

What the National Directory says about Those Who Catechize (cf., chapter 8)

Catholic Schools, Principals, and Teachers

- The Catholic school is a center for evangelization, and thus its catechetical program is essential to its distinctly Catholic identity and character.
- The Catholic school principal plays a crucial role in achieving the parish's catechetical plan.
- Principals of Catholic schools are to be practicing Catholics in good standing who understand and accept the teachings of the Church and the moral demands of the Gospel.
- As the catechetical leader of the school, the principal is called to
 - Recognize all members of the faculty and staff as integral to the process of religious education
 - Recruit teachers who are practicing Catholics, who understand and accept Church teaching, and who can contribute to the achievement of the school's Catholic identity and apostolic goals
 - Supervise the performance of each religion teacher
 - Provide opportunities for ongoing catechesis for faculty members
 - Design a curriculum that supports the school's catechetical plan
 - Foster a distinctively Christian community among faculty, students, and parents
 - Provide opportunities for the spiritual growth of the faculty
 - Collaborate in planning and implementing programs of total parish catechesis
- Catechetical instruction in the school should be based on the *Catechism* and thoroughly integrated into the curriculum and objectives of the school, having its proper place in the curriculum.
- Religion instructors in Catholic schools teach the faith as an academic subject and bear witness by their lives to what they teach.
- Religion teachers in Catholic schools are to be practicing Catholics with a thorough knowledge of the Christian message and the ability to communicate it.
- Religion teachers in Catholic schools should meet all diocesan standards for the certification of catechists.
- All Catholic school teachers share, in some degree, in a school's catechetical ministry and are to promote the distinctive Catholic identity and mission of the school.