

A CATECHIST'S PRAYER COMPANION

*Personal Prayers That
Encourage & Guide*



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One day, in the quiet cave of your heart,
you heard God whisper, “Go into all the world
and proclaim the Good News.”
He called you as surely as he called
Peter, James, John, and the other apostles.

So now you are God’s catechist,
handpicked to form God’s young disciples.
Let God’s love shine through you to them.

Enter your classroom
with courage and determination.
Plant the seeds of faith
that will take root,
grow strong,
and spread.

You are not alone as you perform
the spiritual work of mercy “instruct the ignorant.”
Jesus promised, “I am with you.”
His Holy Spirit empowers you
to carry out your vital mission
for the Church today and for its future.

Your sisters and brothers in the Church
thank you for your work of evangelizing.
May you be blessed for saying yes,
and may you be a blessing to others.



Prayers for
Myself as a
Catechist
page 4

Prayers for
My Ministry
page 20

Prayers to My
Special Aides
page 38

Prayers for
Holidays,
Holy Days,
and Seasons
page 42



PRAYER OF GRATITUDE FOR MY CALL

Jesus, I am proud to be a catechist,
a special way of being a missionary disciple.

I join a long parade of catechists who have
resounded the story of your saving acts
over some two thousand years.

You called twelve apostles to continue your ministry
of proclaiming the kingdom of God,
and now you have called me
to be your hands and feet and voice.

When Saint Paul listed church ministers*
he gave teachers a place of honor:
right after apostles and prophets.

To him my ministry outweighed performing miracles,
healing, and speaking in tongues.

Thank you for choosing me for this gift of teaching.

Thank you for this opportunity to carry on
your prophetic mission
that I inherited at my baptism.

Not only am I privileged
to pass on the treasure of our faith to others,
to share what I have been given,
but as I do so,
my own faith will be nurtured.

Thank you for the catechists and everyone else
who taught me the faith.

Thank you for the knowledge, experience, and grace
you provided to prepare me
for this church ministry.

May I live up to the confidence you place in me.
I know you are counting on me
to echo the Gospel for a new generation. *Amen.*

*1 CORINTHIANS 12:28

PRAYER TO BE A GOOD CATECHIST

Jesus, with all my heart I desire
to be a good catechist.

Help me to teach with love for all my students
so that they come to know
your love for them.
Let me see you in them.

Help me to understand the great truths
of our faith and take steps to learn
more about them.

Help me to deliver my lessons wisely and clearly
with conviction and even passion,
enabling my students to cultivate
a lifelong friendship with you.

Help me to employ a variety of methods
to reach students of every learning style
and keep them engaged.

Help me to be open to the inspiration
of the Holy Spirit as I plan and as I teach.
Make me willing to try new things.

Help me to grow in faith, hope, and love
so that all my words and actions
are a bridge to you,
who are our way, truth, and life.

Help me to be a faithful witness to you
and to model Gospel living
so that my students will be inspired,
yes, compelled, to follow you.

Help me to proclaim the Good News
of salvation with joy and good humor
so that my classroom rings with laughter.

I trust that after I've been your good servant,
I will reap the reward you promised:
those who teach will shine like stars
for all eternity.* *Amen.*

*DANIEL 12:3

PRAYER TO THE DIVINE TEACHER

Jesus, in the Gospels, people most often
called you “teacher.”

I wish to be a teacher like you.
Please be my mentor.

It didn't matter
if you had one student like Nicodemus
or five thousand,
if your setting was a hillside
or a boat on the Sea of Galilee,
if people soaked in your words like Mary of Bethany
or if they argued with you like the Scribes and Pharisees,
or if they walked away.

You always gave your all.

May I always give my all, too,
no matter how many students are in my class,
no matter the space where I teach,
no matter how my teaching is received.

You taught by stories and pithy sayings.
Lacking textbooks, technology, and modern audiovisuals,
you used the natural world around you:
sparrows, flowers, seeds, water, fire.
You shaped your message to your listeners
whether they were farmers or fishermen,
young children or wise men in the Temple.

Help me to deliver your word
whatever my tools and supplies
in ways that appeal to my students
and touch their hearts.

Your most memorable lessons were your acts of love:
praying all night, healing lepers, washing feet,
and, above all, sacrificing your life.

People were amazed at your teaching.
I can't hope to amaze my students.
But with your grace I can bring them closer to God
and the kingdom of God,
especially by the witness of my love. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO GROW IN UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE

Jesus, thank you for the gift of Sacred Scripture
that reveals our Triune God:
Creator, Savior, and Holy Spirit.
In it you unfold mysteries of life,
recount the history of God's dealings with humanity,
and, above all, declare your love for us.

I want to delve into the riches of
the Scripture verses,
for they deepen my knowledge of you.

Prompt me to take courses on the Bible,
read commentaries on it,
pay attention to homilies flowing from it,
and ponder your divine words.

I believe that in the Bible you speak to us.

Give me ears to hear your words
and a heart to understand them.

Let me use Scripture as the grist of my prayer,
attuned to personal messages you send me.

Because the Bible is the wellspring of our faith
along with Tradition,

I ask you to inspire me with ways
to acquaint my students with it.

Help me to weave verses through my lessons,
assign passages to memorize,
and teach how to pray with Scripture.

Make me a fitting instrument
to communicate and interpret your sacred words.

May my students not only become familiar
with your Holy Bible
but make reading it a habit
and grow to love it. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO INCREASE MY LOVE FOR THE EUCHARIST

Jesus, what a tremendous gift
you gave us in the Eucharist!

When we gather around your table
as your Church, your holy people,
we participate in your redemption.

Your sacrifice becomes our sacrifice.

And we also offer ourselves to the Father.

At Mass we praise and thank the Father
in the most excellent way
and in the company of the saints and angels.
The liturgy teaches us the mysteries of faith.

What's more astonishing,
we can consume you
body and blood, soul, and divinity.
We become one with you
and with one another.

May I never take this queen of the sacraments
for granted.

Let me celebrate each Eucharist
with as much love and devotion
as though it were my last one.

May my deep love of the Eucharist
impact my students
so that they, too, cherish it
and take every opportunity
to celebrate it.

I look forward to your eternal banquet,
where we will offer praise and thanks
forever. *Amen.*