

Tasks of Catechesis in the National Directory for Catechesis

“The most important task of the catechesis of children and youth is to provide, through the witness of adults, an environment in which young people can grow in faith. (p.205)

Included in the pastoral directives given in the *National Directory for Catechesis* are the following:

- Recognize that children have a dignity of their own and that they are important not only for what they will do in the future, but for who they are now.
- Understand that the child’s comprehension and other powers develop gradually, and present religious truths in greater depth and propose more mature challenges as the capacity for understanding and growth in faith increase.
- Provide experiences in which they can live faith and apply the message of salvation to real-life situations; encourage the use of imagination, as well as intelligence and memory
- Provide experiences that link Liturgy and catechesis and promote appreciation for the community celebration of the Eucharist.
- Stimulate not only exterior but interior activity – a prayerful response from the heart.

For older children include:

- Assist them in the praxis of observing, exploring, interpreting, and evaluating their experiences; in learning to ascribe a Christian meaning to their lives; and in learning to act according to the norms of faith and love
- Emphasize that growth in faith includes growth in the desire of a deeper, more mature knowledge of the truths of faith