

WHEN TO BEGIN A CATECHETICAL PROGRAM IN SPANISH ELEMENTARY LEVEL

PURPOSE: Implementation of the guidelines of the NDC – *“Inculturation of the Gospel Message”*. To be effective, evangelization and catechesis requires the adoption of the Gospel Message, linguistically and culturally using expressions that foster the transmission and reception of the Gospel Message.” (Summary, p. 11)

“The Catechist performs a vital role in this process. By interpreting the gospel message faithfully and communicating it understandably in the idiom of the local culture, the catechist enhances the reception of the mysteries of Christ entrusted to the Church.” (NDC – Summary, p.11)

WHEN TO BEGIN A CATECHETICAL PROGRAM IN SPANISH

- When you have a request for religious education in Spanish.
- When a catechist in an English-speaking class notices that Spanish speaking student is NOT comprehending the material being taught.
- Student has difficulty expressing themselves in English.
- Student is NOT able to read the English material.
- Parents do not understand materials given to them and students cannot explain the English materials.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ENGLISH AND SPANISH PROGRAM

- Spanish program is part of the regular religious education program.
- DRE coordinates the Spanish program with the assistance of a bilingual coordinator.
- The Spanish program may be at the same time as the regular catechetical program or a special time due to the work schedule of the Spanish speaking community.
- This work is done collaboratively not as two separate programs.
- Spanish speaking catechist may have done catechetical work in the country of origin and understand how a catechetical program functions. Bilingual materials from the U.S. need to be introduced. Approved materials must be used.

