

Practical Pointers and Helpful Hints for Catechists

Inspired by the catechists of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, New Jersey

- Be aware of the trust that has been given you and plan your lessons well.
- Set a routine for personal preparation.
- Learn the students' names as soon as possible (consider memorizing the names before meeting the students).
- Plan for more than you think you have time.
- Pray as you prepare.
- Study the manual's lesson plan, then write your own.
- Accept that you do not know all the answers and be prepared to admit it.
- Review the work covered in the previous class and proceed from there.
- Establish discipline the first day. Ask students to help in the rule making.
- Be consistent and follow through in your discipline.
- Expect respect.
- Don't threaten. Remember children are children.
- Don't shout or let the students do so.
- Start fresh each week. Don't carry over any unpleasantness.
- Leave your troubles at the door.
- Establish a classroom "family."
- Use plenty of visuals, pictures, and real objects.
- Have fun!
- Vary your approaches and kinds of activities to make each class different.
- Give the students plenty of time to stretch and move
- Encourage the children to ask questions.
- Avoid preaching.
- Use humor.
- Establish an atmosphere that communicates to each child that class isn't complete without him/her.
- Show interest and give the students a chance to talk. Ask about them at the beginning of class.
- Listen.
- Treat each child as an individual.
- Don't give the children the opportunity to say "no" (i.e. say "Let's..." instead of "Do you want to...")
- Encourage them to take their lesson home and discuss it with their families.
- Remember that enthusiasm is contagious.
- Basically: be patient, flexible, prayerful, courteous, creative, prepared, happy, and positive.

