



The Catechist; a Witness of Faith

Day for Catechists
September 26 – 29, 2013

International Conference on Catechesis
September 26 – 28, 2013

Objectives and Participants

One of the principal aims of the *Year of Faith* has been to emphasize the need to recover the “profound unity between the act by which we believe and the content to which we give our assent” (Pf 10) for faith is, above all, a gift from God and an act of grace which transforms the heart of the believer. Moreover, “knowing the content to be believed is not sufficient unless the heart, the authentic sacred space within the person, is opened by grace that allows the eyes to see below the surface and to understand that what has been proclaimed is the Word of God” (Pf 10).

This description involves also the person and the role of the catechists. In this era of division, of the fragmentation of knowledge and experience, in both society and in the Church, it is urgent that we support, promote and form catechists capable of responding to these present challenges through a witness capable of provoking within the Christian community a dynamism that makes it possible to propose the God of Jesus Christ in our contemporary day.

The *Conference* will provide a reflection upon the first part of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It is addressed to Presidents of those Commissions of Episcopal Conferences which focus upon catechesis, evangelization or other related fields; to the heads of National Catechetical Offices or other national/diocesan bodies which coordinate the work of the catechists or those pastoral workers who carry out the same service in the schools and other diverse educational institutions. In addition, every diocese is invited to send one or more catechists, the first and principal recipients of this initiative which seeks to identify criteria for discernment and clear guidelines for their training.

Thematic Development

The *Conference* will present the icon of the **encounter of the Risen Christ with the disciples of Emmaus** as the model of our story as believers. And it is through the instruments of Catechesis and the catechist that such encounters with Christ are possible and which illumine one’s choice to follow him.

The dynamic between the gift and the reception of Revelation will be reflected upon during the first day of the *Conference*. God is always searching for man, and he reveals himself to man and calls him to respond freely to this gift (**First Presentation**). The Church, the first confessor of the faith, is the family of those who have opened the door of their lives to the God who has sought them (**Second Presentation**).

The believer, as a member of the Christian family, is called to deepen and to renew daily his personal commitment to Christ by recalling how God has worked in his life so as to live the present in a new way and to open oneself to a future of hope. As a result, the believer is called to renew daily his trust in God (**Third Presentation**), discovering the richness and the vitality of the contents

of the faith which constitute the fundamental patrimony for a witness capable of responding to the demands of the present time in which we live (**Fourth Presentation**).

During the afternoon of the second day, interventions will be made which pertain to the criteria for interpreting at this important juncture decisive approaches in the training and formation of catechists, those who are not called to put forth a generic Christian proposal, but a communication capable of supporting and giving sound reasons to those who wish to follow Jesus.

The Christian community, proclaiming and witnessing to the truth of the Gospel, reveals to humanity the truth about man and his history. Catechesis expresses the genuine care of the Church for contemporary man by first inviting him to ask the question of truth which often lies dormant in his heart (**Fifth Presentation**).

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

15,30 WELCOME

Archbishop Octavio RUIZ ARENAS, *Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization*

15,45 VIEWING OF THE FILM

CREDO: A Video of Art and the New Evangelization

This 15 minute film of music and images is a catechetical narrative which, through symbolic language, invites one to reflect upon the Creed.

16,00 INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE

Catechesis in the Context of the New Evangelization

Archbishop Rino FISICHELLA, *President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization*

16,30 LECTIO DIVINA

The Disciples of Emmaus (Lk 24: 13-35)

Prof. Bruna COSTACURTA, *Director of the Department of Biblical Theology in the Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome; Italy)*

17,00 FIRST PRESENTATION

God Seeks Man and Reveals Himself

Dr. Petroc WILLEY, *Deputy Director of the Maryvale Institute (Birmingham, England)*

17,45 SECOND PRESENTATION

The Church as the First Confessor of the Faith

Rev.do Manuel José JIMÉNEZ RODRÍGUEZ, *Chaplain for the National University of Colombia and Advisor to the Office of Catechesis of the Columbian Episcopal Conference (Bogotá, Colombia)*

10,00 *Opening Prayer*

10,15 **THIRD PRESENTATION**

Memoria Fidei: the Dynamism of the Act of Faith (Memory, Event, Prophecy)

Prof. Mons. Pierangelo SEQUERI, *Dean of the Theology Faculty of Northern Italy (Milan, Italy)*

Break

11,30 **FOURTH PRESENTATION**

“Traditio” et “Redditio Symboli”: *Our “Yes” to God*

P. Robert DODARO, O.S.A., *Dean of the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum of the Pontifical Lateran University (Rome, Italy)*

Afternoon

15,30 **INTERVENTIONS**

- *Credibility of Faith: the Relationship between Faith and Reason in the Transmission of the Faith*

Rev.do Krzysztof KAUCHA, *Professor of Fundamental Theology at the Catholic University of Lublin (Poland)*

- *An Instructional Theory of the Act of Faith*

Dr. Jem SULLIVAN, *Professor of Catechetics at the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies (Washington, DC, USA)*

- *The Continuation of “Traditio Verbi”*: *the Harmony of Scripture, Tradition and Magisterium*

Rev.do Alberto FRANZINI, *Pastor (Cremona, Italy)*

- *The Reception of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in Catechesis: Experiences and Criteria for a Full Reception*

Prof. Joël MOLINARIO, *Theologian and Assistant Director of the Institut Supérieur de Pastoral Catéchétique (Paris, France)*

17,00 **A CATECHESIS BY POPE FRANCIS**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

8:30 *Celebration of Holy Mass and Professio Fidei*

St. Peter's Basilica – Altar of the Chair

10,00 *Opening Prayer*

10,15 **FIFTH PRESENTATION**

Service to the Truth as an Expression of the Ecclesial Community

Bishop Javier SALINAS VIÑAL, *Bishop of Mallorca and Member of the International Council for Catechesis (Spain)*

11,15 *Conclusion*

Archbishop Octavio RUIZ ARENAS, *Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization*



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Pilgrimage of Catechists
September 28 – 29, 2013

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

9,30 *Catechetical* sessions held in diverse languages in various churches of Rome

To follow Celebration of **Holy Mass** (in the same church).

12,00 – 17,00 *Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Apostle Peter*
Groups will enter St. Peter's Basilica for the *Professio fidei*.

From **14,00** until **17,00**, in the vicinity of St. Peter's, there will be various churches open in which to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and for Eucharistic Adoration.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
In St. Peter's Square

10,30 **Mass Presided by the Holy Father**