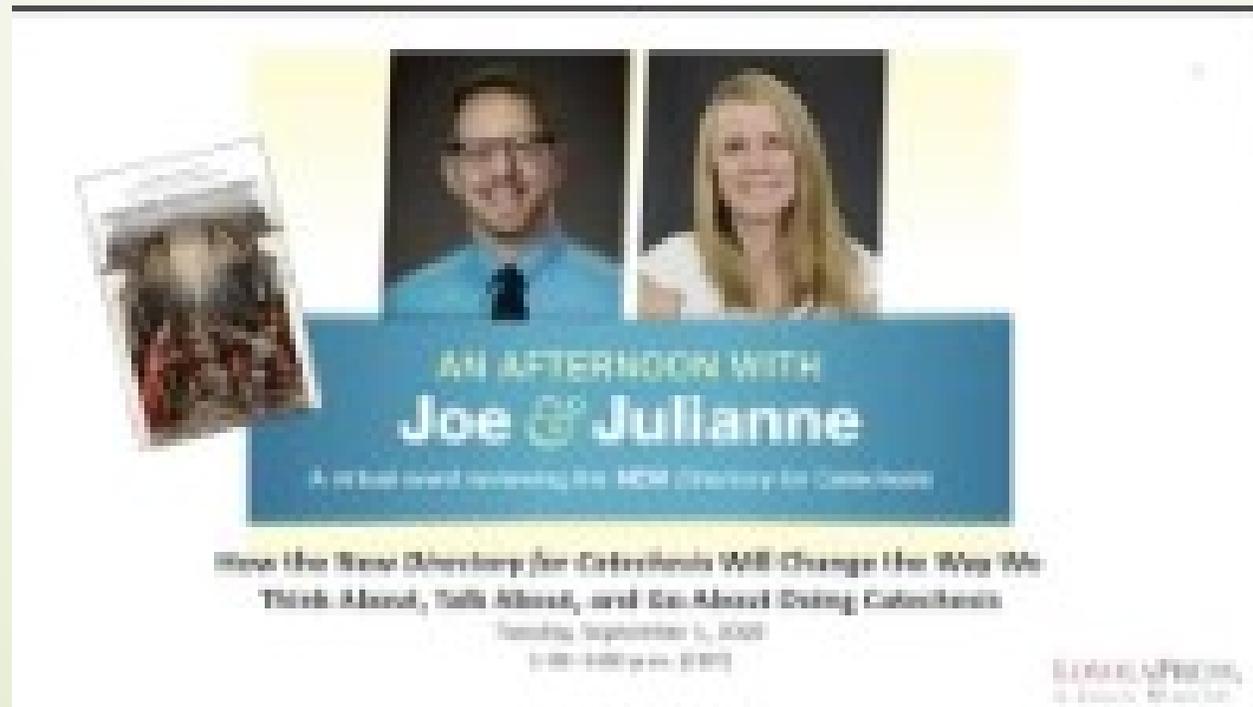




# The New Directory for Catechesis

Direction and Principles of Catechesis in Contemporary times

Watch the New Directory for Catechesis webinar  
With Joe Paprocki and Julianne Stanz from Loyola Press  
for an excellent overview of the New Directory



## For more information:



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214.379.2848



# Prayer

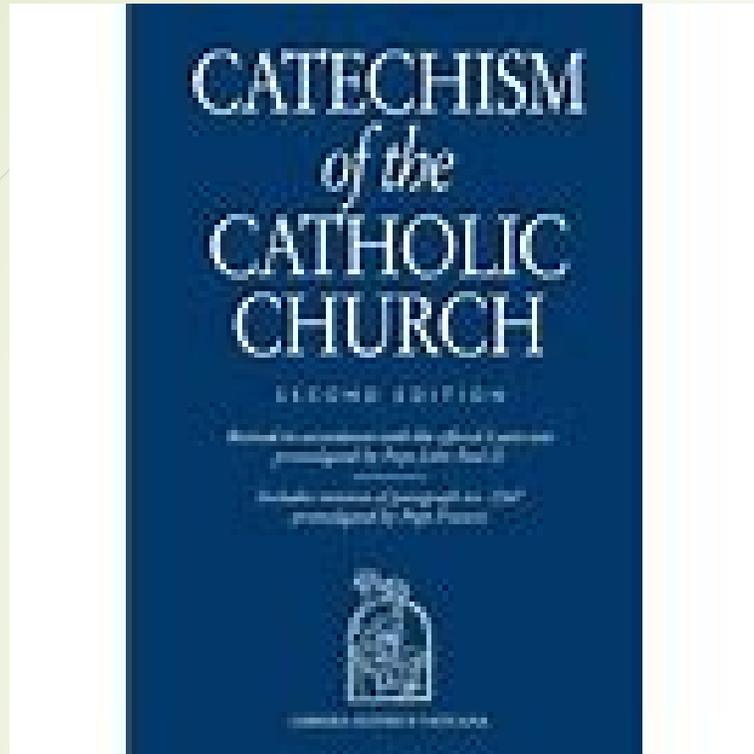
(Adapted from the Catechist's Prayer US Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Loving Father, pour forth your Holy Spirit upon us that we may be good catechists of your Word, your Son, Jesus Christ.

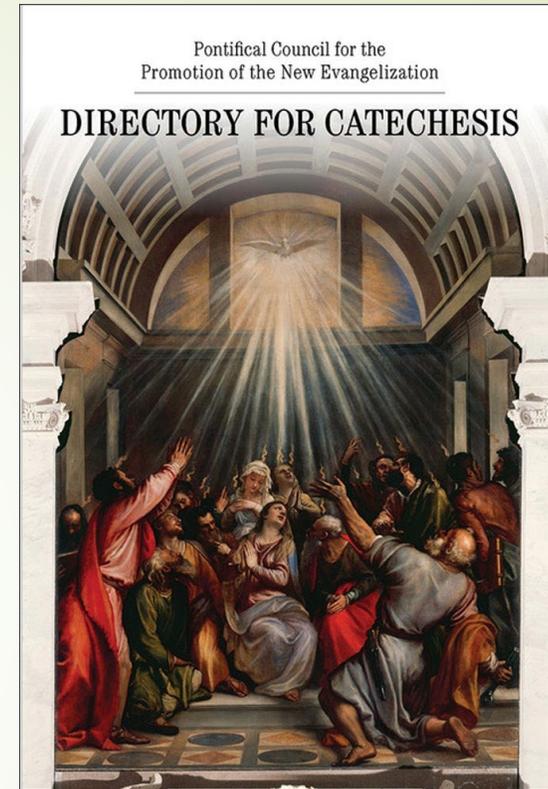
Render our minds and hearts so open, receptive and responsive to your Holy Spirit that, like Mary, we might become a living instrument of your Word to others. Help us to be a faithful witness to Gospel life so that your Church may become ever more alive.

Let the fire of your love so enkindle our hearts that we may be instruments of drawing others to love you in the Church of your Son.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, and through the intercession of Our Lady of Peace, and Saints Damien and Marianne of Moloka'i.  
Amen.



What we Believe

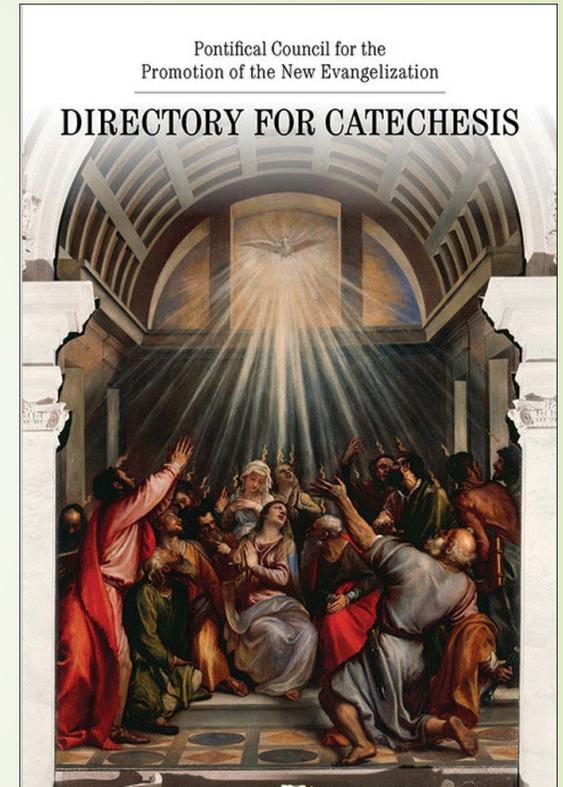


How we teach  
what we believe

Promulgated from the Vatican, on March 23, 2020, the liturgical memorial of St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, evangelist and catechist.

The English version of the new Directory for Catechesis was published in July 2020, by the USCCB (278 pages).

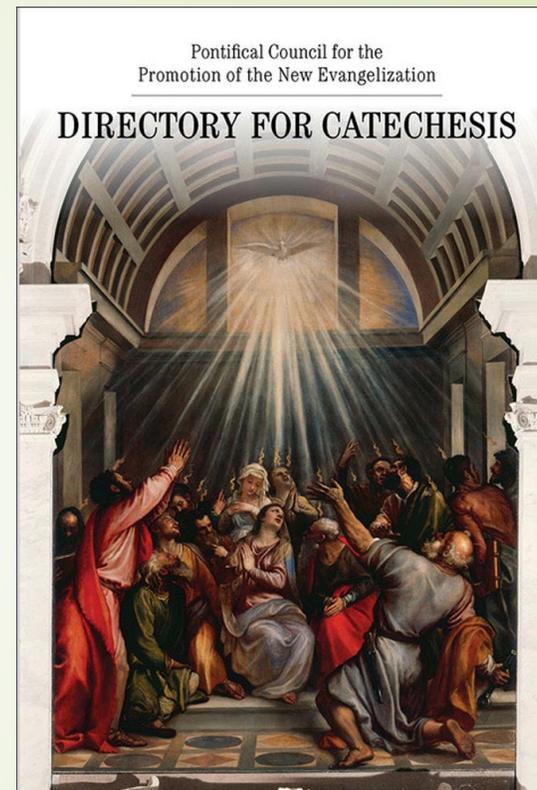
Issued under the auspices of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. The previous General Directory for Catechesis (1997) and the General Catechetical Directory (1971) were issued by the Congregation for the Clergy.



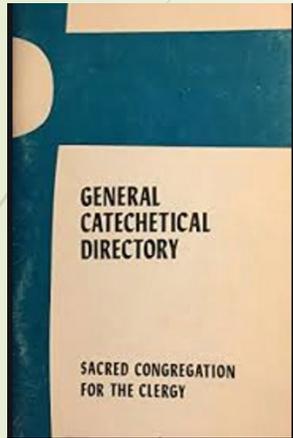
The new directory comes from the Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. This is not just bureaucratic shuffling. Pope Francis wants to...

*...mark out the path that admits no excuses in the daily commitment of believers to evangelization... There are no alibies that can take the focus away from a responsibility that belongs to every single believer and the whole church. The close connection between evangelization and catechesis therefore becomes the distinctive feature of the Directory. (Directory for Catechesis, preface)*

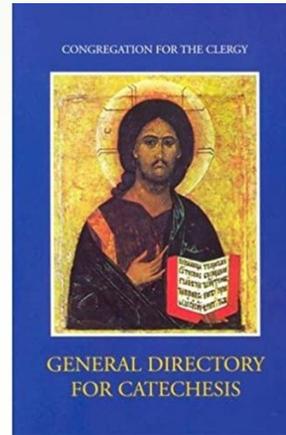
*The implication is that every Catholic has the mission to announce the good news!*



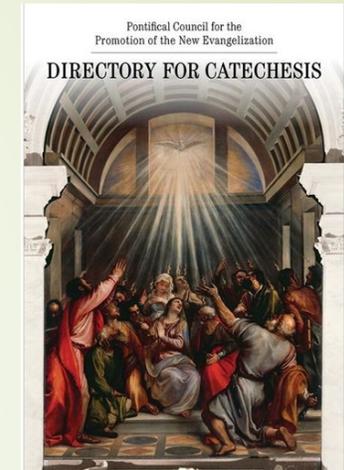
The New **Directory for Catechesis**, like its predecessors, is in response to major events and trends in the Church and the world so as to keep the Gospel of Jesus Christ relevant.



**1971:** General Catechetical Directory was created in an effort to **systematize the teachings of the Second Vatican Council** for catechesis.



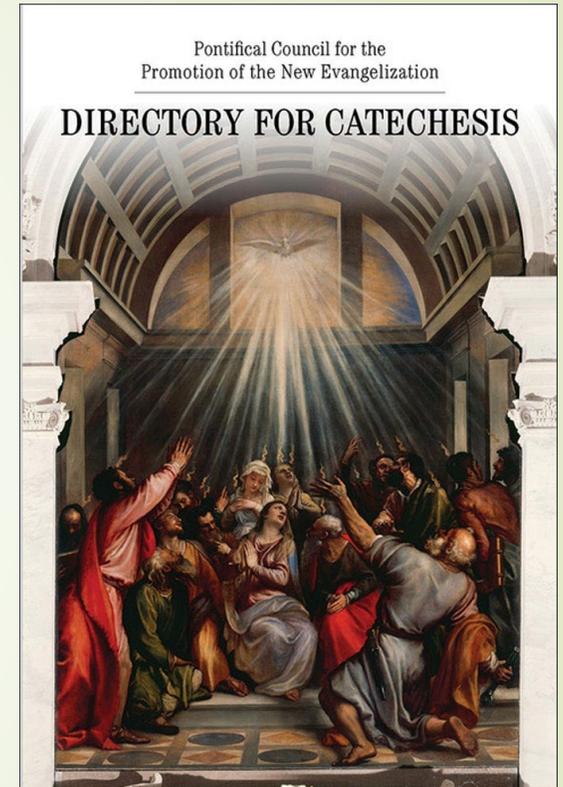
**1997:** General Directory for Catechesis was created in response to the **publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1992)**.



**2020:** Directory for Catechesis was created in response to the **New Evangelization, disaffiliation, globalization, digital culture**.

The New **Directory for Catechesis** is structured into three parts, each with four chapters:

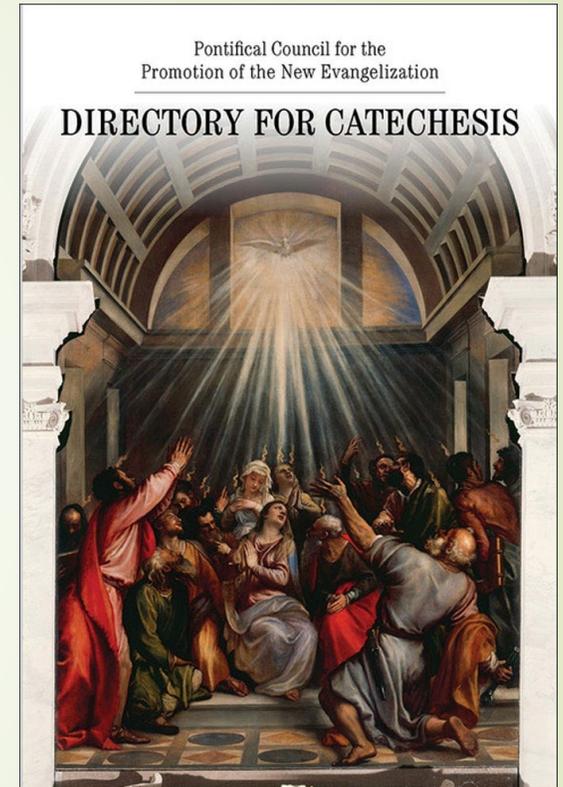
- **Part One:** Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization
- **Part Two:** The Process of Catechesis
- **Part Three:** Catechesis in the particular Churches



The distinctive feature of this Directory is the close connection between evangelization and catechesis.

Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* provides the inspiration for the new Directory.

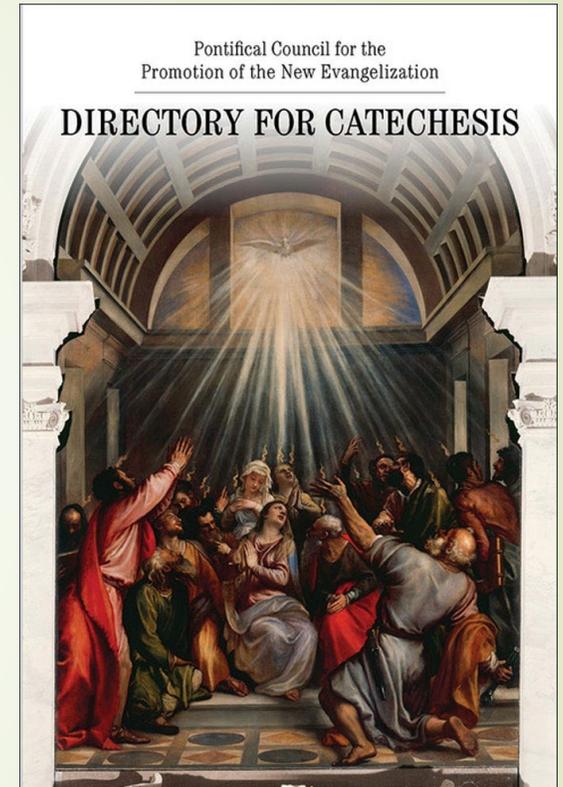
The goal of the Directory is to “present the intimate connection between the announcement of the kerygma and its maturation.” (Preface)



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### Introduction and Chapter One: Revelation and its Transmission (1-54)

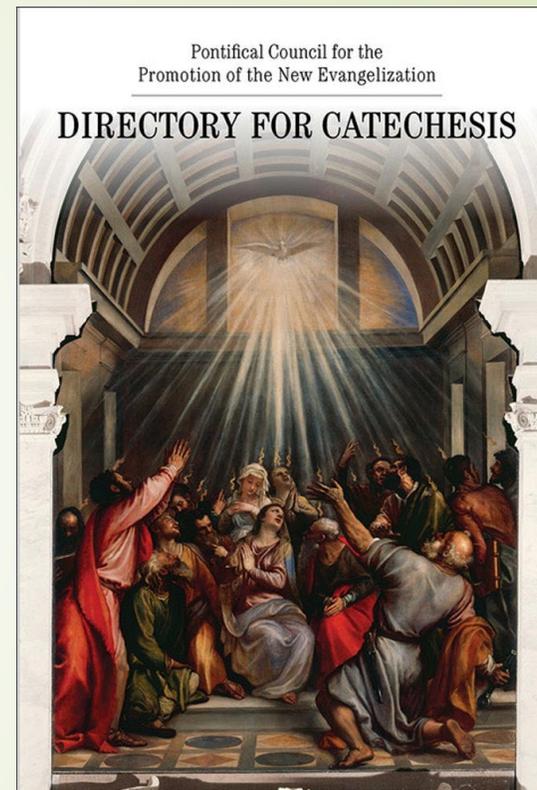
- **The Catechumenal Model** – “...catechesis should be inspired by the catechumenal model.” (Introduction)
- **Accompaniment** – “...intimate communion with Christ...should be brought about through a process of accompaniment.” (Introduction)
- **Divine Pedagogy** – “...God has revealed himself.” (13)



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### Chapter One: Revelation and its Transmission (11-54)

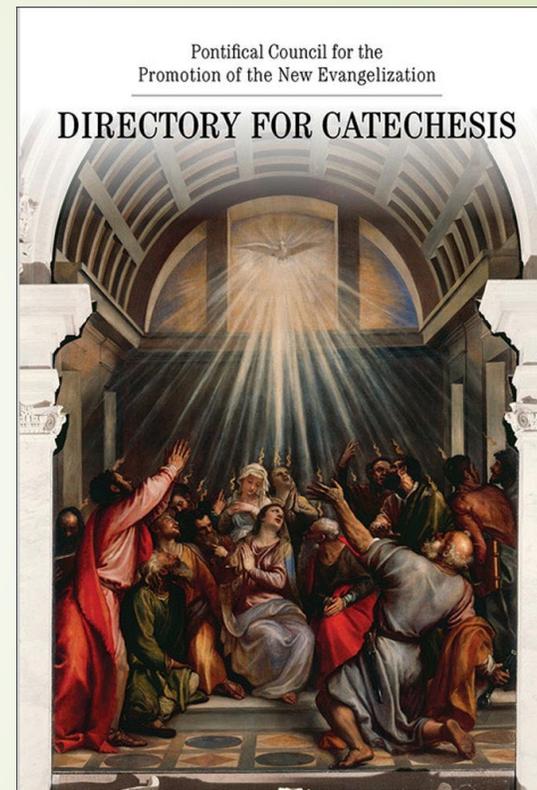
- **The Disquiet of the heart**– “Every person, prompted by the disquiet that dwells within his heart...” (17)
- **Adherence to the person of Jesus** – “sincere adherence to his person...” (18)
- **Beyond delivery of a Doctrine** – “Evangelizing is not, in the first place, the delivery of a doctrine...” (29)



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### Chapter One: Revelation and its Transmission (11-54)

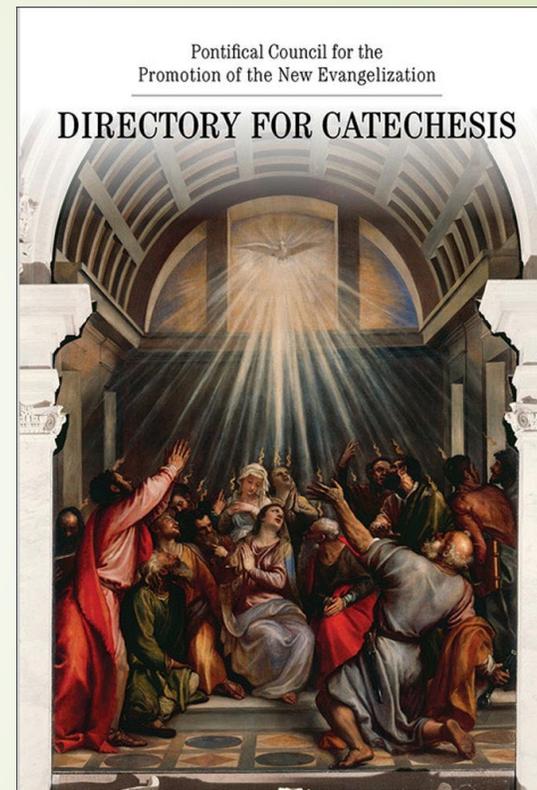
- **Aim of Evangelization** – “the fulfillment of human life.” (30)
- **What's “New” About the New Evangelization?** – “ever more open to the renewing action of the Spirit. (39)
- **Lead with Attitude of Joy**– “...[Christians] should appear as people who wish to share their joy...” (41)



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### Chapter One: Revelation and its Transmission (11-54)

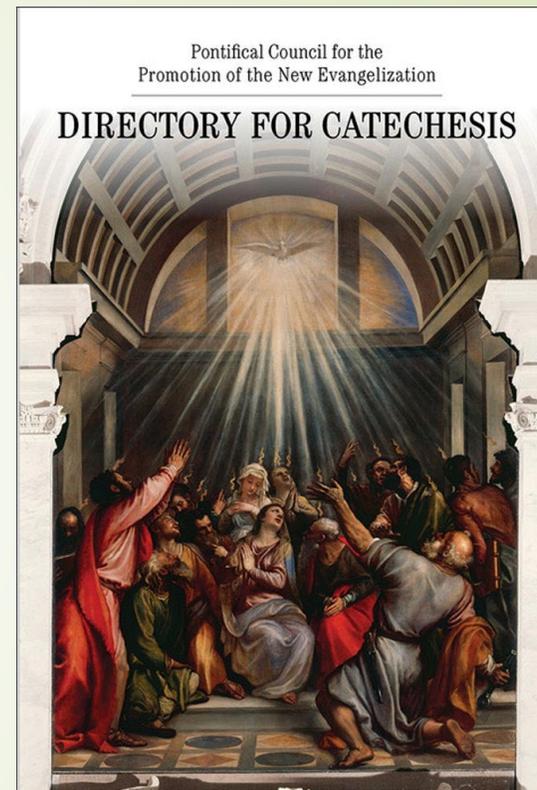
- **The Accents of Catechesis** “...a missionary going forth... catechesis under the sign of mercy ...catechesis as a laboratory of dialogue.” (48-54)
- **A Permanent State of Mission** – “...place herself in a permanent state of mission.... (49)
- **A Sign of God's Mercy**– “...[mercy] is catechesis in action” (51)



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### Chapter Two: The Identity of Catechesis (55-109)

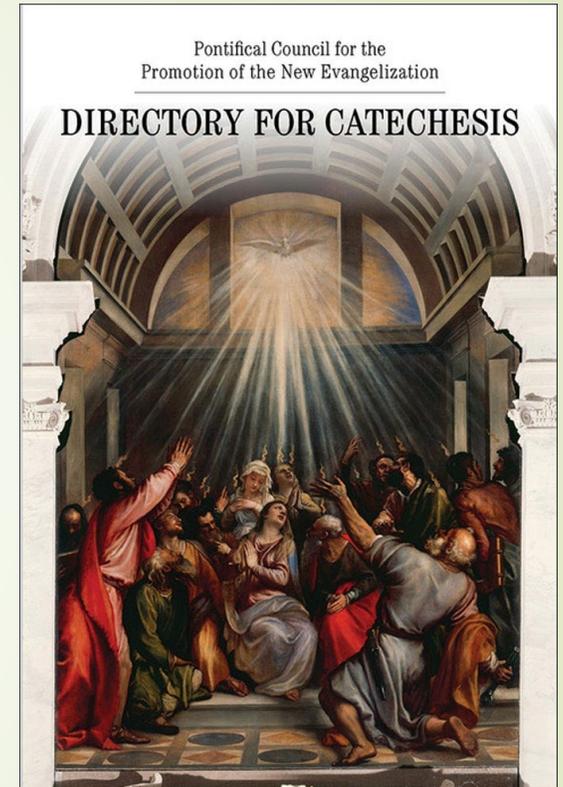
- **The Kerygma** – "...a catechesis that is an "entering more deeply into the kerygma." (57)
- **Kerygmatic Witness** – "...the life of the witness...becomes that which touches and moves the hearer. (58)
- **Catechumenal Inspiration** – "... taking on its style and its formative dynamism..." (64)



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### Chapter Two: The Identity of Catechesis (55-109)

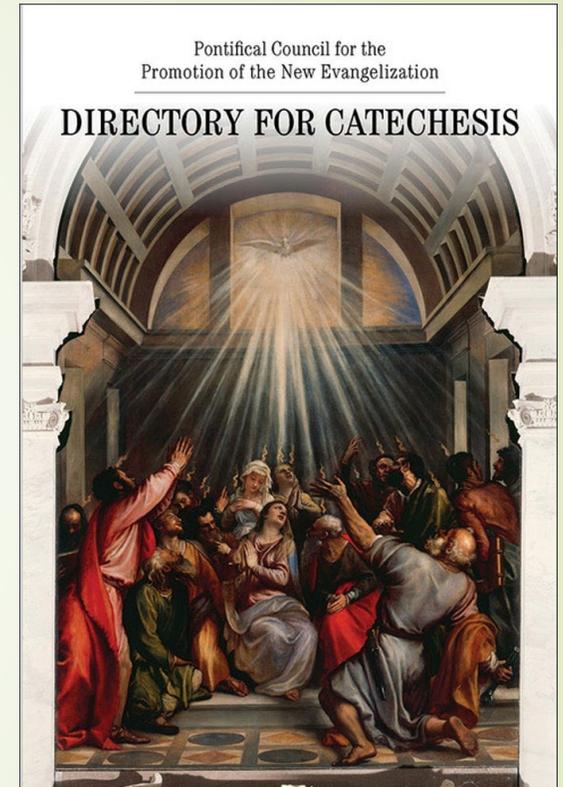
- **The First Proclamation**– “...it is the principal proclamation...” (68)
- **Restored Order** – “...put the sacrament of the Eucharist at the center. (70)
- **Conversion** – “... to live the Christian life in a state of conversion.” (73)
- **Intimacy with Jesus** – “...the definitive aim of catechesis...” (75)
- **Adult Catechesis** – “...must be considered the chief form of catechesis...” (77)



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### Chapter Two: The Identity of Catechesis (55-109)

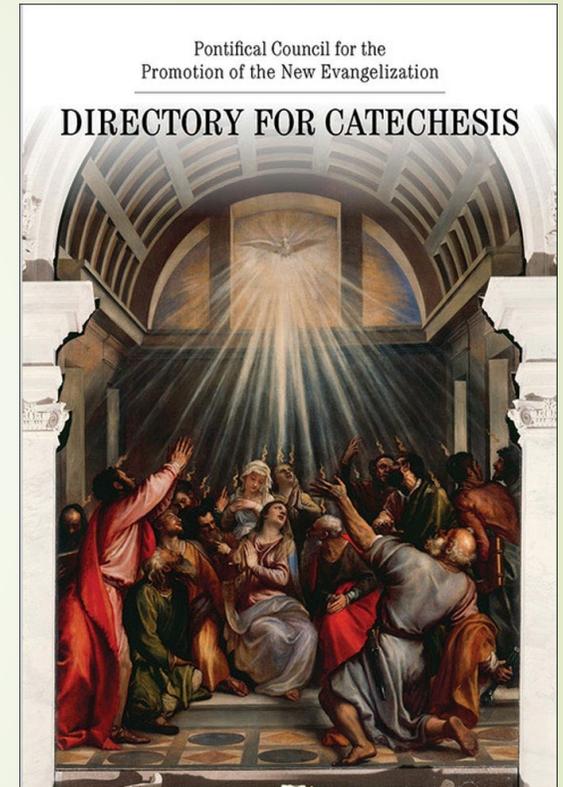
- **Forming Attitudes** – Catechesis educates the believer in the attitudes..." (82)
- **A Climate of Prayer**– When catechesis is permeated by a climate of prayer..." (86)
- **Liturgy and Catechesis** – "... to live the Christian life in a state of conversion." (96)
- **Beauty** – "...attend to the way of beauty..." (108)



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### Chapter Three: The Catechist (110-129)

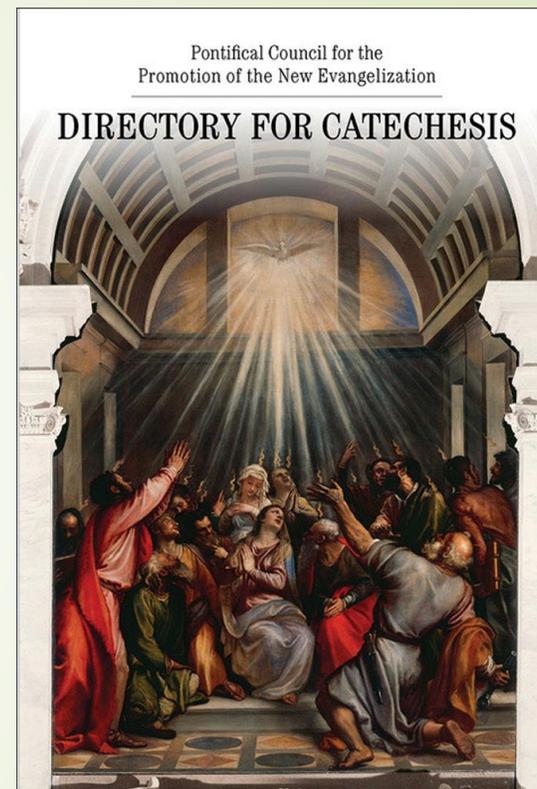
- **The Vocation of the Catechist** – The catechist is a Christian who receives a particular calling from God..." (112)
- **The Identity of the Catechist** – The catechist is...a keeper of the memory of God..." (113)
- **The Catechetical Community** – "[The] group of catechists..." (116)
- **Public Recognition of Catechists** – "...religious and laity publicly recognized and permanently dedicated to catechesis." (123)



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### Chapter Three: The Catechist (110-129)

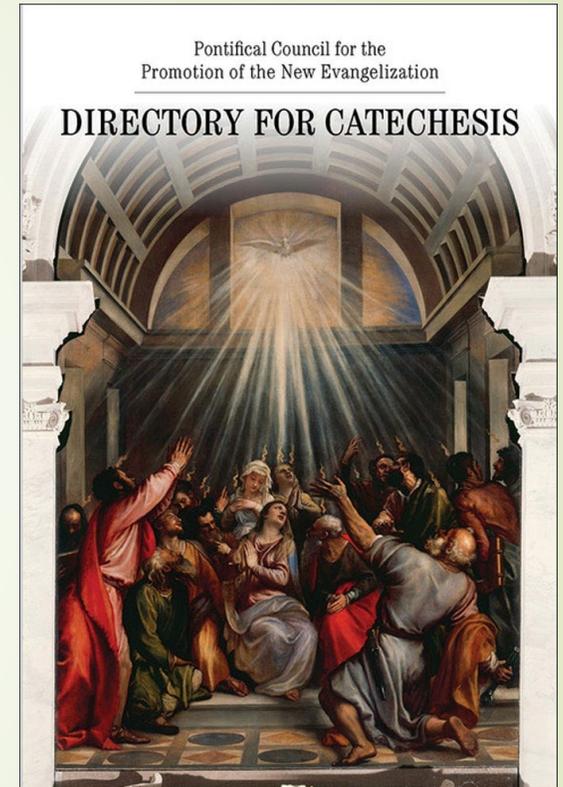
- **Parents as Witnesses** – The catechist is a Christian who receives a particular calling from God..." (124)
- **Contribution of Women** – "...inspired by the genius of women..." (128)



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### Chapter Four: The Formation of Catechists (130-156)

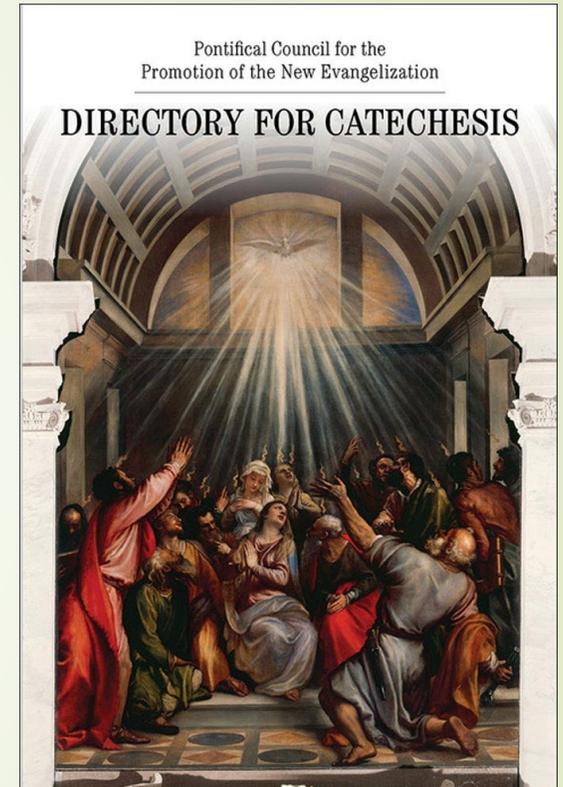
- **Catechist Formation** – “...devote sufficient energies and resources to the formation of catechists...” (130)
- **Three-Dimensional Formation** – “...being – knowing and savoir-faire.” (136)



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

# WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

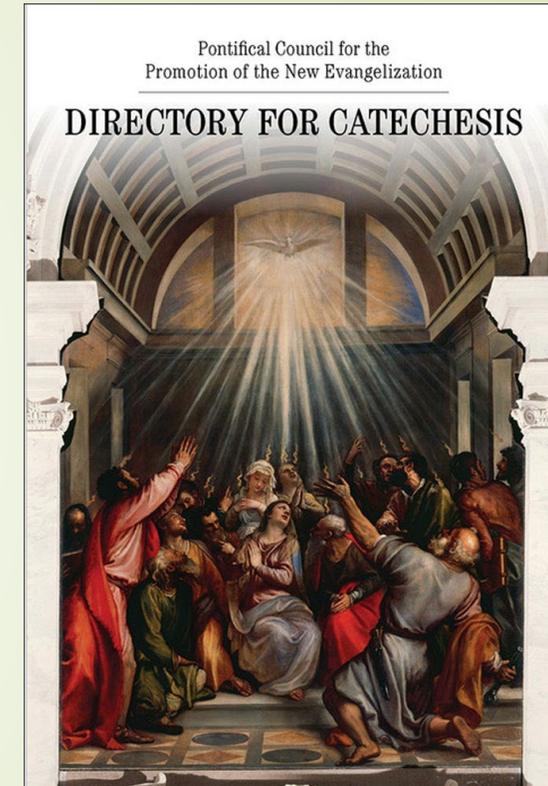
- How does the overview of Part One of the New Directory call you to ***think about catechesis differently?***
- How does it invite you to ***talk differently about catechesis?***
- How does it invite you to ***go about doing catechesis differently?***



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### So how might we think about catechesis differently?

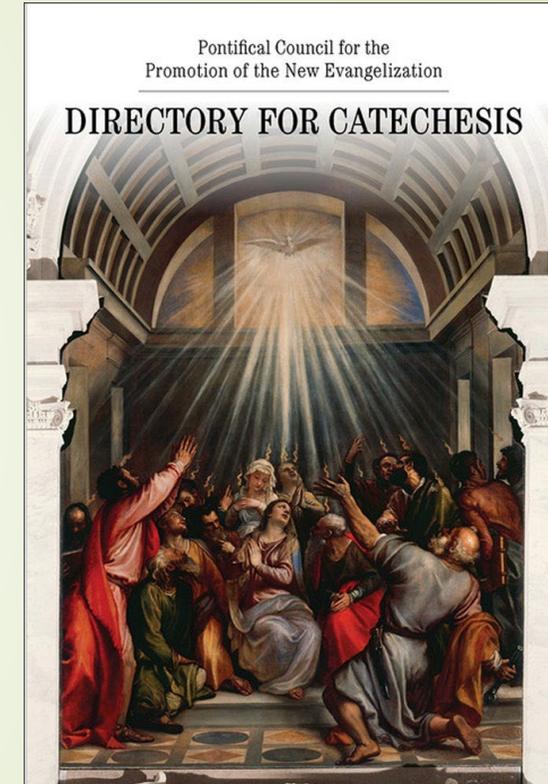
- We will think about catechesis less as the passing on of information and more as the facilitating of transformation that comes about by encountering the person of Jesus Christ.
- We will think more about stages of growth/faith development rather than age level.
- We will think of beauty as part of the catechetical curriculum.
- We will think of ourselves as being in a “permanent state of mission.”
- We will think of works of mercy as a form of catechesis.
- We will think of catechists as mystagogues.
- We will help parents think of faith formation without falling into a “mentality of delegation.”
- We will think of faith formation as an invitation to a banquet, filled with joy, rather than as a set of obligations to follow.
- We will think of liturgy and catechesis as being inseparable.



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### So how might we talk about catechesis differently?

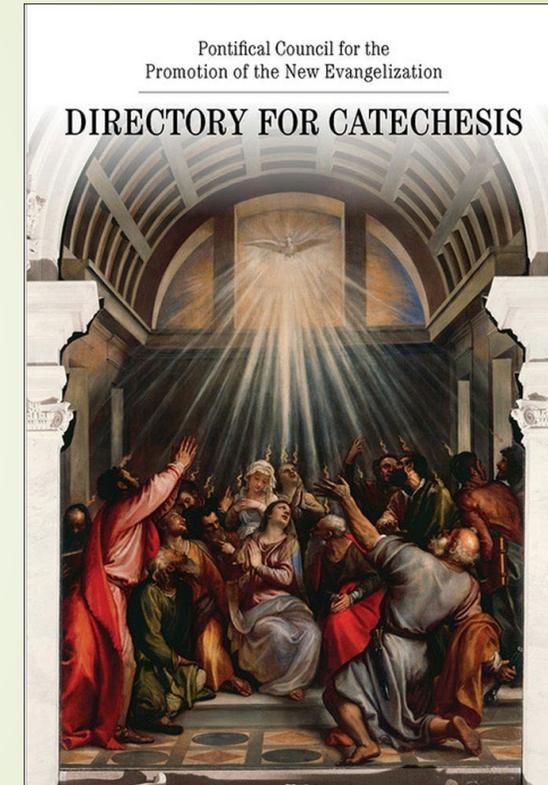
- Going forward, we will talk about catechesis and evangelization in the same breath.
- The Kerygma (first proclamation) will become a part of our vocabulary.
- The name of Jesus and the sharing of personal stories will more easily flow from our lips.
- We will speak of catechists as having a vocation.
- We will regularly speak of the art of accompaniment and how it is practiced in catechesis.
- We will speak of the acts of mercy the way we speak of doctrinal elements (i.e. as part of the curriculum).
- We will speak of mystagogy as a normal, ongoing element of catechesis, not as a period in the catechumenate.
- We will speak of parents as the most effective witnesses of faith to their children.



## Part One: Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization (11-156)

### So what might we be doing differently in catechesis?

- We will gradually move away from age-level models to models that more closely resemble the catechumenate characterized by accompaniment and stages of growth.
- Every aspect of our catechesis will be powered by the “first proclamation” - i.e. we will engage in a more evangelizing catechesis.
- We will invite participants to encounter beauty as part of the catechetical process/encounter.
- We will focus on helping people discern their vocation in life/a new direction in life rather than just equipping them with content and practices.
- Participation in acts of mercy will become part of the curriculum as will joyful liturgical celebrations and meaningful prayer experiences.
- We will do catechist formation, not as a task to complete for certification, but as an ongoing deepening of the catechist's vocation and a deepening of her/his relationship with the Lord.
- We will catechize liturgically and celebrate liturgy in a manner that catechizes effectively.



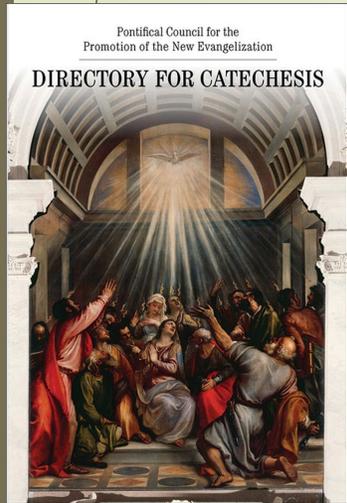
## Preparation Prayer for a Parish Catechetical Leader

Lord, Divine Source of All Truth, I have been called by you into the ministry of love. We can not love what we do not know; by my service to the parish and to all the world, may others come to love you with greater devotion because they have come to know You more.

As You, my God, have made Yourself known through the service of the prophets and holy people, and through the ministry of Your Son, Jesus, may I too be a living sign of Your Love, a window to the wonder of Your Presence.

Come be with me in the midst of daily duties that often seem so routine or difficult. Teach me, Lord, that You reveal Yourself in what seems to be failure as well as in success so that I may, with confidence, do all things out of love for You. With such an awareness, my joy will come in service rather than in success.

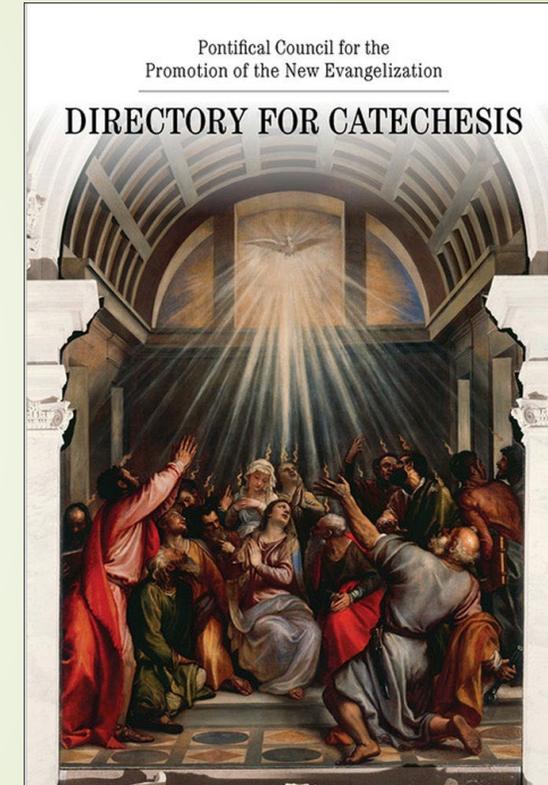
I ask this of You in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen+



## Part Two: The Process of Catechesis (157-282)

When it comes to the process of catechesis (methodology, pedagogy, etc.) one of my favorite approaches is...

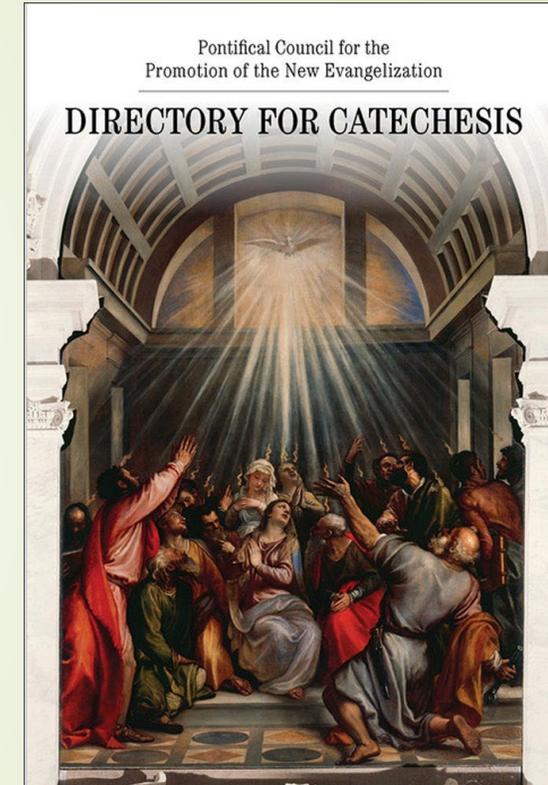
- Storytelling
- Role playing/dramatization
- Group work
- Memorization
- Socratic method (Q&A)
- Read and discuss textbook/written resources
- View and discuss video
- Games and activities
- Craft activities
- Other \_\_\_\_\_



## Part Two: The Process of Catechesis (157-282)

### Chapter Five: Divine Pedagogy (157-181)

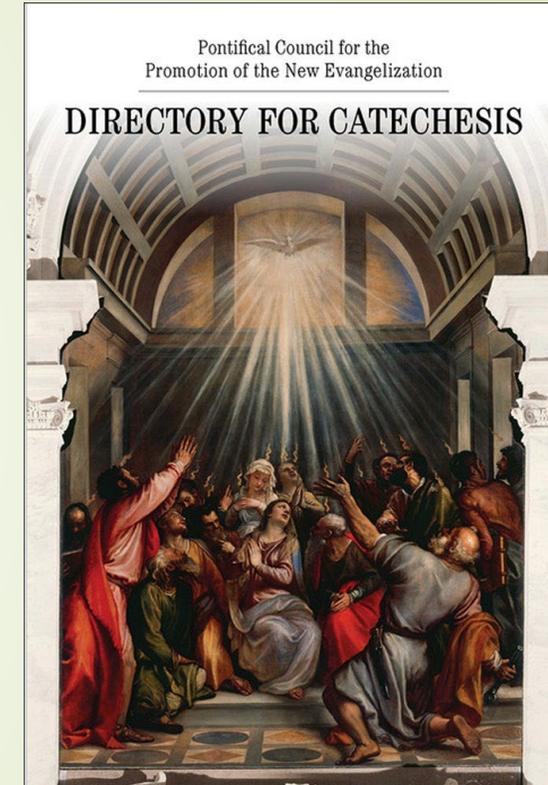
- **The Pedagogy of God** – “follows in the footsteps of God’s pedagogy (157)
- **The Person of Jesus** – “At the center of all catechesis is the person of Jesus Christ...” (169)
- **The Meaning of Life** – “The Christian message must therefore always be presented in a way that connects with life...” (172)
- **Beauty** – “...to believe in and follow him is...something beautiful...” (175)



## Part Two: The Process of Catechesis (157-282)

### Chapter Six: The Catechism of the Catholic Church (182-184)

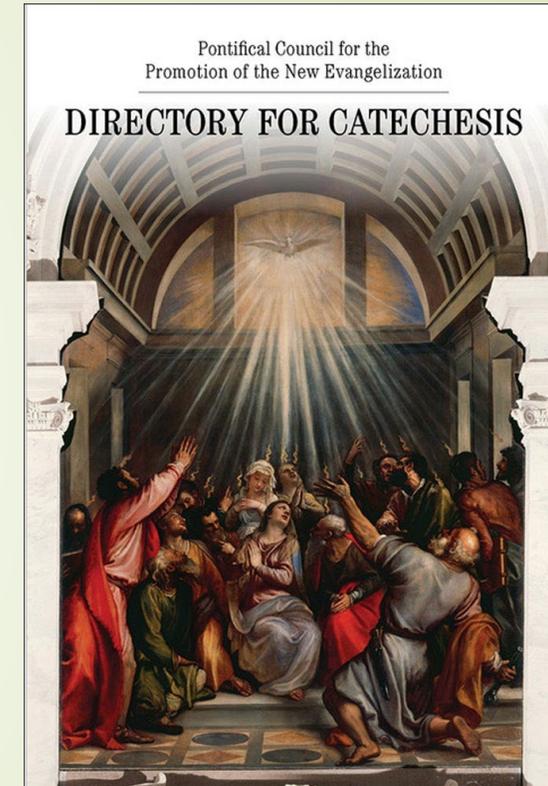
- **An Indispensable Resource** – “The Catechism is...” (184)
- **The Catechist as Mediator** – “...always requires mediation” (190)



## Part Two: The Process of Catechesis (157-282)

### Chapter Seven: Methodology in Catechesis (194-223)

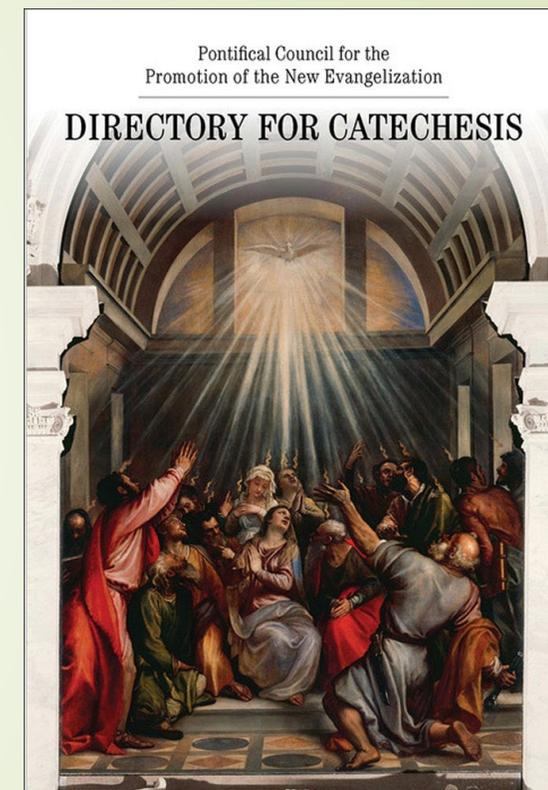
- **Variety of Methodologies** – “Catechesis does not have a single method...” (195)
- **Human Experience** – “...the space in which God speaks” (197)
- **Interpret Life** – “Catechesis...helps to illuminate and interpret the experiences of life...” (199)
- **Memorization** – “...assist in the memorization of these...” (202)
- **Languages** – “...biblical, symbolic-liturgical, doctrinal, and formative.” (205)
- **Storytelling** – “Catechesis[...]takes an interest in narrative...” (207)
- **Sacred Art** – “...encounter with God through the contemplation of their beauty.” (209)



## Part Two: The Process of Catechesis (157-282)

### Chapter Seven: Methodology in Catechesis (194-223)

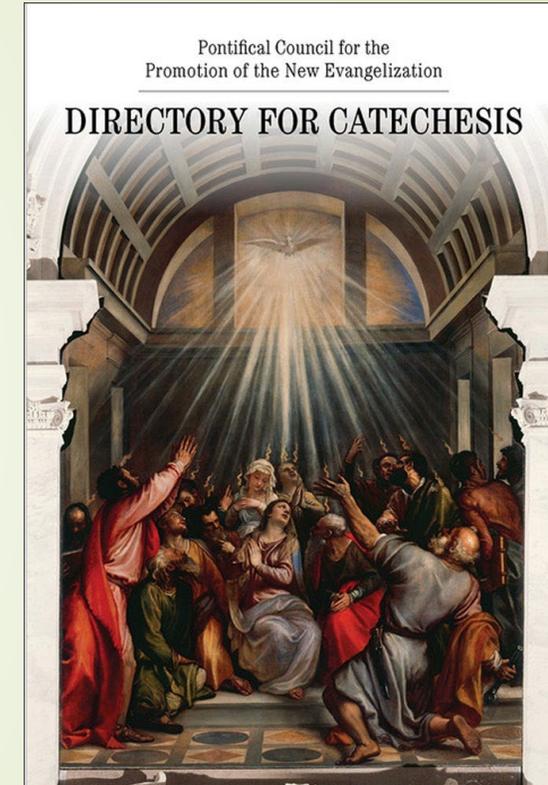
- **Sacred Music** – “...is also a vehicle of the faith...” (211)
- **Artistic Experiences** – “...the letting go of a certain intellectualism...” (212)
- **Digital Phenomena** – “...the risk of appearing insignificant...” (213)
- **Caution about the Digital World** – “...can leave profound marks...” (216)
- **Cooperative Learning** – Paying attention to group relationships...” (218)
- **Beyond Academic Settings** – “...do not constitute the best places...” (222)
- **New Settings** – “...the home, the office, educational, cultural, and recreational environments, prisons, etc.” (223)



## Part Two: The Process of Catechesis (157-282)

### Chapter Eight: Catechesis in the Lives of Persons (224-282)

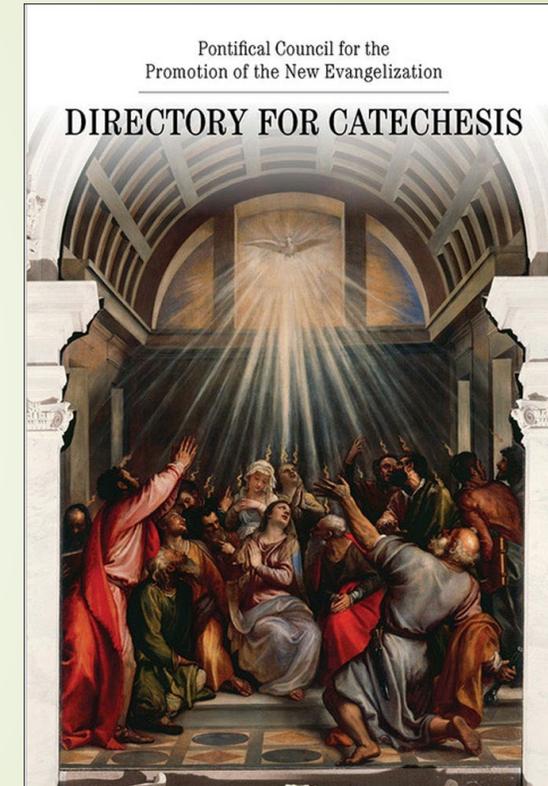
- **Family as Witness**– “more witnessed to than taught...” (227)
- **Get Real**– “...not detached from personal problems.” (230)
- **Decisive Moments** – “...in which people more readily allow themselves to be touched by God’s grace...” (232)
- **Stop Calling it “Marriage Prep”**– “...in order to restore to this journey its authentic meaning...” (232)
- **New Family Realities**– “...take a realistic view of the heterogenous family realities...” (234)
- **Early Childhood** – “it is from the tenderest age...” (236)
- **Adolescence**– “...is not a pathology that we must combat.” (248)



## Part Two: The Process of Catechesis (157-282)

### Chapter Eight: Catechesis in the Lives of Persons (224-282)

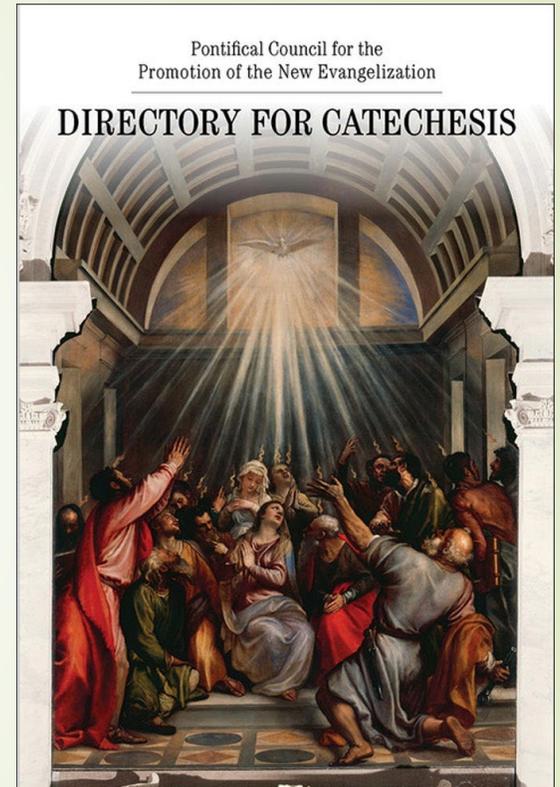
- **Treating Adults as Adults** – “...adults must not be considered as recipients of catechesis...” (262)
- **The Elderly** – “... keepers of the values of society.” (266)
- **The Condition of the Old** – “... calls for a catechesis of hope...” (267)
- **Those with Disabilities** – “... employ experiential dynamics...” (271)
- **New Works of Mercy** – “... the credibility of her message depends greatly upon the testimony of works.” (279)
- **Marginalized People** – “...relate to them with realism and mercy.” (280)



## Part Two: The Process of Catechesis (157-282)

# WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

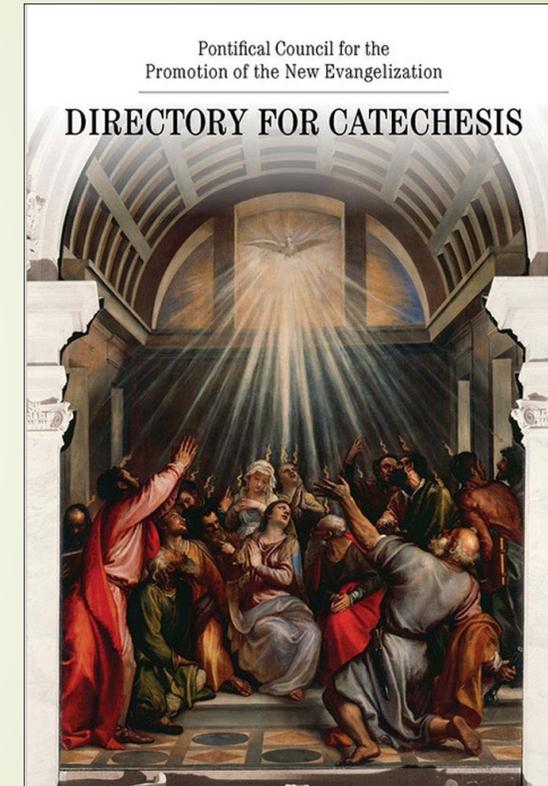
- How does the overview of Part Two of the New Directory call you to ***think about catechesis differently?***
- How does it invite you to ***talk differently about catechesis?***
- How does it invite you to ***go about doing catechesis differently?***



## Part Two: The Process of Catechesis (157-282)

So how might we *think* about catechesis differently?

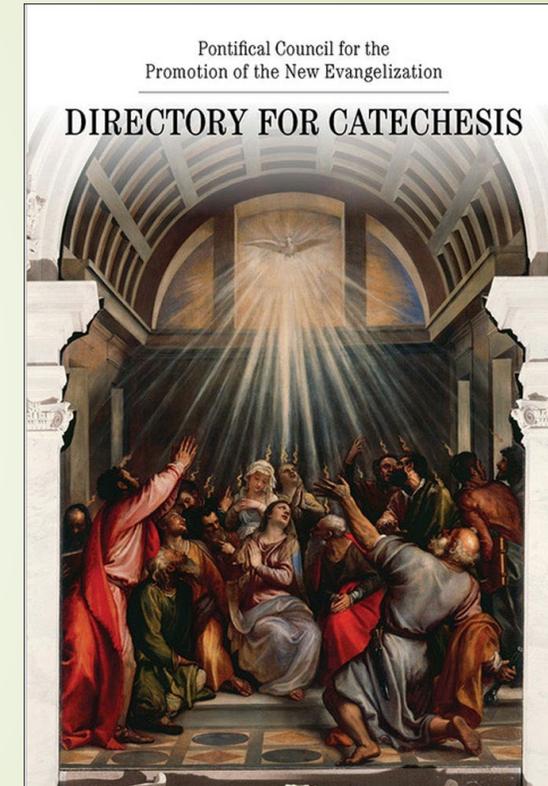
- We will think about as God's initiative with which we cooperate.
- We will think of **beauty** as a critical element in catechesis.
- We will think of ourselves catechists - mediators between the content of our faith (the Catechism) and those we teach."
- We will think of human experience as the "space in which God speaks."
- We will think of narrative language (storytelling) as an essential tool of evangelizing catechesis.
- We will think of space as communicating the sacred.
- We will think of adults, not as recipients of catechesis, but rather as participants together with catechists.
- We will think of the digital world as a normal venue for proclaiming the Word of God.



## Part Two: The Process of Catechesis (157-282)

So how might we *talk* about catechesis differently?

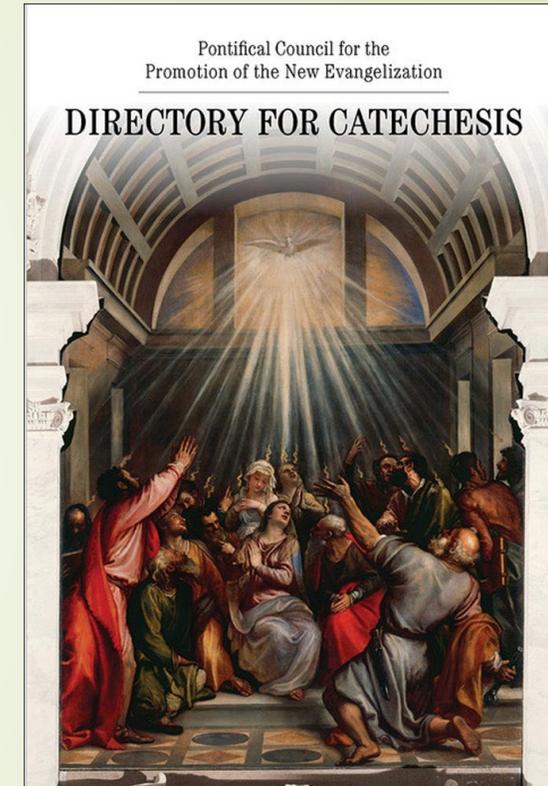
- We will talk about the BEAUTY of God as much as we talk about the GOODNESS and TRUTH of God.
- We will talk about our OWN experiences of encountering God in addition to telling the stories of others (Scripture and Saints).
- We will talk about evangelizing/catechizing FAMILIES rather than individuals.
- We will talk about JESUS.
- We will talk about companioning those preparing for marriage rather than having them attend “marriage prep.”.



## Part Two: The Process of Catechesis (157-282)

So what might we ***do differently in*** catechesis?

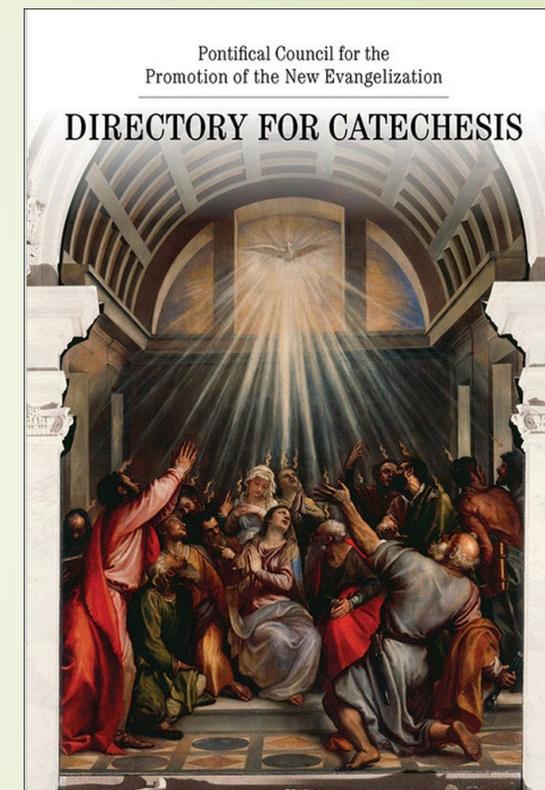
- We will use the language of signs in faith formation.
- We will celebrate liturgically throughout the catechetical process.
- We will follow a catechumenal approach to faith formation.
- We will tell stories from our own personal experience.
- We will embrace the digital world as a normative tool for faith formation rather than as a novelty.
- We will get beyond academic settings for faith formation.
- We will catechize families, not just individuals.
- We will treat adults and stop infantilizing them when it comes to faith formation.
- We will once again embrace memorization as an essential tool of catechesis while avoiding sterility.
- We will integrate art and artistic expression into faith formation.



## Moment of Prayer

Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. May we reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. In Jesus Name, Amen.

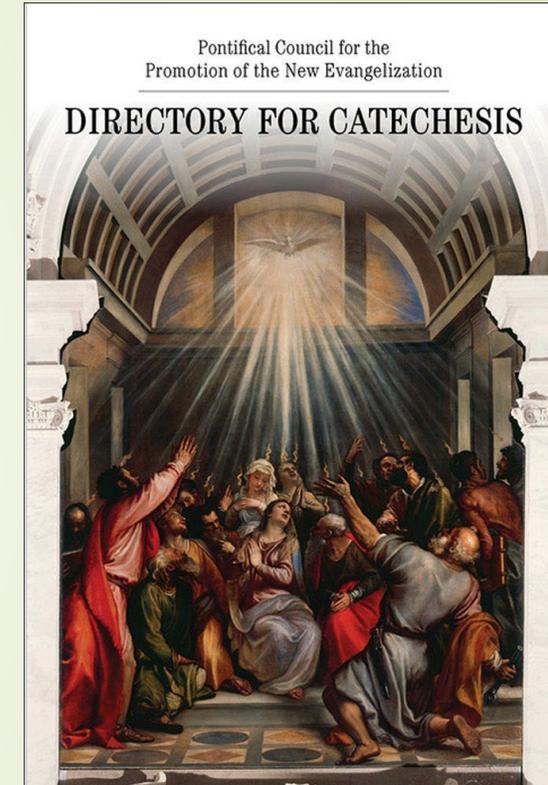
- Prayer for Hope After a Difficult Year



## Part Three: Catechesis in the Particular Churches (i.e. Dioceses) (283-428)

### Chapter Nine: The Christian Community as Participants in Catechesis (283-318)

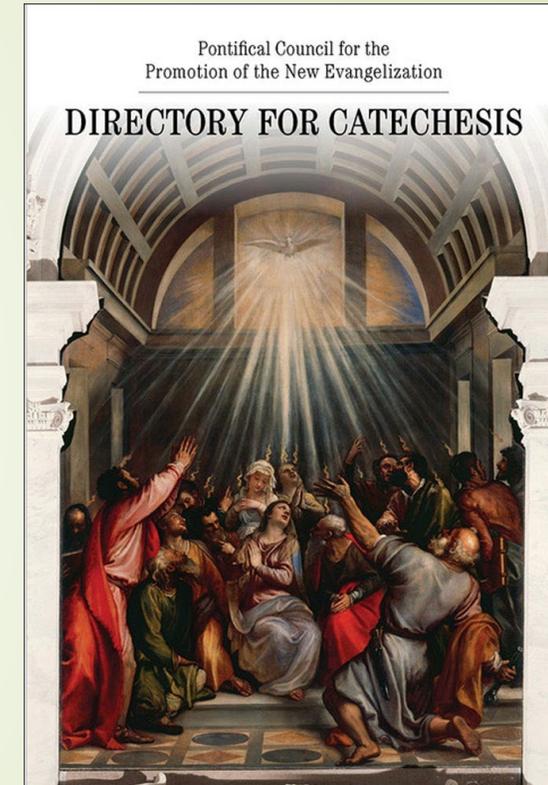
- **Listening to God's Word** – "...only those who listen can also proclaim." (283)
- **Agents of Evangelization** – "All the baptized..." (288)
- **Synodal Practice** – "One concrete form of evangelization..." (289)
- **All Pastoral Activity is Evangelizing** – "... frame everything in terms of evangelization..." (297)
- **Beyond the Status Quo** – "A process of missionary conversion must be begun..." (300)
- **Missionary Discipleship** – "evangelization is not a pastoral strategy." (303)



## Part Three: Catechesis in the Particular Churches (i.e. Dioceses) (283-428)

### Chapter Nine: The Christian Community as Participants in Catechesis (283-318)

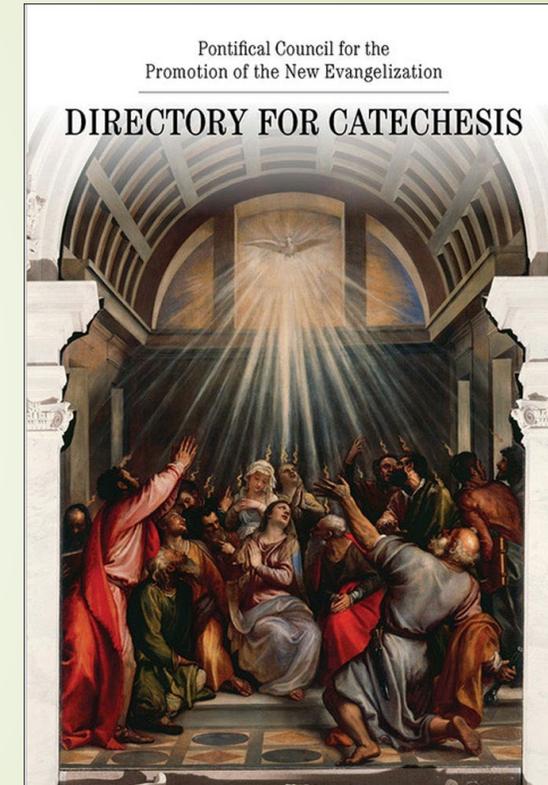
- **Re-thinking**– “... in a missionary vein...” (303)
- **Catholic Schools** – “... create for the school community a special atmosphere animated by the Gospel spirit.” (309)
- **Teaching Religion in Schools** – “... the same demand for and rigor [...] as the other disciplines. “ (315)
- **Science and Faith** – “In order for the teaching of the Catholic religion to be fruitful...” (318)



## Part Three: Catechesis in the Particular Churches (i.e. Dioceses) (283-428)

### Chapter Ten: Catechesis in the Face of Contemporary Cultural Scenarios (319-393)

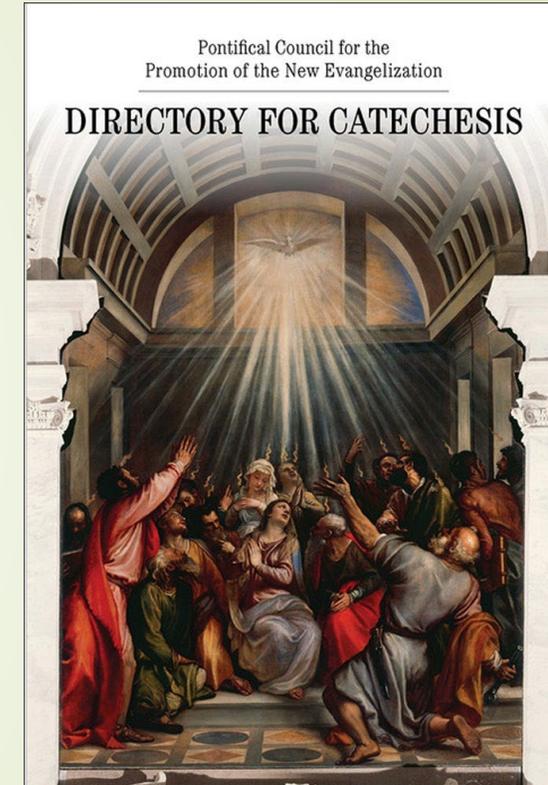
- **Venturing into Virtual Spaces** – “... modern areopagi...” (324)
- **Popular Piety** – “... more by way of symbols than by discursive reasoning.” (336)
- **Shrines and Pilgrimages** – “...a confession of faith; a true song of hope; an encounter of love.” (342)
- **Ecumenical Collaboration** – “... provide certain experiences of collaboration...” (346)
- **Symbols, Gestures, & Ceremonies of Liturgy** – “... that more easily touches the human heart.”(353)
- **The Church and Science** – “...activity through which humanity participates in God’s Plan...” (355)
- **The Scientist** – “...an impassioned witness to mystery.” (358)



## Part Three: Catechesis in the Particular Churches (i.e. Dioceses) (283-428)

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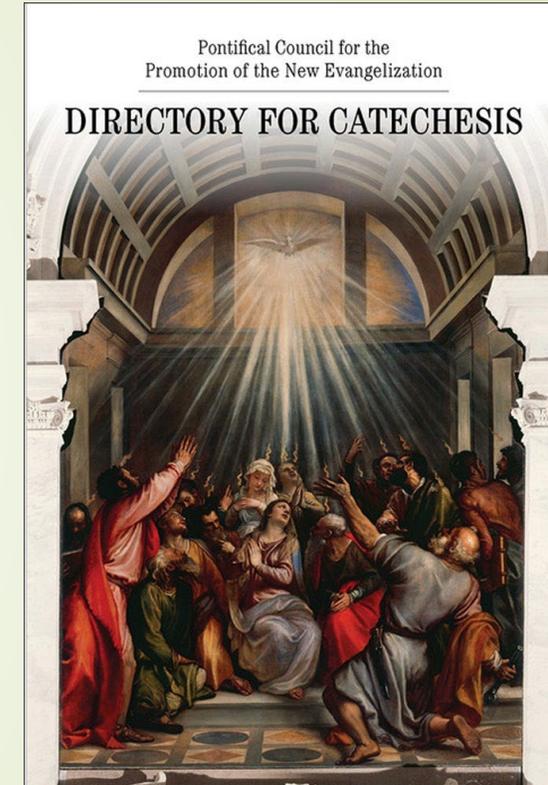
- **The Digital Continent**– “... how to become an evangelizing presence on the digital continent.” (371)
- **Accompaniment**– “... proceeds from religious information to accompaniment...” (371)
- **Personalized but Never and Individual Process**– “...God creates communion and the sharing of life.” (372)
- **The Environment** – “... an integral part of the Christian life.” (384)
- **Social Action** – “... a deep desire to change the world.”(389)



## Part Three: Catechesis in the Particular Churches (i.e. Dioceses) (283-428)

### Chapter Eleven: Catechesis at the Service of Inculturation of Faith (394-408)

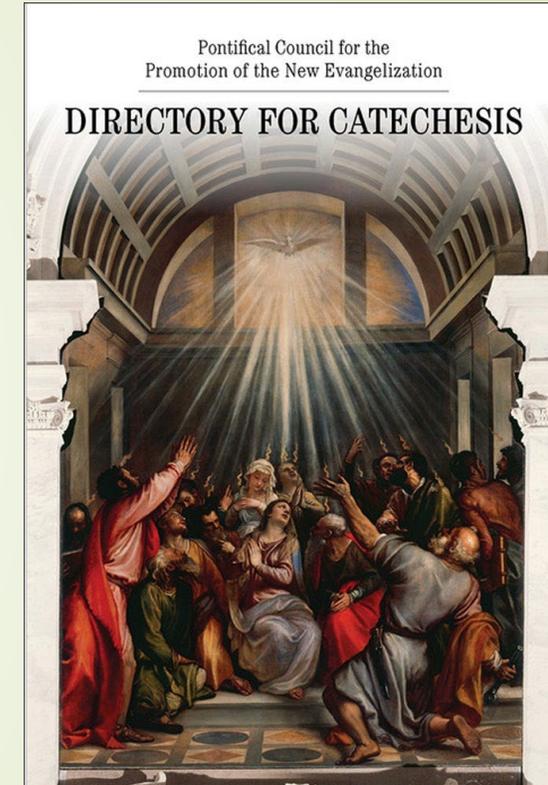
- **Inculturation** – “... not a mere adaptation to a culture.” (395)
- **Sharing the Gospel** – Catechesis is called to bring the power of the Gospel into the very heart of culture and cultures...” (396)
- **Inculturation of faith** – “...Getting to know deeply the culture of persons, recognize the way the Gospel already dwells within each culture. (397)
- **The Gospel is not Decorative**– Rather it proposes the Gospel ‘in a vital way, profoundly, by going to the very roots of culture and the cultures of mankind.’.” (398)



## Part Three: Catechesis in the Particular Churches (i.e. Dioceses) (283-428)

### Chapter Twelve: The Organisms as the Service of Catechesis (409-428)

- **Catechetical Office is required** – “Catechesis... is so fundamental to the life of the Church.” (417)
- **Structure According to Age** – “... it is necessary to consider other criteria as well.” (423)
- **Relevance** – “...realism should be the first characteristic...” (424)
- **The Diocese and Catechist Formation** – “pay particular attention to the formation of catechists.” (425)



## Part Three: Catechesis in the Particular Churches (i.e. Dioceses) (283-428)

# WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

- How does the overview of Part Three of the New Directory call you to ***think about catechesis differently?***
- How does it invite you to ***talk differently about catechesis?***
- How does it invite you to ***go about doing catechesis differently?***

