



# Filipino Catechists and Our Thriving Catechetical Ministries: 'Gifted to Give'

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**Most. Rev. Roberto C. Mallari, D.D.**

*Chair, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) -  
Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education (ECCCE)  
Bishop, Diocese of San Jose de Nueva Ecija*



Photo from the Diocese of Catarman

# History & Stories

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# Holy Spirit

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# **Gifted to Give**

500 Years of Christianity  
in the Philippines

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# Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' (CBCP) Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education (ECCCE)



**gifted to give**  
500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES





Photo from the Diocese of Calbayog

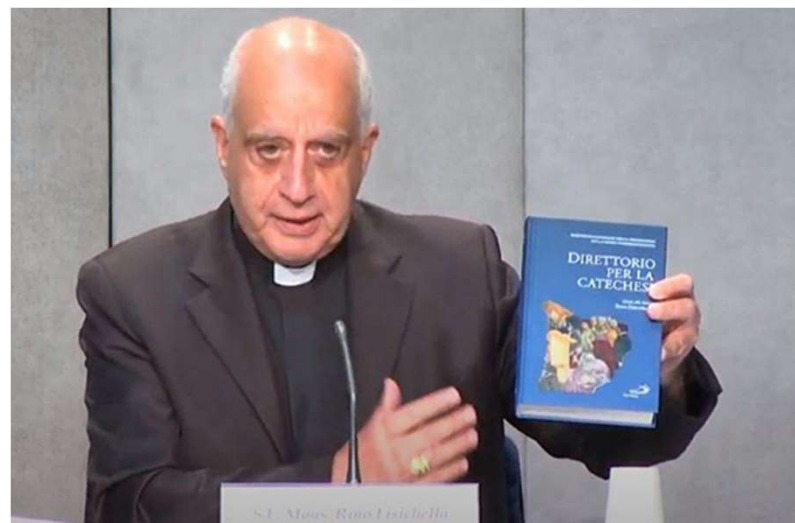


Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

# The New Directory for Catechesis

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Launched in **June 25, 2020**,  
by **Archbishop Rino Fisichella**,  
president of the *Pontifical Council  
for the Promotion of the New  
Evangelization*.



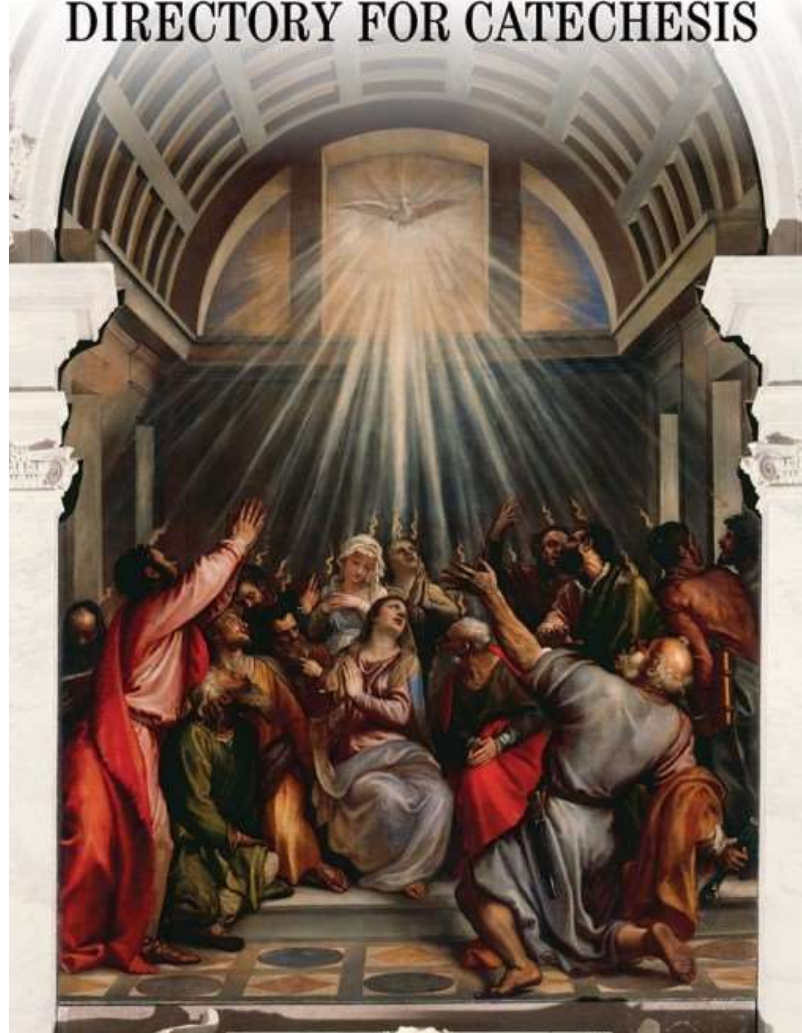
(Photo: Catholic Outlook)



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Pontifical Council for the  
Promotion of the New Evangelization

# DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS



The whole Christian community is responsible for the ministry of catechesis, but each one according to his particular condition in the Church: ordained ministers, consecrated persons, **lay faithful**.

Directory for Catechesis (2020)

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Photo from the Apostolic Vicariate of Jolo



Francis > Motu Proprio >

[ DE - EN - ES - FR - IT - PL - PT ]

APOSTOLIC LETTER  
ISSUED "MOTU PROPRIO"  
BY THE SUPREME PONTIFF

**FRANCIS**

## **"ANTIQUUM MINISTERIUM"**

INSTITUTING  
THE MINISTRY OF CATECHIST

1. The ministry of Catechist in the Church is an ancient one. Theologians commonly hold that the first examples are already present in the writings of the New Testament. The service of catechesis may be traced back to those "teachers" mentioned by the Apostle in writing to the community of Corinth: "Some people God has designated in the Church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way" (*1 Cor* 12:28-31).

Saint Luke begins his Gospel by stating: "I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received" (*Lk* 1:3-4). The evangelist seems to be well aware that his writings offer a specific form of instruction that can give firm assurance to those already baptized. The Apostle Paul, for his part, tells the Galatians that: "one who is being instructed in the word should share



**SCAN ME**





Photo from the Archdiocese of Palo



Photo from the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao



Photo from the Diocese of Calbayog

## Pope Francis Institutes New Ministry Of Catechist

The Vatican released the papal letter, **Antiquum ministerium** ("Ancient ministry"), on **May 11** in eight languages, including Italian Sign Language.

He said that **catechists** played a critical role in the Church's missionary expansion in the following centuries.

"At the same time, every **catechist** must be a witness to the faith, a teacher and mystagogue, a companion and pedagogue, who teaches for the Church."

"It is in fact a stable form of service rendered to the local Church in accordance with pastoral needs identified by the local Ordinary, yet one carried out as a work of the laity, as demanded by the very nature of the ministry."

The pope said that **bishops' conferences** should decide the "necessary process of formation and the normative criteria for admission" to the new ministry.

-CBCP News







In their daily life, interwoven with family and social relationships, the **laity** come to realize that they “are given this special vocation: to make the **Church present and fruitful in those places and circumstances** where it is only through them that she can become the salt of the earth”

### **Antiquum Ministerium**

Apostolic letter of Pope Francis on instituting the Ministry of Catechist

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Photo from the Diocese of San Jose de Nueva Ecija

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## Faith: Our People's Source of Strength

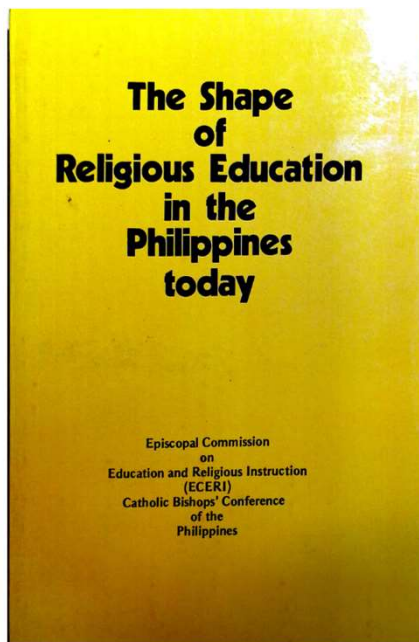
“When people do not understand our essential doctrines as Roman Catholic Christians, we have also ourselves to blame. It could also mean we have failed in our preaching. **Perhaps we have not been effective enough in our catechesis about the faith?** Perhaps we should find better and more appropriate ways of communicating the faith. Our preparation for the celebration of the **500th year of Christianity in the Philippines** could serve as a perfect opportunity to embark on a **renewed integral evangelization in word and witness.**”

**CBCP Pastoral Statement,  
Conquering Evil with Good,**  
*January 28, 2019*

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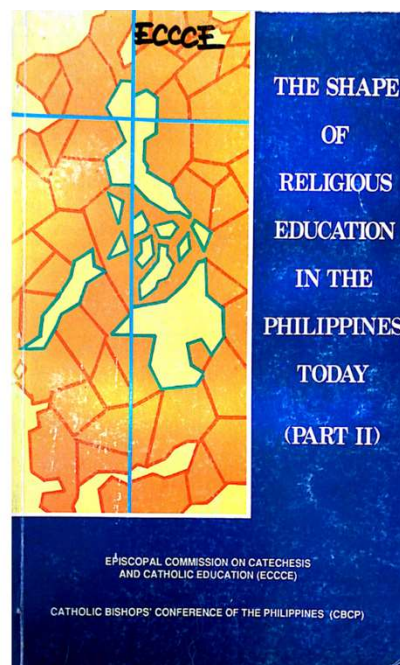
# Historical Research Context



Scanned by CamScanner

## NCS 1

*First National Catechetical Study (NCS) 1979 by the Episcopal Commission on Education and Religious Instruction (ECERI)*



Scanned by CamScanner

## NCS 2

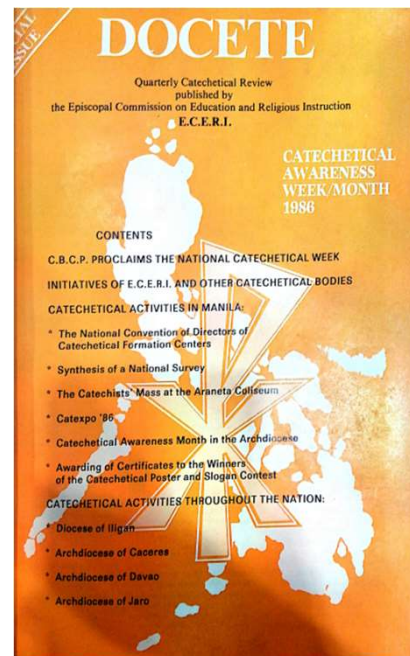
*Second National Catechetical Study (NCS) 1989 by the Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education (ECCCE)*



# Historical Research Context

## NCS 3

- *In 2001: National Study on Catechetical Situation in Pastoral Setting by the Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education (ECCCE)*
- *Results are published at **DOCETE**, official newsletter/journal of ECCCE*



(CBCP, 2002)



(CBCP, 2003)







# Historical Research Context



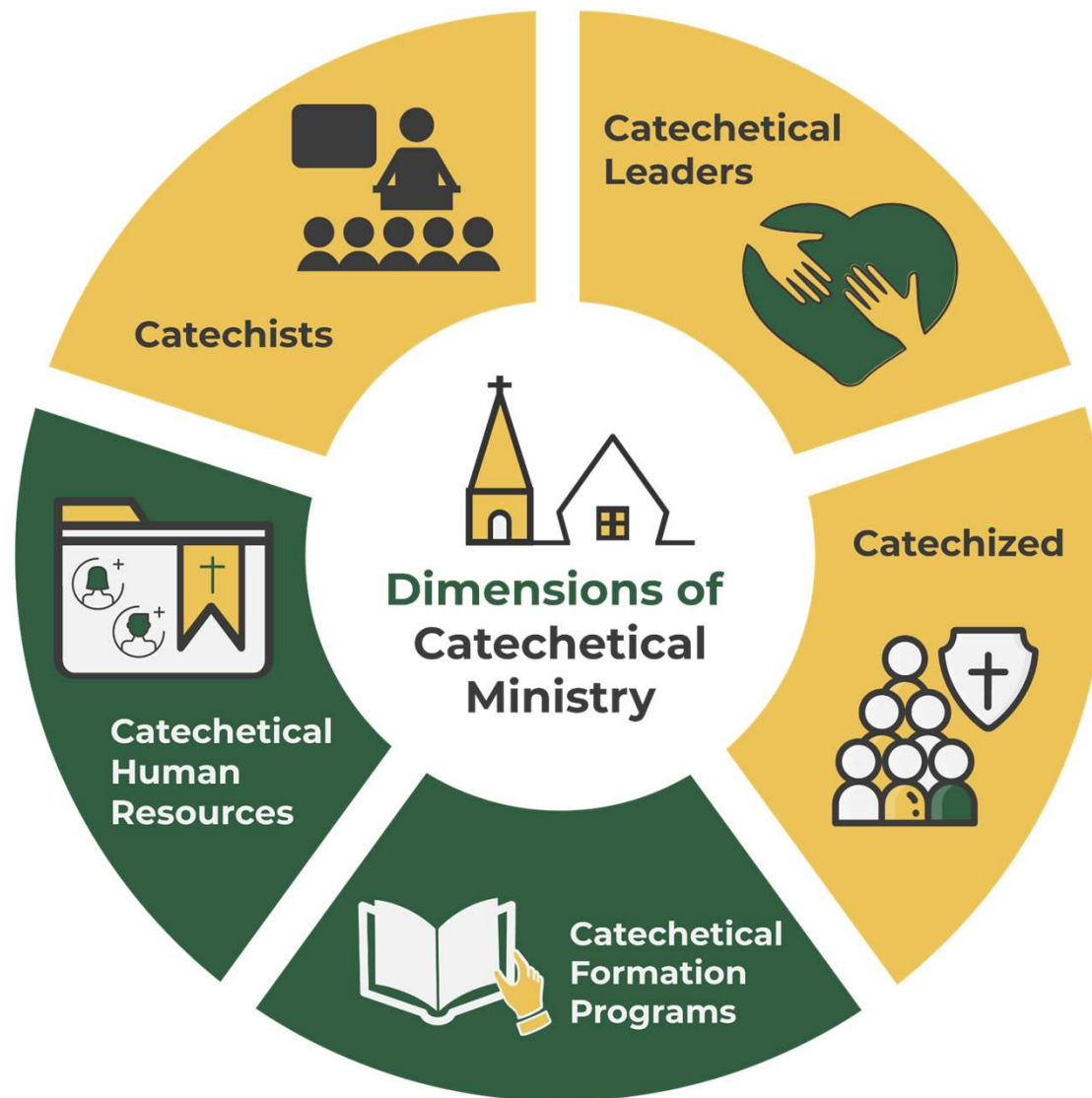
## NCS 4

*Fourth National Catechetical Study (NCS) 2018 by the Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education (ECCCE)*



## NCS 5

*Fifth National Catechetical Study (NCS) 2021: PARI Project by the Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education (ECCCE)*



# Catechetical Ministry is alive

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is given life by the committed  
faith-driven catechists, mostly  
volunteers in all parts of the Philippines.

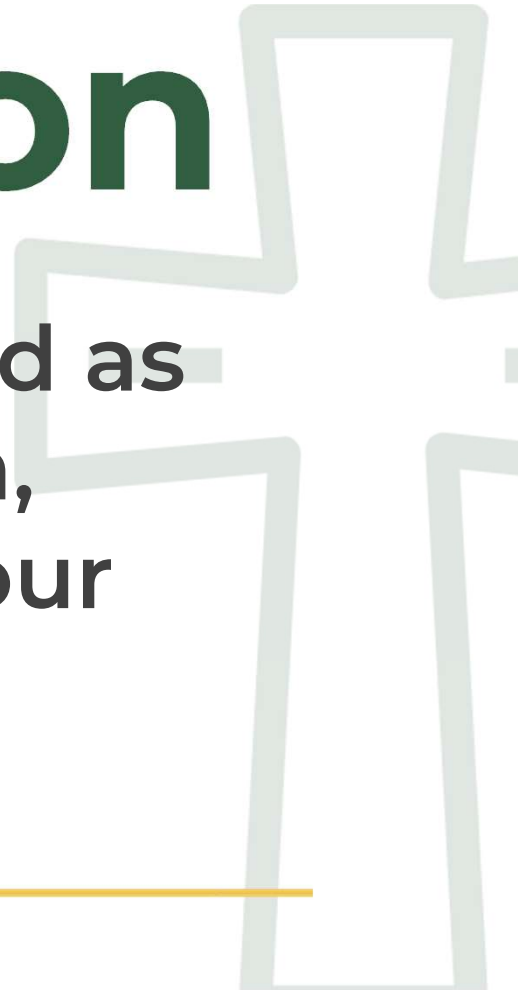


Photo from the Diocese of Kabankalan

# Evangelization

Catechists may be considered as the **front liners** of our Church, the **primary evangelizers** of our faith.

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Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP)  
Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education (ECCCE)

500 Years of Catholic Christianity in the Philippines (1521-2021)

# CATECHETICAL MODULES

Christian Faith: Call, Gift, Mission



A Research-based Intervention Outcome (RIO) of selected catechetical leaders inspired by the findings of the National Catechetical Study (NCS) 2016-2021: Pastoral Action Research and Intervention (PARI) Project implemented by the Research Center for Social Sciences & Education (RCSS&E), University of Santo Tomas (UST).



SCAN ME



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## Response to the call of the *Spirit for a New Evangelization*

## 9 Pastoral Priorities

# Integral Faith Formation (2013)

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# Laity (2014)

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Photo from the Diocese of Iligan



# The Poor (2015)

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Photo from the Diocese of San Jose de Nueva Ecija



# Eucharist and Family (2016)

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Photo from the Diocese of Alaminos



# The Parish as a Communion of Communities (2017)

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Photo from the Diocese of Malolos



# Clergy and Consecrated Persons (2018)

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# Youth (2019)

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Photo from the Diocese of Tandag



# Ecumenism, Interreligious Dialogue and Indigenous People (2020)

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Photo from the Diocese of Iligan

# Missio Ad Gentes (2021)

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Photo from the Military Ordinariate



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.



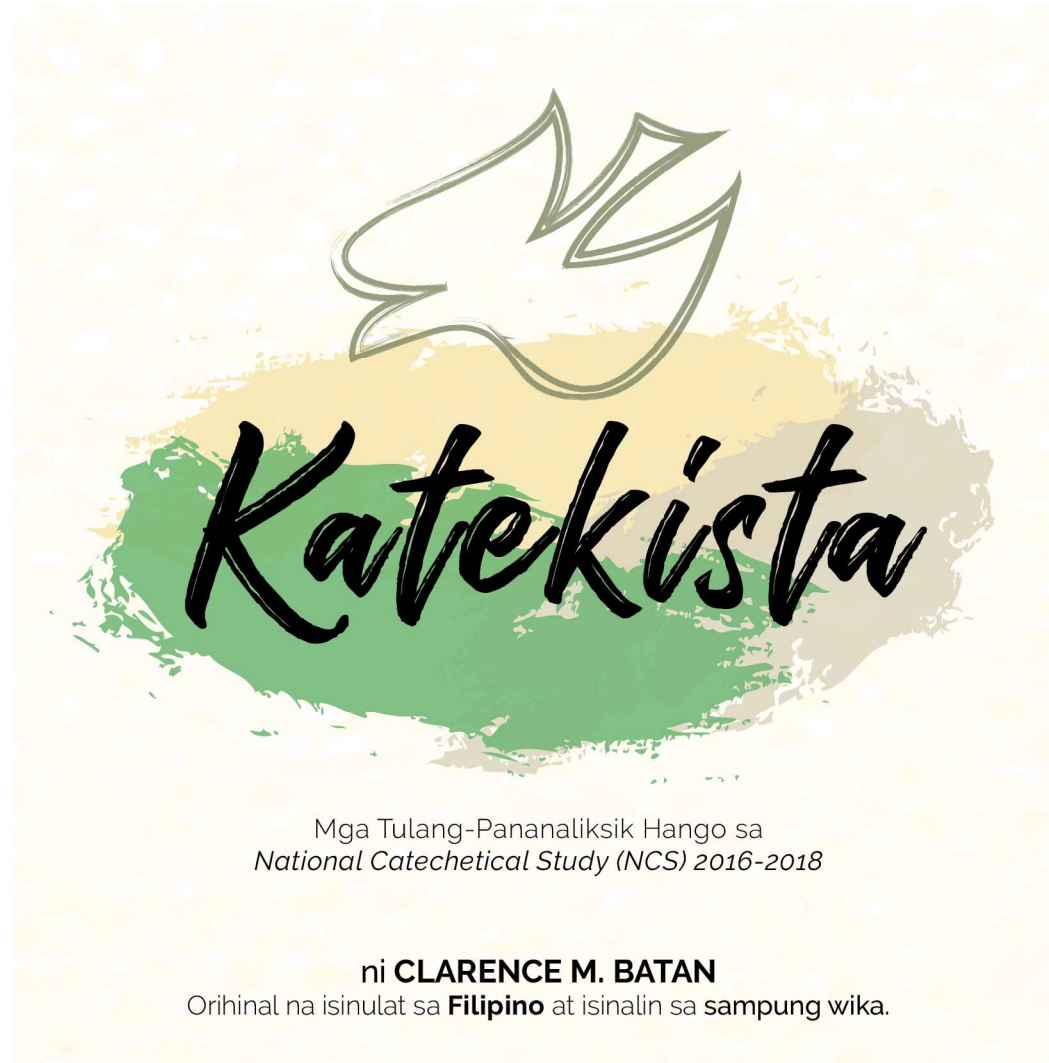
# Katekista

Mga Tulang-Pananaliksik Hango sa  
*National Catechetical Study (NCS) 2016-2018*

ni **CLARENCE M. BATAN**

Orihinal na isinulat sa **Filipino** at isinalin sa sampung wika.

# Hidden treasures of our Catholic Church





A RESEARCH PRIMER

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The real wealth of catechists is the lack of material wealth, as their real gain, is the overflowing wealth of faith that they teach and live by.

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE CATECHIST RESPONDENTS



**NATIONAL**

**26,978**

surveyed catechists validated for analysis



# BIOLOGICAL SEX OF THE CATECHIST RESPONDENTS

**NATIONAL**

n=26,217



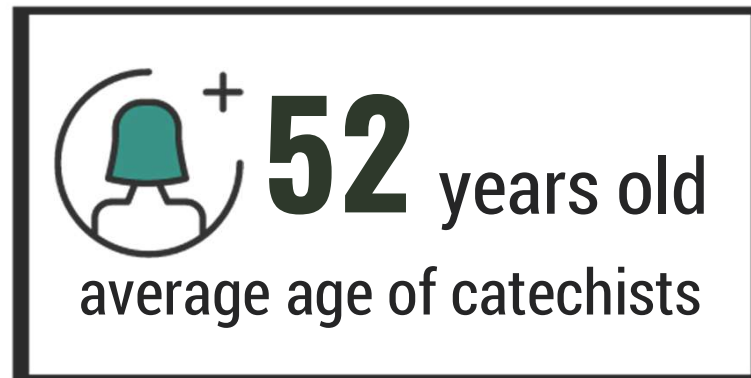
**93%**  
women





# AGE OF THE CATECHIST RESPONDENTS

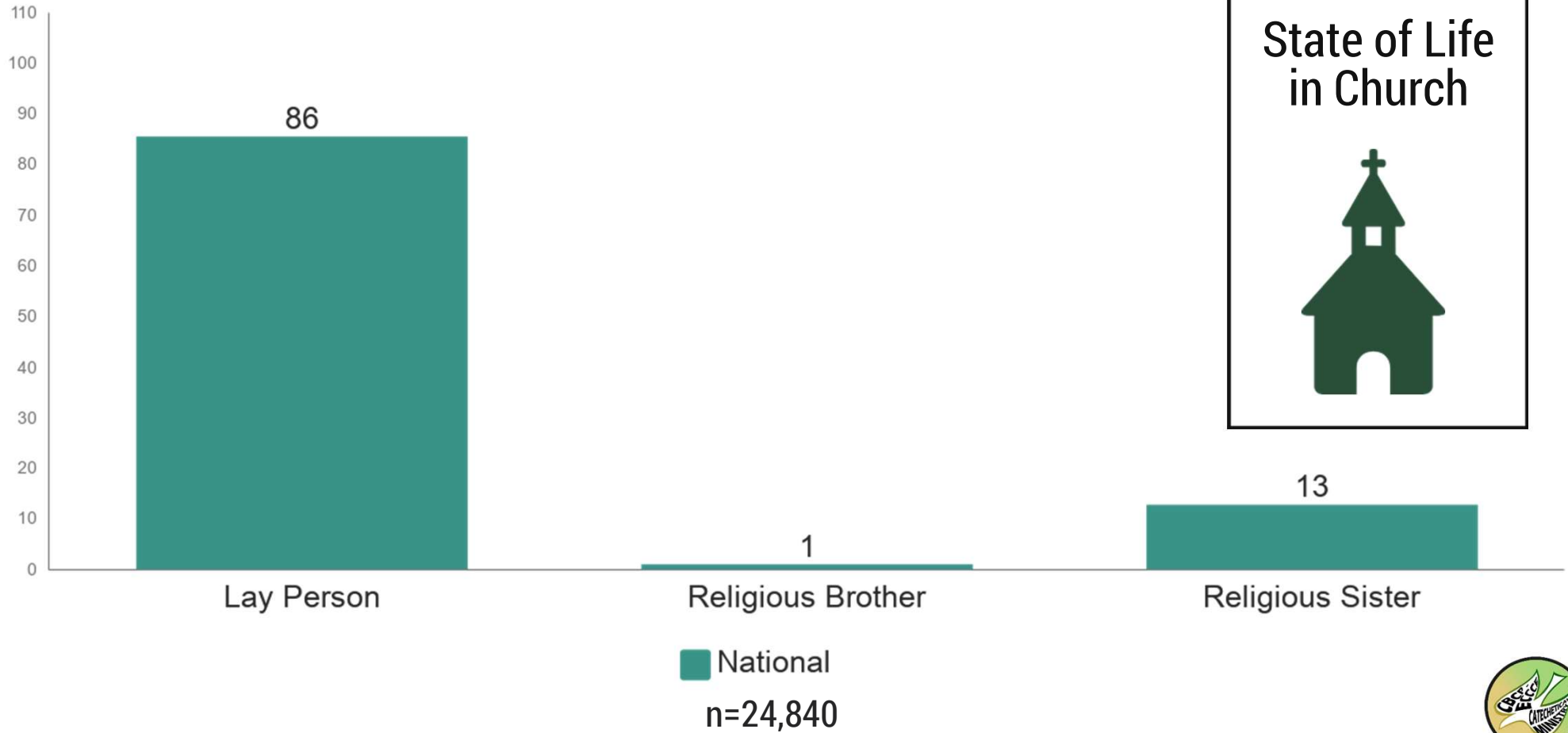
## NATIONAL



n=26,262

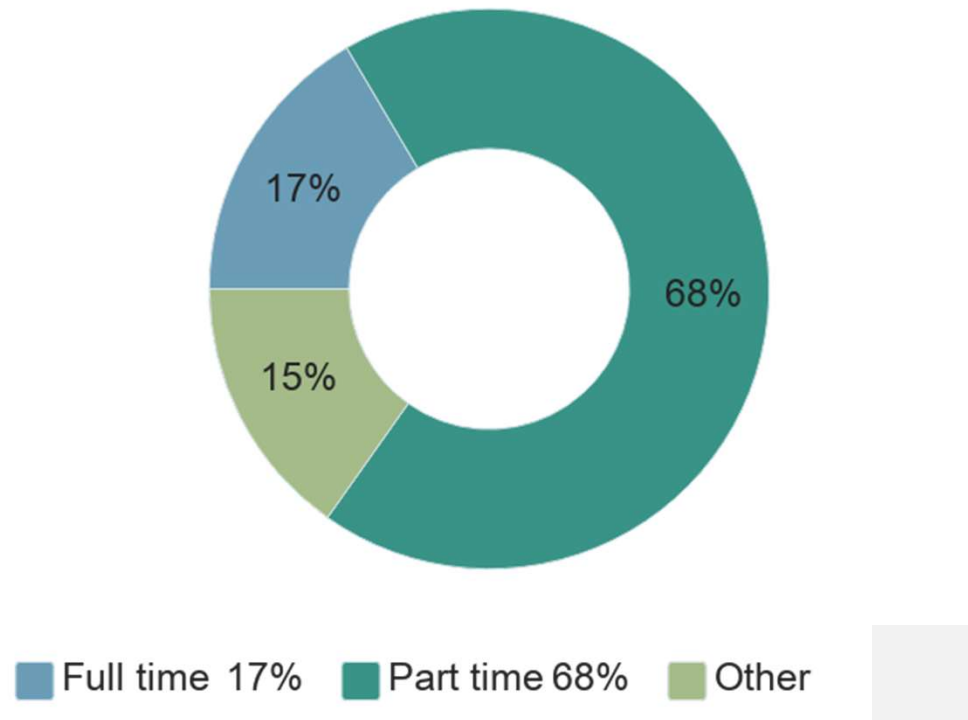


## State of Life in Church of Catechist Respondents



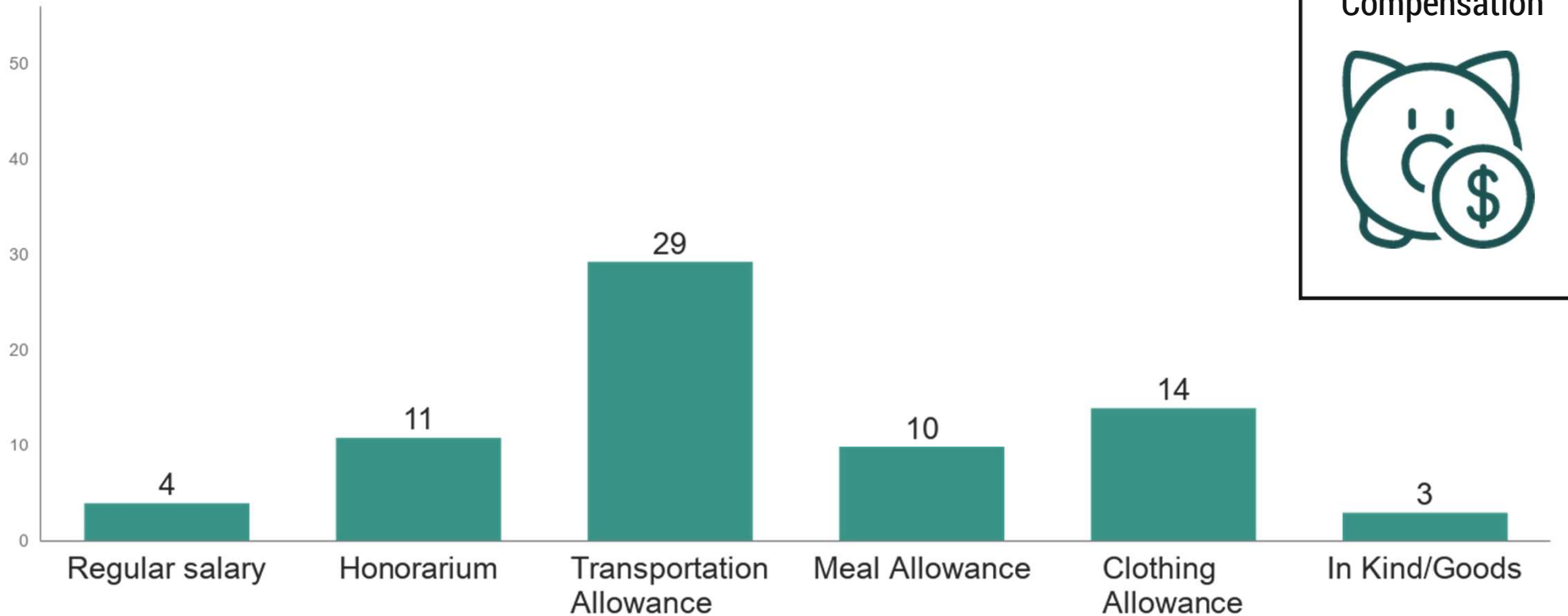
## How are you ministering as a catechist?

**National**  
n = 24,776





## If yes, what form of compensation?



■ National

n=842 to 7,738

Form of  
Compensation



In your observation, what issues and concerns do your students usually experience?

**NATIONAL**

n=555 to 18,776



**1**

Parents who  
do not go to  
church

**2**

Jobless  
Parents

**3**

Parents who  
are not  
married

**4**

Separated  
Parents



# Why Do Children Refuse Attending the Mass?

*By Clarence M. Batan*

*Translated to English by Luciana L. Urquiola*

One catechist shared  
About how she persevered  
Teaching the students stories  
About God  
About the Church. ■

A parent shared  
About her children  
Who are unruly in the house  
Disrespectful to the elders  
Disinterested to attend mass. ■

A child narrated  
About the situation  
Of her beloved family  
Parents who always fight,  
Parents who feel apart. ■

When the catechist asked  
The child, "Why won't you attend mass?"  
She answered in tears,  
"They" do not go to Church, they  
Who never mature in faith at all. ■



# Why Do Children Refuse Attending the Mass?

*By Clarence M. Batan*

*Translated to English by Luciana L. Urquiola*



In sobs and cries, the catechist  
Persisted to persuade  
The child so confused about this world  
“For the parents, it seems like  
To face their children with the truth--

“About the faith  
“About the Church  
“About Christ,”  
Whispering a prayer, the catechist  
watched the child  
Held by her parent  
Leading her out of the chapel  
Once upon a Sunday  
In a place of catechesis. ■



*What best describes your life situation at present?*

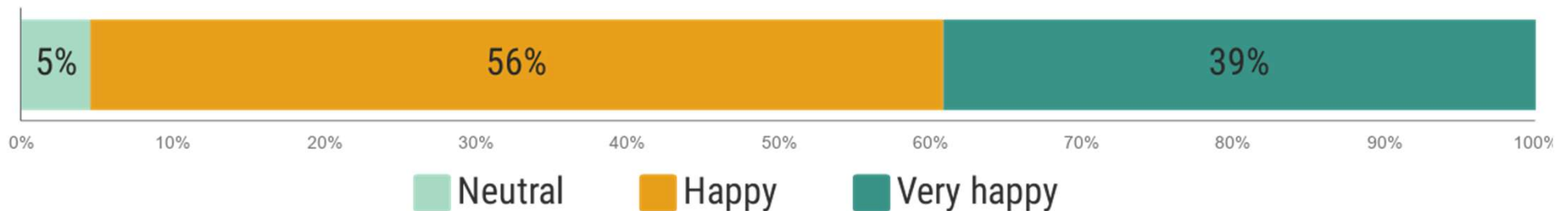
## NATIONAL



n=25,059

*Are you happy at the moment as a catechist?*

## NATIONAL

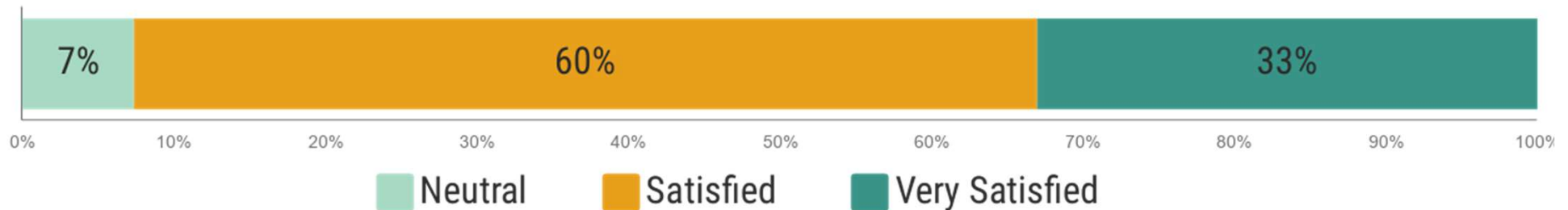


n=24,967



*How satisfied are you as a catechist?*

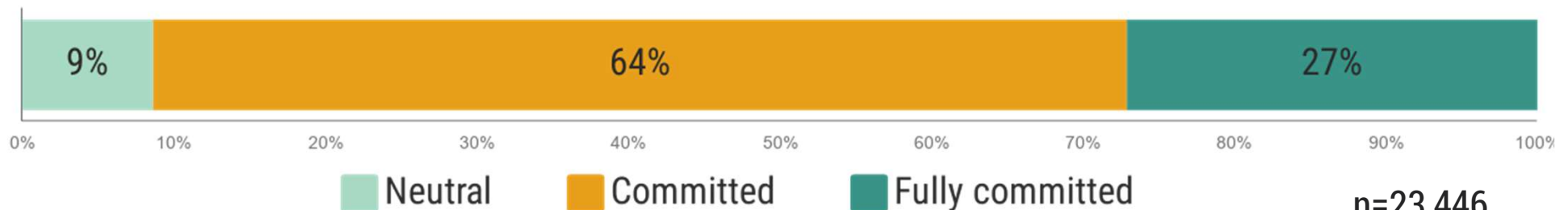
## NATIONAL



n=24,449

*How would you rate your commitment as a catechist at the moment?*

## NATIONAL

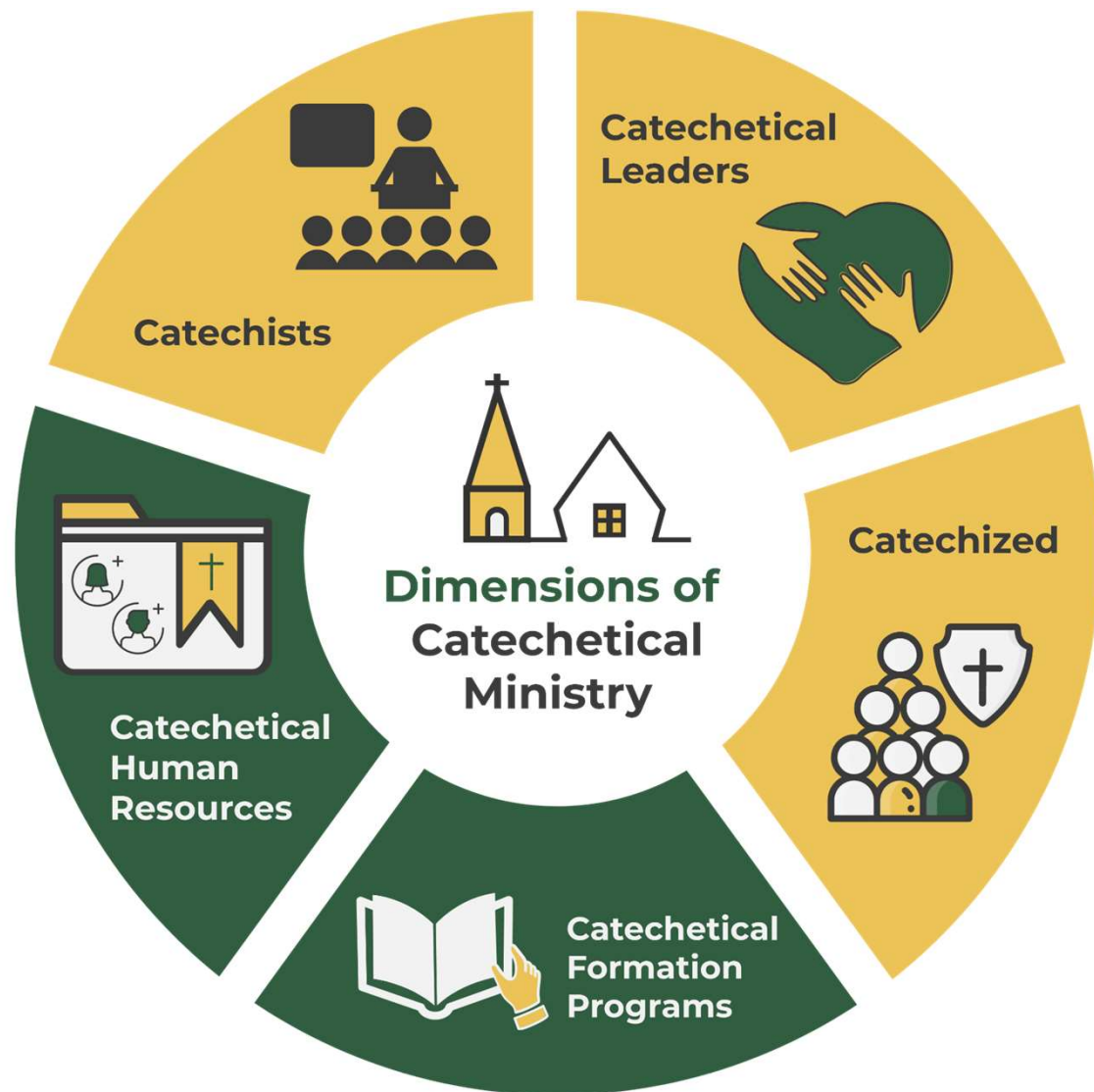


n=23,446



Hidden gems  
that our  
Catholic Church  
need to nourish,  
love, and  
support





## Sense of Catholic Identity

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**8 out of 10** identify as both  
Filipino & Catholic

n= 6,353



# Catechetical instruction concepts learned from catechesis

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1



Prayer

2



Life of  
Christ

3



Holy  
Trinity

n= 5,294 to 5,889

# Catechetical instruction concepts learned from catechesis

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n= 5,400 to 5,557

# Contributing factors to an effective catechesis

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Support of priest



Adequate  
formation of  
catechists



Support of family,  
friends, and  
relatives



Access to  
catechetical  
sources

**n= 5,281 to 5,525**



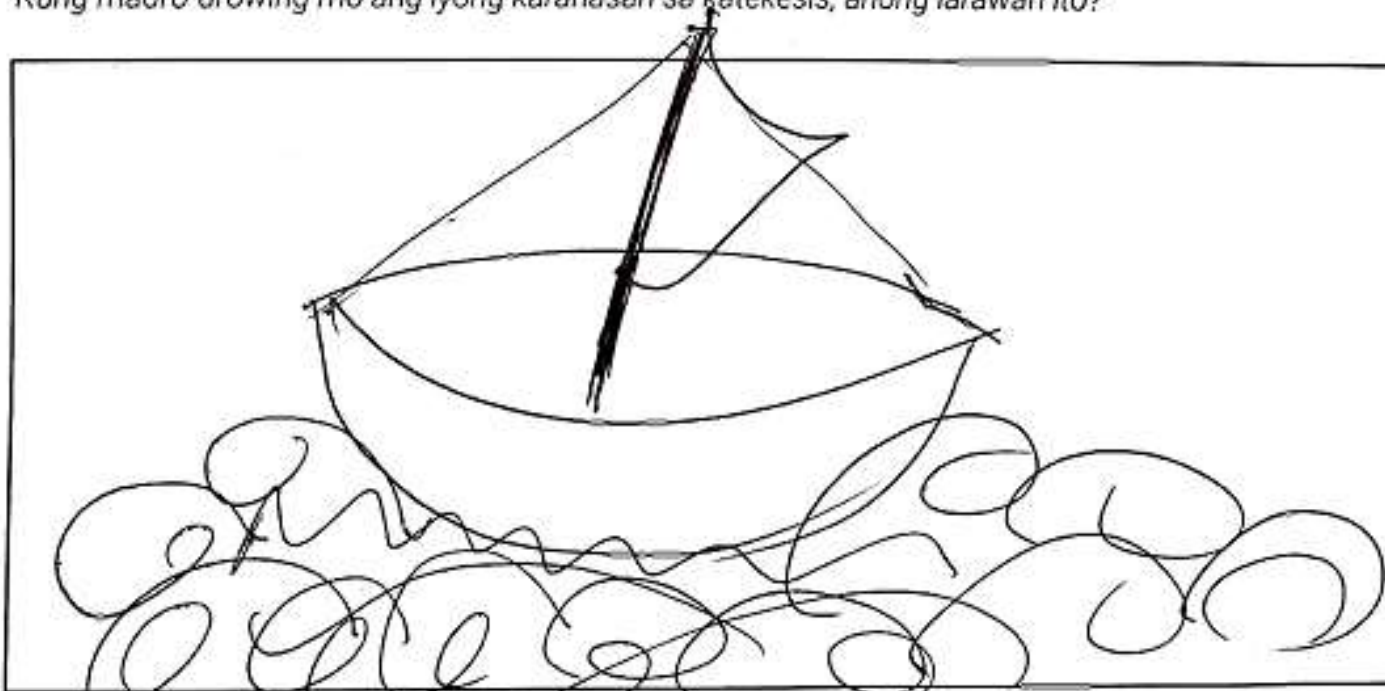
24. Recalling your catechetical experiences, what may be the best word or phrase that can describe them?

*Kung babalikan mo ang iyong karanasan sa katekesis, anong salita o parilala ang akmang makakapaglarawan nito?*

*Memorable*

25. If you can draw a picture of your catechetical experiences, what would this be? Draw in the box provided below.

*Kung madro-drawing mo ang iyong karanasan sa katekesis, anong larawan ito?*



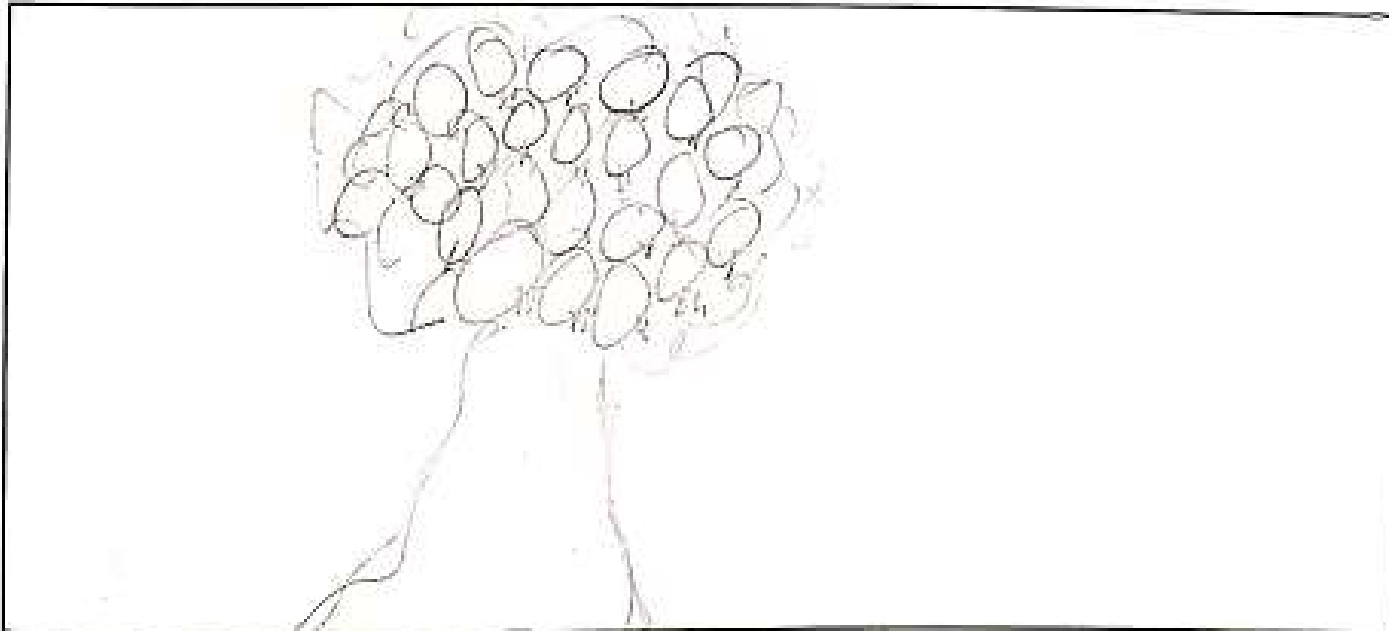
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Masaya

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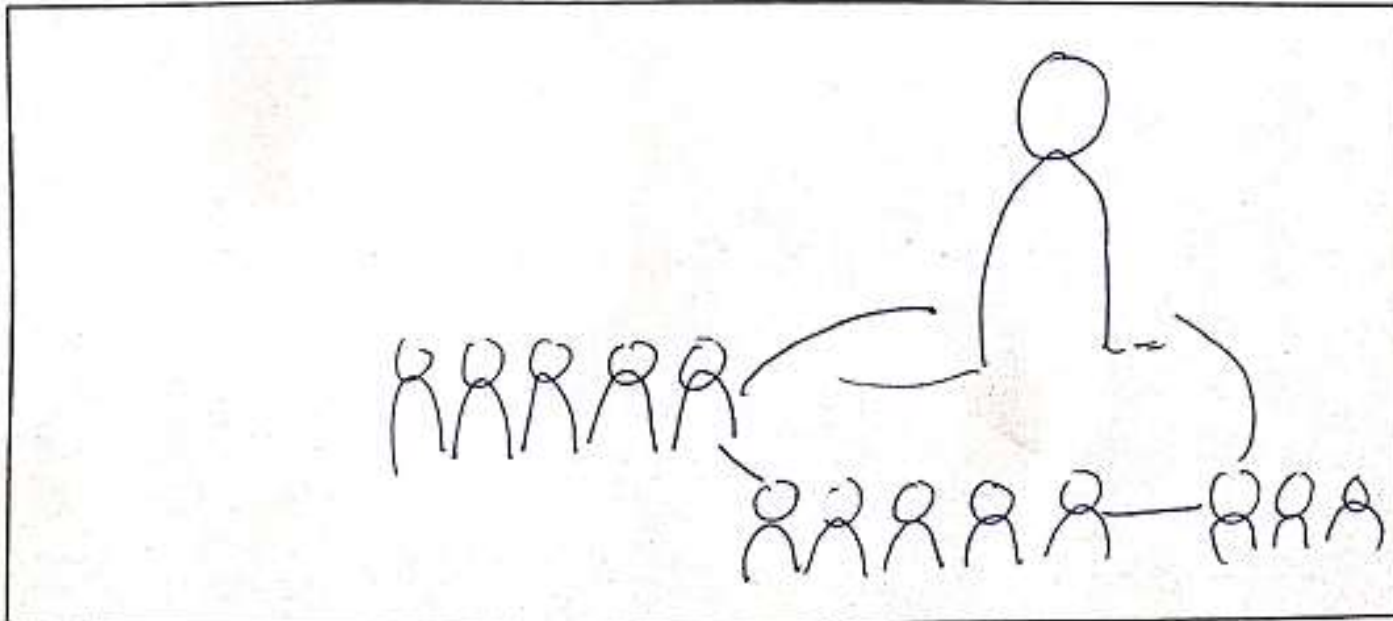
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*Kung babalikan mo ang iyong karanasan sa katekesis, anong salita o parilala ang akmang makakapaglarawan nito?*

(Catechists the companions of Jesus)  
"We are disciples of Jesus"

25. If you can draw a picture of your catechetical experiences, what would this be? Draw in the box provided below.

*Kung madro-drawing mo ang iyong karanasan sa katekesis, anong larawan ito?*





The voices of the catechized echo the shared depth of experiences they learned from their catechists when they were children.





Photo from the Archdiocese of Palo

## ET BUTUAN IG 250:

We all need to teach.

**Everybody should be a catechist** in any form which will start from the younger ones. We must have the **mechanism and creativity to build the young minds and hearts to form the kingdom of God.**

It is a long way journey for us to traverse, but if all of us will take part in this undertaking and **everything is possible with God!**

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# Missio Ad Gentes (2021)

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Our catechized respondents are willing to volunteer as catechists across age groups, especially the young and adults.

We just need to find ways to engaged them and engaged with them the “synodal process”.



Photo from the Military Ordinariate

# Responses

## Research-based Intervention Outcomes (RIO)

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# Data matrix

Catechists are both gifts and givers willing to serve and sacrifice for teaching our Catholic faith.

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Research-based Intervention Outcomes (RIO)	Gifts of...	Givers of...
<i>Katekista: Mga Tulang Pananaliksik</i>	Stories of catechists & catechetical leaders	Voices & experiences of doing catechesis
<i>Catechetical Modules</i>	Pastoral priorities	Formation & Training
<i>Katekista: Findings and Insights</i>	Stories on catechetical ministry	Voices & experiences of doing catechesis
<i>Catechetical Research and Documentation</i>	Technological research resources	Assistance to local initiatives
<i>Bible Catechesis</i>	Rich lessons from the Bible	Formation

<b>Research-based Intervention Outcomes (RIO)</b>	<b>Gifts of...</b>	<b>Givers of...</b>
Digital Catechesis	Digital access to resources	Virtual catechesis
Catechesis on St. Joseph	Teachings of St. Joseph	Formation
Creative Resources	Stories of catechists	Creative methods of teaching and learning catechesis
Adult Catechesis	Stories of catechized adults	Formation among adults
Catechetical Human Resources Handbook	Stories on doing catechesis	A handbook for catechetical ministries

# ONLINE CATECHESIS DURING THE PANDEMIC

EP Cagayan De Oro

EP Lingayen-Dagupan

EP Manila

ACDO - Catechetical Ministry



ANG KAPISTAHAN SA EPIFANYA

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE VIDEOS](#)

Servus Amoris



#WORDOFTHEDAY : "Bagong-Simula"

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE VIDEOS](#)

Sabins Studio



JesComTV



GAANO BA KAHALAGA ANG TANGGAPIN? -  
Kape't Pandasal kasama si Fr Jboy Gonzales, SJ





# Gifted to Give



This proves that no pandemic can stop us from doing catechesis. Because “we are gifted to give” no matter what challenges we have to endure.

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The Church is called to reflect on the **unique approach to the search for faith among digital young people**, and as a result to bring its own approach to proclaiming the Gospel up to date with the **language of the new generations**, inviting them to **create a new sense of community** belonging that includes and is not exhausted by that **which they experience online**

**Directory for Catechesis (2020)**

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The **internet and social networks** create  
"an **extraordinary opportunity for dialogue, encounter and exchange between persons**, as well as access to information and knowledge. Moreover, the digital world is one of social and political engagement and active citizenship, and it can facilitate the circulation of independent information providing effective protection for the most vulnerable and publicizing violations of their rights

**Directory for Catechesis (2020)**

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In our 500 Years of  
Christianity, we  
celebrate the  
“catechists in all of us.”

# Conclusion

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“

Catechetical ministry  
is still alive and being  
given life by  
**KATEKISTA** - what we  
call as "**faith-driven**"  
**servants**, front liners,  
and may be  
considered defenders  
of our faith.

”

May the discernment of the **gifts** that the Holy Spirit never fail to grant to the Church sustain their efforts to make the **lay ministry of Catechist** effective for the growth of their communities.

### **Antiquum Ministerium**

*Apostolic letter of Pope Francis on  
instituting the Ministry of Catechist*

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# Servant Catechist

*By Clarence M. Batan*

*Translated to English by Jeanette P. Grajo*

Being a catechist  
Is like a song,  
Hard work is the lyrics  
Words are hymns,  
Every movement  
And the beat of the mind  
Are all for God  
Because of the pledge  
Songs of love  
For every learner  
Are aimed to target the very heart  
Values and wisdom  
Of the Mother Church. ■

Service is the beginning  
And end, until it  
Remains felt and heard  
Songs sung—are the  
Servant-catechists--  
The hope of the Church  
Defender of the  
Faith and  
Love, the  
Weapon song!

# Servant Catechist

*By Clarence M. Batan*

*Translated to English by Jeanette P. Grajo*

For God,  
For the Church,  
For the society  
Philippines. ■



“When the Spirit visits the human world, it becomes dynamic, like “**dynamite**”, namely, able to **light hearts** and **break schemes, resistances, and walls of division, opening new ways** and **expanding the boundaries of the people of God.**”

**Holy Father Pope Francis**

*In his recent catechesis on the Acts of the Apostles*

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