



An open letter to all Catechists

For many Catholics, discipleship is a relatively new concept — something more commonly spoken about in Protestant circles. Today, more than ever, Catholics are being challenged to change our thinking about discipleship and to realize that each of us—by virtue of our Baptism—is called to enter intentionally into discipleship with Jesus Christ. As catechists, we are then called to communicate this living relationship to others.

As a catechist and disciple of Jesus Christ, your primary role is to transmit a relationship that you yourself are actively participating in. According to St. John Paul II, the Good News that you are called to transmit “is directed to stirring a person to a conversion of heart and life and a clinging to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; to disposing a person to receive Baptism and the Eucharist and to strengthen a person in the prospect and realization of new life according to the Spirit.” (CL, 33) So what can you do to deepen your own intentionality as a disciple of Jesus? I recommend the following:

1. Recognize and accept the fact that you (like all human beings) cannot sustain yourself when it comes to spiritual fulfillment.
2. Embrace the fact that only God can sustain you and that he offers his intervention through Jesus Christ, his Son.
3. Let go of those things in which, until now, you have been seeking fulfillment.
4. Respond each and every day to Jesus’ invitation to follow him.
5. Strive to get to know (and to “put on the mind” of) Jesus through reading the Gospels and inspirational literature (including the teachings of the Church), regular prayer, receiving the Eucharist, and serving the needs of others.
6. Share the joy of the Gospel with others.

If the above sounds like more than you bargained for, just remember, you are disciple of Christ. You are a catechist!