



Instructional Methods For Children & Youth



Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
Department of Formation & Mission



Today's Conversations ~

- **Enlivening the Classroom Learning Environment**
 - **Communicating with Families / Parental Involvement**
 - **Utilizing Textbooks & Other Resources**
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Enlivening the Classroom Learning Environment

- **Methods for Early Childhood to Lower Elementary**
 - **Methods for Upper Elementary & Middle School**
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Methods for Lower Elementary & Early Childhood

1. "Round-robin" Scripture Reading
2. Time to Build!
3. Litany of Students & Saints
4. Classroom Management Tools
 - Attendance tips
 - 'Do As I Do' song
 - Worksheets
 - Reinforce the Learning
 - Stand & Shout!



Methods for Upper Elementary & Middle School

1. Prayer, Scripture Reading / Sunday Readings
 2. Rapping Litany of Students & Saints
 3. Classroom Management Tools
 - Small groups
 - Worksheets
 - Reinforce the Learning:
 - “Minute-Stick It!
 - “Stand & Point”
 - Minute Madness!
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Communicating with Families / Parental Involvement

- **Prior to Start of year:**
 - RE calendar and Class calendar of lessons ; Parent handbook
 - Safe-environment training of catechists
 - Mail postcards to students or prepare them to hand out on first day of class
 - Begin planning for a combined , mid-year class activity with the class before or after your grade-level.
- **Start of year**
 - Kick off new year of learning with family event
 - Focus: build relationships, build routine
 - Greetings and encouragements: Praise, praise, and more praise
 - Take classroom group picture



Communicating with Families / Parental Involvement

- **Mid-year**
 - Vary learning environment: Fall / spring outside, church tour
 - Unit reviews: NO paper/pencil tests! Play games instead.
 - Invite guest speakers into the classroom
 - Take pictures!
- **End of year**
 - Celebration of Families: potluck breakfast
 - Spiritual bouquets for parent
 - Students sing classroom Litany songs
 - Distribute new registration packets
 - Take more pictures!



Utilizing Textbooks

The Textbook - Your friend!

- Supports teaching; does not suppress it
- Serves as foundation for supplementary creative methods
- Crucial tool for the untrained catechist

Advantages of using one textbook program:

- Provides consistency of message
- consistency of vocabulary
- consistency of timeline for learning within liturgical year
- can “spiral”
- provides consistency of parental support
- provides consistency of supplementary materials

Utilizing Other Resources

Resources for you are also resources for our families

Textbook publisher's website

- "Be My Disciples" <http://www.bemydisciples.com/>
 - chapter reviews & games
 - tips for students needing support
 - Liturgical seasons & Holy Days
 - "Our Catholic Heritage"<http://www.bemydisciples.com/och-home>
- "Sunday Connection" by Loyola Press: online Lectionary Sunday Readings for grade levels and for families
<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>



Utilizing Other Resources

Your surrounding faith community:

- parents / guardians & grandparents
 - clergy, seminarians, religious sisters / brothers
 - parish lay ministers
 - parishioners; esp. active older adults
 - neighboring parishes, “sister” parishes
 - other faiths for interreligious dialogue; outreach activities
 - fellow teachers & your own spouse / family
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Evangelii Gaudium

(The Joy of the Gospel)

Apostolic Exhortation 2013, Pope Francis

- ❖ “To evangelize is to make the kingdom of God present in our world.”
- ❖ “Evangelization is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus. Instead of seeming to impose new obligations, they should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet.”
- ❖ “It is impossible to persevere in a fervent evangelization unless we are convinced from personal experience that it is not the same thing to have known Jesus as not to have known him...”
- ❖ “The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him.
 - ❖ What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved,
 - ❖ to point him out, to make him known?”
- ❖ “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ... No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her...”

A Catechist's Prayer

Catechetical Sunday 2017



**Father of all families,
you have called me to serve
the family in truth and love
as a catechist.**

**May I be faithful to this call,
rooted in your Word,
and open to the gifts
of the Holy Spirit.**

**May I use these gifts,
especially the gifts of faith,
hope, and love, to serve the
family as a witness to you,
who are love and life and the
source and destiny
of all families.**

**Let your Spirit enlighten my mind
and strengthen my heart
so that I can be a path of Christ's
love to families,
especially those in need,
the homebound and aged,
the disabled and disheartened.
Through the intercession
of Mary and Joseph,
I pray for the Church,
the Bride of Christ,
whose mission to build a
civilization of love
passes through the family.
Amen.**