expressing the missionary vocation of the entire Church; today the social networks are one way to experience this call to discover the beauty of faith, the beauty of encountering Christ. In the area of communications too, we need a Church capable of bringing warmth and of stirring hearts."

(Pope Francis' Message for the 48th World Communications Day, 2014)

"The Church can use social media to encourage respect, dialogue, and honest relationships – in other words, 'true friendship'.

(Pope Benedict XVI Message for the 43rd World Communications Day, 2009)

# Visibility

- Social media is growing at a rapid pace.
- There are more Facebook accounts than Catholics worldwide.
- Careful consideration should be made to determine the strengths of each form (blogs, social networks, texting, etc.) to match the needs.

# Community

- Social Media should not be viewed as a substitute for face-to-face gatherings.
- Social Media can support communities in a myriad of ways.
- Should be well integrated into the communication strategy for the organization.
- A well-considered use of social media has the ultimate goal of encouraging "an authentic culture of encounter".

# Accountability

- Users of social media expect site administrators to allow dialogue, to provide information, and to acknowledge mistakes.
- Only use information from trusted sites or sites recommended by those whom they trust.

# Guidelines

- Define appropriate boundaries for communications.
- Include examples of Codes of Conduct.
- Define instructions on how to report, block, etc..
- Provide recommendations on how to deal with difficult "fans."
- Provide trusted sites for reference, and recommend that site administrators have a thorough knowledge of these sites.
- Remind site administrators they are posting for a broad audience.

# Establishing Social Media in the Parish or Diocese

- Site administrators should be adults.
- There should be at least 2 site administrators for each site.
- Do not use personal sites for diocesan or parish programs.
- Passwords and names of sites should be registered in a central location; and more than one adult should have access to this information.

# Rules of the Road

1. Abide by diocesan/parish guidelines.
2. Know that even personal communication by church personnel reflects the Church.
3. Write in the first person. Do not claim to represent the official position of the organization or teachings of the Church unless authorized to do so.
4. Identify yourself. Do not use pseudonyms or the name of the parish, program, etc. unless authorized to do so.
5. Abide by copyright, fair use, and IRS financial aid disclosure regulations.
6. Do not divulge confidential information about others. Nothing posted on the internet is private.
7. Don't cite others, post photos/videos of participants without their approval.
8. Practice Christian charity.

# Social Networking with Minors

- Obtain permission from a minor's parent or guardian before contacting or posting pictures, etc. on social media.

- Parent must have access to everything provided to their children via social media.

- Church personnel should be encouraged to save copies of conversations whenever possible, especially those that concern the personal sharing of a teen or young adult.

- All communications between Church personnel and minors must be open and transparent.

- Make everyone aware of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act.

# Personal Sites

- Personal sites of Church personnel should reflect Catholic values.

- We are witnessing to the faith through all our social networking, whether "public" or "private".

- Provide a disclaimer such as: "The views expressed on this site are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of my employer". (Use with caution if these views do not reflect Catholic values.)

# Social Media Resources

Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule (COPPA) http://www.ftc.gov/enforcement/rules/rulemaking-regulatory-reform-proceedings/childrens-online-privacy-protection-rule

USCCB Social Media Guidelines

http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/social-media-guidelines.cfm

Social Media Guidelines for Adults and Minors for the Diocese of Boise

http://www.catholicidaho.org/en/DiocesanOffices/ChildYouthAdultProtection/Documents/Social%20Media%20guidelines/Pastoral%20Discretion.%20Social%20Media%20%20Guidelines.March%2018.2013.pdf

# Reflection Questions

# INTERCONNECTEDNESS WITH THE GLOBAL CHURCH

- Implementation of Catechetical Documents
  - ❖ General Directory for Catechesis – 1971
  - ❖ National Directory for Catechesis – 1979 Revised in 2003
  - ❖ The Catechetical Documents – 1996

  - ❖ Revised Catholic Catechism – 1995
  - ❖ 2$^{nd}$ Edition of the Catholic Catechism - 2000
  - ❖ United States Catechism for Adults - 2006
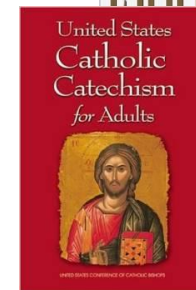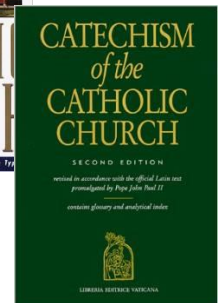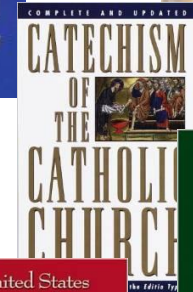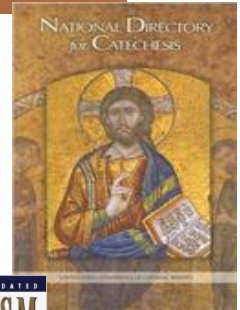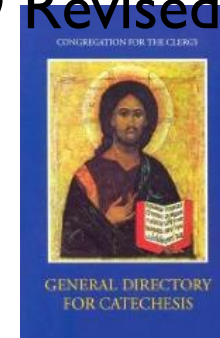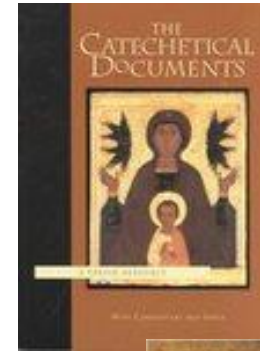
# Catechetical Focus Resources

- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – 1988

- Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry – 2002 (Update to A Vision For Catholic Youth Ministry – 1997)

- Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States - 1999
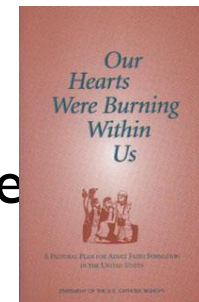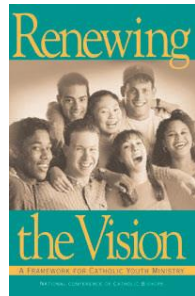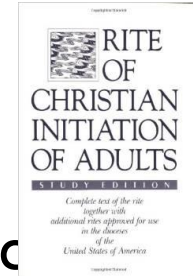
# CATECHIST FORMATION

- **<u>Echoes of Faith</u>**

  Catechetical Skills
  Theology
  Methodology

- **<u>Publisher Resources</u>**
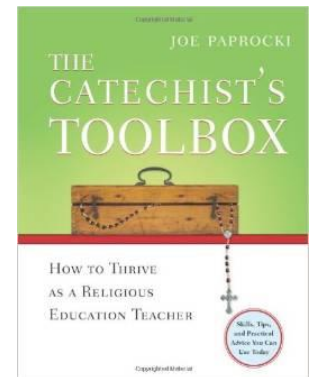  The Catechist Toolbox – Loyola Press
  www.catechist.com - online companion to Catechist Magazine
  www.faithfirst.com/teachers.html

- **<u>Other Opportunities</u>**
  Courses offered by & throughout the diocese
  - Servant School
  - Webinars
  - University of Dayton (VLCFF)
  - Retreats, Workshops, Conferences

# DIOCESE OF BOISE OFFICE OF CATECHESIS



Bottom row l-r:  Sr. Chela Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Catechesis; Cathy Wheaton, Administrative Assistant & Resource Center Coordinator

Top row l-r:  Santiago Robles, Coordinator of Adult & Family Catechesis; Jackie Hopper, Coordinator of Children's Catechesis; Chris Kreslins, Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Catechesis

*We're here to serve – and only a phone call or email away!*

# Basic Catechist Certification

5$^{th}$ Session Webinar

Thursday, January 8, 2015
7:00 pm MST, 6:00 pm PST

## Closing Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

O Master Weaver, you knit each of us in our mother's womb as a unique and precious image of You. You gather the threads of our lives and weave them as a beautiful tapestry. We gather before You with praise and honor.

We praise you, God, for the small child's innocent, unconnected statements. For the school children's thinking in vivid, concrete images. For the mature person's logical and abstract understandings. Guide us as we walk with each of them on the path toward full knowledge of you.

O Master Weaver, You lovingly gather the strands of human growth and ask us to help others weave them together into the fabric of a faithful life. We weave this tapestry from the gift of wisdom, concern and our human frailty, always trusting in you. From the diverse fabric of our shared journeys, may we all, children, disciples, and stewards, share a unity of hope and vision in proclaiming your Word.

Amen.