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and
THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



The Catechetical Institute is an outreach of Franciscan University of Steubenville, which seeks to form those who form others – priests, deacons, parents, parish and school leaders, teachers, catechists, and teams. We offer formation in evangelization, catechesis, mentorship, spiritual guidance, and team building, delivered via customizable offerings: online workshops and live events. Visit FranciscanAtHome.com



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Founded by the Augustinians of the Assumption 150 years ago, Bayard stands among the largest publishers of religious materials worldwide. In the US, Bayard offers a large range of resources under imprints that include the Pflaum Publishing Group, Twenty-Third Publications, Creative Communications, alongside renowned publications like *Living with Christ* and *Living Faith*.



RCL Benziger enriches the Catholic community by providing engaging, high-quality programs, resources, and services rooted in the rich and diverse tradition of the Catholic faith. We support the Church's mission to form disciples by meeting the needs of parishes and schools.



As the largest Catholic publisher in the English language, OSV is a non-profit Catholic company that strives to champion the Catholic Church through innovative and faithful catechetical programs, trade books, periodicals, and other resources. Our 1st through 8th grade parish and school religion series, *Alive in Christ: Discovering and Sharing the Kerygma*, offers a comprehensive overview of the fundamentals of Catholic teaching and includes free online home session plans, family gathered sessions, adaptations for diverse learners and active learning approaches for every lesson. Scan the QR code to order a free sample of *Alive in Christ* today!



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What is the Convocation of the Institute on the Catechism?

The Institute on the Catechism Convocation took place June 20 – 24, 2024 on the campus of the Conference Center of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois. Participants included bishops from around the country from both the Latin Church and Eastern Churches, diocesan directors of catechesis and school superintendents, publishers of catechetical texts, and those associated with allied organizations, especially those through which catechists are formed.

The choice of gathering on holy ground was intentional. A prayerful atmosphere set the tone for participants as they learned and dialogued about an evangelizing catechesis through the sessions, over meals and while enjoying the beauty of USML.



Upcoming Institute Activities

Catechesis in a Digital Age

with Sr. Nancy Usselmann, FSP
and Dr. Joseph White

October 1, 2024, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

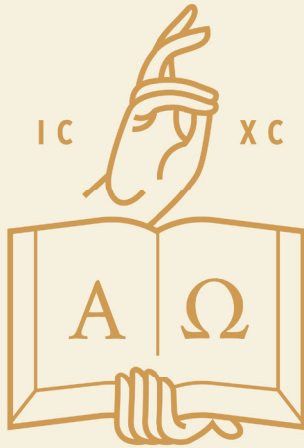
*Catholic University of America
In-person and Live-streamed*

Institute Convocation

June 30 - July 2, 2025

*Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois*

Registration for both events:
www.EvangelizingCatechesis.com



INSTITUTE — on the — CATECHISM

**Institute on the Convocation
Convocation 2024**

June 17 – 20, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF
ST MARY OF THE LAKE
MUNDELEIN, IL



What is Evangelizing Catechesis?

At the heart of the Church's mission to all people, an evangelizing catechesis seeks to deepen a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit: ¹ It proclaims the core message of the Gospel, the kerygma; ² It accompanies people to a response of faith and conversion to Christ; ³ It provides a systematic exposition of God's revelation within the communion of the Catholic Church; ⁴ and It sends out missionary disciples as witnesses to the good news of salvation ⁵ who promote a new vision of life, of humanity, of justice, and of human fraternity. ⁶

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, April 27, 2021 ¹ The Directory for Catechesis (DC) offers a more expanded description in paragraphs 55 and 56. ² Cf. DC, 2: The kerygma "manifests the action of the Holy Spirit, who communicates God's saving love in Jesus Christ and continues to give himself so that every human being may have the fullness of life." ³ Cf. DC, 3: The process of accompaniment leads to an internalizing of the Gospel which "involves the whole person in his unique experience of life." ⁴ Cf. DC, 4: "The act of faith is born from the love that desires an ever-increasing knowledge of the Lord Jesus, living in the Church." ⁵ Cf. DC, 4: "All believers are active participants in the catechetical initiative...and because of this are called to become authentic missionary disciples." ⁶ Cf. DC, 60: "Since 'the kerygma has a clear social content'...the efficacy of catechesis is visible not only through the direct proclamation of the Lord's Paschal mystery, but also through its revelation of a new vision of life, of humanity, of justice, of social existen

ATTENDEES

Bishops

16

Diocesan Directors
of Catechesis

74

Superintendents

13

Publishers and their staff

31

Members of allied
organizations

13

Institute team, consultants
and speakers

31

Dioceses and eparchies
represented

51

Total
Participants

178

IMPORTANT THEMES OF THE CONVOCATION

- National dialogue, great adventure
- Building a Culture of Encounter with the Lord
- Kerygma
- Accompaniment
- Community
- Urgency
- No one size fits all



His Eminence, Blase Cardinal Cupich is pictured with the bishops and priests who concelebrated the Opening Mass with him.

SUMMARY OF CONVOCATION

Theme:

Evangelizing Catechesis:
From Information to
Transformation

Plenary Presenters:

Archbishop Rene Fisichella
Bishop Frank Caggiano
Petroc Willey

Focus Talk Presenters:

Bishop François Elias Beyrouti
Peter Ductrám
Kately Javier
Jem Sullivan
Joseph White
Shawn Welch

Emcee

Ms. Julianne Stanz

Core team members

Peter Ductrám
Kately Javier
Ken Ogorek
Sr. Johanna Paruch, FSGM, PhD
Scott R. Sollom

Institute Staff

David Spesia
Fr. Daniel J. Mahan
Alissa Thorell
Christopher Ragusa
Andrew Montanaro
Zachary Keith



BISHOP CAGGIANO'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Bishop Frank Caggiano gave the opening plenary address at the Institute on the Catechism Convocation, in which he unpacked the definition of ‘evangelizing catechesis.’

He pointed to the essence of evangelizing catechesis as the encounter with Christ. He described this encounter as the immersion into the mystery of the love of God, made known to us by the Word made flesh. The one who meets Christ also perceives in God’s embrace his or her own loveliness, which exists despite one’s failures. The proclamation of the gospel is good news indeed.

Certain factors make the proclamation of this good news fall on deaf ears though. Many do not

believe that they need a savior. Also, Christianity has been experienced by many, not as an encounter with the Lord who loves us, but merely as a moral code among many others. In the Church, adults have assumed that catechesis is mainly for children.

Bishop Caggiano emphasized that an evangelizing catechesis helps to address these challenges by engaging the whole person—the mind, the heart, and the will with truth, goodness, and beauty. This catechesis must continue throughout one’s life so that the encounter with Christ is ever renewed and deepened.

This encounter, though personal, is not private. Drawing from his own experience, Bishop Caggiano observed that the sum total of the

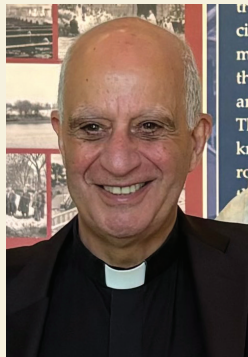
witnesses and community form an “incubator of faith.” Throughout his address, he referred to this idea stating that both the natural family and the parish community must be incubators of faith, wherein the members of the family and the ecclesial community accompany one another.

The task of evangelizing catechesis is an adventure, where we together are in a situation like that of the Church at her beginning. The success of the early Church required heroic holiness of life and a community that is a family of families centered around the altar of the Holy Eucharist. The success of the catechetical apostolate today will require no less.

PARTICIPATION OF

ARCHBISHOP FISICHELLA

Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery on Evangelization, Archbishop Rino Fisichella spoke on the topic of “Evangelizing Catechesis and a Culture of Encounter.” He noted his topic was two-fold: evangelizing catechesis, itself, and the way that a true encounter with Jesus Christ is essential to such a catechesis. The Archbishop observed that the *Directory for Catechesis* discusses ‘evangelizing catechesis’ as ‘kerygmatic catechesis.’ Indeed, “Catechesis, which cannot always be distinguished from the first proclamation, is called to be in the first place a proclamation of the faith [kerygma]...The proclamation can therefore no longer be considered simply the first stage of faith, preliminary to catechesis, but rather the essential dimension of every moment of catechesis.” (DC 57)



Archbishop Fisichella explained that the encounter with Jesus is central to such an evangelizing catechesis because the proclamation that “the kingdom of God is at hand” must always precede the exhortation to “repent!” (Mk 1:15; cf. DC 59) Our free repentance and change of life is called forth as a response to God’s saving love drawing near. Abp. Fisichella then observed the way that Scripture itself is a record of encounter between God and His people—culminating in the Incarnation. He then used two episodes from the Gospels to illuminate fruitful and failed encounters: the calling of St. Peter and that of the Rich Young Man. The difference in these encounters, he suggested, was Peter’s acknowledgment of his sinfulness and need for Christ (in contrast to the Rich Young Man’s professed righteousness). This allowed Peter to respond with joy and enthusiasm to being invited into Jesus’s life and in relation to Him.

Handbook on the Catechetical Accompaniment Process

The publication of the Handbook on the Catechetical Accompaniment Process (CAP) is an historic moment in the work of the Institute on the Catechism. The Handbook on the CAP is a resource both for diocesan officials as well as for guiding the collaborative work of the Catholic catechetical publishing community and the Institute’s Catechetical Accompaniment Process. The Handbook on the CAP replaces the former elementary level protocol and sacramental preparation protocols that were used to evaluate the complete presentation of the faith in catechetical materials for children from kindergarten through eighth grade as well as for those in sacramental preparation. It provides interior life, behavioral, and cognitive goals drawn from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* that must be met for a truly evangelizing catechesis that supports and forms catechists, parents, and families as well as evangelizes and catechizes students. The student goals themselves are organized by developmental levels drawn from the *Directory for Catechesis*: early childhood, middle childhood, and pre-adolescence.

This new presentation has important consequences not only for publishers but also diocesan officials. It enables diocesan officials to more effectively evaluate the total Christian formation set out in different curricula, catechetical programs and materials, and sacramental preparation according to the vision of the *Directory* (as an ‘evangelizing catechesis’) for all those involved in catechesis (catechists, families, students, etc.). In this way, the Handbook should be a helpful resource to diocesan officials for

the implementation of the *Directory* in their own ministries. Secondly and most proximately, the Handbook serves as a guide for the Catechetical Accompaniment Process (CAP), which replaces the Conformity Review Process, and brings highly skilled Catechetical Consultants who have been vetted and approved by the bishops of the Subcommittee on the Catechism to collaborate with publishing staff in the development of excellent evangelizing catechetical resources. The Catechetical Consultants evaluate materials and resources for authenticity and completeness, according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the relevant goals set forth in the Handbook

and drawn from the *Directory*. They collaborate with the publishing staff from the beginning of the project to ensure that resources present the truths of the faith and announce the joy of the Gospel.

The Handbook represents an important and necessary expansion of the audiences and content of evangelizing catechesis that is expected to be present in catechetical resources and faith formation programs. It also provides expert guidance on important topics flowing from the *Directory for Catechesis*, such as catechesis and inculturation, digital culture, persons with disabilities, the broader ecclesial community, faith and reason, and art and beauty. The Doctrinal Guidance section of the Handbook also includes clarifying theological and catechetical definitions that can serve for a common language of the faith and explanation for important topics. As a resource, the Handbook should serve as an aid to all those working for an evangelizing catechesis.

