



2023 NCCL Convocation Program

Journey toward the Future of Catechesis with All Ages and Generations is designed to engage the catechetical community in envisioning new directions and initiatives for proclaiming and teaching the Catholic faith in our world today guided by the vision and practices of the *Directory for Catechesis* (Vatican, 2020). Building on the vision of the 1971 and 1997 Directories, the new *Directory for Catechesis* (2020) provides a fresh vision and blueprint for developing catechesis in the 2020s and beyond.

The Convocation seeks to address the question: How can the vision and practices of the *Directory for Catechesis* guide catechetical ministry in parishes across the United States. The Convocation will explore how the catechetical vision of the *Directory* and the practices that flow from that vision can transform

Day One

Morning Set-up

11 am Arrival and registration

1 pm **Opening Activity**

1. Program Overview and Team Introduction
2. **Opening Prayer Experience** (Led by Team)
3. **Storytelling Experience: The Calling and Vocation of the Catechist (in groups)**

Reflection

- ◆ Image your life as a catechetical leader like the chapters of a book that is still being written. Use Chapter 1 to describe your call to catechetical ministry:
 - How did you experience God calling you to catechetical ministry?
 - Who was involved?
 - What were the circumstances?
 - What was it like for you?
- ◆ Use the following Chapters to describe your calling over time:
 - How has your calling and ministry evolved and changed over time.
 - What are the major chapters of your life as a catechetical leader.
 - Develop titles for each chapter, reflecting your journey in catechetical ministry.
 - Describe your experiences and roles in each chapter of your life in catechetical ministry.

Small Group Storytelling

Session 1. Exploring the Vision of the *Directory for Catechesis*

Focus: Exploring the *Directory's* fundamental theological-pastoral principles and guidelines for the practice of catechesis within the evangelizing mission of the Church; analyzing how the *Directory* informs current catechetical practice.

Learning Process

1. Essential Features of the Directory for Catechesis
 - *Introduction:* Evolution of Catechetical Directories since Vatican II (John)
 - *Resource Team:* Mini-presentations on what each person sees as two or three of the most important features of the new *Directory*.
 - *Introduction* to 14 Essential Features of the *Directory* (John)
2. Individual Reflection: “Applying the Directory for Catechesis to Parish Life” Assessment Tool
 - Individual reflection on how well the essential features inform catechesis in participants’ parishes using an assessment tool.
3. Group Discussions
 - Participants share reflections on their assessment of how the *Directory* informs and guides their catechetical practice.
 - Participants conclude the discussion by sharing how the Directory can inspire their ministry and catechesis in the parish.

Session 2. Designing Catechesis for Families and All Ages Informed by the *Directory*

Focus: Envisioning new directions for catechesis with all ages, informed by the vision and practices of the *Directory for Catechesis*.

Design Process

1. Identify the Target Audience
2. Empathize
3. Define the Challenge
4. Connect to the *Directory for Catechesis*
5. Generate Ideas and Strategies
6. Create Prototypes
7. Test the Prototypes

Organize People into Design Groups

- 1) All Ages/Intergenerational
- 2) Family
- 3) Children
- 4) Young People
- 5) Young Adults
- 6) Adults 40+ (Midlife Adults - 40s-50s, Mature Adults - 60s-70s, and Older Adults - 80+

Learning Process

1. **Target Audience:** Who are you designing for?
2. **Context:** What does the new context for catechesis look like? – 11 Challenges (John)

3. **Empathize:**

- How would you describe the next context for catechesis with your target audience?
- What is happening in their lives today: life situations, life tasks and issues, religious and spiritual characteristics, etc.
- Select the most characteristics of the new context and the lives of your target audience.

4. **Define the Design Challenge – from the perspective of the people – the target audience**

- What is the design challenge you want to address in developing catechesis with your target audience?

5. **Connect to the *Directory for Catechesis*: What would it be liked if the vision and practices in the *Directory* informed the way you addressed the Design Challenge?**

- *Resource Team*: Examples of how do you see the *Directory* informing the practice of catechesis, e.g., with families, with children, youth, adults, et al.
- *Presentation*: “12 Principles and Practices of Catechesis for All Ages from the *Directory*” (John)
- *Preparation for Design Work*: People read about their target audience in the Program Manual, including the *Directory*’s vision and the strategy illustrations,
- *Discussion*: People discuss what they have learned from their reading and the implications for designing new initiatives with their target audience.

6. **Generate Ideas and Strategies**

- What strategies could address the design challenge?

7. **Create Prototypes:**

- How can you use the strategies to create new initiatives that address the design challenge?
- How can you transform the ideas and strategies into projects/initiatives that your target audience can experience?

8. **Test the Prototypes:**

- How can you pilot the new projects/initiatives, engage people in them, obtain feedback on people’s experience, and revise/update the designs to engage more people (scale it up)?

5:30 pm Dinner

6:30 pm **Session 2. Designing Catechesis for All Ages in the New Context** (continued)

8:30 pm Close

Day Two

8:30 am Morning Prayer

9:00 am **Session 3. Presenting New Initiatives (Prototypes) for Catechesis with Families and All Ages**

1. Each Design Group presents their prototype(s) for their target audience.

2. After the presentations, the design groups discuss how the prototypes could transform parish catechesis with all ages and generations.

Session 4. Formation of Catechists in the New Context

- New Mixed Groups

Focus: Developing new educational models and approaches for equipping and forming catechists as witnesses of faith and keepers of the memory of God, as teachers and mystagogues, and as companions and educators.

Design Process

1. Identify the Target Audience
2. Empathize
3. Define the Challenge
4. Connect to the *Directory for Catechesis*
5. Generate Ideas and Strategies
6. Create Prototypes
7. Test the Prototypes

Learning Process

1. Empathize:

- How would you describe the life and faith of catechists today?
- How would you describe their participation in catechetical formation today?

2. Define the Design Challenge – from the perspective of the people – the target audience

- What is the design challenge you want to address in developing catechesis formation today?

3. Connect to the *Directory for Catechesis*: What would it be liked if the vision and practices in the *Directory* informed the way you designed catechist formation?

- Identity of catechist
- Three elements of catechist formation
- Principles of adult learning

1) *Presentation*: Envisioning new ways to conduct catechist formation (John)

2) *Resource Team*: What needs to be true about catechist formation that is designed based on the *Directory's* vision?

4. Generate Ideas and Strategies for Designing Catechist Formation

- What strategies could address the design challenge?

5. Create Prototypes of Catechist Formation

- How can you utilize the ideas and strategies to create new models of catechist formation?

6. Test the Prototypes:

- How can you pilot the new models, engage catechists in them, obtain feedback on their experience, and revise/update the designs to engage more people (scale it up)?

12 noon Lunch

1 pm **Session 4. Formation of Catechists in the New Context** (continued)

1. Design work continues.
2. Presentations: Each Design Group presents their prototype(s) for catechist formation.
3. After the presentations, the design groups discuss how the prototypes could transform catechist formation in their parishes/dioceses.

Closing Prayer

4:00 pm Depart