

2020



Strategic Planning for the Research-Based Intervention Outcomes (RIO)

January 30, 2020 (Thursday) | 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Office of the Student Affairs (OSA) Conference Room
Tan Yan Kee Building, University of Santo Tomas (UST)



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**STRATEGIC PLANNING
 on RESEARCH-BASED
 INTERVENTION OUTCOMES (RIO)**

Implements various research-based intervention activities grounded on the research insights derived from the main findings of the NCS 2021: PARI Project.

RATIONALE

This strategic planning envisions at:

- understanding research insights from NCS 2016-2018 and preliminary findings from NCS 2021 studies;
- identifying pastoral insights relative to delivering catechesis at various educational spaces;
- describing possible research-based intervention outcomes (RIO) for effective catechesis; and,
- determining strategies on how RIOs may be successfully implemented.

January 30, 2020 | Thursday
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 Tao Yan Kee (TYK) Student Center, University of Santo
 Tomas (UST), Manila

Name: _____
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Introduction

The second objective of the *National Catechetical Study (NCS) 2021: Pastoral Action Research and Intervention (PARI) Project* is to develop *Research-based Intervention Outcomes (RIO)*. This activity was intended for the planning and identification of these *RIOs*. Specifically, this strategic planning envisioned:

1. Understanding research insights from *NCS 2016-2018* and the preliminary findings from *NCS 2021* studies;
2. Identifying pastoral insights relative to delivering catechesis at various educational spaces;
3. Describing possible *RIOs* for effective catechesis; and
4. Determining strategies on how *RIOs* may be successfully implemented.

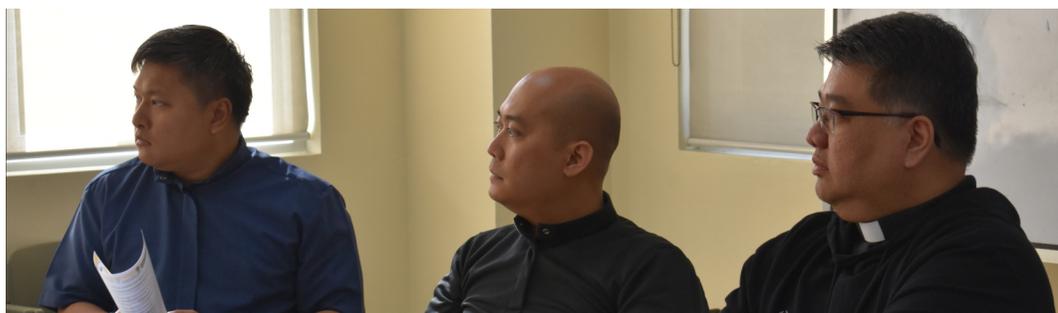
Registration and Introductory Activities

At 9 am, the activity's registration started. Ms. Villena began the strategic planning with a prayer. It was followed by the introduction of attendees, led by Sr. Ma. Jesusa Enginco, OP. Then, Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, OP the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs of the *University of Santo Tomas*, welcomed the participants and acknowledged the need for this project to explore the state and dynamics of catechetical ministry in the country.

NCS 2021: PARI Project & Activities Overview

To introduce the activity, Dr. Batan enumerated the objectives of the strategic planning which he followed with an explanation on the rationale. During his discussion, he defined the term “interventionist” referring to the participants who would be helping in the implementation of *RIO* activities. In other words, those who will “translate the research outcomes into intervention projects.” He emphasized the project's call for interventionists who know the research locale of the study.

Subsequently, Dr. Batan presented and explained the project's previous activities by month. During this presentation, he also viewed the *NCS 2021: PARI Project* maps for *Katekistang Kalakbay sa Pananaliksik (KKP)* orientations and *NCS 2016-2018* data presentations and lists of activities per year. Moreover, he narrated the *NCS 2016-2018* research story, emphasizing that most of the catechist respondents were old, lay women. He pointed out the issues of the *Catechetical Ministry (CM)* on varied formation, non-standardized catechetical modules, and employment of traditional mode of teaching.



Strategic Planning for RIO - Morning Session

After the presentation of the *NCS 2016-2018* research story, the morning session of the strategic planning followed. The discussion is summarized as follows:

- The main goal of this planning was to conceptualize intervention projects and outputs, such as catechetical outlines and formation programs, based on the study's research findings.
- These intervention projects should be "pastoral" and "missionary," which emphasize catechesis as a mission catechesis not a job but a mission. In support, Atty. Ancheta, one of the founders of *Lay Catechists of St. Pedro Calungsod Formation Center (LCPC)*, mentioned that "the love of Jesus" should be the fuel for catechesis.
- According to Rev. Fr. Tiong, the priests receive more financial support than the catechists because catechesis is "voluntary." Hence, he does not see the importance of the call to compensate catechetical works; instead, "we need support for our mission, not our job." Moreover, he agrees that catechesis is missionay or a mission.
- For Mr. Emmanuel Ancheta, "better discernment of discipleship is important, especially at the collegiate level." He expounded that there is a need to shift the absolutist economic perspective on the course/study of catechesis since this is a mission. Catechists should, instead, be oriented that the positions that they can attain are only temporal.



5 | Strategic Planning for RIO - Morning Session

- According to Rev. Fr. De Leon, the executive secretary of CBCP-ECCCE, "liturgy and catechesis are the life of the Church." Missionaries tell the story of Jesus, which is the job of the catechist. He was impressed that "the catechists are happy despite the little to no support they receive." Moreover, he mentioned that the concepts of "voluntary" and "full-time" catechists which emphasize catechesis as a mission
- On whether the priests who were catechized are part of the study, Dr. Batan responded that only those priests, who are catechetical directors, were interviewed. He also mentioned that the study found that there is an existing politics in the process of choosing these directors.
- "Catechesis," "Evangelization," and "Theology" are all connected and similar in some aspects, but it appears that most Catholic Religious Education teachers are not aware of their relation. Dr. Batan also raised inconsistencies in using these terminologies and highlighted the need to create a standard glossary of these terms.

Initial Research Findings & Insights

In the second part of the morning session, the research associates (*RSocs*) of the *NCS 2021: PARI Project* presented the initial findings of the three pastoral action researches. Ms. Balajadia discussed the *Studying the Catechized (SC)* data of the *Diocese of San Fernando, La Union*. Among the insights highlighted, the most crucial finding is the lack of family catechesis in the diocese.



For the *Studying Catechetical Formation Program (SCFP)*, Ms. Anorico presented the research stories of selected catechetical centers. She emphasized the use of *NCS 2016-2018* findings as a foundation for and reference of *SCFP*. The partial findings suggest that *catechetical formation programs (CFP)* highly depend on the capacity of each parish. Moreover, *CM* and *CFP* are found to be stagnant, and if there is development, it is too gradual.

The partial findings of *Studying Catechetical Human Resources (SCHR)* were discussed by Dr. Navidad. This study looks into the roles of catechists and other personnel in *CM* organizational structure. Her presentation highlights two crucial findings – (1) the lack of adult catechesis and (2) the need to create and employ modules based on the needs of the *ecclesiastical territories (ETs)*.

Strategic Planning for RIO - Afternoon Session

After the lunch break, the afternoon session of strategic planning followed. In this session, Dr. Batan enumerated and elucidated the eight intervention outcomes of the project, which are the following:

- Outcomes 1 – Pastoral Research Outputs on the Catechized and Catechetical Centers
- Outcomes 2 – Recruitment, Retention and Sustainability plans for specific target sectors as catechists
- Outcomes 3 – New Catechesis Programs (such as parent, family, liturgy, mission, indigenous peoples, etc.)
- Outcomes 4 – Catechetical Center’s Pastoral Programs
- Outcomes 5 – Revitalized Formation Programs for Catechists and Catechetical Leaders
- Outcomes 6 – Catechetical Curriculum Design and Modules for Catechists



7 | Strategic Planning for RIO - Afternoon Session

- Outcomes 7 – Development of Catechetical Teaching and Learning Strategies
- Outcomes 8 – Human Resource Manual and Guidelines for Catechetical Ministry

The following points are highlights of the strategic planning afternoon session:

- Most Rev. Mallari emphasized the aspects of catechesis that seems to remain neglected. He also sees the implementation of intervention programs as beneficial for the *CM* sectors in the periphery.
- Ms. Constantino, a faculty member of the *Institute of Religion (IR) of the University of Santo Tomas (UST-IR)*, introduced Certificate in Religious Education *CREED* program, an IR initiative that gives formation to catechists from Ecclesiastical Territories without catechetical centers. However, she mentioned that what *CREED* offers might be considered as introduction towards the holistic formation of the catechists, and would await for the *NCS* results so the *CREED* modules may be revisited. Moreover, she is willing to encourage the *UST-IR* to review the University's Theology curriculum and her colleagues to retrace the *IR* identity as origin as a catechetical center. The team classified her points as part of Outcomes 5, 6, and 7.
- Rev. Fr. Padilla of *UST Faculty of Sacred Theology* proposed a 40-hour biblical formation (20 hours each for catechists and priests). Moreover, he hoped that this formation would help the prospective participants in creating their modules. Dr. Batan classified his intervention proposal as Outcomes 3 and 5.
- Br. Zamora of the *Dominican Studentate* shared his team's endeavours to create a "catechetical bible." His concern to properly distribute and encourage lay persons to read catechetical documents with lengthy contents led them to the idea of the catechetical bible. Its content is a mix of the Bible and various catechetical documents. However, the focus is only on sacraments. However, he promised to widen its scope in content and mode of accessibility for the future. It is classified as part of Outcomes 5.

- Mr. Albert Loteyro discussed an overview of his affiliation, *YOUCAT*, and explained three proposals for *CBCP-ECCCE*: (1) regional and national training of trainers for youth catechists; (2) St. Pedro Calungsod's national pilgrimage and (3) creation of youth catechesis modules. In his first proposal, the target population is 500 youth trainers. There would be one training area for each region – Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. In the second proposal, the goal is to introduce St. Pedro Calungsod more to the youth. Rev. Fr. Que of the *Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP)* suggested including San Lorenzo Ruiz in the pilgrimage. In the third and last proposal, the goal is to improve the execution of catechesis dedicated to the Filipino youth. Dr. Batan classified these proposals to Outcomes 2, 3, 5, and 7.
- Fr. Lope introduced and explained *God's Park*, a form of Catholic catechesis in digital format, functions, and perquisites. Considering the importance of this application, Dr. Batan suggested first availing the "Training the Trainers" program of *God's Park* to empower the catechists with this new mode of catechizing and classified it to Outcomes 3 and 5.
- Rev. Fr. De Leon asked Dr. Batan's insight about the tendency of technologies to be ineffective as a mode of education. The latter answered that the said statement is not true. Dr. Navidad supported his response by mentioning the results of her study on game simulation's tendency to encourage students to be more engaged in learning.
- Rev. Fr. Que encouraged all participants to pray and expressed the *CEAP* plan to encourage students to become catechists. He suggested creating models of catechetical centers from the data and materials that would be collected in the study.
- Atty. Ancheta discussed what the lay catechists could contribute to the intervention and emphasized the need to catechize those in the peripheral sectors of the society, such as criminals, out-of-school youths, and the poor. Concerning this, Ms. Constantino shared their endeavours to document the best practices of the youth and post them online to encourage out-of-school youth to become catechists.

At the end of the sharing of proposed intervention activities, Dr. Batan enumerated the possible intervention outcomes highlighted in the discussions. Most Rev. Mallari identified that family catechesis was not touched in the discussion and suggested the possible involvement of the Commission on Family Life with this concern. Moreover, Ms. Constantino raised the need to include popular religiosity in the intervention and proposed the possible involvement of the *UST-IR* faculty members with its implementation. Dr. Batan stated that the *NCS 2021: PARI Project Research Team* would need their notes to produce a basic plan for each intervention.

Concluding Activities

The last portion of the workshop was allotted for discussing the action points, specific tasks, and synthesis of the planning. During this juncture, Rev. Fr. De Leon expressed that “the way God is leading us is becoming clear, in terms of catechetical endeavours.” To formally conclude the activity, Most. Rev. Mallari provided an inspiring closing remark with emphasis on the possible benefits of the proposed intervention projects.





University of Santo Tomas' (UST) contribution to
500 Years of Christianity (YOC) in the Philippines

