

Faith is a lifelong journey!



# Elementary Catechesis in Los Angeles: *Looking Back, Moving Forward*

**Archdiocese of Los Angeles**

**Dione L. Grillo**  
Consultant for  
Elementary Catechesis

**Archdiocese of Los Angeles**

Office of Religious Education  
3424 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2202

Phone: 213-637-7410  
Fax: 213-637-6574  
digrillo@la-archdiocese.org

Thank you and God bless you for taking the time to review this survey on your Elementary Catechetical program. These questions are designed to get you thinking not only about what you have done, but what you hope to accomplish or look into over the next Catechetical Year. The questions are sometimes humorous, oftentimes light-hearted but always specific in focus. Remember that Elementary Catechesis is centered on the children to whom we are called to serve and the families from which those children join us: the adults and other children in the household. For it is in striving to serve the entire household of faith, that we truly live out our vocation.



*Please look over this tool ahead of time and prepare your thoughts and insights for the meeting that will take place on Thursday, June 4, 2009, at your monthly DRE Meeting.*

“For various reasons today, rather more than in the past, the child demands full respect and help in its spiritual and human growth. This is also true in catechesis which must always be made available to Christian children. Those who have given life to children and have enriched them with the gift of Baptism have the duty continually to nourish it.” (GDC #177)

“School-age children should receive formal and systematic catechesis in a parish-based catechetical program, a Catholic school, or a program of home-based catechesis in which the content of the faith and the experience of Christian life is presented authentically and completely.” (NDC #48-E-2)

### **Successes**

Are there any programs or events you used this past year that worked particularly well that you feel would be of great value to others? Would you be willing to write an article including pictures, if possible, describing your success and tips and tricks on implementation? Would you consider taping (audio or video) any of your successes? We are especially interested in any post-sacrament programs.

### **Do-Overs**

Are there any programs or events you used this past year that didn't quite work but you are not ready to give up on them yet? Would you be willing to write an article on your challenges while seeking input from those who may have successfully used the program/event at their parish?

### **Never Again!**

Just kidding, but it might be useful to discuss programs or events that simply did not work for you. While we may not produce an article, it might be beneficial to touch bases with a parish who has been successful.

### **Looking Ahead**

Are there any things for which you need support from your Archdiocesan Elementary Consultant?

- New programs?
- Parent meetings?
- Textbook selection?
- Parental involvement ideas?
- Alternative Religious Education Models (i.e., summer, monthly, after-school program)?
- Summer catechesis ideas and assistance?

## **The “Digital Age”**

How have you implemented technology in your parish to either facilitate or enhance catechesis? This includes podcasts, video web casts, e-mail marketing programs, websites, etc. Would you be willing to write an article including pictures, if possible, describing your success and tips and tricks on implementation? Would you consider taping (audio or video) any of your successes?

## **Whole Community/Total Parish Catechesis/Lifelong Faith Formation**

Would you be interested in workshops or in-services related to WCC/Total Parish Catechesis/Lifelong Faith Formation? These workshops could include any or all of the following:

- What is it? Integrating the vision into your parish. Creating a vision for your parish.
- Is this just another “catechetical fad”?
- How can we integrate the vision with our classroom-model?
- How do we implement the vision? A step-by-step plan.
- Real-world examples, please? Where is this happening, and may I visit?
- Assemblies 101
  - What are they?
  - Involving whole families
  - Separate Tracks, Single Vision
  - Resources: buying versus using what you already have versus creating your own
- WCC, et. al. Resources – what’s available and how much is all of this going to cost?

## **Liturgical Year Workshops**

How interested are you in planning workshops/in-services for the following:

- Advent & Christmas
- Lent & Easter
- Ordinary Time

## **Retreats with children and parents/guardians**

How interested are you in planning workshops/in-services for the following:

- Sacramental Preparation
- Fun and faith

## **Catechist Meetings & Retreats**

How interested are you in planning workshops/in-services for the following:

- Beginning of the Year
- End of the Year – Review & Reflect - Now Rest!

- Liturgical Year
- Crash Course for new catechists (until they can take Specialization, of course!)

### **Safeguard the Children**

- Questions, comments, concerns?

### **Would you be interested in...?**

- A monthly e-zine (electronic “magazine”) on Elementary Catechesis with information spotlights on:
  - Family Catechesis
  - Adult Faith Formation tips and techniques to use with catechists and parents
  - Children’s Initiation
  - Best Practices (including pictures, podcasts, and video web casts when available)
  - Whole Community Catechesis/Total Parish Catechesis tips and techniques
  - Ask a Master Catechist
  - Special Needs Catechesis
  - And whatever else we can think/dream/envision!!

**What do you need...besides more volunteers, a larger budget, and more room for storage?**

**What is going on in your parish community that you want to let others know about? Success stories? How you’ve met challenges that others may be facing?**

**Thank you for your time and prayerful attention to this survey. Bring your answers (and questions) to our discussion in June! We will have about 30 minutes to review the survey, and I will plan a follow-up with your Regional Coordinator for 2009-2010. See you then.**