A RESEARCH PRIMER

KATEKISTA

A National Study on Catechetical Ministry
2016-2018

To investigate the current state of catechetical ministry in the Philippines from the perspectives of Filipino catechists and catechetical leaders.

about the logo

The lens represents "research" magnifying the symbolic "dove" carrying the CBCP-ECCCE on the right wing, and on the left wing, its core pastoral mission - the catechetical ministry, which is the study focus of the NCS.

P H I L I P P I N E S

methods

NATURE	**DESIGN**	**APPROACH**
academic & pastoral	exploratory & descriptive	mixed method quantitative & qualitative

RESPONDENTS	**STRATEGIES**	**ANALYSIS**
catechists & catechetical leaders	census survey key informant interview focus group discussion	descriptive statistics qualitative data analysis

FUNDING

CBCP-ECCCE, UST-RCSSED & various ecclesiastical territories

our project in numbers

25,905
surveyed catechists validated for analysis

more than 20 research presentations

303 surveyed catechetical leaders

17 Ecclesiastical Provinces

32 interviewed catechists

86 Ecclesiastical Territories

15 catechists' focus group discussions

2,275,154.70 research funds allocated

7 project consultants

about 1,000 volunteers, encoders, transcribers
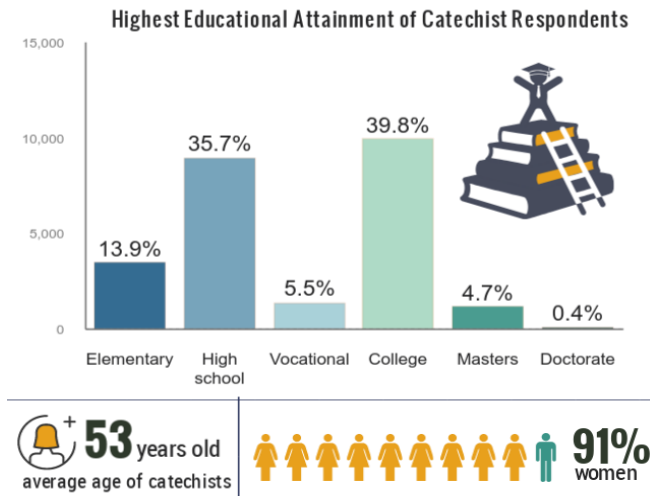
8 research team members

numerous field work; visits; interactions with catechists and catechetical leaders; ethnographic observations

research story

In general, catechetical ministry in the Philippines is being carried-out by **older lay educated women volunteers** receiving minimal transportation support.

Catechist respondents reported having undergone formal training and are engaged with various on-going formation provided by ecclesiastical territories.

Highest Educational Attainment of Catechist Respondents

- Elementary: 13.9%
- High school: 35.7%
- Vocational: 5.5%
- College: 39.8%
- Masters: 4.7%
- Doctorate: 0.4%

53 years old — average age of catechists

91% women

Teaching catechism focuses more on children in public schools that often cover topics about the fundamentals of faith and sacraments.

Catechist respondents report using traditional lecture mode although "story-telling" is the most preferred teaching technique.

Story-telling as most preferred teaching technique

Catechist respondents observe high level of religious and sacramental practices, indicated high moral disposition on selected Catholic Church stance, and reported high level of happiness, satisfaction and commitment as catechists.

Socio-demographic implications

* Enhance catechetical ministry by going beyond children catechesis.

* Introduce other forms like family, liturgical, parish/community-based catechesis.

* Involve more males and youth as catechists.

† Issue of inclusive faith

Catechetical ministry practice

* Continue developing programs to professionalize catechetical ministry covering the processes of recruitment, formation, and compensation.

* Design better volunteer scheme for retention and sustainability of catechists in doing catechetical ministry.

† Issue of formation, security and sustainability

Where are you doing catechesis?
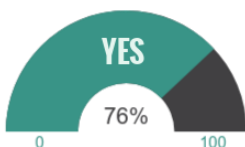
70% Public School

48% Parishes

87% of the catechized are elementary pupils
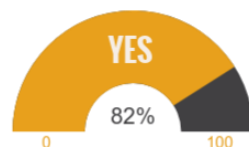
formation, content & pedagogy

The state of catechetical ministry in the country is characterized by:

(1) variations in formation and on-going training of catechists;
(2) use of non-standardized catechetical modules & sources;
(3) employment of traditional mode of teaching due to lack of access to new teaching & learning resources.

research story

Did you have any formal catechetical formation?

YES

76%

0   100

Do you attend on-going catechetical formation?

YES

82%

0   100

Role of catechetical centers
Access to catechetical centers for formal catechetical training is limited.

† Issue of catechetical centers as formation providers
† Center-periphery issue of access to catechetical centers

At present, what external factors contribute most in doing your catechesis effectively?

1	2	3	4
Family	Parish Priest	Co-Catechists	Director or Coordinator

Formation
*   There are no standard formation program modules used across ecclesiastical territories.
*   Parishes may develop local-based & contextualized formation training programs & catechetical modules.

† Issue of continuing religious education training of catechists and catechetical leaders

Catechetical sources & pedagogy
* No standardized catechetical modules used across ecclesiastical territories
* Reported preference in using local language for teaching catechism
* Relative familiarity with catechetical sources except with YOUCAT & DOCAT
* Introduce creative and contextualized teaching & learning strategies

† Issue of design, production, and reproduction of catechetical modules

Which among the three goals of catechesis is your priority in catechizing?

60% Deepen relationship with Jesus

21% For the catechize to encounter Jesus

12% Reach the truths of faith

What motivated you to be a catechist?

top answers

1 Sense of Volunteerism

2 Sense of Mission

How happy are you as a catechist?

	56.3%	39.1%

0   20   40   60   80   100

■ Neutral   ■ Happy   ■ Very happy

   Catechist respondents' reported relatively high level of happiness, commitment and satisfaction reflects **"faith-based service"** practiced through catechetical ministry.

   While there seems to be no observed problem with the life dispositions of these catechist respondents, structural issues of formation, support and compensation were identified as critical factors impacting the variations, shape, delivery and quality of catechetical ministry in the country.

pastoral insights

Practice of **"faith-based service"** indicates being one with the suffering Jesus and shared social suffering with the Church.

† Issue of valuation of catechists' voluntary services and their well-being

"The present need for a systematic catechesis is not only due to the inherent pre-eminent position of this ministry in terms of the over all pastoral and missionary activity of the Church. (…) The future is expected to be even more challenging. As people move toward greater modernization, urbanization, and economic progress, the great rapid social changes taking place will have considerable effect on the education in the faith."

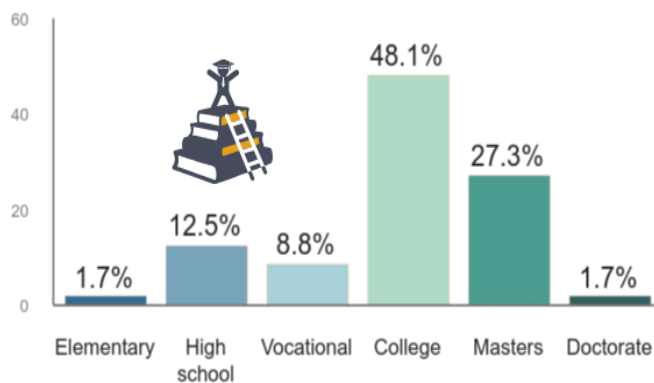Abp. Legaspi, O.P.,D.D. , in *Passion for Catechesis* (2007 pg.196-197)
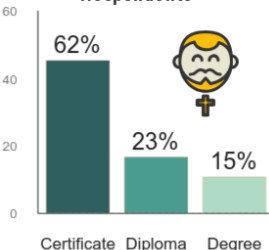
catechetical leaders

Catechetical leader respondents are college educated and underwent formal catechetical training. They are happy, satisfied and committed as catechetical leaders.

Highest Educational Attainment of Catechetical Leader Respondents

Types of Formal Formation of Catechetical Leader Respondents

Despite the observed professionalism among these catechetical leader respondents, there is a need to clarify their leadership roles and functions in catechetical ministry amidst the multiple administrative and pastoral tasks expected from them.

"Dumadami ang katekista kapag ang pari at obispo ay may pusong katekista."
("The number of catechists grows when priests and bishops cradle a catechist's heart.")

Princess, katekista, Diocese of San Jose (Nueva Ecija)

🔥 pastoral insights

- The catechetical ministry in the Philippines is more welcoming to women catechetical leaders. *† Issue of inclusive faith*
- Almost all catechetical leader respondents have a clear understanding of their job but are involved with other ministries.
  † Issue of multiple service-roles
- Catechetical leader respondents reported enjoying continuous leadership training. *† Issue of mentorship & leadership succession program*
- Majority of catechetical leader respondents underwent formal catechetical formation in Religious Education and related fields combined with trainings and workshops conducted by the CBCP-ECCCE. *† Issue of professionalization and continuing formation of catechetical leaders*
- Most of the catechetical leader respondents conduct monthly consultation meetings with catechists, and also administer occasional assessment and evaluations. They reported having knowledge of the issues and concerns that catechists face in their ministry. *† Issue of various management approaches to catechetical ministry*
- Catechetical leader respondents reported high level of happiness, satisfaction, and commitment. *† Issue of catechetical leaders' "well-being"*

The **National Catechetical Study (NCS) 2016-2018** Research Team

NCS 2016-2018 Research Team

From left to right: **Florence C. Navidad, EdD** *(co-leader)*; **Philip Fuentes, MA** *(faculty volunteer)*;
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Sr. Ma. Jesusa Enginco, O.P. (*CBCP-ECCCE Assistant Exec. secretary/consultant)*;
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Arthur Ace B. Malatag *(research assistant).* **Dennis Ian B. Sy, MA** *(researcher not in photo)*