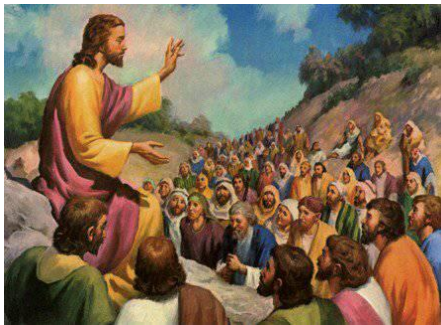## What is a Catechist?

A catechist is more than just a CCD teacher. The root of the words "catechesis" and "catechist" means to *echo*, and so the task of a catechist is to *re-echo* the teachings of Jesus Christ, which come to us through the official teaching of his Church. Catechists participate in the divine calling to teach as Jesus did and to witness to the truth of the faith. In addition to teaching the Diocesan curriculum, the *National Directory for Catechesis* lists the following as characteristics of a catechist (pg. 229):

- A love of God--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--and of Christ's Church, our Holy Father, and God's holy people
- A coherence and authenticity of life that is characterized by their faithful practice of the faith in a spirit of faith, charity, hope, courage, and joy
- Personal prayer and dedication to the evangelizing mission of the Church
- A missionary zeal by which they are fully convinced of the truth of the Catholic faith and enthusiastically proclaim it
- Active participation in their local parish community, especially by attendance at Sunday Eucharist
- A devotion to Mary, the first disciple and the model of catechists, and to the Most Holy Eucharist, the source of nourishment for catechists

Below is a list of extremely helpful websites for creating exciting catechetical lessons:

- **Catechism of the Catholic Church** - www.scborromeo.org/ccc.htm - A search engine for the Catechism of the Catholic Church so you can master the topic you are teaching
- **That Resource Site** - www.thatresourcesite.com - Free printables for Catholic homeschoolers and teachers
- **Catholic Catechist** - www.catholiccatechist.org - Providing Catholic resources to religious educators, including lots of free files
- **Catholic Mom** - www.catholicmom.com - A blog site that also includes lots of activities and lesson plans
- **Catechist Cafe** - http://catechistcafe.weebly.com/ - A place to share ideas for seasons, saints, sacraments, and scripture

Required Clearances for all Volunteers

1. Attend a "Treasured Gifts from God" child protection in-service and fill out the certificate of attendance (contact DRE for a listing of upcoming in-services)
2. Read the Diocese of Youngstown's Child Protection Policy and sign the Authorization and Verification Form and Acknowledgement Form

3. Obtain a Webcheck fingerprinting background check through the Ohio BCI (click here for locations)--If you have lived in Ohio for less than 5 years, you will need the federal webcheck and not just the Ohio webcheck)

All signed and completed forms and background checks should be returned to St. Paul the Apostle Parish (Attn: CRE) and will be placed in your secure personnel file.