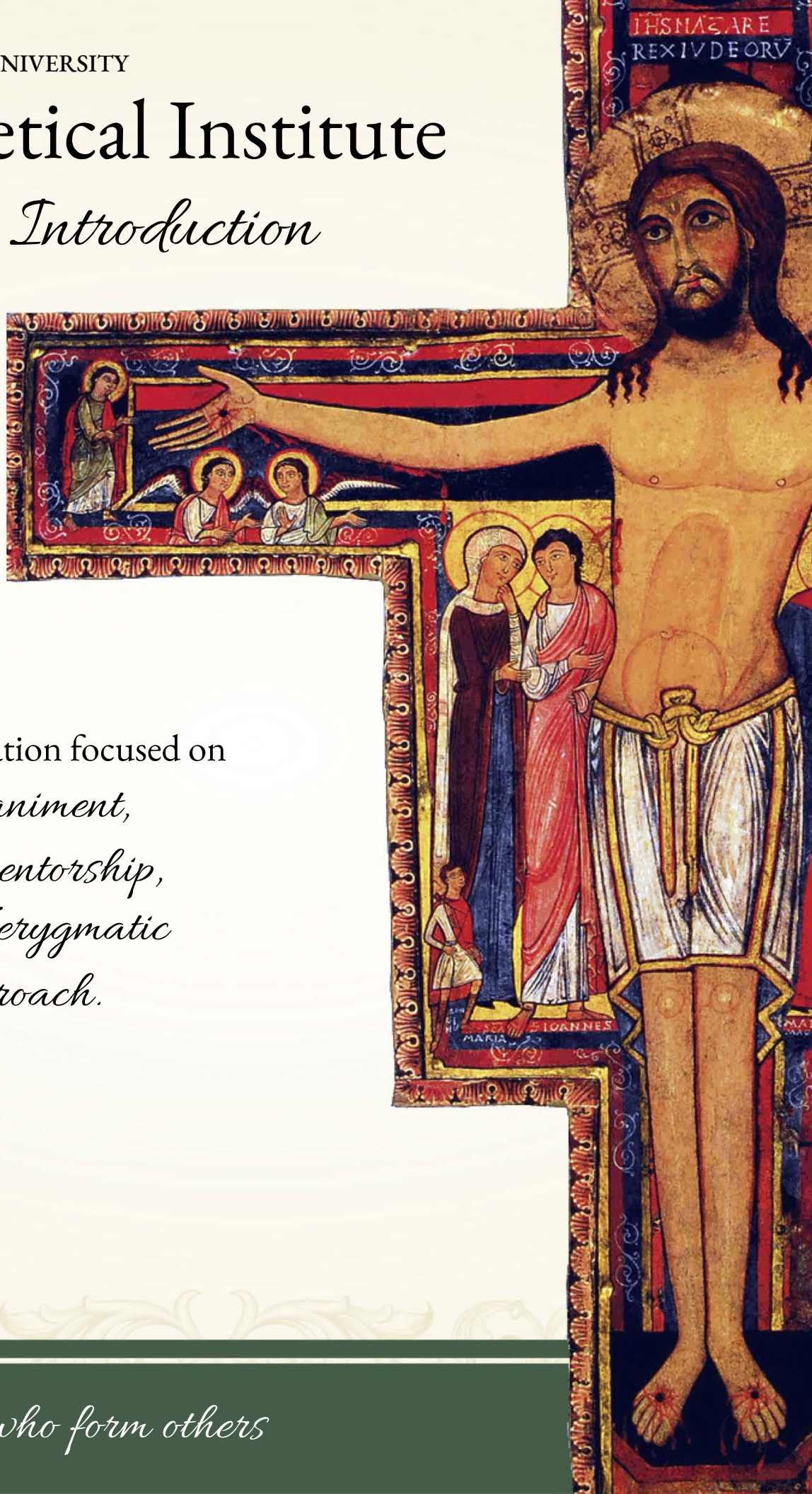


THE FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY

Catechetical Institute

An Introduction

Ministry formation focused on
Accompaniment,
Mentorship,
and the *Kerygmatic*
Approach.



Forming those who form others

CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE

About Us

ABOUT US

The Catechetical Institute (CI) is an international outreach of Franciscan University of Steubenville. Publicly launched in 2017, our mission is to form those who form others in any ministry role—priests, deacons, religious, parents, parish and school leaders, teachers, catechists, and teams. We combine the University's strong academic resources and the outreach experience of the Franciscan Center for Evangelization and Renewal.

Accompaniment & Mentorship

The effectiveness of our formation critically relies on mentorship and person-to-person engagement, guided by assessments which give windows into the real progress of a learner. Our goal is to support—not supplant—your local catechists.

Kerygmatic Approach

We offer formation in basic evangelization skills, catechesis, mentorship, spiritual guidance, vocational discernment, healing, spiritual combat, team building, and many other practical topics. These workshops are created not just for professionals, but for anyone who walks daily with others on their spiritual journey.

WHAT WE OFFER

By becoming part of our online community through our **International Guild for Catechists and Leaders**, you get access to:

Resources for Ministry Formation

- ◆ Online Workshops
- ◆ Live Webinars
- ◆ In-Person Events
- ◆ Supplemental Video Resources
- ◆ Printable PDF Resources

Community for Catechists & Leaders

- ◆ Mentoring for Certification
- ◆ Small Groups
- ◆ Discussion Boards
- ◆ Networking Opportunities



What is the Catechetical Institute?

The Catechetical Institute (CI) is an outreach with a distinctly Franciscan generosity to ensure that any diocese, any parish, any school, any individual will be able to receive the very best we can design and produce.



Why us, why now?

CI was founded in this difficult time in the Church with one overriding purpose: to be of generous service to bishops and to those who assist them in the fundamental tasks of evangelization, catechesis, and robust ongoing formation. In partnering with dioceses, CI offers a completely flexible, generously affordable, faithfully creative, and deeply inspiring array of on-ground, online, and event-based formation and supporting resources.

Want to learn more? Visit FranciscanAtHome.com/About



We are here to *collaborate*, not compete, with your current formation structures; to *empower* you, not unemploy you, by providing a *customizable*, long-term process of accompaniment that is *practical* and *field oriented*.

LEARNERS

We serve those engaged in ministry by providing online workshops and personal accompaniment through mentorship.

47,000 +

WORKSHOPS

We offer unparalleled online formation workshops to provide practical support for many ministry areas.

200 +

DIOCESAN PARTNERS

We partner with dioceses around the world to support the vision of local bishops for catechesis and evangelization.

130 +

COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES

We serve people from countries across North America, Asia, Europe, Africa, Central, and South America.

131 +

LANGUAGES

We offer workshops in English, Spanish, Latvian, and Slovakian. We are developing resources in several other languages as well.

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Franciscan At Home is

AFFORDABLE ...

We are committed to *financial flexibility*, offering a way for your parish to equip those who form others in a way that is entirely affordable.

ACCESSIBLE ...

Your teachers, leaders, and ministry team members will receive *unlimited access* to our online formation workshops from the comfort of their own homes and offices.

DIVERSE ...

Our workshops are delivered by seasoned presenters from different walks of life, countries, and ministry areas. Their rich and unique perspectives help you to both *effectively train* and *spiritually nurture* all involved in passing on the faith.

FLEXIBLE ...

This formation can be adapted to a ministry certification process, ongoing formation, continuing education, volunteer formation, and group studies.

EFFECTIVE ...

We *accompany your diocese* as you implement Franciscan At Home by helping you create a strategy, overcome challenges, and define metrics of success for your unique goals.

Always about the Family

Greg and Mary Kuhn, parishioners at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud, MN, placed God's will at the center of their family life.

They encouraged their three children — Aaron, Matthew, and DeAnna — to consistently consider God's plan.

"Our philosophy was to start and end each day with the Lord," Greg said. "We offered each day as an act of love for the Lord and asked, Lord what do you have in mind today?"

All three of the Kuhn children considered religious life — DeAnna chose marriage as her vocation, and Aaron and Matthew became priests. Fr. Aaron Kuhn, said his parents fostered his prayer life and his relationship with the Lord by attending daily Mass during the summer, praying the rosary, and participating as a family in the church community. His parents instilled a concept of "giving yourself away" — that life is a gift to be offered in God's service.

"We were taught to save ourselves for the Lord," Fr. Aaron Kuhn recalled, "and to be prepared to do whatever the Lord asks."

"My parents fostered my vocation with theirs," Fr. Matthew Kuhn said. "Mom and Dad have such a strong marriage and they model marriage so well. They did argue, but in a way that seemed selfless." Fr. Mathew Kuhn fondly remembered an argument between his parents that ended with his mom declaring to his dad, "No! We're gonna do it your way and you're gonna like it."

"In my family, a religious vocation had equal footing with marriage. Religious life was always a valid option."

~ Quoted in 2013 article by Jennifer Janikula in *The Visitor*, of the Diocese of St. Cloud, MN

Where the Church places a teacher, she places a Father



Vocation fosters Purpose

"Love is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being."

~ St. John Paul II, FC II

Vocation fosters Peace

"God has traced a way for each of us.

Both our earthly and eternal happiness depends on following our vocation very carefully.

Every vocation is a call to motherhood or fatherhood, earthly, spiritual or moral. God has placed in us an instinct for life."

~ St. Gianna Molla

Vocation fosters Principle

"On the basis of this initial human maturity, the exercise of catechesis, by constant consideration and evaluation, allows the catechist to grow in a balanced and in a critical outlook, in integrity, in his ability to relate, to promote dialogue, to have a constructive spirit, and to engage in group work.

It will cause him to grow in respect and in love for catechumens and those being catechized: What is this love? It is the love, not so much of a teacher as of a father, or rather of a mother.

It is the Lord's wish that every preacher of the Gospel, every builder up of the Church should have this love.

Formation also assumes that the faith of the catechist is fostered and nourished by the exercise of catechesis, making him thus to grow as a believer.

The formation, above all, nourishes the spirituality of the catechist, so that his activity springs in truth from his own witness of life."

~ General Directory for Catechesis, 239

Always about Jesus

Discovering my vocation does not mean serambling toward some prize just beyond my reach, but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess.

Vocation does not come from a voice "out there" calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice "in here" calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original identity given me at birth by God.

~ Fr. Thomas Merton, O.C.S.O.





FOR CLERGY

The central purpose of the Catechetical Institute

The Catechetical Institute responds to requests from bishops, religious orders and lay apostolates who are looking for support for the formation of those in ministry in the areas of evangelization and catechesis.

A response to the urgent call of St John Paul II . . .

"I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church's energies to a new evangelization and to the mission *ad gentes*. No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples."

– St. John Paul II, *Redemptoris missio*, no.3

. . . which flowed from Vatican II's call for a renewal of universal mission . . .

- ▲ St. John XXIII's prayer for a new Pentecost (January 25, 1959)
- ▲ Universal mission
- ▲ Recovery of the first love
- ▲ *Ressourcement* of the catechumenal model
- ▲ The calling of the Second Vatican Council

. . . which led to a focus on a "new evangelization": remaking the Christian fabric of the ecclesial community . . .

" . . . many vital traditions of piety and popular forms of Christian religion are still conserved; but today this moral and spiritual patrimony runs the risk of being dispersed under the impact of a multiplicity of processes, including secularization and the spread of sects. Only a re-evangelization can assure the growth of a clear and deep faith, and serve to make these traditions a force for authentic freedom. Without doubt a mending of the Christian fabric of society is urgently needed in all parts of the world. But for this to come about what is needed is to *first remake the Christian fabric of the ecclesial community itself* present in these countries and nations." – St. John Paul II, *Christifidelis laici*, no.34

- ▲ Reconnecting catechesis with evangelization
- ▲ Grounding everything in the foundational documents for understanding catechesis, and most especially *Catechesi tradendae* (1979), *The General Directory for Catechesis* (1971, 1997, 2019) *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1992, 1997). The heart of what we need is contained in these.
- ▲ Focusing on the absolute priority of formation - "the quality of any form of pastoral activity is placed at risk if it does not rely on truly competent and trained personnel. The instruments provided for catechesis cannot be truly effective unless well used by trained catechists. Thus the adequate *formation of catechists* cannot be overlooked by concerns such as the updating of texts and the re-organization of catechesis. Consequently, diocesan pastoral programs must give absolute priority to the *formation of lay catechists*. Together with this, a fundamentally decisive element must be the *catechetical formation of priests* both at the level of seminary formation as well as at the level of continuing formation. Bishops are called upon to ensure that they are scrupulously attentive to such formation" (*GDC*, no. 234).

. . . and a Synod and Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization

- ▲ The Council set up under Pope Benedict XVI
- ▲ Transferring the competence for catechesis
- ▲ The Synod on the New Evangelization – gathering the energies of the universal Church

The Focus and Methodology of the Catechetical Institute

Responding to requests from bishops, religious orders and lay apostolates who are looking for *support* for the *formation of those in ministry* in the areas of evangelization and catechesis, the Catechetical Institute does this by:

- ▲ attending to the absolute priority of forming those in ministry
- ▲ providing an online platform and workshops for formation so that it may take place flexibly, faithfully, affordably, and available anywhere
- ▲ whilst maintaining the essentially *personal* nature of transmission, of heart speaking and transmitting to heart
- ▲ through its mentoring system and development of partnerships, fostering communion, mutual strengthening and resourcing in the universal Church in the area of evangelization and catechesis



DIVERSE

Our Tracks

A track is a collection of workshops that provides formation in a specific area of ministry. Each workshop has a blend of written and video materials, as well as opportunities for the learner to reflect on the content and apply it to his or her own life and ministry.

AVAILABLE TRACKS

English

- ✦ Catechist
- ✦ Catechumenal Ministry (OCIA)
- ✦ Catholic Schools
- ✦ Eucharistic Renewal
- ✦ First Proclamation & Evangelization
- ✦ Four Pillars of the Catechism
- ✦ Marriage Renewal Ministry
- ✦ Ministry of Parenting
- ✦ Ongoing Diaconal Formation
- ✦ Parish Catechetical Leader
- ✦ Pastoral Accompaniment
- ✦ Young Adults
- ✦ Youth Ministry

Español

- ✦ Certificación Básica Para Catequistas
- ✦ Certificación en el Liderazgo y Ministerio Pastoral
- ✦ Especializaciones Ministeriales

Slovenský

- ✦ Modul Služba mladým

Latviski

- ✦ Mentoru formācija un apmācīšana

TRACKS IN DEVELOPMENT

English

- ✦ Educating in Christ
- ✦ *Antiquum ministerium*
- ✦ Special Needs Ministry
- ✦ Culture of Life
- ✦ Diocesan Officials
- ✦ Priestly Renewal
- ✦ Music Ministry

Slovenský

- ✦ Modul pre katechéto

CUSTOM TRACKS

*Our partners usually **customize tracks** to suit their unique vision and needs.*

Feedback

I am most grateful for the ministry and efforts of the Catechetical Institute of the Franciscan University of Steubenville. They have been on the cutting edge of forming catechetical leaders and others of the faithful in a kerygmatic catechesis that is life giving and life changing. Their ministry is a vital service to the Church, especially at this juncture of history. Therefore, it is my wish to affirm my support for the Catechetical Institute and to endorse their efforts.

– Bishop David L. Ricken, Diocese of Green Bay, WI

This was my first time entering an online course/workshop and it surpassed my expectations. I expected it to be a lot more demanding and over the top too difficult for me to understand but it wasn't so. Thank you for making it accessible to me.

– Virginia R., Holy Spirit Parish, Diocese of Oakland, CA

I love taking online courses because I can do it at my own pace, in a quiet room and at my convenient time. Also, for us parents that work, go to school and have children, workshops online is what I can handle at this time. Thank you!

– Hilda B., Saint Isidore Parish, Diocese of Sacramento, CA

I am not only working through the workshops, I am loving the workshops! I have learned so much and been so inspired by what I have learned so far. I'm looking forward to the elective courses that are possible. Thank you for finding this program and making it possible at such a small charge for the parishes. I am most grateful.

– Gwen C., Sacred Heart Parish, Diocese of Venice, FL

I came home and started a workshop that I couldn't fault! Part of my job is to pick out the problems in software (bugs, bad user experience, etc.) and I can be very critical! But there was nothing I could honestly fault. It is a brilliant online learning environment. The one thing I did believe I would disagree with is "a personal encounter" with the mentors and presenters. I have never seen that implemented successfully in my seven years in software. However, I feel it has been done very successfully here. I've gotten to know you more through your sharing of experiences, struggles and your testimony. You shared in an honest, humble and trusting way in the workshops.

– Julianne C., Youth 2000 Leader, Ireland

The Spanish tracks will be extremely valuable; the fact that CI's website scales beautifully to mobile devices is important, and there is value in the flexibility of the Catechetical Institute to allow dioceses to create both commonly agreed-upon and unique/specialized sets of tracks; the fact that the system is portable for the catechist is fantastic.

– Fayne M., Diocese of Honolulu, HI

A guide for using our online workshops with a group . . .

Being effective

Our online platform, www.FranciscanAtHome.com has drawn the interest of over 200 dioceses!

In seeing the many creative ways our workshops are being used by parishes and schools, we have noted that group settings are often as much or more effective than solely individual use of this formation.

So, to encourage this way of using our workshops, we've provided here a set of best practices for how to do so . . .

A great variety of formation

We currently we have many ministry tracks being designed, with over 200 formation workshops thus far, and many more to come.

Our online platform is four years old, and the post-production on our workshops involves much time and care to make them beautifully *engaging* and *effective* formation tools. We appreciate your patience as we build this wonderful work to form those who form others.

**“Where
two or more
are gathered...”
~ Matthew 18:20**

Step One: Join us!

- ✓ Registration with the Catechetical Institute takes place through www.FranciscanAtHome.com either with an institution subscription (parish or school) or as individual subscriptions.
- ✓ The Catechetical Institute has a user-friendly PDF designed to help people easily get into the site for free, once their parish or school has a subscription. If you do not have this PDF, feel free to request it via email: ci@franciscan.edu.

Quick start group guide

- ✦ Discuss which adult groups could best benefit from the workshops led in collaborative learning sessions, such as: parish or school staff, catechists across all age levels, godparents/sponsors, parents, liturgical ministries, youth leaders, RCIA teams, young adult groups, etc.
- ✦ Choose a track (collection of workshops) or just a specific workshop.
- ✦ Determine a time frame (monthly, bi-weekly, weekly, etc.), session length, and what goal is to be accomplished at each gathering, such as the number of segments that can reasonably be discussed in the time available.
- ✦ Advertise to your target group, introducing CI, the relevant workshop topics, and the structure. Invite participants to bring their device (laptop or tablet, etc.), including a digital photo, to the first meeting, especially if you'll have them register online at that point.
- ✦ Ensure that the meeting location has WIFI or a cable connection to the internet, and that the room can project the workshops clearly enough for everyone.
- ✦ Assign a facilitator for the workshop. The facilitator does not teach. The CI workshop presenters teach. The facilitator keeps the discussion from being dominated by a single person, while guiding the discussion to be collaborative.
- ✦ The facilitator should be conversant with the videos and tasks in order to plan which texts can be simply read out-loud from the screen and which may need to be printed, such as the key instructions for the tasks. Consider which tasks are best explained, begun, and perhaps encouraged to be continued at home.
- ✦ Facilitators could be trained CI mentors, diocesan officials, or parish/school leaders.

"Catechesis is closely linked with the responsible activity of the Church and of Christians in the world. A person who has given adherence to Jesus Christ by faith and is endeavoring to consolidate that faith by catechesis needs to live in communion with those who have taken the same step."

~ Adult Catechesis in the Christian Community, 69

Tips for successful gatherings

- ✓ Introduce a specific track to the group and explore the different workshops in that track.
- ✓ Introduce the online presenters using the biographical videos found in each workshop.
- ✓ Begin a specific workshop and go through the segments according to the time available.
- ✓ Segments and tasks can be viewed and discussed as a group or participants may use their devices to type and save, or simply complete tasks on paper.
- ✓ Have Bibles and Catechisms available for those less familiar with using such texts electronically.
- ✓ Consider printing sheets of key texts as well as the handout available for downloading at the beginning of each workshop. Prior to watching the video, it may be helpful to ask participants to mark the pages in the Catechism or Bible that will be referenced.
- ✓ A large group could be divided into smaller groups for the tasks with a "reporter" for each group.
- ✓ Workshop segments and tasks not completed could be resumed and completed by participants on their own at their convenience, perhaps within a specific time frame. However, it's important to emphasize that the community aspect of the group is essential: "where two or more are gathered..." (Mt 18:20).
- ✓ Set aside time for group prayer and/or silent reflection at the conclusion of the session (a simple prayer, a sharing of intercessory intentions, or perhaps adoration, rosary, chaplet, a litany, etc.).
- ✓ It may be helpful to create a calendar for the parish, showing when certain workshops will be offered.

Considerations for hospitality

- ✦ Assign or invite participants to set up and serve appropriate snacks and beverages, and set up tables and chairs for each workshop.
- ✦ Low volume Catholic meditative music could be played in the background as people enter in order to set the mood and complement the beauty that is the cornerstone of the workshops.
- ✦ Have Bibles and Catechisms to purchase or borrow.
- ✦ Any Church documents referred to in the workshops could be displayed at the gathering (*Catechesi Tradendae*, *Directory for Catechesis*, etc.).
- ✦ Have extra pens, pencils, and paper available.
- ✦ Consider using name tags, and taking the time for introductions of the facilitator and participants.

Your role is critical...

Front lines. Mentoring will enable you to much more effectively serve souls and focus your ministry more on *building people* rather than just running programs. How to get started?

Warmly Introduce Yourself

In your first email to a learner introduce yourself directly, warmly and simply, avoiding stiffness or over-formality. Ask yourself: What can I do to be genuinely approachable to this person?

Ask Good Questions

Open-ended questions are best for getting to know others because they enable creative, self-revealing responses. What do you hope to gain from the Catechetical Institute workshops? Ask yourself: What can I do to discover what this person most needs and what I can do to help?

Respond with Empathy

Being empathic does not signal agreement (that is being sympathetic) but that you closely consider where the learner is coming from, what their perspective is. Ask yourself: How can I aim to create a warm relational space and trust with this person?

Manage Yourself

Any encounter with another person is an opportunity to help them achieve their ultimate end in Christ or instead to somehow impede them from reaching this destiny. Ask yourself: Am I aware of my own need to grow in how I communicate and listen? Do I have a tendency to be curt? Do I tend to gloss over problems? Am I responding to the person, or to a problem?



How to successfully, fruitfully mentor others



*Half of holiness is
choosing the right
companions.*

~ St. John Bosco

All conversion is local...

Formation in the faith is always first and foremost God's attentive presence to the *individual*. From this principle arises the vital importance of mentorship, and for that guidance to be proximal and personal: a mentoring accompaniment.

The overarching priority of the Catechetical Institute is to commit the effort necessary to form those who form others, rather than replace them with distant experts or high production value video and audio resources. Evangelization and catechesis can thus remain appropriately situated with those who can be in authentic ministerial relationships in the field. To accomplish this, all the online workshops designed by CI critically rely upon mentorship. By doing this, we seek to encourage dioceses in the direction of mentored formation and person-to-person engagement.

While this means greater time committed by both learners and mentors, there are clear advantages: for learners, that they become better ministers, with better results than less-attentive formation methods could ever achieve, and that they are enabled to take more creative ownership of their call to serve and form souls. For mentors and diocesan officials, these workshops help them to grow substantially in their own formation skills and ministerial competence, to discover an effective mechanism for accountability and excellence, and to find themselves ever more deeply in relationships with those they are called to lead and form.

**Here are some workshops on
FranciscanAtHome.com
that will greatly help you...**

We encourage you to take these great workshops to grow in your pastoral accompaniment skills:

- ◆ The Vocation of the Catechist
- ◆ Catechetical Mentorship
- ◆ Being Guided & Guiding Souls
- ◆ Personal Vocation and the Mentoring Relationship
- ◆ Building the Mentoring Relationship: Asking Good Questions
- ◆ Building the Mentoring Relationship: Empathic Listening
- ◆ Mentoring in Ministry

Got questions?

Here's some of the most common questions we're asked by mentors:

- ◆ What is the difference between teaching and mentoring?
- ◆ How often should I reach out to a learner?
- ◆ How should I handle tough ministry questions?
- ◆ What if a question seems more appropriate for spiritual director?
- ◆ How many people is good to mentor at a time?
- ◆ What is the normal time commitment for a mentor?

Answers to these and many other questions can be found at:

FranciscanAtHome.com/faq

We've also included video tutorials and other resources on this page to better help you serve your mentees!

Got a tech problem? Contact us at:

ci@franciscan.edu

**As yourself: What does it
mean to live sacrificially to
build up those we lead?**

We are all aware of the loneliness of *many* people in ministry – the isolation of the catechist in a classroom, or parents in a culture of indifference, or of priests working on their own. The mentoring role is to support, reinforce, refer back, and refer on to other workshops. Don't become second teacher. Help them to use the teacher well, to trust the teacher, use the sources, not to see you so much as an expert on all things, but instead more of a sounding-board and friend. Mentors seek to listen, to take a sincere interest in another soul, enjoy achievements, believe in what they do, support their mission, and help them through difficult patches. We find good points to affirm in their work, countering the tendency to make our points refer only to problems and shortcomings! We can always find some genuine good points in a workshop. By identifying and noting genuine strengths, we affirm people in things they may not otherwise recognize or repeat. This consolidates the good and cultivates virtues. If we did just this, we would be doing something very worthwhile. Don't waste the power of acknowledging the good!

Trust the workshop tasks and help learners to trust them as useful and helpful for formation. Remember you are there for personal long-term support. This "slow evangelization" avoids giving in to the illusion of rapid formation. Progress will be over a period, a sequence of workshops. Hopefully you will have the person for at least a dozen workshops. Mentoring needs to focus especially on building confidence by encouragement not so much correction. Always think, where can I be of most assistance in supporting this person? Above all, we pray, asking the Holy Spirit to show you how to assist well.

Eucharistic Renewal Track (ER)

But only say the word and my soul shall be healed...

Called to Him. Kept in Him. God's generosity and His Fatherly love is most fully manifest in His Son's Incarnation in ancient Israel and His continuing present in the Blessed Sacrament upon every altar. Our lives flow from the Eucharist and lead back to the Eucharist, so that we may be filled with God's life, sent into the world to proclaim the Good News, and be strengthened and invigorated for a life lived for others.

This pragmatic and deeply inspiring set of workshops addresses three critical aspects of the Eucharistic Renewal so needed today:

- How to *see* God's gift of the Eucharist, rooted in knowing Jesus personally and loving the liturgy.
- How to be *formed* for a Eucharistic life of intimate devotion and radical trust.
- How to *give* the saving truths of the Eucharist to others effectively in the home, the classroom, and in any relationship.

It is our privilege to pass on this magnificent inheritance of faith to the next generation, echoing the action of faithful disciples from the centuries before us. This track is designed to help you, whether you are a priest, parent, parish catechetical leader, catechist, teacher, youth minister, or parishioner, to better understand the Eucharist and its matchless importance in God's plan for humanity.

This track's creation was made possible through a generous grant by William H. Sadlier, Inc.

Forming those who form others.

Not a member?

Sign up to be a Catechetical Institute Learner today!
Please visit:

<https://franciscanathome.com>

Scroll down to the "Get Started" panel and choose the membership option that best fits your needs.

Questions?

Feel free to contact us any time:

FAQ's

<https://franciscanathome.com/faq>



Eucharistic Renewal (ER) Track

Course of Study: Seeing God's Greatest Gift

These workshops focus on how to see God's gift of the Eucharist, rooted in knowing Jesus personally and loving the sacred liturgy.

1. The Sacramental Economy
2. Christ: His Person and Works
3. Following Jesus: The Challenge of Discipleship
4. Understanding the Liturgy

Course of Study: Forming People for a Eucharistic Life

These workshops focus on how to be formed for a Eucharistic life of intimate devotion and radical trust.

1. The Principle of Sacramentality
2. Introduction to the Sacraments
3. The Sacrament of the Eucharist
4. Eucharistic Discipleship

Course of Study: Helping Adults, Teenagers, and Children Discover the Eucharist

These workshops focus on how to give the saving truths of the Eucharist to others effectively in the home, the classroom, and in any relationship.

1. Essential Link Between Liturgy and Catechesis
2. The Liturgical Nature and Sacramental Life of the Church
3. Introducing the Liturgy to Children
4. First Penance and First Eucharist Preparation

So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day,'

John 6:53-54

Electives for this Track

While no electives are required for this track, learners are allowed to take as many as they wish at no additional cost.

Electives include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ◆ The Church: Dispenser of the Mysteries and Guardian of the Deposit of Faith | ◆ Theology of the Family |
| ◆ Principles of Intercultural Communication | ◆ Conversion in Modern Culture |
| ◆ Ten Commandments and Beatitudes | ◆ Being Guided and Guiding Souls |
| ◆ The Four Last Things | ◆ Vocational Spirituality |
| ◆ Catholic Social Teaching | ◆ The Principle of Sacramentality |
| ◆ Building the Mentoring Relationship: Asking Good Questions | ◆ Following Jesus: The Challenge of Discipleship |
| | ◆ The Deposit of Faith: An Introduction to the Catechism |

... and many more!

To see the full list of electives for this track, please visit: <https://franciscanathome.com/tracks-and-workshops#alphabetically>



Ongoing Diaconal Formation

Reduce your costs while providing consistently high quality content!

Fulfilling an Unmet Need in an Innovative Way

Responding to the new requirement to provide five years post-ordination formation, Franciscan University's Catechetical Institute offers affordable, high quality content, delivered through an innovative learning management system to assist and support bishops and their diaconal directors in their responsibility for ensuring suitable ongoing growth for those called to this ordained ministry.

Grounded in the Heart of the Church

Rooted in the *Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons* and the *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States of America*, the post-ordination formation we provide is firstly centered upon the spiritual life of the deacon with the goal of drawing him into an ever-deepening communion with Christ the Servant.

Providing a Flexible Turnkey Approach

We recognize that diocesan needs vary, and flexible support needs to be made available to supplement and cohere with what is offered locally. This track provides sets of workshops designed to attune currently serving deacons to ministerial roles assigned to them in parish life, allowing a diocese to effectively and flexibly address the needs of deacons serving in a myriad of different parish circumstances and types of challenges.

*F*orming those who form others.





Ongoing Diaconal Formation Elements

The workshops listed below have tasking that has been designed and modified to reflect diaconal spirituality and ministry. The ministry roles noted below are those most commonly assigned to deacons by their pastors. Though many more workshops exist on the Catechetical Institute's platform in each of these ministry areas, those listed below have been chosen as a set that could act as an attunement for deacons asked to serve in these capacities. Further workshops can then be explored as needed.

Preface Workshops

1. Spirituality of the Diaconate
2. Theology of the Diaconate, Parts I & II

FOR DEACONS SERVING AS . . .

Parish Catechetical Leader

1. Personality and Profile of the Successful PCL
2. The Family as the Context of Catechesis
3. Planning for Success: Program Organization and Assessment
4. Catechetical Mentorship
5. First Penance and First Eucharist Preparation
6. Confirmation Preparation

Youth Ministry Leader

1. A Vision for Effective Youth Ministry
2. Partnering with Families in Youth Ministry
3. General Introduction to Adolescent Development
4. Effective Catechesis in Youth Ministry
5. Methods and Practical Skills for Youth Ministry
6. Engaging Youth Culture

Pastoral Caregiver

1. The Human Person in God's Loving Plan
2. Giving Counsel and Pastoral Care
3. Dealing with Crisis & Conflict from a Christian Perspective
4. Building the Mentoring Relationship: Empathic Listening
5. Building the Mentoring Relationship: Asking Good Questions
6. Discipling Adults

Formation of a Deacon Catechist

1. Philosophical Foundations of Catechetics
2. Introduction to Objective Truth
3. Essential Link Between Liturgy and Catechesis
4. Teaching Catechesis for Conversion
5. Scripture: The Driving Force of Doctrine
6. Analyzing Doctrine with Doctrinal Keys

Pro-Life Outreach Leader

1. Our Life in Christ: The Basics of Catholic Morality
2. A Foundational Vision: Theology of the Body
3. The Reality of a Culture of Death
4. The History of the Culture of the Death and the Catholic Strategy
5. Unlocking the 3rd Pillar of the Catechism
6. Bioethics: Fertility

RCIA Leader

1. The Catechumenal Process: A Modern Restoration of an Ancient Practice
2. Three Approaches to the RCIA Process
3. Liturgical Components of the Christian Initiation Process
4. Catechetical Components of the Christian Initiation Process
5. Pastoral Components of the Christian Initiation Process
6. Developing a Team: Creating an Environment for Conversion

Catechist Trainer

1. The Vocation of the Catechist
2. Pedagogy of Revelation & Response of Faith
3. Jesus: The Christocentricity of Catechesis
4. Scripture: The Heart of Catechesis
5. The Deposit of Faith: Introduction to the Catechism
6. The Ecclesial Method

Adult Formation Leader

1. The Human Person
2. Adult Catechetical Methodology & Learning Styles
3. Catechesis: Echoing What God has Revealed
4. Teaching Catechesis for Conversion
5. A Guide to Echoing the Mystery: Unlocking the Deposit of Faith in Catechesis
6. Understanding the Liturgy

Evangelization Outreach Leader

1. The Kerygma: Key Doctrines
2. Kerygma: Delivering the Gospel Proclamation
3. Conversion in Modern Culture
4. Being Guided and Guiding Souls
5. An Introduction to Spiritual Combat
6. Discipling Adults

Parent/Family Formation Leader

1. A Foundational Vision: Community of the Family
2. Family: Domestic Church & School of Holiness
3. Theology of the Family
4. Fostering Holiness in Children
5. Parent Saints
6. Shifting to Family-Centered Formation

We are happy to give you free access as a diocesan diaconal director to explore our ministry formation workshops at www.FranciscanAtHome.com. Just email us at CI@franciscan.edu for an access code.

The *Didascalia Apostolorum* recommends to the deacons of the first century:

"As our Saviour and Master said in the Gospel:

let he who wishes to be great among you, make himself your servant, in the same way as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many, you deacons must do the same, even if that means giving your life for your brothers and sisters, because of the service which you are bound to fulfill."

This invitation is most appropriate also for those who are called today to the diaconate, and urges them to prepare themselves with great dedication for their future ministry.

~ Congregation for Catholic Education,

Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons, 89



Online

Educating in Christ (EIC) | IN PROGRESS

Have you ever wondered how to *best* support children on their journey of life and faith, especially in these immensely challenging times? How can we help our young ones not only to learn about God's truth in their heads, but also come to *hunger* for Him in their hearts?

Children have an immense capacity for God, who has written a desire for Him in their hearts. Jesus invites us, as adults, to participate with the Holy Spirit in guiding little ones to the Father's Heart. This Educating in Christ (EIC) Track is a unique adaptation of the work of Dr. Maria Montessori, Dr. Sofia Cavalletti, and Gianna Gobbi, master teachers and master catechists. Designed by an educational expert, Dr. Gerard O'Shea, in collaboration with a team of catechetical experts assembled by Franciscan University's Catechetical Institute, the EIC approach offers the unparalleled value of *Montessori's understanding of the child* to two areas of need: parents in the home and teachers serving in regular Catholic schools. The EIC goal is to enable children in various educational circumstances to benefit from teachers, as well as mothers and fathers, who understand how to foster *yearning for God*, not just learning about God – and to do so for *all ages* of youth, from infancy to the end of the teenage years. This series of workshops, associated resource website (EducatingInChrist.com) and training events make this superlative formative approach accessible, affordable, and adaptable for a *much broader range* of situations and locations, reaching far more children and families.

These thorough and practical workshops will help you to:

- Deepen your sense of *wonder* at God's work in a child's heart from the earliest age.
- Broaden your *understanding* of child development and discover how to foster each child's capacity for God at every stage of development
- Increase your practical *skill set* for delivering the Gospel message to children in a concrete way that touches their hearts as well as their minds.

Whether you minister to children in your home or at school, this track will help you to lead children in the great adventure of falling in love with God.

Forming those who form others.

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven.'

MATTHEW 19:14



Educating in Christ (EIC) | IN PROGRESS

Please note that some workshops are still in development and will be available for use in coming months.

Foundation of Educating in Christ

Understanding the EIC Approach

1. The Vision of the Educating in Christ Approach
2. Hearing God's Voice through the Scriptures: Learning to Let Christ Become the Teacher
3. Fostering a Child's Faith and Spiritual Growth: The Anthropology of Human Learning
4. Characteristics of the Educating in Christ Approach
5. The Child in Front of You: The Planes of Development from Infancy through Adolescence

Applying the EIC Approach to Your Children

Please choose at least 2 of the following from the Formation for the Developmental Stages series:

1. Ages 0-3
2. Ages 3-6
3. Ages 6-9
4. Ages 9-12
5. Ages 12-18

Applying the EIC Approach in Your Circumstances

1. From the Heart of Mother Church: Principles for Handing on the Faith Effectively
2. Pedagogy and Methodology of the Educating in Christ Approach
3. How Grace Works through the Ordinary: Why Practical Life Activities Matter
4. Essential Lessons for a Child New to the EIC Approach
5. Introducing the Liturgy to Children
6. Growing in Virtue: Moral Formation and Moral Reasoning
7. Authentic Seeking and Listening: Teaching Children How to Pray

Keystone 1 | Hearing and Giving Christ

Scripture

1. Introducing the Scriptures to Children
2. Teaching Children about Typology, Parables, and Miracles
3. Sacred Scripture: The Big Picture

Please choose at least 2 of the following:

4. Introduction to the Old Testament
5. Introduction to the New Testament
6. Scripture: The Heart of Catechesis
7. Scripture: The Driving Force of Doctrine

Methodology

1. Connecting Child Development with Catechetical Formation
2. Working with a Child's Free Will and Loving the Difficult Child
3. Program Planning and Assessment: Using the Learning Journal
4. Preparing Yourself and the Environment to Foster Contemplative Openness to God

Please choose at least 2 of the following:

5. Teaching Catechesis for Conversion
6. Contemporary Teaching Strategies
7. Preventive System of St John Bosco
8. The Ecclesial Method

Keystone 2 | Believing and Worshiping in Christ

Pillar I

1. The Father: Origin and Desire of All
2. Teaching Children about the Incarnation
3. Teaching Children about the Paschal Mystery

Please choose at least 2 of the following:

4. Teaching Children about Salvation History
5. The Sacramental Economy
6. The Human Person in God's Loving Plan
7. The Church: Dispenser of the Mysteries and Guardian of the Deposit of Faith

Pillar II

1. The Principle of Sacramentality and Sequencing the Teaching of the Sacraments
2. The Purpose of the Sacred Liturgy
3. Mystagogy and Key Moments in the Liturgy

Please choose at least 2 of the following:

4. Teaching Children about the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation
5. Teaching Children about the Eucharist
6. Teaching Children about the Sacraments at the Service of Healing
7. Teaching Children about the Sacraments at the Service of Building Up the Kingdom

Keystone 3 | Living and Praying in Christ

Pillar III

1. The Universal Call to Holiness
2. An Introduction to Objective Truth
3. Our Life in Christ: The Basics of Catholic Morality

Please choose at least 2 of the following:

4. Catholic Social Teaching
5. Family: Domestic Church and School of Holiness
6. A Foundational Vision: Theology of the Body
7. Teaching Your Children About God's Plan for Sexuality

Pillar IV

1. Holy Spirit: Converter of Hearts
2. Vocational Spirituality
3. Following Jesus: The Challenge of Discipleship

Please choose at least 2 of the following:

4. Prayer: Introduction to the Spiritual Life of the Catechist
5. The Theological Virtue of Hope
6. An Introduction to Spiritual Combat
7. Being Guided and Guiding Souls



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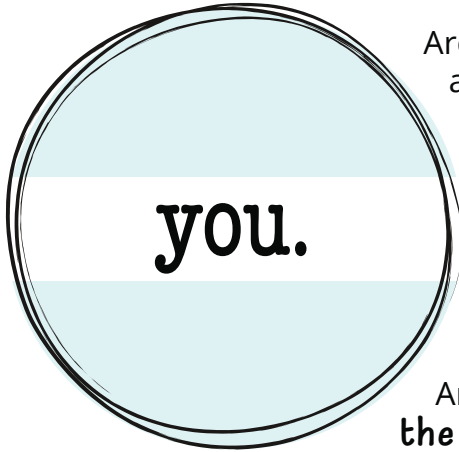
URGENT QUESTIONS

from

YOUTH MINISTERS



with real **answers** from Franciscan's Catechetical Institute



Are you yearning to **grow** your own **spiritual life** as the first principle of being fruitful in ministry?

[The Universal Call to Holiness](#)
[Personal Spirituality and the Call to Holiness](#)

Are you **new** to **youth ministry** or wish you had better grounding?

[A Vision for Effective Youth Ministry](#)

Are you finding it hard to get **others in the parish** to commit to your **core team**?

[Methods and Practical Skills for Youth Ministry](#)

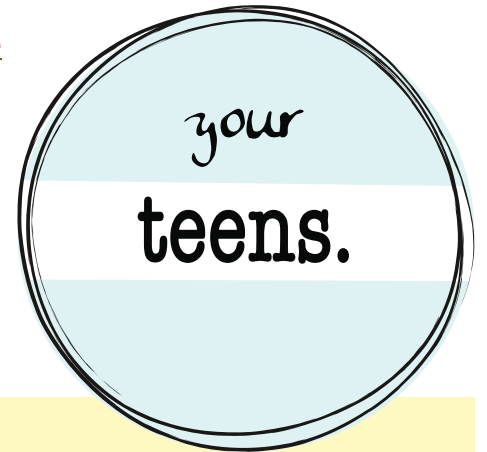


Are you struggling to understand, gently handle, and invite trust and healing for **teens with gender and sexuality confusions**?

[Engaging Youth Culture](#)
[A Foundational Vision: Theology of the Body](#)

Are you challenged by **mental health issues** so often apparent in youth ministry today, especially building connections between mental and spiritual health?

[General Introduction to Adolescent Development](#)
[Giving Counsel and Pastoral Care](#)



Are you hoping to help teens see **virtue** as not just a list of things to do or not do but as seeking to joyfully respond to **Jesus' love**?

[Faith and Moral Development: Ages 12-18](#)
[Teaching Catechesis for Conversion](#)

Are you longing to help teens see their **faith as deeply relevant** to everyday things—and everything—in life?

[Incarnational Ministry: Relational Ministry with Teenagers](#)
[Effective Catechesis in Youth Ministry](#)

their
families.

Are you desiring to discover how to involve your teens' families and better prepare yourself to interact fruitfully with their parents, especially fathers?

[Partnering with Families in Youth Ministry](#)
[The Family as the Context of Catechesis](#)

back to
you.

Are you seeking to know who you are in Christ, where you belong, what your purpose is

and daring to hope the answers lead to real peace and real joy?

[Being Guided and Guiding Souls](#)
[Following Jesus: The Challenge of Discipleship](#)

SOME NICHE QUESTIONS

Silly question, but what's the **Good News** again?

[The Kerygma: Delivering the Gospel Proclamation](#)

Silly question, but why is the **Church** important?

[The Liturgical Nature & Sacramental Life of the Church](#)
[The Church: Dispenser of the Mysteries and Guardian of the Deposit of Faith](#)

How do I make the most of my **time** and my scarce **resources** in a **small parish**?

[Rural Youth Ministry](#)

What **advice** can I give to parents about teaching their children about **chastity** in a positive way?

[Teaching Your Children About God's Plan for Sexuality](#)

How can I **fight** better?

[An Introduction to Spiritual Combat](#)

How do I deal with **messes** better?

[Dealing with Crisis and Conflict from a Christian Perspective](#)

How do I find my **faith**?

[Vocational Discernment for Young Adults](#)
[Vocational Spirituality](#)

SOME RESOURCES

Free on-going resources

[Franciscan's Discipleship Quads](#)
[Franciscan's Webinar Series](#)

Not free on-going resources

[St. John Bosco Conference](#)
[Franciscan's many other amazing conferences](#)

LOOKING

FOR THE

SAME

ANSWERS?

Join Franciscan's
Catechetical Institute today!



What are the top ten things that other parishes and schools doing to implement Catechetical Institute tracks and workshops successfully?

- 1) Focus on discovering people's *real* needs / urgencies / focus on them as people with *spiritual* needs, not just functions
- 2) Aim for attentive mentoring / focus on the need to live an *accompanying* ministry life, without shying away from or downplaying its demands of greater sacrificial presence to individuals
- 3) Move towards a strong intentionality of doing the workshops in *groups* / assume a *need* for dialogue and accountability in learning / avoid isolated learning as the norm
- 4) Present tracks, sets of workshops in more doable bites, listing *fewer* initially to avoid intimidating people / attend *very carefully* to what a person's first experience feels like with a workshop, and encourage it to happen preferably in a group setting if possible
- 5) Encourage people to explore the *free choice* of all the workshops, not just required tracks, to meet their *own* needs, perceived gaps and areas of interest / walk through with them what's there, rather than hope they'll discover things beyond required tracks
- 6) Pace the learning, providing *clear* expectations / define how much to do by when, rather than leaving people's movement forward to chance
- 7) Provide more *incremental* rewards / make a shorter runway to success and acknowledgement / divide tracks into increments of certification
- 8) Come up with *incentives* other than certification alone / how can you encourage the best in your people?
- 9) Speak often of a culture of *ownership* of a ministry role / use language of building a positive culture of *diligence* in serving God's own
- 10) Hold open discussions about *barriers and issues* / aim to more intentionally listen to people in their struggles, concerns, and hopes

What other helpful resources does Franciscan have to offer to help our parish or school succeed in our mission?

- Our Resources section on the site: www.FranciscanAtHome.com/resources
- Our annual [St. John Bosco Conference](#) and all Franciscan University's [other](#) summer conferences
- Our ministry formation magazine – [The Catechetical Review](#)
- Our [events](#) held for dioceses, local and on-line, and our [tutorials and webinar series](#)
- Our University's online and on-ground [degrees](#) and [School of Spiritual Direction](#)
- Our intentional priority on formation for pastoral accompaniment, with workshops on our platform that help build you in that specific skill set

Motivating others to grow: mentoring and accompanying, peer groups, gentle accountability, creative leadership in forming others.

1. What actually works in helping people in ministry roles to want to grow beyond where they are?
 - Who are they with? – They meet someone else, standing in their life as an *encourager* and *listener*.
 - Who are they worried about? – They feel some kind of *urgency* to be able to meet a need.
 - Who have they heard? – They hear *testimonies* of those with a diligent heart-attitude.

2. How do I break through the culture of just doing the minimum?
 - *Crowd* it out – grouping with others with a different attitude.
 - *Inspire* it out – testimonies of others with the right attitude and its impact on their personal life, apostolic fruitfulness.
 - *Listen* it out – one-to-one discussion to discover more about their attitude; the need to listen to find the source struggle.
 - *Tailor* it out – don't start them with any workshop; instead look for ones that would meet a need in that person.
 - **Bottom-line: a more personal approach is usually the key to overcoming this issue.**
 - CI workshops that would help: The Vocation of the Catechist / Being Guided and Guiding Souls

3. How is a workshop built to engage different learning styles and aim towards spiritual not just cognitive growth?
 - Learning by *hearing* – auditory platform, wide variety of voices, tonal variance, emotive engagement, music.
 - Listening by *seeing* – video platform, heavy use of beauty, quotes on screen.
 - Learning by *reading* – tasks themselves, what the tasks ask them to do, handouts.
 - Learning by *example* and *story* – narrative approach, witness-based, modeling good practices, mentoring, accompanying.
 - Learning by *doing* and *discussing* – task-based approach, but not in an academic format, sending out to their community.
 - Learning by *praying* and *contemplation* – spiritual effort and invitation, not only cognitive.
 - **Bottom-line: these workshops are built to really grow people, and their method and design needs to be trusted to succeed.**
 - CI workshops that would help: Discipling Adults / Personal Vocation and the Mentoring Relationship / The Human Person

4. Why does accountability matter in spiritual growth, and what is the difference between positive and negative accountability?
 - *Limitedly* negative and *not* the emphasized motivator:
 - Penalties (pay cut or lack of advancement).
 - Organizational threats (to be completed within this timeframe or else).
 - Exterior threats (danger from the culture, possible loss of the parish or school or freedoms or resources).
 - Guilt (exhortation to improve without enablement or listening to their circumstances).
 - *Generously* positive, strongly emphasized:
 - Credentialing (certificates incrementally offered) aimed at *credibility* and *responsibility* in the care of souls.
 - Chance to discuss and explore *with others* (adults need to talk to learn best)
 - Focus on *spiritual growth* rather than only functionality and roles (this is the *least* done and *most* needed thing).
 - Focus on their actual needs and gaps or *existing* forms of stuntedness, discouragement, loneliness, or guilt.
 - **Bottom-line: Christian maturity is less about independence and more about developing wise forms of dependence and shared commitment to grow – God's grows us as a family.**
 - CI workshops that would help: Catechetical Mentorship / Spiritual Accountability / Universal Call to Holiness

5. What are different ways to effectively use these workshops in groups?
 - One-to-one mentoring – at various levels of attention and long-term accompaniment.
 - Team mentoring – such as an RCIA team, youth ministry team, Sunday School group of teachers, etc.
 - Peer mentoring – inside the parish or school in small groups *or* among colleagues from other parishes or schools.
 - Pastoral staff mentoring – with the pastor in the lead, more for the sake of a shared vision than gaining a specific skill set.

6. What other helpful resources does Franciscan have to offer to help our parish or school succeed in our mission?
 - Our Resources section on the site: www.FranciscanAtHome.com/resources
 - Our annual [St. John Bosco Conference](#) and all Franciscan University's [other](#) summer conferences
 - Our ministry formation magazine – [The Catechetical Review](#)
 - Our [events](#) held for dioceses, local and on-line, and our [tutorials and webinar series](#)
 - Our University's online and on-ground [degrees](#) and [School of Spiritual Direction](#)
 - Our intentional priority on formation for pastoral accompaniment, with workshops on our platform that help build you in that specific skill set, and the option to join the [Franciscan International Guild of Catechists and Leaders](#)

The Key to Success will Always be Personal

It is more blessed to give than to receive. ~ Acts 20:35



The Few

- ◆ The impact of a **very few** – God can do much with little; God can pour great grace through weak vessels.
- ◆ The paradigm of **spiritual combat** and **worldly conflict** – just like the Master.
- ◆ In Acts we are invited to place the early work against today's work, and thereby discern the essentials . . .
 - ✓ **Did the Early Church have** – Emails / blogs / tweets / social websites / billboards / publishing powerhouses providing pamphlets, holy cards, books, CDs, DVDs / EWTN / even Bibles.
 - ✓ **Did the Early Church have** – Parish bulletins / flyers / posters / handouts / parishioner mailings / media racks / certified catechists / great speakers from afar / even DREs.
 - ✓ **Did the Early Church have** – Lovely vestments / soaring art / beautiful baptismal fonts / gilded altars / glowing monstrances / well-designed hymnals / even church buildings.
 - ✓ **Did the Early Church have** – Holy Names societies / knights / sodalities / bazaars / spaghetti dinners / golf tournaments / VBS / parish elementary schools with professionally printed textbooks / expensive high schools with better education than the government can provide / private colleges filled with faithful professors / even bingo.
 - ✓ **Did the Early Church have** – Highly developed devotional traditions / a calendar full of feast days / a liturgy that organizes Christ's life for us / even offertory envelopes.
- ◆ The point is not that any of this isn't good. The point is that the Church grew by leaps and bounds without any of it. All of that good stuff can be a **huge** help, but **none** of it can make up for the lack of souls that seek to pick up just one. And not count the cost.
 - ✓ **What did the Early Church have** – apostles / the first generation of bishops and priests and deacons / a laity made up of people who were disciplined in such a way that following Jesus and sharing Jesus were indistinguishable / martyrs at all social levels and ages . . . All made possible by two factors – people who lived as other Christis and sacramental grace to lift that witness beyond human weakness.
- ◆ St. Paul is frequently invoked as a person who would use all the modern forms of reaching out if they were available to him, and that may be so, but this would never replace him being sacrificially present to souls – do you and I do that?

The One

"I NEVER LOOK AT THE MASSES AS MY RESPONSIBILITY;
I look at the individual.
I CAN ONLY LOVE ONE PERSON AT A TIME,
JUST ONE, ONE, ONE.
So you begin.
I began – I picked up ONE PERSON.
Maybe if I didn't pick up THAT ONE PERSON,
I wouldn't have picked up forty-two thousand...
THE SAME THING GOES FOR YOU,
THE SAME THING IN YOUR FAMILY,
THE SAME THING IN YOUR CHURCH, YOUR COMMUNITY.
JUST BEGIN – ONE, ONE, ONE." ~ ST. MOTHER TERESA



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Mukachevo, Ukraine (Ruthenian)