

Session 4 – Who Teaches?

1. Begin with prayer on p. 1 of participant paper – say together

2. The source of catechesis: God the Father

a. He is the source of all creation

b. since beginning of time, God is working to bring us closer to Him

c. reveals Himself to us in His creation

1. power to create from nothing

2. all is good (Genesis 1:10 "And God saw that it was good.")

3. reveals His mercy through His Son

4. "God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of

sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own

blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place,

God draws close to man. He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love

him with all his strength. He calls together all men, scattered

and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church. To accomplish

this, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as

Redeemer and Saviour. In his Son and through him, he invites men to

become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs

of his blessed life" (CCC 1).

d. has taught us in stages

1. first through the prophets – His word passed on to us through them

2. second through His Son – His word given to us in person; God's Word made flesh

3. third through the guidance of the Holy Spirit

3. Jesus – the Word made flesh (CCC 422 – 423)

- a. God speaks and acts through Christ
- b. Jesus speaks from God and about God
 - 1. as the prophets did
 - 2. He is the Word of God, divine
 - 3. He **is** God
- c. teaches about God and His Kingdom
- d. CCC 444 – read

4. Activity #1

- a. Read the Scripture passages on Handout #1
- b. talks about Jesus's union and dependence on God
- c. mark words which tell of union of Jesus with God
- d. mark words which show Christ's dependence on God

5. The purpose of catechesis

- a. bring people into communion with Christ
 - 1. what is the meaning of communion? "shared participation in a mental or spiritual experience" (Oxford dictionary)
 - 2. CCC 426 – 427
- b. teaching must be Christocentric
- c. in order to teach about Jesus, we must ourselves live *in* Jesus (communion) (CCC 428 – 429)
- d. through communion with Jesus, we are in communion with the whole Blessed Trinity — why?
- e. must have a relationship with Christ
 - 1. be credible
 - 2. do what we say

3. can we teach the Mass, but not go? teach the Sacraments, but not receive?

4. can we teach about faith, hope, and charity, but not show that to all we meet? or not lend a helping hand when it's needed?

6. Activity #2 & Activity #3

a. how can we show our union with and dependence on Christ?

1. receiving Sacraments

2. going to Mass

3. prayer

4. devotions: Rosary, Stations of the Cross, novenas, etc.

5. attending mission preaching

6. reading the Bible

7. reading spiritual books about saints or other Church-related things (CCC, encyclicals by the Pope, books about the spiritual life, etc.)

8. participating in parish activities

b. read Scripture adaptations from p. 39 of leader book

7. The Holy Spirit

a. sent to guide the apostles - and us

b. promised to all Christians to be an interior Teacher

1. helps us understand the truths of our Faith

2. guides us in how we teach

3. gives us the strength and courage to pass on the Faith

8. The Church - the last "teacher"

a. GDC 78 (second paragraph under "The Church" in handout)

b. the Church, in all She does, hands on the Faith

1. through the Mass, through Scripture, through the Sacraments, through the Traditions of the Church

2. we receive the Faith and pass it on to others

c. any questions?

9. Summary and final prayer