

A Parish Plan for Catechesis – Bringing light to everyone



La leçon de catéchisme by Jules Alexis Meunier C 1890

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Ephesians 3: 8-12

Now that we have completed our Vision and Reality stage, we move to the Plan stage. All three stages build on each other. In this stage we wish to explore how our vision might become a tangible and practical reality in our parish. In order to do this, we need to be clear about what we desire, who we desire it for, what the purpose and goal of the activity is, how it would practically be brought about our own context and how we would measure and assess it.

We pray together with scripture:

- ◆ What struck you about this passage? Perhaps just one word.
- ◆ What did you notice that you hadn't before?
- ◆ How will you share the unsearchable riches of Christ with others?
- ◆ Ask now for the grace you will need, and it will be given to you.

Take 5 minutes to reflect on this.

- ◆ What does the Lord want for this parish?
- ◆ What is his dream for this parish?
- ◆ What do we want this parish to be?
- ◆ What plans can we make to enable this, with God's grace, to happen?

Take 5 minutes to reflect on this.



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Questions to help discussion

1. Which area does the parish want to give priority at this time? What can this look like for your parish?
2. Do I know of any courses, run in the deanery, or elsewhere that might help the parents of children preparing for Baptism / Confirmation meet Christ?
3. What conversations need to take place with the parents to help us see both where they come from and what they need?
4. Do we have a sense of the need for ongoing support and what would that look like?
5. What is on offer this year at your parish or the surrounding area? How can you find out and start signposting?
6. Where do people need to take ownership? What resources do you need? What budget do you need? What teams can be formed, and what formation and training would be helpful?
7. How would we assess the strengths and weaknesses of a renewed approach to helping the parents enter more deeply into a relationship with Christ and his Church?
8. Based on the Parish Picture of the current reality of your sacramental programmes / ministries, and where you would like them to go, what gaps can you identify concerning people, time / training and cost?

