

10 Reasons why you should be a catechist

Used with permission from Our Sunday Visitor 9/7/2008

by Woodeene Koenig-Brucker

10. The best way to learn is to teach.

We are all called to continue to grow in our faith, and the best way to learn is to teach. When you instruct others, your own understanding increases.

9. Catechists tell the truth.

In today's chaotic world, people are searching for what is real and what isn't. Catechists speak the truth about God, faith and morals. The world needs the message of the Gospel and the way to true happiness.

8. Sharing the faith is an honor.

It's estimated that fewer than 1% of Catholics are catechists. If you've been approached to be a catechist, or if you feel the call, you are being asked to do something special for God, for the Church and for your fellow Catholics.

7. Your own faith will come alive.

By acting on what you believe, you become a participant in building up God's kingdom. After all, Jesus told us not to put our light under a bushel basket, and that means not hiding it behind a missalette either. As a catechist, you will discover that prayer, liturgy, and your own relationship with God will become more meaningful.

6. You become an active part of the most active part of your parish.

One criticism of Catholic churches is that they don't offer as much "fellowship" as some others. When you join the catechists in your parish, you enter into a community that will support you on your faith journey, pray for you and with you and encourage you in your Catholic way of life.

5. A catechist is a role model.

Ask young people who their role models or heroes are, and you'll get a litany of movie and sports stars. While looking good and being athletic are fine qualities, young people also need examples of ordinary people who do the right thing just because it is the right thing. As a catechist, you get to model the behaviors young people might not learn anywhere else.

4. You will be practicing stewardship.

Being a catechist is a way of being a good steward by giving a bit of your most precious resource— your time. You may not be able to donate as much money as you want, but we all have time and talent to share.

3. You show your own family that you value religious education.

Taking time out to teach the faith shows your own children, grandchildren, siblings and family members that you put a high priority on religious education. You may find that you are teaching them as much by your example as you are your students by your lesson plan.

2. It's fun.

Spending time with energetic, enthusiastic young people gives you a renewed energy and vitality. Kids remind adults to live and laugh in the moment and get enthused about things like holy days and stories of saints. Not to mention there's nothing like it when one of the kids "gets" one of the tenets of the faith, like the Real Presence.

1. It's what we are called to do.

Jesus said: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:19-20). By teaching the next generation about the good news, you are fulfilling your part of the great commandment. It may be the most important thing you will ever do.

Also by Woodeene Koenig-Brucker- 10 Commandments for the Environment: Pope Benedict XVI Speaks Out for Creation and Justice, published by Ave Maria Press