



# Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

UNITED STATES | CANADA      APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

**December 2021**

*-Catechists-*

*Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**Fr Joe SJ video, 1min** [here](#)

**Pope video, 1min** [thepopevideo.org](http://thepopevideo.org)

**Reflection** by Tim Bishop SJ

Tim Bishop is a Jesuit seminarian in studies at Loyola University Chicago. He is a graduate of Rockhurst High in Kansas City.

.....

When I was in my second year of the Jesuit novitiate, I was missioned to the interior of Guyana, South America. I have to admit that I had no idea where Guyana was. I soon learned however, that this country is of great interest to Pope Francis; and was a key voice in the recent synod on the Amazon. I now understand why the Holy Father would ask us to pray for catechists. I saw firsthand how the lay catechists form the backbone of the Body of Christ, the Church, in Guyana. They generously work to organize the parish communities. They teach the faith, (especially to children. They shape their Brothers and Sisters in the faith of Christ. They study the faith themselves and lead others on the way. What's more, they do all this with almost no financial resources.

In Guyana, catechists are a necessity for sustaining the life of the Church in the absence of a priest. And, notice how, catechists are necessary everywhere if the Church is to thrive and grow. How has the faith been handed down for 2000 years? Through the faith, hope, and love of so many faithful men and women through the centuries. Lay catechists have always formed an important, if often unnoticed part of this process. Saint Paul writes to the Romans, "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10: 14-15) Through our Baptism, each of us is called and sent by Christ. He calls us to use all of our gifts and talents to creatively witness to the Resurrection of Jesus. Let us thank the catechists who serve and lead. Let us pray for our catechists and for the grace to participate in the gospel call to share our faith.

.....

**[Leader] Daily offering prayer:** O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day  
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.

I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart:

the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians.

I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer,

and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month—

*December: Catechists. Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**Grace:** We ask for the grace to support our catechists well, to recognize and appreciate their vital role in the life of the Church.

**[Reader 1] Scripture:** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:16-17)

**[Reader 2] Quote:** “From the beginning, the Christian community was characterized by many different forms of ministry carried out by men and women who, obedient to the working of the Holy Spirit, devoted their lives to the building up of the Church. At times, the charisms that the Spirit constantly pours out on the baptized took on a visible and tangible form of immediate service to the Christian community, one recognized as an indispensable *diakonia* for the community. The Apostle Paul authoritatively attests to this when he states that “there are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord...Within the broader charismatic tradition of the New Testament, then, we can see that certain baptized persons exercised the ministry of transmitting in a more organic and stable form related to different situations in life the teaching of the apostles and evangelists.” (Pope Francis, *Antiquum Ministerium*)

**[Leader] Reflection questions:**

One role of the catechist is to serve as a witness to the Gospel. How can we fulfill this role in our own lives? How is Pope Francis asking us to support the catechists in our communities? *[All: take 1 min in quiet reflection; 2 min to journal; and then share a with the group]*

.....  
[popesprayerusa.net](http://popesprayerusa.net)

@popesprayerusa