

Welcome!
Bienvenidos!

NPM

2005

Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Always use an editor!

Check it twice!

The Low Self Esteem support group
will meet Thursday at 7 PM.

Please use the back door!

When you arrive late for Mass,
please wait in the vestibule.

The Ushers will eat you.

The women's Bible study meets Tuesday
at 8:00 AM after the morning Mass.

Breakfast will be served
after the B.S. is over.

This being Easter, the members
of the Rosary Society will each
come forward...

...and lay an egg on the altar!

The pastor announced the theme
of this year's stewardship program.

It is:

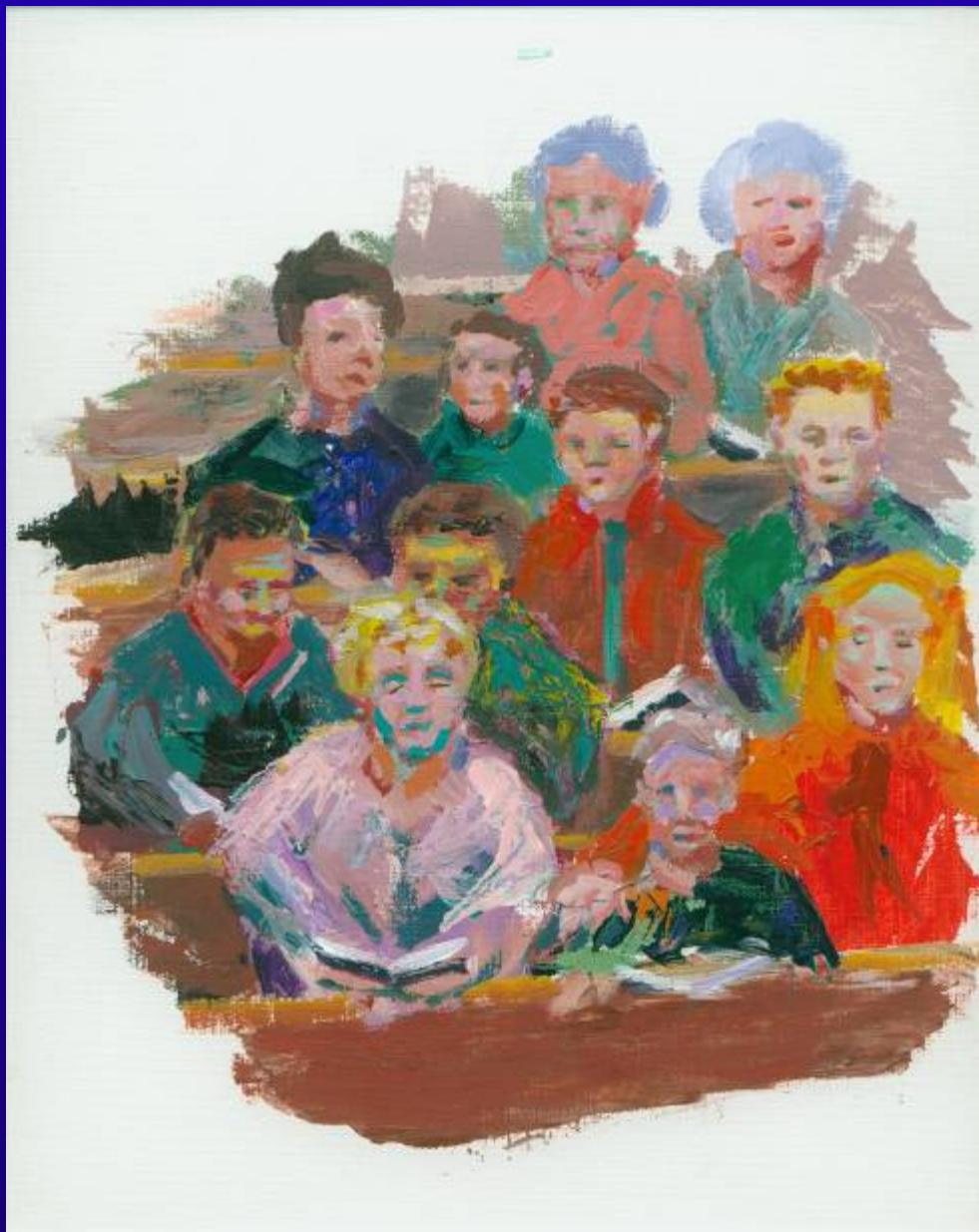
I upped my pledge - up yours!

OK

Let's get to work...

**I am a
catechist...
...and so
is each of
YOU!**





**But, I also have
a strong stake in
liturgy and
music...**

**Just like every
other catechist
in the country!**

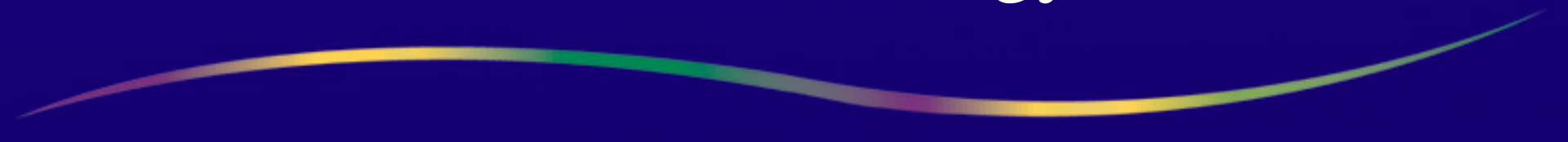
Ministry
to the
Lord is a
seamless
garment



There
are no
more
noble
nor less
noble
parts

Here's the deal...

- We in catechesis **NEED** you
 - No such thing as “catechesis without liturgy”
 - The source and summit of the Christian life is Liturgy



Furthermore...

- You in music and liturgy **NEED** catechists
- The principle remains:
 - **Full, active & conscious participation**
- How can that happen without high ~~quality catechesis?~~
- Hint: it can' t!

We need each other

And that, my friends,
is the first principle
of

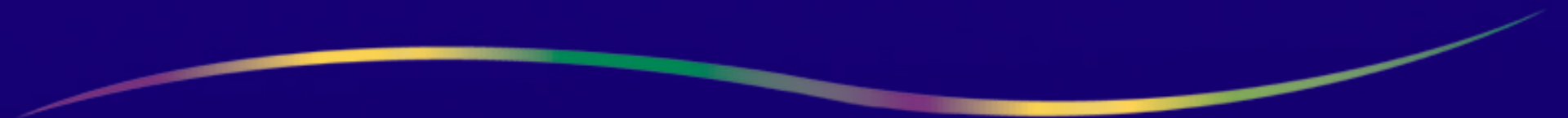
whole community catechesis

The plan this morning

What exactly is **whole community catechesis**?

What can **YOU** do to help make this work back home? And why should you?

A personal comment – reporting what I see as I travel about the church these days.



We're making a shift

- ❑ Focus is only on children
 - ❑ Parents are by-and-large absent
 - ❑ We assume that people have turned their hearts to Christ and are **on fire with love**
 - ❑ Separated from parish liturgy
 - ❑ First concern is doctrinal
 - ❑ Cognitive but not **affective** approach
-

Whole Community Catechesis

- Conversion to Christ
- Households of Faith
- Adults in the learning circles of the parish
- Sunday liturgy: the absolute center of the whole community!
 - A huge WELCOME
 - A plan for more PARTICIPATION
- Spiral curriculum for elementary

From the General Directory

Jesus Christ not only transmits
God's word;
Jesus **is** that word
and all catechesis
is completely tied to him.

98

Again, the General Directory:

Many who present themselves for catechesis truly require genuine conversion...

Only by starting with conversion... can catechesis, strictly speaking, fulfill its proper task... #62

What is Conversion?

- It's a **lifelong process**
 - of entering ever more deeply into the death of the Lord
 - So to also experience resurrection
 - Translated into daily life:
 - generous and hospitable
 - forgiving – even one's enemies
 - courageous for the truth
 - supple and merciful
-

Whole Community Catechesis

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In a nutshell

- ❑ We take elements of the RCIA
 - ❑ And apply them to parish life

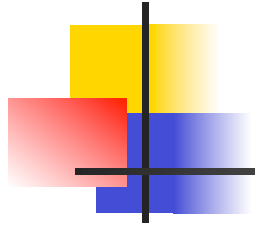
 - ❑ Not as a “program”
 - ❑ But as a process of lifelong formation and catechesis

 - ❑ **A lifelong process!**
-



So if you still call it

C C C D



Life long catechesis

All of this is made clear

in the

**General Directory
for Catechesis**

And what elements of RCIA?

- ❑ Foster adult **conversion**
 - ❑ **Breaking Open the Word**
 - ❑ Parish based **Retreats**
 - ❑ Focus on **liturgy & ritual**
 - ❑ Following the **liturgical seasons**
 - ❑ Some level of actual **catechesis**
 - ❑ More use of **mystagogy**
 - ❑ Creating **households of faith**
-



Job #1

Helping the folks in your
parish **encounter Christ**

#1 Breaking Open the Word

- The Question of the Week**
- Drawn from the Liturgy of the Word
- Begun by the pastor after the homily
 - Or after communion by others
- Used throughout the parish all week long
 - at all meetings
 - and in homes

To be successful...

- ❑ The Leadership has to buy in
- ❑ **You can help! If you model this and do it yourself, others will follow.**
- ❑ People need access to the Readings
- ❑ They need to learn how to break open the Scriptures
- ❑ Train, model, encourage, train

#2 “Living with Christ” retreats

- ❑ Thursday & Friday evening and Saturday morning
- ❑ About **40 folks** per retreat
- ❑ Leaders and host team from parish
- ❑ Encounter Paschal Mystery through sharing, sacraments & prayer
- ❑ Couched in Baptism; including Reconciliation and Eucharist

“Living with Christ” retreats

- **YOU** can help
- These retreats depend upon having good music & liturgy
 - Singing from the parish hymnal
- They bridge catechesis and liturgy within the parish
- Begin by offering to make this retreat yourself!
 - We all need on-going conversion

What we're
trying to do:

**We're trying
to set the
church on
FIRE!**



Job #2

Strategies for Encouraging
Households of Faith

#1 Be their resource!

- ❑ YOU can help provide the **tools** which households need
- ❑ **Send home one non-Sunday feast per month**
 - **And help folks celebrate it at home!**
- ❑ Be **affirming** of what's happening now in household life
 - Yes, including **sports...**

Remember...

The household
is the place
where faith grows
and where it is
lived everyday.



Households of Faith

The church lives at home



Households of Faith

#2 Encourage meals!

We ought to teach
Home Making
in all our catechetical
programs.



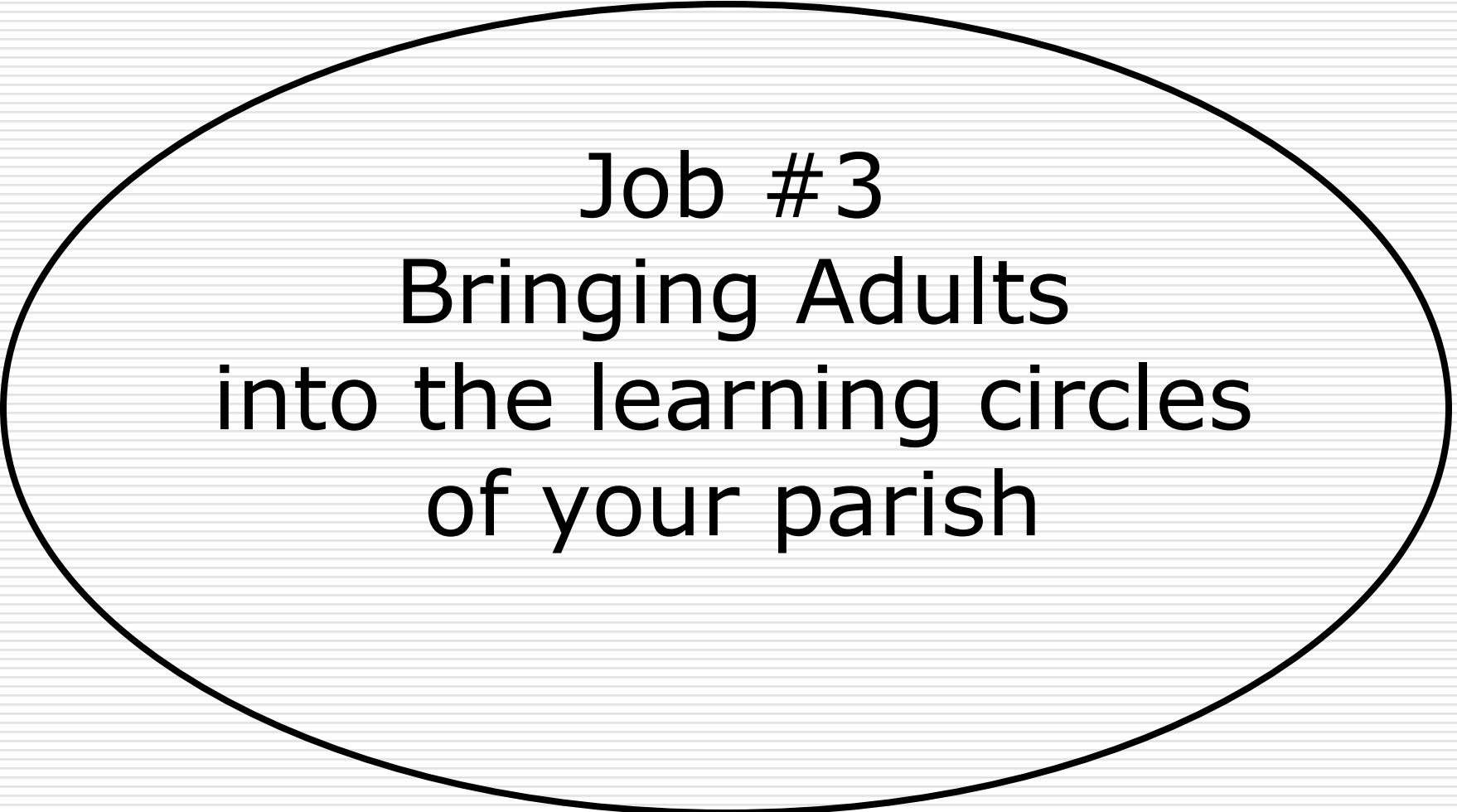
Supper

- It is THE memorial which of Christ
 - A vital action in human life
 - Receive gifts & blessings
 - Share them with others
 - Examine life – mystagogia on the day
 - Sharing supper is immediate preparation for celebrating Eucharist!
 - If you cook it, they will come!
-

Here's what you can do:

- Let people go HOME once in a while!
- Go home yourself!
- Make supper!

- Send home the Gospel in BOTW
- And send home the Feasts




Job #3
Bringing Adults
into the learning circles
of your parish

Here's the Principle:

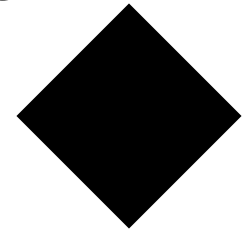
- ☐ Catechesis must look and feel more like liturgy than it does like school**
- ☐ The experience itself does half the teaching!**

What “feels like Church?”

- ❑ Being in an Assembly: **Community**
- ❑ Singing from the parish hymnal: **Worship**
- ❑ Having **intergenerational interaction** as we do in the Sunday Assembly
- ❑ Mixing prayer and study: **Word**
- ❑ Eating: **Community**
- ❑ Being sent home: **Service**

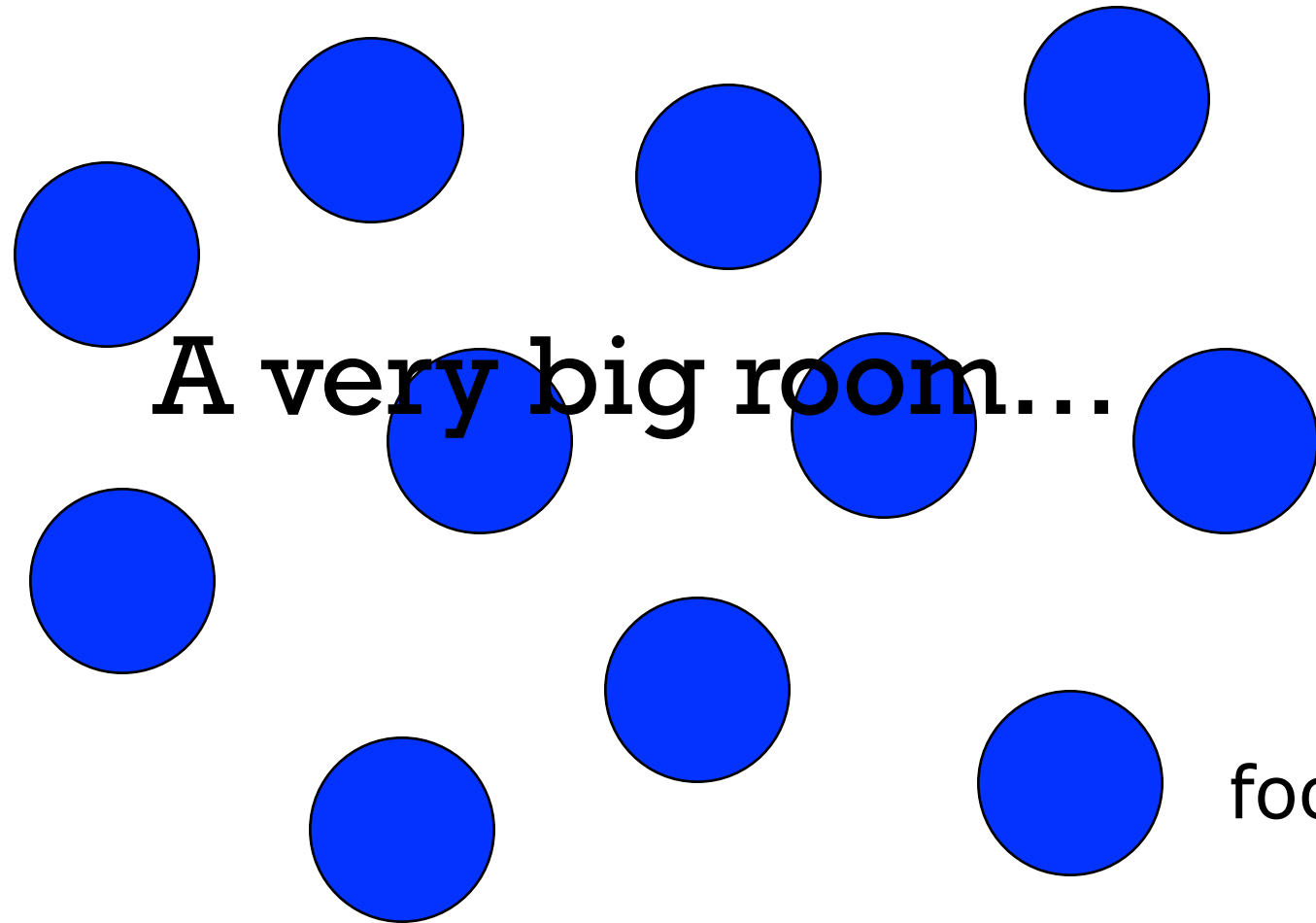

media screen

 lead catechist

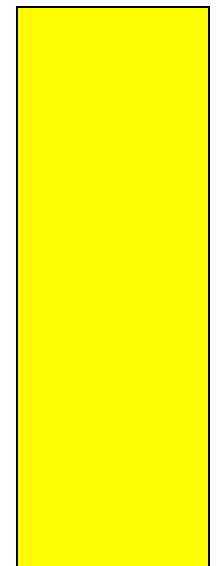


liturgical
music

A very big room....



food



Lifelong Catechesis

Who attends?

- Families of all kinds
 - one parent, two parent
 - both Catholic, or not
 - with the children
- Youth & other adults in the parish
- Guests
- The pastor and staff
- All are WELCOME

What can YOU do?

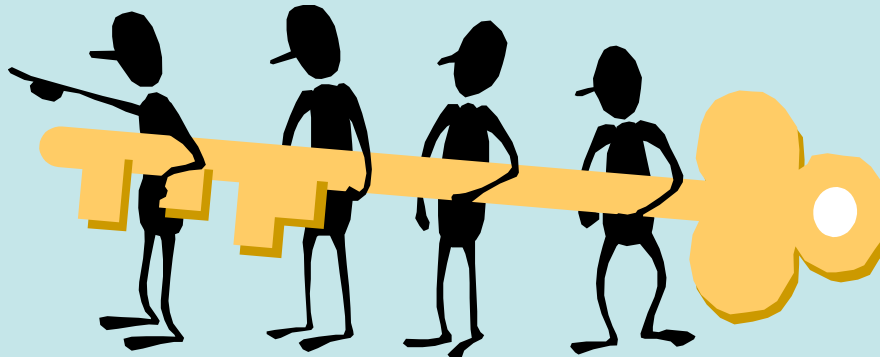
- Work with the catechetical team
- Provide guidance on liturgical elements of these assemblies
- Be there!
 - With good quality music
 - With excellent liturgical practices
- Support adult catechesis for the whole community



Job #4

A Vigorous and Central
Sunday Assembly

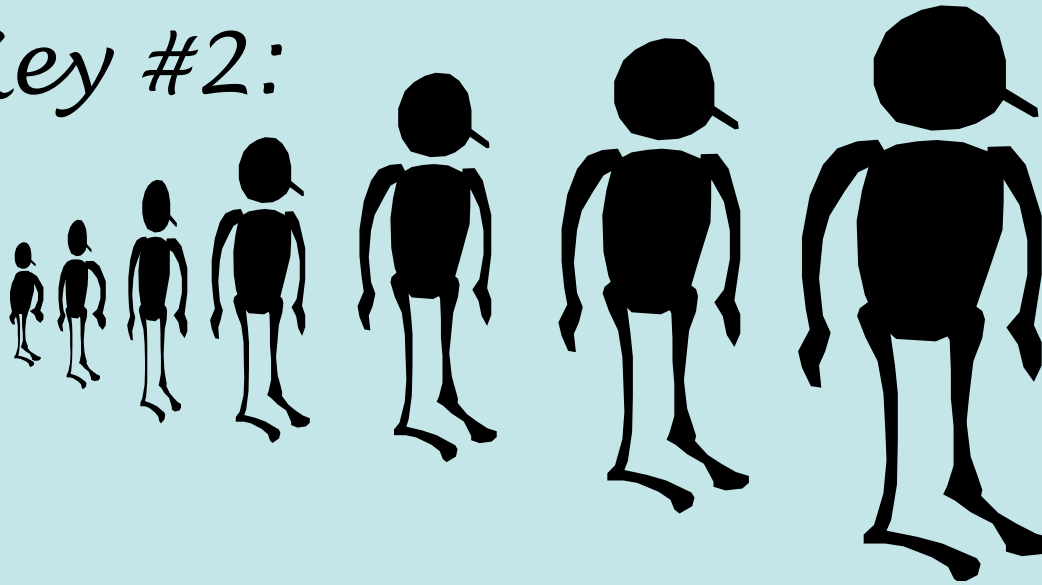
Key #1:



**Conversion to Christ
flowing from
Breaking Open the Word
& parish based retreats**

Sunday Assembly

Key #2:



**Feeling Welcome & Comfortable
at the Sunday Assembly
& in other ritual actions**

Sunday Assembly

Who might feel unwelcome?

- Many divorced people
- Those who remarry without an annulment
- Newcomers often
- Single parents with loud kids
- Gay & lesbian folks
- Couples using contraception
- Immigrants to the United States

Who might feel unwelcome?

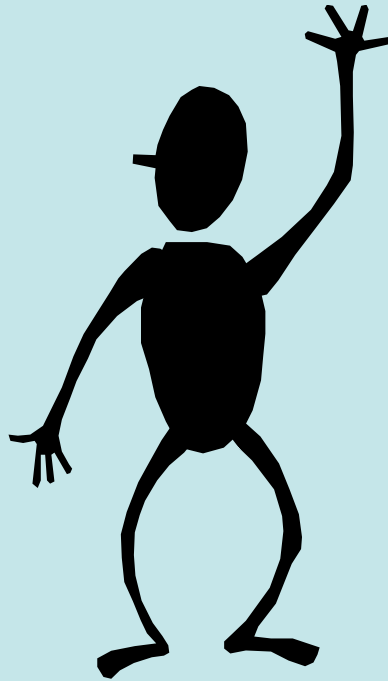
- Non-Catholic spouses
- People who are searching and who need time to sort things out
- Folks with doubts about their faith
- People who've been away a while
- Men & women living with shame
- Criminals and prisoners
- The homeless & materially poor

Why is this so important?

Unless one is present and active
in the Sunday Assembly,
even without receiving communion...
there really is no **genuine catechesis**.

The gathered church IS the teacher.

Key #3:



**A truly participatory Sunday
Assembly!**

(It shouldn't be like "going to the
movies!")

Sunday Assembly

What you can do:

- Welcome folks heartily!
 - By how you behave
 - As well as by what you say!
 - Help people to pray in the way that most touches their hearts
 - Sometimes it's necessary to sing
Holy God We Praise Thy Name
 - Choose **participation** over **perfection** in liturgical decisions
-

What you can do:

- Choose **flexibility** over **rigidity**

Pastors of souls must...realize
that, when the liturgy is celebrated,
more is required
than mere observance of the laws
governing valid and licit celebration.

It is their duty also to ensure
that the faithful take part
knowingly, actively, and fruitfully. #11

What you can do:

- Turn to the catechumenate and trust its **process**
 - Conversion
 - Ritual actions
 - Allowing the church itself to teach
 - Especially the liturgical seasons
 - Mystagogia
 - A real focus on adults
 - This attitude: “Come on in!”
 - We’ ll sort things out later...

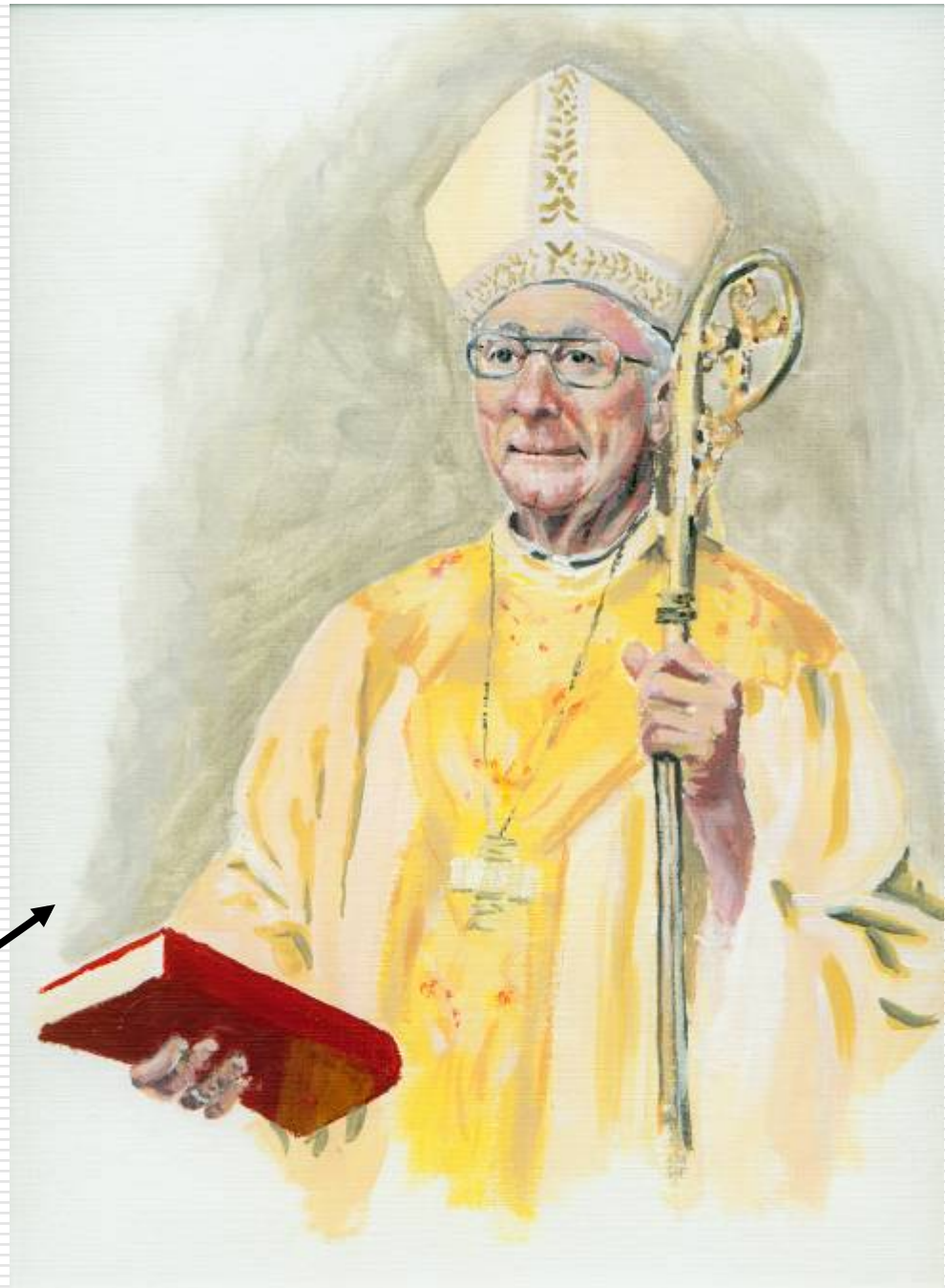
What you can do:

- Learn more about whole community catechesis here this week
 - It's important for you to understand what a key role you play
 - Various books, DVDs, & other resources are at the **Emmaus Center booth**
 - Many publishers have materials to support this reform
 - Become familiar with ***The Growing Faith Project*** – take it home
-

Before I close

A personal
comment

Bishop Ray
Lucker



Any reform in the Church

- Begins with experimentation
 - some things we did were AWFUL
 - some were glorious!
 - People sometimes leave
 - the church they knew is gone
 - Followed by a period of “new rigidity”
 - new principles get applied with fervor!
 - it appears to be “the only way”
-

Any reform in the Church

- There is then almost always a backlash
 - leaders regret the change
 - and try to reign it in
- But then there is a period of enthusiasm and excitement as the reforms deepen and mature

This is where we are today!

In Closing

**From all those of us who
who work in catechesis
in the parishes and schools
that you come from...**

let me say to each of you

Thank you!

□ You composers!

- For those lovely songs we sing
- For the implicit catechesis they contain

□ The musicians from many cultures!

- Asian and Pacific Rim, African, Hispanic, Eastern Churches, European
 - We learn and pray in our Mother tongue and culture
 - No way to get rich – but thank you!
-

Thank you!

- Youth and campus musicians!
 - You call us forth to the next generation
 - Pastors!
 - Thank you for taking the **risk** of WCC!
 - Instrumental specialists
 - Organ, piano, guitar and orchestra
 - Voice: choirs, cantors, and directors
 - We want to leave our liturgies, humming these songs! Thank you!
-

Thank you!

□ Pastoral liturgists

- Your work in this church is how we are implementing the dream of *Sacrosantum Concilium*
- “...to draw the faithful into the compelling love of Christ and set them afire!” #10

□ Those who provide musical leadership

- You are our partners in ministry
- Your role in catechesis is **ESSENTIAL!**

Thank you!

- Our partners here from other Christian Churches
 - **Half** of your homes & ours share our traditions
 - You taught us how to sing!
 - We value our friendship with you!
 - Publishers, distributors
 - Your ministry is a vital part of our work
 - Plus: you give us free stuff!
-

Thank you.
