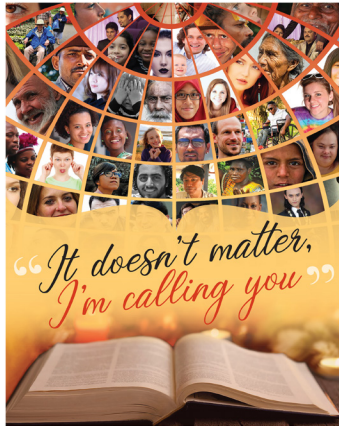


Proposals for liturgical arrangements



The proposals to celebrate Catechesis Sunday 2023 echo God's calls that is heard and resonates in of our lives. For our Church to be alive, for the Kingdom to grow at the heart of our world, each baptized person is challenged to participate in it, in their own way and in their own living environment. The synodal process still underway reminds us that we are the Church! Among us today, women and men respond to their call by committing themselves to formation for the Christian life at all ages and stages of life. There are probably also some who do not dare to think too much about it, for a host of reasons. But beyond the obstacles and doubts, the Lord continues to say to everyone, in the secret of their heart: "It doesn't matter, I call you!"

These different ways of arranging a liturgical celebration are centered on God's calls and the responses we bring to them, whether it is a Eucharistic celebration or a celebration of the Word. Among these tracks, choices will have to be made according to the place, the available space, human and material resources, etc.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Diversity in the community (diversity by age, gender, physical condition, etc.) will be highlighted by involving people who are visibly different from each other through the celebration :

- encourage their participation in the various actions and words to be made according to the suggestions chosen.
- Invite them to collaborate on one or the other of the proposed animation tracks, according to their wishes and talents.

WELCOME AND OPENING

Create a friendly gathering space

In the parish hall, in the basement or even outside (weather permitting), kiosks can be set up to make known the activities of the community or parish in the formation for Christian life at all ages and stages of life. This space would be conducive to welcoming and gathering people before the celebration. It would be good to prominently display the poster of Catechesis Sunday 2023. We can decorate the chosen place, arrange a few chairs, play music, etc. This arrangement would set the tone for the celebration, and at the same time, make known that some new elements will take place during the liturgy. We can already announce that we will be able to meet there later around a beverage, and a snack, in order to socialize as an extension of the liturgical meeting.

Enter in festive procession

Youth or other interested persons could be asked to make a musical instrument that would either be distributed to those who will enter the procession or, better yet, given to everyone in the friendly gathering place. For example, it could be a stick with a “bell” attached to it. The entrance song could be sung with this “musical” accompaniment and continue inside the place of worship. In this way, the entrance procession would take on a joyful and festive character.

Making the poster of Catechesis Sunday “speak”

At the opening of the celebration, a brief animation around the theme and the poster proposed for this Sunday of catechesis can serve as an “icebreaker” activity: we can ask the members of the assembly what the image and the theme evoke for them, on what they see, what touches or affects them in this poster.¹

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Proclaiming the gospel (*Matthew 20:1-16a*)

For a living proclamation, several voices may be called :

Reader 1 : narration;

Presider (at the ambon) : master of the vine;

Reader 2 : Workers of the Last Hour (verse 7);

Reader 3 : Workers of the first hour (verse 12).

Another suggestion : a simple staging during the reading of the story :

Verses 1 and 2 : people embodying the first workers approach the ambo;

Verses 3 and 4 : people embodying the workers hired around 9 o'clock approach the ambo;

Verses 6 : people embodying the workers of the last hour approach the ambo;

Verses 9 and 10 : the president approaches the workers and distributes to them each a bookmark of the Sunday of catechesis with the theme “No matter, I call you”

Pay particular attention to the children present: the reading or the story, if possible, will be embellished with objects, decorative elements or gestures to be made by the assembly, associated with one word or another of the story.

¹ See the animation material proposed on the website of the Office de catechesis du Québec: <https://www.officedecatechese.qc.ca/productions/dimanche/2023/indexEng.html>

Actualizing the Word

At the time of the homily, the priest may approach the assembly, depending on the layout of the premises.

Here are three possible formulas for the Sunday homily of catechesis :

- 1) If the homilist speaks alone before the congregation, we suggest that his commentary on the Bible readings be inspired by the theme "It doesn't matter, I'm calling you!"
- 2) A dialogue style homily is being proposed, taking great care to welcome and hear, not to say provoke, the questioning from the Gospel. For the exchange with the assembly, we can draw inspiration from the following questions :
 - How do you receive the gospel text?
 - What do you like?
 - What surprises you, or even disturbs you?
 - What do you think of this God who welcomes without distinction?
 - How do you react to the master's mode of calculating?
- 3) During the first 5 minutes, the homilist comments on the biblical readings by highlighting how Christ calls us to grow spiritually and to make our talents fruitful in the service of others. He welcomes everyone, regardless of age, condition, motivations, questions and doubts. Then, for about ten minutes, the homilist gives the floor to a few people who give a brief testimony: "The Lord calls me and this is how I respond to this call today." For example, it can be a catechumen, a catechist, a member of a movement or group in the sector (e.g. Cursillos, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Vie Montante), a child or teenager, a parent, a godfather or godmother, etc.

Dialogue with the Creed

The Creed can be proclaimed by two people alternately, or by the assembly in dialogue with the presider. After each stanza of the Creed, a chorus can be sung.²

Participating in Universal Prayer

After reading the suggested universal prayer intentions for this Sunday, we can invite a few people to formulate personal prayers; If necessary, one or two people can be invited to prepare in advance some prayers to familiarize the congregation with this type of prayer.

² Baptismal confession dialogued: <http://www.netprodeo.net/prfoibaptême.htm>
Suggestions: *This is our faith*, U 64-52, NOVALIS-ALPEC, 1 Creed, t. 1; *I think*, NOVALIS-ALPEC, 1 Credo, t. 1.

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY

Praying to the Lord's Prayer

If conditions permit, people can be invited to open their hands or join hands while reciting the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer can also be sung, with or without gestures.

Highlighting the Ministers of Communion,

People render the service of giving communion, during the celebration or with the sick. Their involvement can be highlighted in various ways among the following :

- mention their existence and thank them,
- invite them to stand so that the congregation can identify and thank them,
- give the floor to one of these ministers, who could briefly express the meaning of his commitment,
- Recall that the Christian community reaches beyond the celebrating community and that all are in communion thanks to prayers for each other and to those ministers who bring communion to those who cannot participate in the celebration.

Opt for a Eucharistic prayer for children's assembly

The three Eucharistic prayers for children's assemblies have the merit of adopting a more accessible language without being infantilizing, in a dialogue between the assembly and the presider. To facilitate the participation of the congregation, the answer can be displayed on the screen or the text of the prayer can be distributed.

Extending Thanksgiving

The time of thanksgiving can be extended a little in various ways :

- play soft music, while people are invited to a time of personal prayer of thanksgiving.
- introduce this time of thanksgiving personally or shared in this or a similar way: "Lord, thank you for your Bread of Life that has nourished me... Send me out to be the bread of life for those I meet this week. »
- create a network of support in prayer among members of the community.
- read the ³proposed edition for Catechesis Sunday 2023; we can also propose this meditation in the form of a dialogue between a member of the pastoral team (1st part entitled "A disorienting God" and last part entitled "I call you") and the assembly (2nd part entitled "It does not matter").

A song of thanksgiving would end this moment of communion well.

3 See the animation sheet Proposed : <https://www.officedecatechese.qc.ca/productions/dimanche/2023/indexEng.html>
This meditation is also presented on the printable bookmark available on this page.

CONCLUSION

Offer thanks

Provide a word of thanks and a gesture of sending on a special mission for ministers who carry communion to the sick.

Invite catechists to stand up (or come forward) for sending. A certain spotlight on catechists could signify the community's gratitude to them.

One can ask a person (catechist or other) to read the Prayer of the Catechists or the Prayer of the Christian Community, in front of or with the assembly.⁴

One can distribute the bookmark of Catechesis Sunday suggested by the Office de catechesis du Québec⁵, on which a meditation is proposed.

Extend the celebration by inviting hospitality and socialization in the gathering and welcoming space mentioned at the beginning.

After the sending, one can go out in procession with the whole assembly, singing and using the musical instruments distributed at the entrance procession.

We will go to the welcoming area where the kiosks are located.

It would be advisable to offer beverages and a snack (or even a light meal if possible), for example: vegetable soup served in glasses, sandwiches, cheese cubes, etc. Why not a corn roast?

A children's area with games and toys, as well as seating for parents can be set up nearby.

During the snack, people could visit the booths and learn about Christian life formation activities in the parish or community. It could also be an opportunity to present to all these activities and the people who facilitate them, to distribute written information, etc.

Songs related to the theme “ No matter, I’m calling you ”.

Two examples that could be chosen : Dan Schutte “ *Here I am Lord* ” Lauren Daigle – *You Say*

French songs

- *But I need you*, T. & M. : Robert Lebel (EDIT 882/ SM 162)
- *Happy with your call*, T. : Claude Bernard / M. : Bertrand Bayle (A 247)
- *Christ today calls us*, T : Claude Bernard / M. : Michel Wackenheim (SM 176)
- *If the Father calls you*, T. : Didier Rimaud / M. : Jacques Berthier (DMV 721)
- *Tu m'appelles aujourd'hui*, T. & M. : Laurent Grzybowski (T 520, SM L2471;)

available on
“Chantons en Église “

4 <https://www.officedecatechese.qc.ca/productions/dimanche/2023/indexEng.html>

5 <https://www.officedecatechese.qc.ca/productions/dimanche/2023/indexEng.html>