



*The National Community of Catechetical Leaders (NCCL) is dedicated to promoting the ministries of Evangelization and Catechesis in the U.S. Catholic Church by fostering a community of leaders who proclaim and teach the Word of Jesus Christ through the witness of accompaniment, education and formation in the Catholic faith.*

## *Journey toward the Future of Catechesis*

### 2023 NCCL Convocations

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*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 big question for catechetical leaders is how can the vision and practices of the *Directory for Catechesis* guide catechetical ministry in parishes across the United States. This is the focus of the 2023 NCCL Convocations. We are going to explore how the catechetical vision of the *Directory* and the practices that flow from that vision can transform catechesis with all ages and generations in a parish community by addressing ten key questions.

1. What is the new context (social and cultural) for catechesis today? What are the new needs of parents, families, and people of all ages? What are the challenges and where are the opportunities?
2. What does the *Directory* mean by catechesis and how is it connected to evangelization?
3. How can the catechumenal vision – as a source of inspiration for all catechesis – be put into practice with all ages and generations?
4. How can the five interrelated tasks of catechesis guide the development of a holistic curriculum and programming with all ages and generations?
5. How do we draw upon the seven sources of catechesis in designing catechetical curriculum and programming, and in teaching all ages and generations?
6. What is the relationship between catechetical content and method?
7. Which educational approaches and methods are most consistent with the pedagogical vision of the *Directory*?
8. How do we design catechesis for families and children, teens, young adults, adults, the elderly, and persons with disabilities informed by the vision and practices suggested in the *Directory*?
9. How do we prepare and form today's catechist as a witness of faith and keeper of the memory of God; as a teacher and mystagogue, and as an accompanier and educator?
10. What new models of catechist formation are needed to engage today's catechist?

### Convocation Locations

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| 1. September 18-19 | San Francisco: Mercy Center, Burlingame, CA       |
| 2. September 26-27 | Baltimore: Bon Secours Center, Marriottsville, MD |
| 3. October 3-4     | Dallas: Hilton Garden Inn DFW Airport South       |

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| 4. October 10-11  | Hartford: Holy Family Retreat Center, Farmington, CT       |
| 5. October 17-18  | Chicago: Hilton Garden Inn O'Hare Airport                  |
| 6. October 24-25  | Tampa: Franciscan Center, Tampa, FL                        |
| 7. November 29-30 | San Diego: Hilton Garden Inn Mission Valley, San Diego, CA |

## Convocation Program

### Required Reading

Everyone is expected to read the *Directory for Catechesis* and bring a copy to the Convocation.

### Timing

The Convocation begins at 1 pm on Day One and concludes at 4 pm on Day Two.

### Team

Each Convocation has a Resource Team of four leaders from diocesan, parish, and university settings who bring years of experience and expertise in catechetical ministry to the Convocation program. John Roberto, NCCL Executive Director, serves as the program facilitator.

### Design

#### **Session 1. A Storytelling Experience: We Are All Catechists – The Calling and Vocation of the Catechist**

- Reflecting on how we are called to be a witness of faith and keeper of the memory of God, a teacher and mystagogue, and an accompanier and educator.

#### **Session 2. Vision of the *Directory for Catechesis*: Essential Features**

- 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.

#### **Session 3. The New Context for Catechesis Today**

- Analyzing challenges and opportunities for forming all ages and generations in faith and discipleship, with special attention to faith transmission and formation in the first three decades of life.

#### **Session 4. Catechesis for All Ages in the Contemporary Context**

- Imagining new catechetical models – for families, age groups, and the whole parish – that address the new context and are informed by the vision and practices of the *Directory for Catechesis*.
- Developing lifelong catechesis, informed by the vision and practices of the *Directory for Catechesis*, for the whole community, for families, and for each stage of life from childhood to older adulthood.

#### **Session 5. Educational Approaches and Methods for Catechesis at Each Stage of Life**

- Utilizing contemporary educational approaches and methods in designing catechetical programs and learning experiences for children, youth, adults, and families.

#### **Session 6. Formation of Catechists and Catechetical Leaders in Today's Context**

- Developing new educational models and approaches for equipping and forming catechists of all ages as witnesses of faith and keepers of the memory of God, as teachers and mystagogues, and as accompaniers and educators.

### Online Registration and Information

NCCLCatholic website: <https://www.ncclcatholic.org/future-of-catechesis.html>