

# CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

“MISSIONARY DISCIPLES IN THE  
VINEYARD OF THE LORD”

---

CATECHISTS ARE  
CALLED TO BE PART OF  
THE COMMUNITY  
OF MISSIONARY  
DISCIPLES

---



# PRAYER FOR CATECHETICAL SUNDAY



Good and gracious God,

You call us to work in your vineyard  
so that others may know of your love and care for them.

Strengthen us as we set out as missionary disciples  
so that we may be faithful messengers of your good news.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

Amen.



# CATECHISTS ARE CALLED TO BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

---

- The Church which “goes forth” is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 24)
- “In all the baptized, from first to last, the sanctifying power of the Spirit is at work, impelling us to evangelization. The people of God is holy thanks to this anointing, which makes it infallible in credendo. This means that it does not err in faith, even though it may not find words to explain that faith. The Spirit guides it in truth and leads it to salvation. As part of his mysterious love for humanity, God furnishes the totality of the faithful with an instinct of faith – *sensus fidei* – which helps them to discern what is truly of God. The presence of the Spirit gives Christians a certain connaturality with divine realities, and a wisdom which enables them to grasp those realities intuitively, even when they lack the wherewithal to give them precise expression.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 119)

# CATECHISTS ARE CALLED TO BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

---

- “In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. *Mt* 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 120)
- “...Jesus: we no longer say that we are “disciples” and “missionaries”, but rather that we are always “missionary disciples”. If we are not convinced, let us look at those first disciples, who, immediately after encountering the gaze of Jesus, went forth to proclaim him joyfully: “We have found the Messiah!” (*Jn* 1:41). The Samaritan woman became a missionary immediately after speaking with Jesus and many Samaritans come to believe in him “because of the woman’s testimony” (*Jn* 4:39). So too, Saint Paul, after his encounter with Jesus Christ, “immediately proclaimed Jesus” (*Acts* 9:20; cf. 22:6-21). So what are we waiting for?” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 120)

## FOR YOUR REFLECTION...

---

- Q. “In virtue of our baptism all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples. (cf. *Mt 28:19*)” (*EG, 120*). How are you a missionary disciple in your context: home, parish, work, community?
- Q. Read the passages from scripture: *Jn 1:41*; *Jn 4:39*; *Acts 9:20*. How is it that we are called not to be “disciples and missionaries” but rather “missionary disciples”? What does it mean to be a “missionary disciple”?
- Q. In your work as a missionary disciple, how do you discern what is truly of God?

“ALL OF US NEED TO GROW IN CHRIST.”

# READINGS OF THE DAY

---

---

## FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 18.25-28

A reading from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord:

“You object, O House of Israel!

You say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’

Hear now, O house of Israel:

Is my way unfair?

Is it not your ways that are unfair?

When the righteous person turns away from their righteousness  
and commits iniquity,

they shall die for it;

For the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

Again, when the wicked person turns away

from the wickedness they have committed

and does what is lawful and right,

they shall save their life.

Because that person considered and turned away

from all the transgressions that they have committed,

they shall surely live;

they shall not die.”

The word of the Lord.

---

---

**FOR YOUR REFLECTION**

Q. How might iniquities act as a hindrance to the process of evangelization?

Q. In your role as a catechist, how might you positively address these concerns?

Q. As a catechist, what is the implication of your own ongoing conversion?

How is this evident in your life?

**“THE TRANSLATION OF ‘CATECHIST’ IN SOME LANGUAGES IS ‘TO GRAB A HAND AND WALK ALONG WITH.’... CATECHISTS HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING COMPANIONS... GOD IS WITHIN THOSE WHO SERVE; GOD IS ALREADY PRESENT IN THEIR LIVES.”**



**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
**PSALM 25.4-5A, 6+7B, 8-9 (R.6)**

R. Lord, be mindful of your mercy.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation. R.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
According to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! R.

Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way. R.



**FOR YOUR REFLECTION**

Q. Can you name an experience you have had when you have felt led by God?

Q. As a catechist, what are some of the ways that you discern God's ways in your own life?

Q. How might the discernment of God's ways also be a communal process? Could you provide an example?

**“AT THE VERY HEART OF THE GOSPEL IS LIFE IN COMMUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHERS.”**

---

---

## SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2.1-11

THE SHORTER VERSION (1-5) ENDS AT THE ASTERISK.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters:  
If there is any encouragement in Christ,  
any consolation from love,  
and sharing in the Spirit,  
any compassion and sympathy,  
then make my joy complete:  
be of the same mind,  
having the same love,  
being in full accord and of one mind.  
Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,  
but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.  
Let each of you look not to your own interests,  
but to the interests of others.  
Let the same mind be in you  
that was in Christ Jesus,\*  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be  
exploited,

but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

---

---

**FOR YOUR REFLECTION**

- Q. What are some of the categories that are commonly used to divide members of a faith community?
- Q. What might be some of the ways to break down barriers within a faith community?
- Q. What role does service to others play within the process of evangelization?

**“INDEED, ANYONE WHO HAS TRULY EXPERIENCED GOD’S SAVING LOVE DOES NOT NEED MUCH TIME OR LENGTHY TRAINING TO GO OUT AND PROCLAIM THAT LOVE.”**

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21.28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

“What do you think?

A man had two sons;

he went to the first and said,

‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’

He answered, ‘I will not’;

but later he changed his mind and went.

The father went to the second and said the same;

and he answered, ‘I am going, sir’;

but he did not go.

Which of the two did the will of his father?”

They said, “The first.”

Jesus said to them,

“Truly I tell you,

the tax collectors and the prostitutes

are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

For John came to you in the way of righteousness

and you did not believe him,

but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him;

and even after you saw it,

you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

---

---

**FOR YOUR REFLECTION**

Q. What are some of the reasons you are reluctant to go out into the “vineyard”?

Q. How can you help others to become more aware that their actions are often unknowingly in harmony with the message of the Gospel?

**“MODERN MAN LISTENS MORE WILLINGLY TO WITNESSES THAN TO TEACHERS,  
AND IF HE DOES LISTEN TO TEACHERS, IT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE WITNESSES.”**

# CLOSING

---

---

## FOR YOUR REFLECTION

As a catechist, I am called to be a missionary disciple: to facilitate encounters with Christ, accompany others, and live in solidarity with the poor and marginalized. What is one concrete thing I can do to deepen my understanding of what it means to be a missionary disciple in my day-to-day life?

# COPYRIGHT

---

---

## COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

The Lectionary texts contained herein are from the *Lectionary, Sundays and Solemnities* of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, copyright © Concacan Inc., 1992, 2009. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

This revised edition of the *Lectionary, Sundays and Solemnities* follows the *Ordo Lectionum Missae, editio typica altera*, Typis Polyglottis Vaticanus, 1981.

The Scripture quotations contained herein are based on the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Adapted and used by permission. All rights reserved.