



CENTER *for*
EVANGELIZATION
& CATECHESIS

at AQUINAS COLLEGE

Becoming a Contemplative Catechist

1

OPENING PRAYER



Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

2

“We want to see Jesus”



“Our gaze should be firmly set on the face of Christ.”

– Pope John Paul II,
Novo Millennio Inuente, 11



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Contemplation

A form of wordless prayer in which the mind and heart focus on God’s greatness and goodness in affective, loving adoration; to look on Jesus and the mysteries of his life with faith and love.”

- CCC Glossary



4

Sight and Contemplation

CCC 2714 - Contemplation grounds us in love

CCC 2715 – Contemplation is a gaze of faith, fixed on Jesus

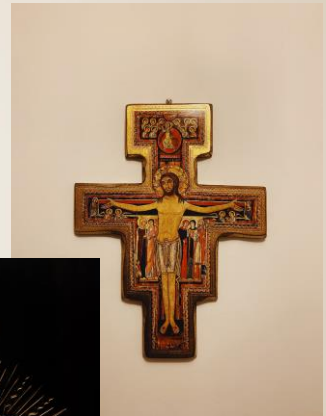
Job 42:5 – How is Job satisfied?

How does Jesus heal the blind man?



5

Contemplating the Face of Christ



6

The Heart and Contemplation

The **heart** is the place of this quest and encounter, in poverty and in faith.” – CCC 2710

In catechesis, there is a primacy of the Creed

In the order of fruitful contemplation, there is a primacy of God’s love and grace



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Contemplation, Catechesis, and the Liturgy

Communion is the goal of all

Contemplation – Union in “gaze” of faith – cf. CCC 2713

Liturgy – Sacramental union

Catechesis – Union in knowledge and love

- God created us to know and love him- CCC
- The intellect gives the will the object to love

In the Liturgy, we ‘see’ with the eyes of faith



8

A Dominican Principle



“Preaching (teaching) is the fruit of contemplation.”

They contemplate in order to be able to proclaim the fruit of their contemplation.

“Better to illuminate than merely to shine; to deliver to others contemplated truths than merely to contemplate.”

- St. Thomas Aquinas



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The Roots

Catechists' spirituality should bear the marks of:

1. Weekly attendance of Mass and reception of the Most Holy Eucharist
2. Frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance
3. Personal prayer – special devotion to Mary
4. Daily prayer for faith, hope, and love.
5. Daily prayer for students, parents, and all those involved in catechesis.
6. Continuous study of the Catholic Faith

Guide for Catechists



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Everything and Nothing...

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore neither the one plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth” (1 Cor3:6-7)

11

"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about."

-Blessed John Henry Newman

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Upcoming Webinars

For DREs and Catechetical Leaders
A Principled Approach to Catechesis
(2-part Webinar)
July 14 and 16
10AM and 6:30PM

For School Teachers
The Five Characteristics of a
Catholic School with Sister
Elizabeth Anne Allen, O.P.
Coming soon...