

## TREASURES of OUR FAITH

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Greetings brothers and sisters. As we go through this 'Year of Faith', each week we will take a journey together to deepen and rediscover our faith as Catholic Christians. We will take time to look at the rich traditions of our Church, we'll look at what certain things signify and their symbolism, take time to answer some frequently asked questions and look at why we do certain things as Catholics. This week we'll look at Catechesis.

The word catechesis comes from the Greek meaning "to echo the teaching". Early on the name *catechesis* was given to efforts made to make disciples, to educate men and women and to instruct them in the life of building up the Body of Christ. Catechesis also involves the lifelong effort of forming people into witnesses to Christ and opening their hearts to the spiritual transformation given by the Holy Spirit. It is an education in the faith. Catechesis is built on a number of elements of the Church's pastoral mission. Those elements are; the initial proclamation of the Gospel or preaching to arouse faith, the examination of the reasons for belief, experience of Christian living, celebration of the sacraments and missionary witness. We must always remember that at the heart of catechesis we find Christ. To catechize is to seek to understand the meaning of Christ's actions and words and of the signs worked by him. Catechesis aims at putting people in communion with Jesus Christ. The catechism is the name given to the written work that contains the summary of all the beliefs of the faith that is used as a teaching tool.

Jesus empowered the Church to continue His mission when He said,  
All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt. 28:18-20)

This great commission has been handed on to us men and women, whom God has called to live out and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all.