



## Office of Catechesis MEMO

**TO:** Pastors, PLCs, Administrators

**FROM:** Ken Ogorek, Dir. of Catechesis *KMO*

**DATE:** March 28, 2018

**RE:** A Resource for an End-of-the-Year  
Blessing of Catechists

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Enclosed please find a resource for you to consider using as you see fit some time this spring. The action suggested by this resource is part of an effort to change a culture that many catechetical leaders are encountering.

Many parish catechetical leaders (PCLs) tell me that most of their catechists are happy to teach in the faith formation program but unwilling to participate in any additional activities—even small ones—that address the catechist's own need for ongoing formation in content, methods, facilitation skills etc.. As a move toward encouraging a culture of formation, certification and renewal of catechists, I am offering the enclosed blessing of catechists for you to consider using—especially as we move toward a catechetical certification effort at the archdiocesan level.

This blessing could be used near the end of Mass at your discretion, or in another setting like an end-of-the-year celebration for catechists and their families. (I know that several parishes have such an annual event.)

Thanks for your support of excellent catechesis in your parish, as well as the encouragement you give to all adults who want to grow in their knowledge of the Faith and their disciple relationship with Jesus. May His teaching presence continue transforming the hearts and minds of the faithful in your parish.

enclosure

## **Recognition and Blessing of Catechists**

*The following is designed for use near the end of Mass or at any gathering of catechists and their families:*

“If you are a catechist in any of our programs, whether you teach children, teens or adults, please stand.”

“Sisters and brothers, these fellow parishioners of yours—fellow disciples of Jesus Christ—have answered the call to teach our Catholic faith in our parish catechetical program. Some of them have gone the extra mile and attended classes or sessions to deepen their own knowledge of the Faith and ability to share it effectively. All of them deserve our prayerful support and deep appreciation for their willingness to share the Faith as catechists.”

“Catechists, please bow your head for a blessing: ‘Heavenly Father, you sent your Son to teach the nations. Holy Spirit, you empower us by the grace of Baptism to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus—to teach children, teens and adults all that our Savior commanded the Apostles. Triune God, shower these catechists with every blessing needed for their efforts to bear good fruit by your grace. May the work they put in to their own formation as well as the works of their teaching ministry prosper in accordance with the Father’s holy and perfect will. And may almighty God bless each of our catechists + the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.’”

“Let us show our appreciation for those who teach the Faith in our parish catechetical programs by offering a round of applause.”

*(Proceed to final blessing or continue with program if used at a catechist-recognition event/celebration.)*