



CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2021

TO: THE FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

FROM: BISHOP MYRON J. COTTA

DATE: 08/24/2021

“Say the word and my soul shall be healed.”

My Dear People of God,

On September 19, we acknowledge and celebrate *Catechetical Sunday*. In sharing a few thoughts of Pope Francis on the importance of catechesis, and my concern for the evangelization and catechesis of all of God’s people throughout the Diocese of Stockton, I offer you the following:

Catechetical Sunday offers an opportunity for us to reflect on the importance and impact that catechesis has on the life of our parishes. As we come to personally know the Lord Jesus as we grow in our knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and the Good News - the Gospel, we contribute to our ongoing conversion and evangelization. In addition, we take to heart the history of the Church along with her great *deposit of faith!*

In order for our children, youth and adults to benefit from the teachings of Jesus, and his Church, we need an *army* of well-formed, trained and certified as *catechists*, especially, now, during these challenging times.

This noble calling of catechist “begins with Christ.” As one continues to grow in their own faith, the best way to learn is to *teach*. When you instruct others, your own understanding increases. Sharing the faith is an honor, and you will find that your own faith will come alive!

In today’s chaotic world, people are searching for what is real and what is not. Catechists speak the truth about God, faith and morals. The world needs the message of the Gospel and the way to true happiness. As a catechist, you will discover that prayer, liturgy and your own relationship with God will become more vibrant and meaningful.

When you join a team of catechists in your parish, you enter into a community that will support you on your faith journey, pray for and with you, and encourage you in your Catholic way of life. You will discover that the life you live, as a catechist, is one that consists of being a good steward of your time and talent.

Also, by showing your family that you value religious education and formation, as you take the time out of your life to teach the faith, shows your own children, grandchildren, siblings and family members that you put a high priority on religious education and that you enjoy it!

Jesus said: “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Mt 28:19-20).

As we continue to grow as the faith community, let us pray for more dedicated and Spirit-filled catechists who will not only catechize the present, but, also, the future baptized brothers and sisters of our parishes throughout the Diocese of Stockton.



If you are interested, and would like more information in becoming a catechist, please contact Grace Garza-Ayala, Director of the Office of Evangelization and Faith Formation at (209) 466-0636. In the meantime, I ask that you prayerfully discern the possibility of serving the Church in this capacity. Listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. He may be calling **you** to experience this ministry at this time in your life. You will find it to be one that is *life changing!*

In the Peace of Christ,

Bishop Myron J. Cotta