



Official Communiqué No. 18

The Diocesan Commission for Catechesis

1. THE BISHOP BEARS THE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBILITY FOR CATECHESIS
 - a) It is the Bishop who is primarily responsible for the catechetical mission and its implementation (*General Directory for Catechesis*, Nos. 222-223).
 - b) The Bishop exercises this primary responsibility by defining the general orientations that will guide the elaboration of the catechetical project and its implementation. It is he who promulgates the catechetical project, decides the modifications to be made to it if necessary, and approves the programs, procedures and tools to be used.
 - c) To do this:
 - I. He is assisted, in the lines of authority, by the different jurisdictions from which he seeks advice, whether it be to define orientations, or to determine the modalities for implementing the orientations (CDP, Conseil presbytéral, CÉDP, Comité de gestion);
 - II. Still in the line of authority, he is assisted by the persons mandated to represent him in various fields, such as the vicar general charged with the regions and the regional animators, who exercise their responsibilities in co-operation with the Regional Councils;
 - III. To ensure the human resources needed for the implementation of the catechetical project, for enrolment in it as well as for the teaching, he has the help of the Episcopal Vicar for Human Resources and the other members of his department;
 - IV. To help him supervise the implementation of the catechetical project and the updating of the orientations on which the project rests, the Bishop has established the Diocesan Commission for Catechesis.
 - V. As regards reflection, the Bishop is helped by the same advice and by the same persons and, in a quite special way, by the offices and the persons most directly responsible for the implementation of the catechetical project.

VI. To support our communities in the implementation of the catechetical project, the Bishop entrusts members of the Services à la mission with the task of helping, through their expertise and their capabilities, the local directors in the fulfillment of the duties assigned to them.

d) The Diocesan Catechetical Project is addressed to participants of all generations: children, adolescents, young adults, adults, seniors.

2. MISSION AND COMPOSITION OF THE DIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR CATECHESIS

a) Its Mission

The Bishop entrusts the Diocesan Commission for Catechesis the mission of supervising the fulfillment of the catechetical project in the diocese in the light of the orientations that he has defined. The Commission keeps abreast of the progress made in the catechetical project, assesses the success and the difficulties, analyzes situations, works on the problems and the paths to their solution, informs the Bishop of the results of their analyses and makes the appropriate recommendations. This, to ensure that the project is done in conformity with the orientations defined and that the Bishop is in a position to make the decisions required for the progressive accomplishment of the project (corrections to be made to the original plans, new decisions needed, questions to be handled...). It responds to requests that come from the Bishop. In all aspects of its mission, the Commission is therefore fully engaged in the fulfillment of the diocesan project. It will keep itself fully informed of the orientations that, under the aegis of the AÉCQ, are determined on the provincial level and, as far as possible, of what emerges from reflection and practice in other dioceses.¹

The Diocesan Commission for Catechesis answers to the Bishop for its mandate.

b) Its composition

The director of Services à la mission presides over the Commission. The Bishop will appoint one or two other members of the Services à la mission as well as three other persons coming from the animation team for the regions and communities, one of whom will represent the English Region.

What is expected from the members of the Commission is a good

¹ To further clarify the mission of the Commission diocésaine pour la catéchèse, we can draw inspiration from what is stated regarding the main tasks of the diocesan catechetical office (*Officium catechisticum*) in No. 266 of the *General Directory for Catechesis*.

understanding of the orientations of the catechetical project, attention to what is happening in the communities, and the capacity to maintain a certain problems that arise and to propose adequate solutions.

3. SUPPLEMENTARY REMARKS REGARDING CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- The responsibilities assumed at the base, in the parishes, are of primordial importance. A responsibility of the first order falls upon the catechists, as well as their collaborators. The responsibility for the catechetical mission has to be supported, however, and shared by the whole pastoral team, indeed by all of the parish community. A fundamental responsibility belongs to the priest, who has the duty of « generating in the Christian community the sense of *common responsibility* with respect to catechesis – a task that engages all the faithful – as well as recognizing and appreciating the catechists and their mission » (*Directoire general pour la catéchèse*, no. 225).
- The members of the Services à la mission are responsible for supporting the communities in the accomplishment of their tasks. They will also, on occasion, have to contribute to the elaboration of the orientations and the decisions to be taken as they present their observations to the Diocesan Commission for Catechesis. They are also asked to listen attentively to the local communities so as to be better acquainted with their practices, their successes, their difficulties and their questions. Finally, they will collaborate closely with the Institut diocésain de formation théologique et pastorale in providing permanent staff and volunteers with the formation necessary for the fulfillment of the catechetical mission in the diocese.

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