



CONTINUING
CATECHETICAL
FORMATION
Growing in grace and in the knowledge of God

Church Documents



Church Documents

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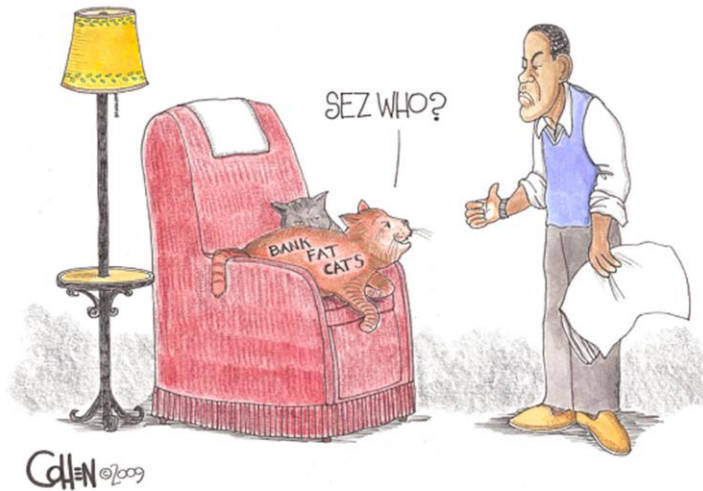
What do all of these pictures have in common?



Books in the Background – Addresses
the Issue of where their authority
comes from

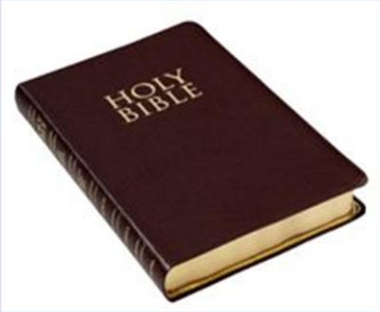
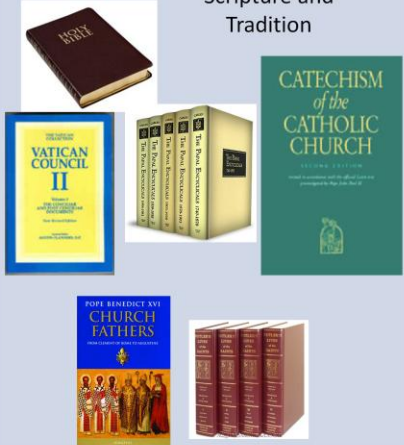
Look at all these pics of lawyers. What do they all have in common? Bookshelves in the background. The message is always clear: we are backed up by the law. As catechists, what are we backed up by?

Church Documents



When anyone attempts to speak with authority, the natural response is “says who?” In other words, where does your authority come from. Remember Jesus was asked this question in Luke 20:2 “Tell us, by whose authority are you doing these things?”

Church Documents

Protestant	Catholic
Scripture 	Scripture and Tradition 

We catechists are called to teach with authority. Where does this authority come from? What backs us up? For Protestants, the answer is SCRIPTURE. That is their sole source of authority. For Catholics, we too answer SCRIPTURE but we also AND TRADITION. And so we look to other documents of the Church that flow from Scripture: the Catechism, papal encyclicals, conciliar documents, the lives of the saints, and the teachings of the Church Fathers.

Church Documents



We catechists have some very important documents backing us up!

Where do you get your information from?

What are your sources?

Sez who?

We teach with the authority of God!

We catechists have some very good resources to back us up so that we can tell people where we get our information from, what our sources are, and who sez!

Church Documents



What's on your
summer reading list?

Discussion: what's on your summer reading list? What different kinds of books do you like to read? There are many different kinds of literature. In the same way, there are many different kinds of church documents. Most of them are not things that we will read while at the beach! Rather, we might refer to these or study them over time, often with other people from Church, especially other catechists.

Church Documents

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Not everything we say
carries the same
weight.

In the same way, there are many different types of Church documents and one of the first things we're going to see is that not all Church documents are created equal. There is actually a hierarchy of authority when it comes to church documents.

What we say and when we say it takes on various levels of importance and meaning. The same holds true in reference to our church documents. Let's take a look at some of the various types of church documents in order of the level of authority.

Church Documents

Type of Document	Description
Motu Proprio	A document issued Motu Proprio is from the Pope on his own initiative, and not in response to a request or at the initiative of others. e.g. <i>Porta Fidei</i> (proclaiming a Year of Faith)
Apostolic Constitution	Highest level of decree issued by the Pope. e.g. <i>Dei Verbum</i> (1965)- Paul VI's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation.
Encyclical	A circular or general letter expressing the mind of the Pope, generally on matters of faith and morals. e.g. <i>Deus Caritas Est</i> (2005) – Benedict XVI's first encyclical, on Christian love.
Apostolic Letter	Letters of less solemn authority than an encyclical, they may be written on a doctrinal matter (e.g. Pope John Paul II's Letter <i>On the Beginning of the Third Millennium</i>). They may also announce a papal act such as declaring a person Venerable (heroic virtue) or declaring a church a Basilica.

Church Documents

Type of Document	Description
Apostolic Exhortation	A category of document similar to an Apostolic Letter to communicate to the Church the conclusions he has reached after consideration of the recommendations of a Synod of Bishops (post synodal). e.g. <i>Verbum Domini</i> , 2010 (followed the Synod of Bishops in 2008 focusing on how Catholic should approach the Bible)
Common Declaration	A joint statement of the Holy Father and another religious leader concerning a common understanding of some teaching. e.g. <i>Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification</i> , 1999
Homily	The homilies of the Pope on the Scripture readings at Mass.
Audience	The opportunity to hear and/or greet the Holy Father is called an audience. The discourses at these Audiences are typically used to develop a theme over a long period. (www.vatican.va)

Church Documents



Who gets a place at the table?

Discussion: in our homes, when important decisions need to be made, who gets to sit at the table? Mom and Dad? Oldest child? Grandma and grandpa?

Church Documents



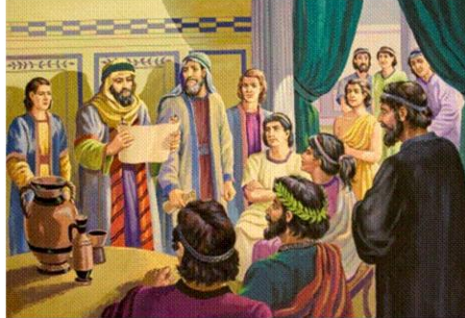
Conciliar Documents

Documents that are a result of Ecumenical Councils, e.g. *Documents of Second Vatican Council*

The Church also addresses problems by inviting certain people – bishops - to the table for councils and synods. Ecumenical councils invite all of the bishops of the entire world to join in and these take place very infrequently. To keep the spirit of these councils alive, smaller gatherings called synods occur in which delegations of bishops representing every country gather with the Pope. Ecumenical councils result in the publication of important Church documents.

Church Documents

The Council of Jerusalem Acts of the Apostles, ch. 15



"Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, but should write to them to abstain from the pollutions of idols and from unchastity and from what is strangled and from blood. For from early generations Moses has had in every city those who preach him, for he is read every sabbath in the synagogues." Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsab'bas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren, with the following letter..."

These ecumenical councils take their cue from the Council of Jerusalem described in Acts 15. Scripture alone did not seem to answer the question of whether Gentiles needed to be circumcised in order to follow Christ. The Apostles gathered, debated, reached a decision, and then sent out a document explaining their decision.

Church Documents

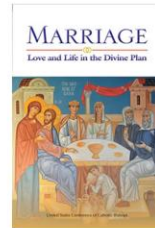
Ecumenical Councils

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. FIRST COUNCIL OF NICAIA (325) | 12. FOURTH LATERAN COUNCIL (1215) |
| 2. FIRST COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE (381) | 13. FIRST COUNCIL OF LYONS (1245) |
| 3. COUNCIL OF EPHESUS (431) | 14. SECOND COUNCIL OF LYONS (1274) |
| 4. COUNCIL OF CHALCEDON (451) | 15. COUNCIL OF VIENNE (1311-1313) |
| 5. SECOND COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE (553) | 16. COUNCIL OF CONSTANCE (1414-1418) |
| 6. THIRD COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE (680-681) | 17. COUNCIL OF BASLE/FERRARA/FLORENCE (1431-1439) |
| 7. SECOND COUNCIL OF NICAIA (787) | 18. FIFTH LATERAN COUNCIL (1512-1517) |
| 8. FOURTH COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE (869) | 19. COUNCIL OF TRENT (1545-1563) |
| 9. FIRST LATERAN COUNCIL (1123) | 20. FIRST VATICAN COUNCIL (1869-1870) |
| 10. SECOND LATERAN COUNCIL (1139) | 21. SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL (1962-1965) |
| 11. THIRD LATERAN COUNCIL (1179) | |

In our history, there have been 21 ecumenical councils

Church Documents

Episcopal Conferences Pastoral Letters,
e.g. U.S. Bishops Pastoral Letter on Marriage



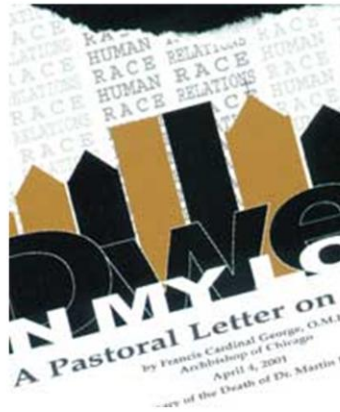
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Another kind of document is one that is issued by an episcopal conference which is the conference of bishops from a particular country. These documents must be approved by 2/3 of the conference and must receive a recognition from the Vatican in order to be issued.

Church Documents

Individual Bishops' Pastoral Letters

e.g. *Dwell in My Love* – A Pastoral Letter on Racism (2001) by Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago



Finally, another kind of document is one that is issued by a local bishop to his own diocese – called a Pastoral Letter

Church Documents

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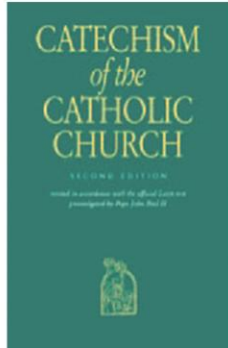
Let's take a short break

Church Documents



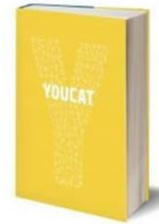
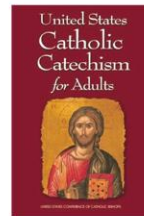
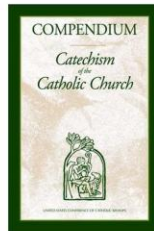
Discussion: How many of you have some kind of special family recipe that has been handed down from one generation to another? When this recipe is being followed, WHO in the family gives the final approval that it is up to family standards? Mama? Papa? Grandma? Etc.

Church Documents



A *catechism* is a written summary of the church's understanding of God's word as revealed through Scripture and Tradition. In a sense, a catechism is the *what* of our beliefs as Catholics.

"The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for." (#27)



Similarly, the bishops of the Catholic Church have the final authority on whether or not teaching materials are up to standards, the standard being the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Discuss experiences with the Catechism. Discuss Catechism review process for catechetical materials.

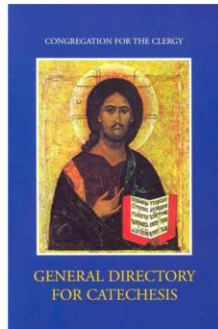
Church Documents



Discussion: How many of you have ever tried to put something together without following directions? It helps to have an instruction manual that tells us how to go about assembling something.

Church Documents

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Catechesis is the process of transmitting the Gospel. To help us understand this process, the church has given us the *General Directory for Catechesis* (1997). This document helps us to understand the *how* of catechesis.

This comprehensive formation includes more than instruction: it is an *apprenticeship* of the entire Christian life..." (#67)



How do we go about catechizing? The Church provides us with a "how-to" manual, the GDC (and NDC)

Church Documents

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Discussion: When you want to become good at something, we strive to learn from and imitate the best. Who is someone you always wanted to be like (in sports or any other area)?

Church Documents

To Teach as Jesus Did



A Pastoral Message
on Catholic Education

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Issued in 1972, *To Teach as Jesus Did* was the first pastoral letter of the U.S. bishops devoted to the concern of Catholic education, using the language emerging out of the Second Vatican Council.

"The educational mission of the Church is an integrated ministry embracing three interlocking dimensions: the message revealed by God ('didache') which the Church proclaims; fellowship in the life of the Holy Spirit ('koinonia'); service to the Christian community and the entire human community ('diakonia')." (#14)

In the same way, as teachers, we strive to learn from and imitate the best teacher: Jesus. That's why the U.S. bishops issued their pastoral letter, *To Teach as Jesus did*. Discuss: how DID Jesus teach?

Church Documents

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Lunch Break!!!

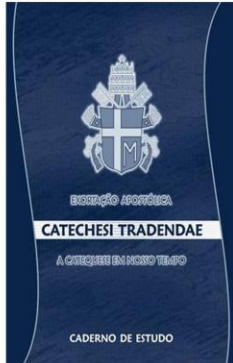
Lunch Break

Church Documents



Discussion: Chicago's tallest building is the Willis Tower and near the top, they've built an observation deck that includes a glass box that extends out so that you can stand "on air" over 1000 feet up! From there you get the "big picture." The view gives you perspective and is exhilarating.

Church Documents



Catechesi Tradendae (1979), Pope John Paul II's first apostolic exhortation was on catechesis or religious instruction. The exhortation emphasizes the "Christocentricity" of all catechesis and the need for lifelong catechesis.

"The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ." (#5)

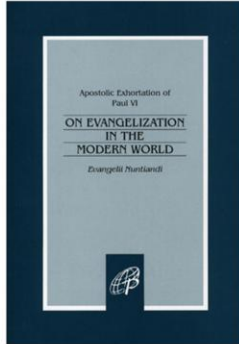
Some Church documents give us the view from way up high...a perspective of the big picture. One such document is CT which gives us the "big picture" when it comes to catechesis. Rather than discussing nuts and bolts, it gives us an overall perspective and inspires us.

Church Documents



Discussion: what does it mean when we talk about “setting the bar” or “raising the bar”? It usually refers to setting a standard, a high standard – a lofty goal.

Church Documents

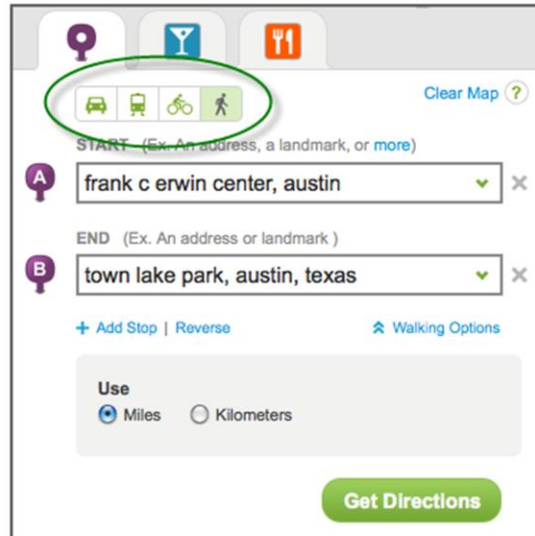


Evangelii Nuntiandi (1975) is an Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Paul VI on the 10th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council focusing on making the Church better fitted for proclaiming the Gospel to the people. It is considered by many to be the “Magna Carta” on Catholic Evangelization.

“Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order to preach and teach...”
(#15)

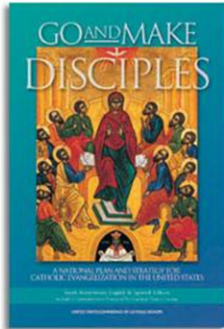
When it comes to our understanding of evangelization, the Church set the bar when it issued *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, setting lofty standards for us to strive for when it comes to proclaiming the Gospel to others. Today, we talk about a “New Evangelization.”

Church Documents



Discussion: when you visit a site like mapquest, searching for directions to get to a location, it offers you options for driving on your own, taking transit, riding a bike, or walking! The bottom line is, you need to figure out how you're going to get there in practical terms.

Church Documents



In 1992, the U.S. bishops developed a national plan for Catholic evangelization to help Catholics to:

- live their faith enthusiastically,
- share it freely,
- bring gospel values to everyday life.

“Evangelizing means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself.” (#10)

When it comes to evangelization, it's nice to have the lofty ideas of Evangelii Nuntiandi (like the view from the Willis Tower) but we also need to be sure that the rubber hits the road. Practically speaking, how do we evangelize here in the U.S. To help us get practical, the U. S. bishops issued “Go and Make Disciples” with 3 specific goals and practical suggestions for evangelizing. These goals need to be a part of our catechesis.

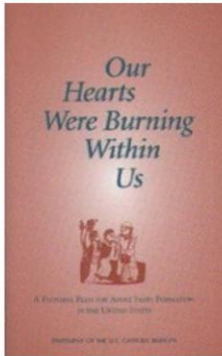
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Discussion: whenever you fly, you have to listen to the instructions about various safety features and what to do in case of an emergency. One of the things they talk about is if there is sudden loss of pressure and how oxygen masks will fall from the overhead compartments. It's interesting to note that they always say the following: "If you are traveling with children, make sure that your own mask is on first before helping your children." The message is clear...if we are going to be able to help children to survive this challenge, we need to be sure that we are equipped to do so.

Church Documents



Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us (1999) is the basic plan for adult faith formation in the United States

- Invite and Enable Ongoing Conversion
- Promote and Support Active Membership
- Call and Prepare Adults to Act as Disciples in Mission to the World.

"We are entering a period of new vitality for the Church, a period in which adult Catholic laity will play a pivotal leadership role in fulfilling the Christian mission of evangelizing and transforming society. For adults to fulfill their roles in this new era of the Church, their faith formation must be lifelong, just as they must continue to learn to keep up in the changing world." (#29)

When it comes to helping children to breathe in the Holy Spirit, we need to first be sure that we adults are doing so. We need to be equipped. Adult catechesis needs to be primary. The U. S. bishops told us this clearly in the document OHWBWU.

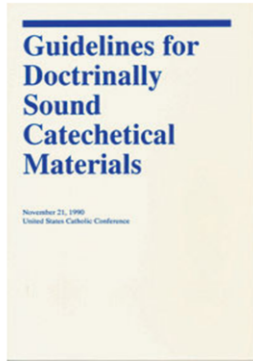
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Discussion: how many of you have a recipe box or recipe books at home? We rely on those so that we can follow step by step the process needed to achieve our goal: a tasty dish!

Church Documents



In this 1990 document, *Guidelines for Doctrinally Sound Catechetical Materials*, the U.S. bishops provide guidelines for producing catechetical materials that are consistent with church teachings.

"Effective catechesis...requires that the Church's teaching be presented correctly and in its entirety, and it is equally important to present it in ways that are attractive, appealing, and understandable by the individuals and communities to whom it is directed." (II – Guidelines for Presenting Sound Doctrine)

The U.S. bishops issued a recipe for those of us in the publishing business and in diocesan offices to follow when producing and selecting catechetical materials.

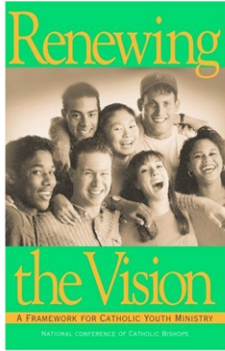
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Discussion: how many of you have teens at home or had kids go through the teen years? What is it about teens? What makes them so unique?

Church Documents

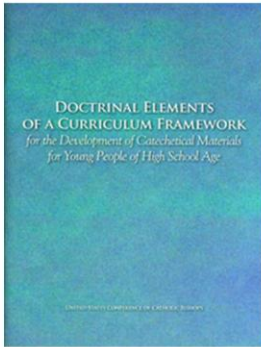


Issued by the U.S. bishops in 1998, *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, provides all who minister to young people with an effective blueprint for building a truly meaningful ministry, emphasizing personal discipleship, evangelization, and leadership.

"Renewing the Vision takes up the Holy Father's challenge by focusing the Church's ministry with adolescents on three essential goals: (1) empowering young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today; (2) drawing young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community; and (3) fostering the personal and spiritual growth of each young person."

To help us with the challenge of catechizing teens, the U.S. bishops issued *Renewing Your Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, that reminds us that Youth Ministry is more than going on ski trips. It requires catechesis. The goal is to make disciples of Christ.

Church Documents



Issued by the U.S. bishops in 2007, *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*, spells out what central elements of Catholic teaching and practice ought to be included within each of six core and five possible elective courses over eight semesters of high school religious education.

"As a framework, this document offers guidance to catechetical publishers in the creation of instructional material." (Introduction)

To further assist in the catechesis of teens, the bishops issued a framework for the development of HS catechetical materials, consisting of elements to be taught over 6 core courses and 5 possible electives over 8 semesters of HS Rel. Ed.

Church Documents

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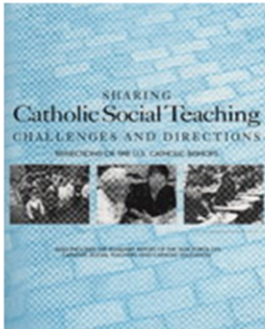
Discussion: it would be nice if we all got along just perfectly all the time, but the reality is, in our society, we sometimes end up at odds with one another and some people end up being treated unfairly and getting hurt.

Church Documents



Discussion: on a more serious note, sometimes society as a whole can treat people unfairly (discuss examples)

Church Documents



In this 1998 document, **Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions**, the U.S. bishops identify 7 key themes or principles of Catholic social teaching: life and dignity of the human person; Call to family, community, and participation; Rights and responsibilities; Option for the poor and vulnerable; The dignity of work and the rights of workers; Solidarity; and Care for God's creation.

"Central to our identity as Catholics is that we are called to be leaven for transforming the world, agents for bringing about a kingdom of love and justice."

The U.S. bishops offered this document to assist us in our efforts to make sure that society treats everyone fairly and justly.

Church Documents

Top 10 Defining Moments of the 2000s



Discussion: internet – top 10 defining moments of the 2000s: literature (Harry Potter), TV (reality TV/American Idol), film (Slum Dog Millionaire), sports (Boston Red Sox end 86 year drought), music (Ipod), technology (Facebook), economics (the euro adopted), international affairs (9/11), nature (indian ocean earthquake and tsunami), politics (first Black president).

A defining moment is a point at which the essential nature or character of a person or group is revealed.

Church Documents



The Second Vatican Council produced sixteen documents of which the following are key for the catechetical ministry:

- *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum concilium, 1963)*, - understanding liturgy
- *Declaration on Christian Education (Gravissimum educationis, 1965)*, - Catholic Schools
- *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei verbum, 1965)* - Catholic interpretation of scripture
- *Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People (Apostolicam actuositatem, 1965)* - ministry of lay people in the Church
- *Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity (Ad gentes divinitus, 1965)* - scope of the Church's missionary activity

"The sacred synod also earnestly and especially urges all the Christian faithful, especially Religious, to learn by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures the "excellent knowledge of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:8). "For ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."(5) (Dei verbum, #25)

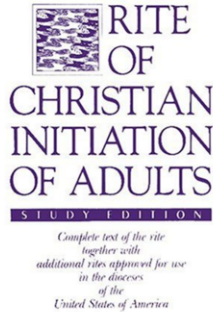
For Catholics, the Second Vatican Council was a defining moment, helping us to understand who we are as a Church and how we interact with the world. Many documents flowed out of that council...

Church Documents



Discussion: in many professions, there are apprenticeships. What are some examples? What is the essence of an apprenticeship.

Church Documents



In 1988, the restored initiation process was promulgated in the United States in The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. This is a liturgical rite marking the deepening conversion of adults being led to baptism – a process that includes catechesis over 4 stages: inquiry (pre-catechumenate); the catechumenate; the period of purification and enlightenment (Lent); and mystagogia.

"The People of God, as represented by the local Church, should understand and show by their concern that the initiation of adults is the responsibility of all the baptized." (#6)

The RCIA teaches us that Initiation into Catholic life is an apprenticeship...a journey to be walked with one another. This is to be the model for all catechesis.

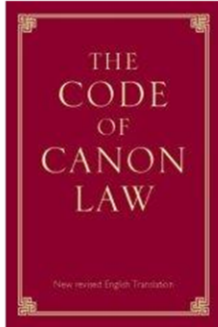
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Discussion: back to where we began...the image of a lawyer. What did we say lawyers are backed up by? The Law. At the heart of being a lawyer is honoring the role of law

Church Documents



Canon Law refers to the laws by which the Church is governed. *The Code of Canon Law* was revised in 1983. Catechetical leaders refer to the Code when identifying parish policies such as who may prepare for the sacraments, who may serve as a sponsor for Confirmation, and so on. The Code states rights and responsibilities.

"Since they are called by baptism to lead a life in keeping with the teaching of the gospel, the Christian faithful have the right to a Christian education by which they are to be instructed properly to strive for the maturity of the human person and at the same time to know and live the mystery of salvation." (217)

In the life of the Church, we also have laws. The Code of Canon law helps us to govern the Church. Many of the canons refer to catechetical issues...