### The Process of Evangelization

Here is an outline of each individual stage of the evangelization process, the audience for which it is intended, the methodology that is best for working with this group of people in each stage, and typical opportunities in the life of a catechetical program for engaging people in each stage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>My Ministry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Pre-Evangelization | Nonbelievers  
Those indifferent to the gospel  
Those who follow other religions  
Children of believers  
Those who live on the margins of Christian life  
Seekers/inquirers | Relationship building / Friendship  
Building on human needs such as love, security and acceptance | Registration  
Parent nights  
Sacramental preparation  
Catechetical Sunday  
Prospective classroom  
Aides or hall monitors |
| 2. Initial Proclamation or Missionary Preaching | Nonbelievers  
Those indifferent to the gospel  
Those who follow other religions  
Children of believers  
Those who live on the margins of Christian life  
Seekers/inquirers | Kerygmatic proclamation  
Storytelling  
Focusing on the person of Jesus Christ | Parent nights  
Sacramental preparation  
Retreat ministry  
One-on-one exchanges  
Small groups |
| 3. Initiatory Catechesis | Catechumens  
Those who are coming to the Catholic faith from another religion  
Catholics who need to complete their initiation  
Catholics who are unfamiliar with the teachings of the church, including youth and young adults | Introduction to the life of faith  
Introduction to the liturgy and the sacramental life of the church  
Introduction to the charity of the people of God | Faith-formation students  
Parents  
Sacramental preparation  
Teaching masses  
Adult faith formation  
Sponsors/godparents |
| 4. Mystagogical or Postbaptismal Catechesis | Baptized Christians | Ongoing study and exploration of:  
Prayer  
Missionary activity  
Celebration of the sacramental life | Adult faith formation  
Sponsors/godparents  
Catechists  
Parents |
| 5. Permanent or Continuing Catechesis | Believers | Systematic presentation of the truths of the faith and Christian life | Adult faith formation  
Sponsors/godparents  
Catechists  
Parents |
Questions for Reflection

List three ways you can reach out to people in the pre-evangelization stage of the process.

6. __________________________________________
7. __________________________________________
8. __________________________________________

How has initial proclamation or missionary preaching been incorporated into my faith-formation program?

1. __________________________________________
2. __________________________________________
3. __________________________________________

How has our faith-formation program made provisions for groups that combine young people who need initial catechesis with those who need more advanced catechesis in the same class?
Addressing the Six Tasks of Catechesis with Children

In his book *A Well-Built Faith* (Loyola Press, 2008), Joe Paprocki uses the acronym HELP to talk about the four pillars of our faith and the corresponding four sections of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**Pillars**  
Hold on to our faith  
Express our faith  
Live our faith  
Pray our faith

**Section of the CCC**  
Creed  
Liturgy and Sacraments  
Moral Life  
Prayer

Adding ME to this acronym gives us two additional tasks of catechesis:

- **M**entor our faith: form apprenticeships in Christian living
- **E**vangelize our faith: promote a missionary spirit

**1. Hold On to Our Faith: Creed**

Contextualize the Creed for younger children by speaking to them about the apostles. Encourage them to “spiritually adopt” one of the apostles and find out more about that person. The Creed contains lot of information and can be challenging to memorize, so using an activity can help. Try cutting the Creed into strips to form puzzle pieces, then give each child a bag with a set of puzzle pieces and have him or her try to put the pieces in order. Make it engaging!

**2. Express Our Faith: Liturgy and Sacraments**

Many children and youth find a church space interesting even if they can’t understand all the architectural details. Take them to the church often, beginning or ending your session with prayer. Conduct a “church search” or a walk through the Mass just for them. If your parish has stained-glass windows, consider taking pictures of them, sharing the meaning of each window with children, and inviting children to draw and color their own versions of the windows. Teach older children the symbols and metaphors used by the artist so that they can learn to “read” stained-glass windows. Consider a field trip to a neighboring church to discover similarities and differences between windows.

**3. Live Our Faith: Moral Life**

Contextualize the moral virtues by referencing specific stories and people in the Bible. Here are some ideas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virtues</th>
<th>Scripture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honesty, bravery, sacrifice, dedication</td>
<td>Joseph (Genesis 37–50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality, joyfulness, helpfulness</td>
<td>Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyalty, friendship, generosity, steadfastness</td>
<td>The book of Ruth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice, charity, self-control, goodness</td>
<td>The Philippian jailer (Acts 16:16–34)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Pray Our Faith: Prayer
Introduce children to various prayer forms. One often-overlooked prayer is from the Eastern Orthodox tradition and is called the Jesus Prayer (or the Prayer of the Heart). The Jesus Prayer is very simple: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” Coupled with synchronized breathing, this powerful prayer introduces young people to Christian contemplative prayer and meditation.

5. Mentor Our Faith: Form Apprenticeships in Christian Living
Assign younger children a “big sister” or “big brother” prayer partner at the beginning of the year. This is especially important if there are new children who join the program in the middle of the year or are new to the parish community. Cultivate opportunities for young people to get to know one another and have time to pray together. Post a note about big sisters and big brothers on the bulletin board each month or in the parent newsletter.

6. Evangelize Our Faith: Promote a Missionary Spirit
If your parish has a sister parish, consider reaching out to that parish to assign pen pals. Classes can exchange information on what being Catholic is like in their respective communities. Have children write letters or organize a mission drive for families to collect supplies needed in the sister or mission parish.

Speak of the work of the missions often. Include mission work in the prayers of the parish and ask young people to keep those who work in the missions in prayer.

For specific information on the missions and how your faith formation program can support them, introduce catechists and children to the Missio app created by the Pontifical Mission Societies and launched by Pope Francis in 2013.