



# Filipino Catechized Youth's Engagements with Catholicism: Perception, Prospects, and Potentials

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**Clarence M. Batan, Keith T. Joven, Tisha Isabelle M. de Vergara, and Vincent Reuben E. Valientes**  
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**National Catechetical Study (NCS) 2021:  
Pastoral Action Research and Intervention (PARI) Project**



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# Presentation Outline

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- Study background
- Argument
- Relevant Literature
- Conceptual Notes
- Research Focus
- Methods
- Findings
- Discussion
- Concluding insights

# Study Background



## 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)*





Photo from the Diocese of Catarman





# Perspective

Catholic Filipino Youth have relatively **high engagement with the Catholic Church**




# Prospects

The **religious dispositions** of the catechized Catholic Filipino youth is a product of their engagements with Catholicism and shared **human values within the community**




# Potentials

**Catholicism in the Philippines is expected to prosper** in the future because of the **continuous work of catechists** and the optimism and **engagement that the catechized Catholic youth possess**



In the end, the paper proposes the notion of **Catholic Ethic emerging from the Filipino youth's engagements**, which may contribute to further understanding of sociology of Catholicism in the country.







# Studies on Catholic Youth and Religiosity

Studies on Youth outcomes vis-à-vis its connection to religiosity and participation in religious activities

(Bierer, 2013; Pope et al, 2014)



# Studies on Catholic Youth and Religiosity

Catholic youth **committed to religious activities**



**Lesser probability** to commit property or violent crimes, smoke, drink, use drugs, or receive a traffic ticket

(Bierer, 2013; Pope, Price, and Lillard, 2014)

# Dynamics of faith and religiosity of Filipino Catholic Youth (FCY)

(CBCP, 2015; Cornelio, 2010; 2014)



Photo from the Diocese of San Jose de Nueva Ecija

# Conceptual Note

## **Almost no written studies**

except for Cornelio's (2010, 2014) and CBCP's (2015) study on Catholic Filipino Youth





# Conceptual Note

Current youth population of Philippine Catholic Church have remained **firmly rooted in their religious tradition**, have grasped mostly **the Catholic teachings about faith and morals**, have actively participated in normative religious services and, in their own private life, have sought to form a personal relation with God.

(CBCP, 2015)

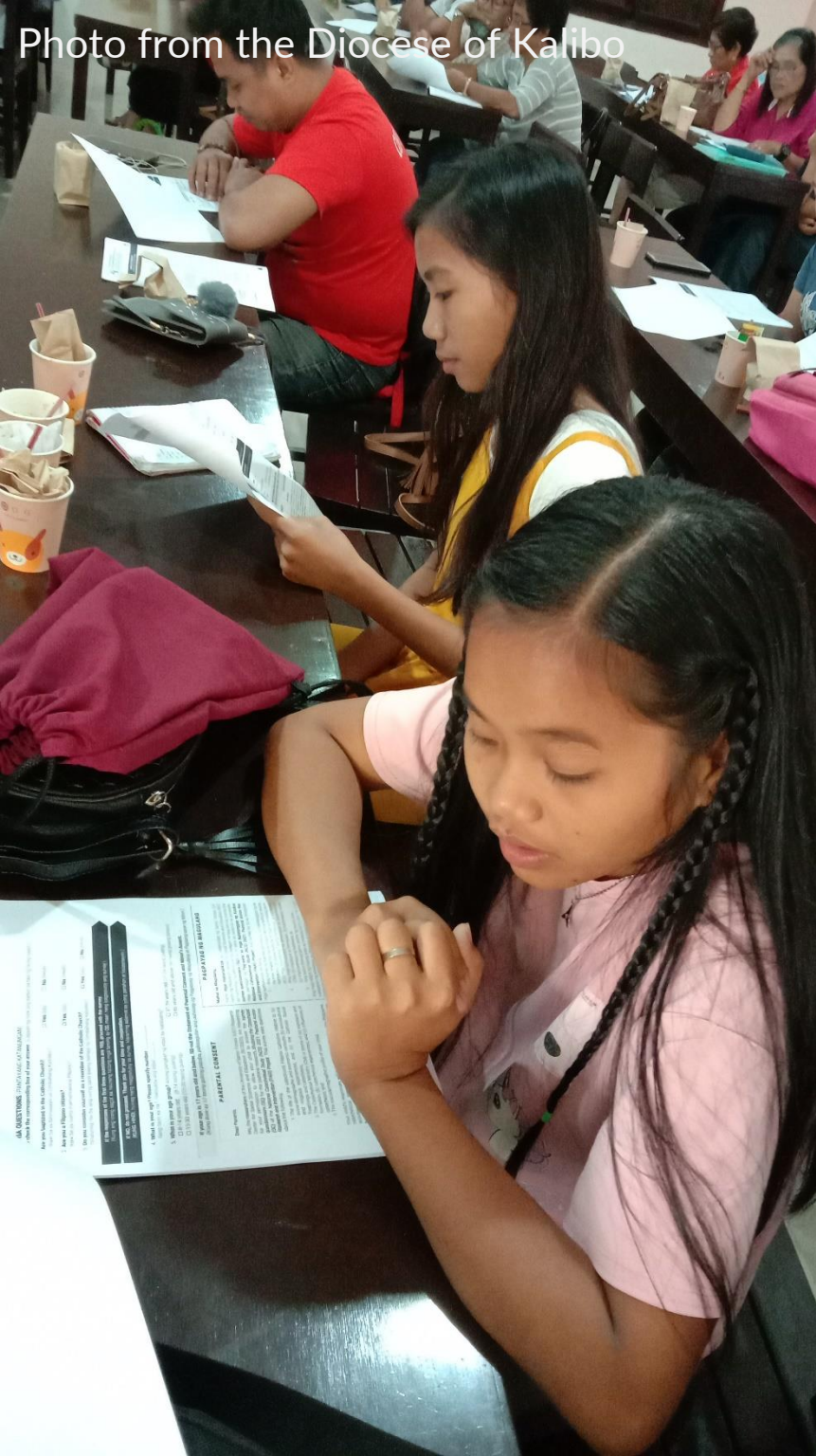


Photo from the Diocese of Kalibo

# Conceptual Note

Further explain Catholic youth in the context of Catechetical Ministry in the country and **how Catholicism shapes the growing up processes the catechized respondents undergo**

# Conceptual Note

**Catholic Ethic** amongst the youth that stems from their **engagement and shared dispositions within their communities**



Photo from the Apostolic Vicariate of Jolo



# Research Focus

## Filipino youth's engagement with Catholicism.

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- Who are the **catechized Filipino youth**?
- What **roles does the Catechetical Ministry play** in the growing up process and engagements of these catechized Filipino youth?
- How do their **perspectives, prospects, and potentials** contribute to the proposed “Catholic youth ethic”?



# Methods

Design	Quantitative
<b>Strategies</b>	Survey (self-and/or interviewer-administered)
<b>Tools</b>	Questionnaire
<b>Sampling</b>	Multi-stage, Stratified Cluster, Lot sample
<b>Respondents</b>	Catechized
<b>Analytical techniques</b>	Descriptive statistics
<b>Software</b>	KoBoCollect MS Excel IBM SPSS Max QDA



# Catechized Youth Respondents

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- a) socio-demographic and economic context
- b) socio-cultural and religious experiences
- c) the Catholic Social Teachings and catechesis
- d) the catechetical ministry (CM)

# Profile of Respondents

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**15-30**

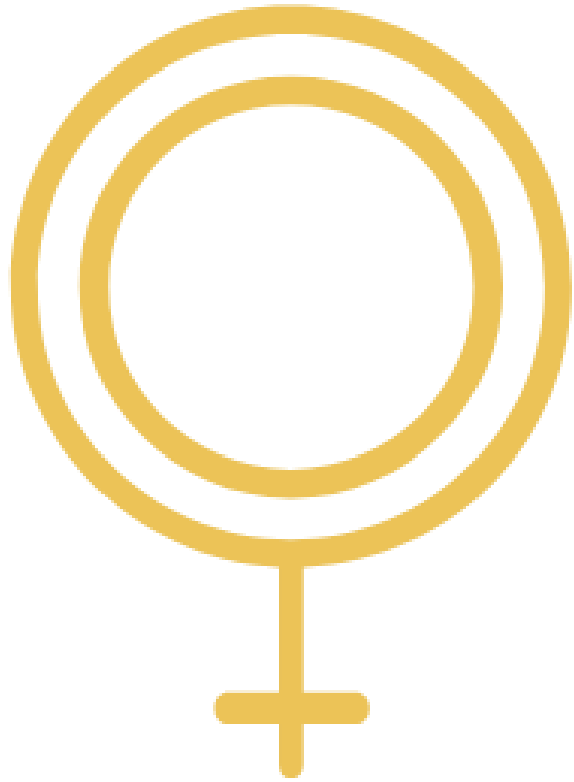
**Years Old**

**n = 1,980**

# Profile of Respondents

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Most of the Catechized Respondents are



**Females = 1,193**  
**Single = 93.9%**

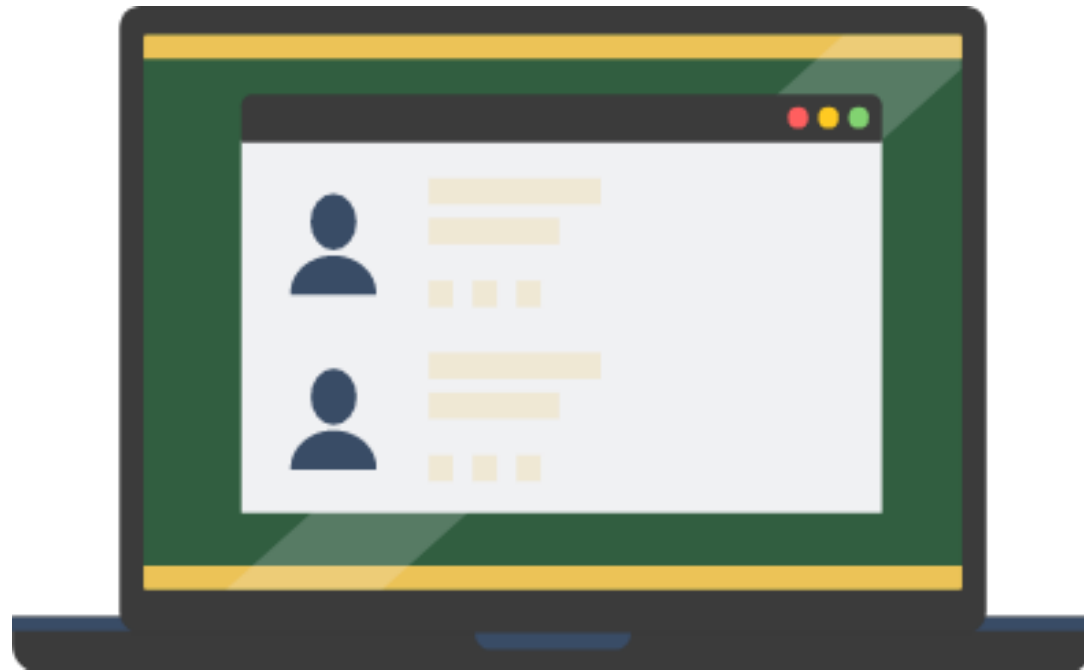
**n = 1,980**



# Profile of Respondents

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Most of the Catechized Respondents are



**Students**

1,297

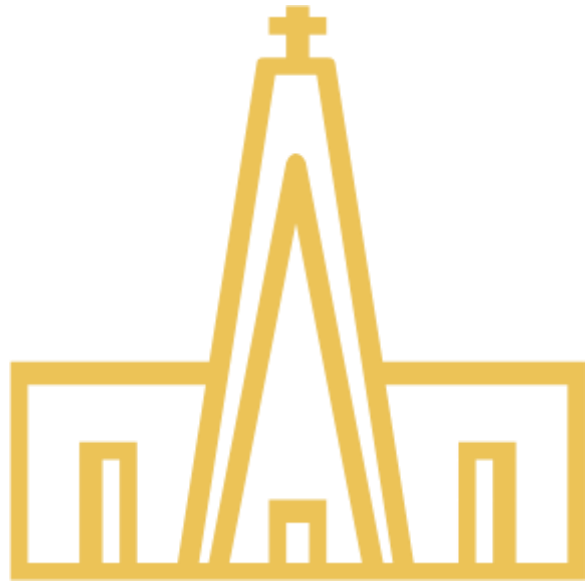
65.6%

**n = 1,980**

# Profile of Respondents

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## Equal Representation of Catechized Respondents



Central Parishes



Peripheral Parishes

**n = 1,980**



Photo from the Apostolic Vicariate of Jolo





# Socio-demographic Profile and Economic Context

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Sense of happiness  
being a **Catholic**



**9 out of 10** are Filipino & Catholic

**n = 1,980**



# Sense of Catholic Identity

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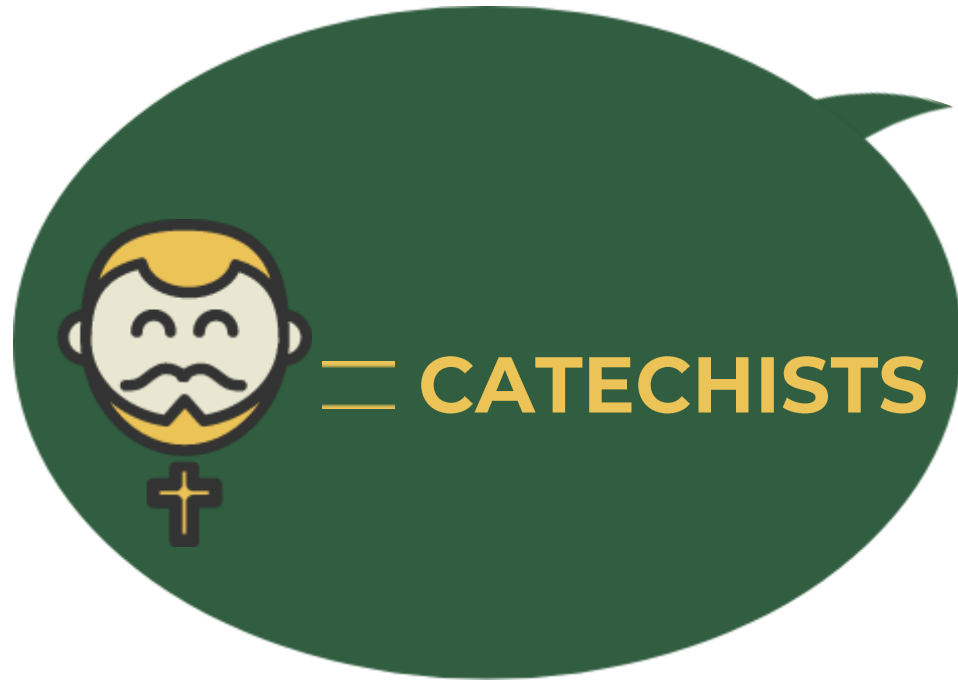


**8 out of 10** identify as both  
Filipino & Catholic

**n = 1,980**

# Socio-demographic Profile and Economic Context

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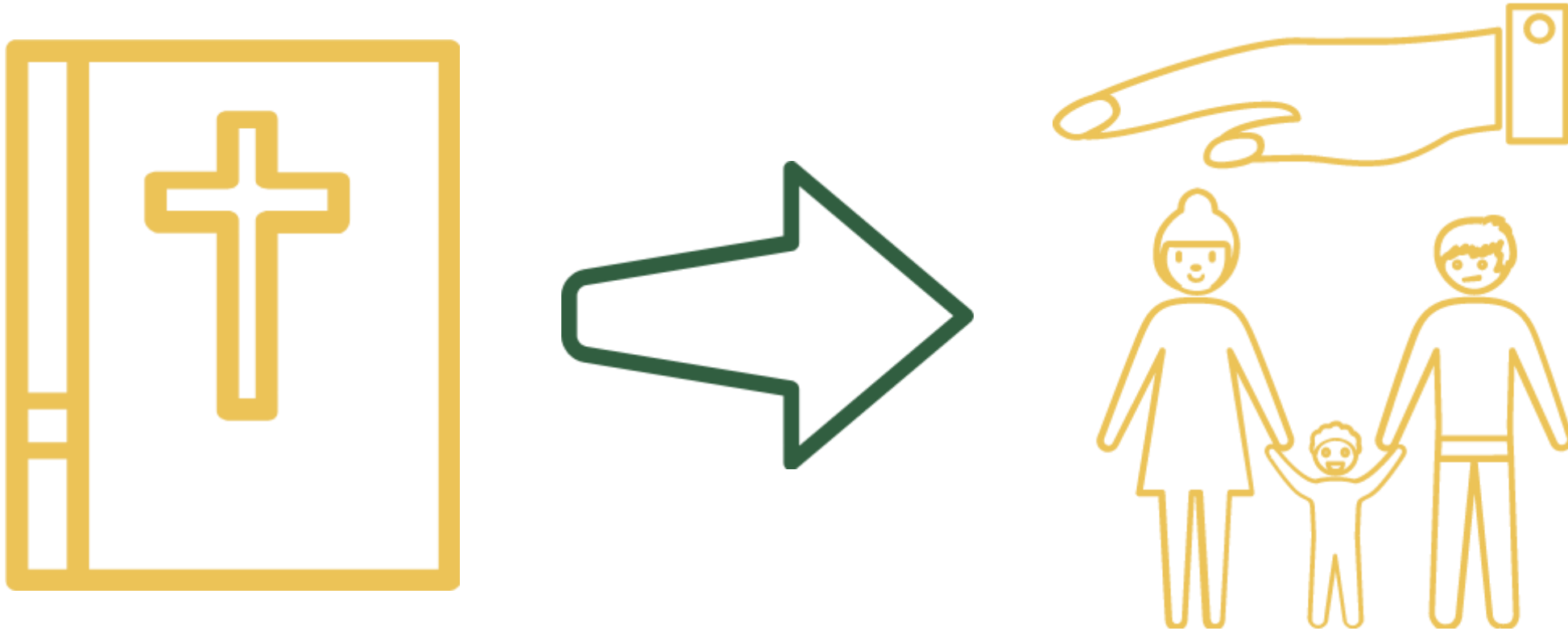


Most of the respondents know their parish priest and bishop and the **consider them as catechists.**

**n = 1,980**

# Socio-cultural and Religious Experiences

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Many of the respondents believe that being **family-oriented** is a culture that **is most influenced by Catholicism.**

**n = 1,980**

# Socio-cultural and Religious Experiences

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Christmas



Fiestas



Holy  
Week

All  
Saints'  
Day & All  
Souls'  
Day



Easter  
Sunday



Marian  
Feasts



Respondents report that they are generally aware of the **influences of Catholicism to Filipino culture.**

**n = 1,980**

# Catholic Social Teachings and Catechesis

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Majority of the catechized respondents are  
**interested in knowing Church-related  
social issues.**

Correspondingly, social media remains to be  
their main source of information about  
church-related issues.

**n = 1,980**





Photo from the Prelature of Infanta



# Catholic Social Teachings and Catechesis

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Although there are awareness programs about Church-related social issues, the catechized respondents are not fully aware of such activities. Given this, half of them believe that the **Catholic Church should be involved in political issues.**



**n = 1,980**

# Catholic Social Teachings and Catechesis

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Catholic schools remain to be relevant in the catechized respondents' outlooks. They see that **Catholic schools aid in promoting the Catholic faith.**

**n = 1,980**

# Catechetical Instruction Topics Learned from Catechesis

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1



Prayer

2



Life of  
Christ

3



Sacraments  
and Liturgy

**n = 1,980**



# Catechetical Instruction Topics Learned from Catechesis

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1



Good

2



Love

3



Forgiveness

**n = 1,980**

# Catechetical Ministry

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**Affirmative** Responses



**9 out of 10** - Received **catechesis**,  
and they find it **meaningful**

**n = 1,980**

# Catechetical Ministry

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The catechized respondents see the following as necessary in making **effective catechesis**:



Formation



Support of Priest  
and Bishop



Support of family,  
friends, and  
relatives



Access to  
catechetical  
sources



Budget for  
catechetical  
activities

Argument Points	Key Findings	Insights
<p><b>Perceptions:</b></p> <p>Selected catechized Filipino youth have <b>high engagement with Catholicism</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Active participation</b> and celebration of religious services and events</li><li>• <b>Familiarity</b> with members of the community</li><li>• <b>Interest</b> in knowing church-related social issues</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This shows their <b>dedication</b> in engaging with the church.</li><li>• This familiarity exhibits their <b>belongingness</b>.</li><li>• They <b>long to learn and involve</b> themselves with matters that surround their faith.</li></ul>



Argument Points	Key Findings	Insights
<p><b>Prospects:</b></p> <p>The religious dispositions of the catechized Catholic Filipino youth is a product of their engagements with Catholicism and <b>shared human values within the community.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Catechized youth respondents perceive themselves as both <b>Filipino and Catholic</b></li><li>• They see themselves as <b>practicing Catholics</b></li><li>• They are <b>willing to serve</b> and provide assistance to the church</li><li>• They <b>value virtues and practices</b> that uphold solidarity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They are <b>willing to serve</b> and they have the desire to understand their Catholic faith.</li><li>• Their <b>dispositions</b> results from their engagements with their Catholic faith and with their communities.</li><li>• They see the <b>unbreakable connection between their faith</b> and the shared values they see in their communities.</li></ul>

Argument Points	Key Findings	Insights
<p><b>Potentials:</b></p> <p>Catholicism in the Philippine is <b>expected to prosper in the future</b> because of the <b>continuous work of catechists</b> and the optimism and <b>engagement that the catechized Catholic youth possess</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The catechized youth respondents are <b>optimistic</b> about their views towards the Catholic Church</li><li>• They are <b>willing to undergo</b> catechesis and become catechists in the future</li><li>• They see the necessary help that Catholic schools provide in the <b>perpetuation of their faith.</b></li><li>• They are <b>generally happy Catholics.</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This optimism about their Catholic faith <b>signifies a hopeful future for Catholicism</b> in the country.</li><li>• Their <b>willingness to learn and to serve</b> stands as foundation for the future generations of Catholics.</li><li>• Their perceived need to support strongholds (parish &amp; Catholic schools) of Catholic faith indicates their <b>desire to protect and uphold their beliefs</b> in the years to come.</li></ul>

# Filipino Youth and the Catholic Ethic

Here, we give the following postulations:

- 1) Catholic ethic is intertwined with culture
- 2) Catholic ethic unites the youth
- 3) Catholic ethic is stimulated by catechism.

# Filipino Youth and the Catholic Ethic

Firstly, the **Catholic ethic is intertwined with culture** because it stems from religious practices that are observed and celebrated by communities. These practices are then etched in cultures, traditions, and ways of living of a community. Accordingly, **these traditions**, which people in a community share, **become part of their identities**.



# Filipino Youth and the Catholic Ethic

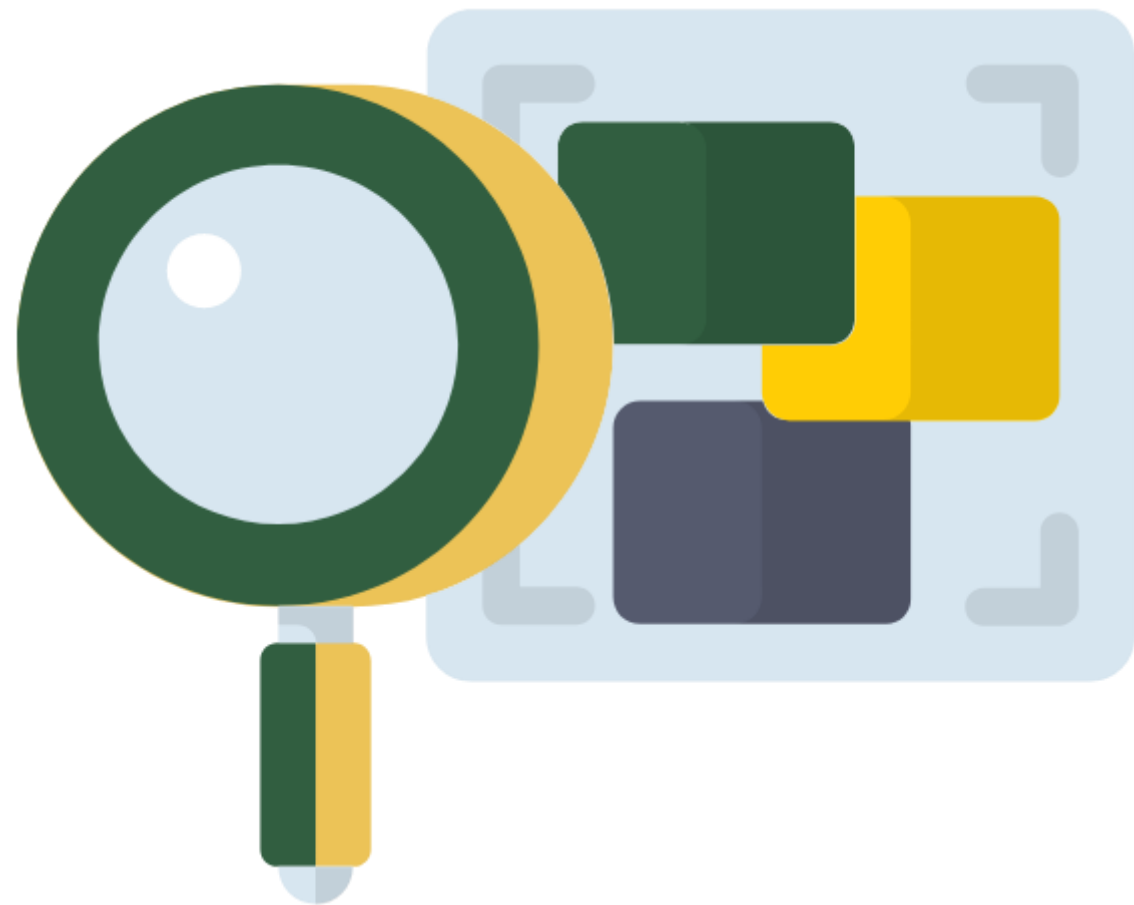
Next, the **Catholic ethic unites the youth** because it makes them **one in their engagements and dispositions** about their Catholic faith. Their shared beliefs and human values, supported by their knowledge about their faith, becomes a uniting factor among them.

# Filipino Youth and the Catholic Ethic

Lastly, the **Catholic ethic is stimulated by catechesis** because it is through this that they learn about the fundamentals of their faith. More so, **catechesis stands as the primary process** by which the catechized youth respondents **acquire information necessary about their faith**. Hence, catechism encourages Catholicism and engagement with the faith.

# Pastoral and Conceptual Insights

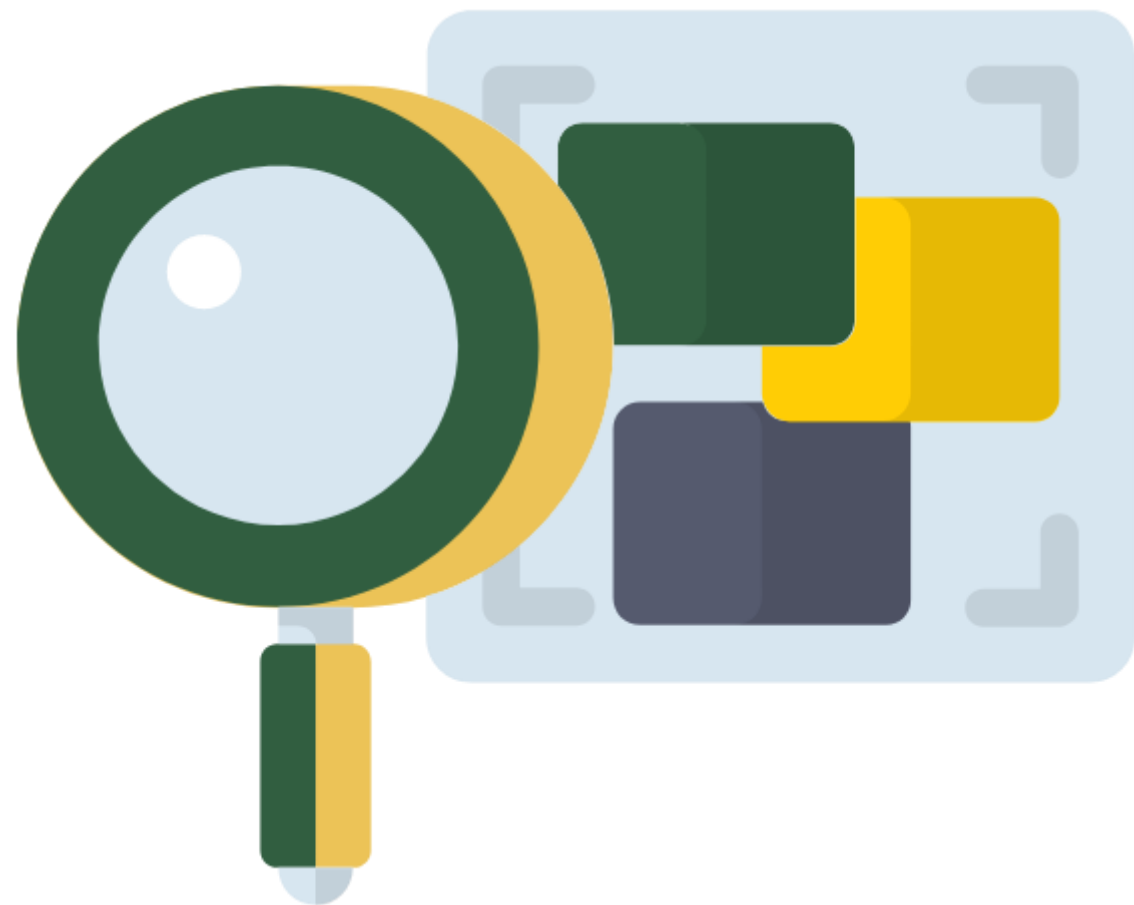
The engagement of youth could go further if they are informed and taught about the importance of all Catholic practices.



# Pastoral and Conceptual Insights

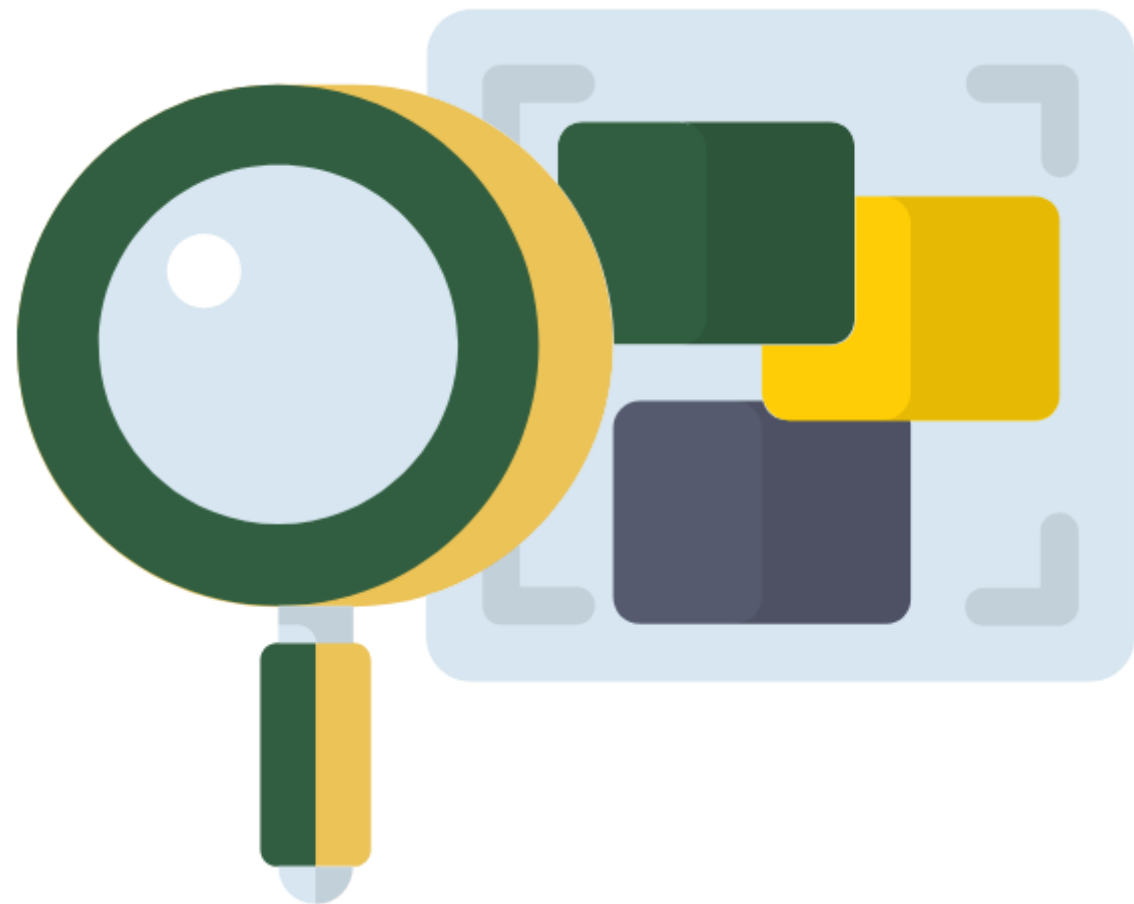
There is a need to **evaluate** the topics and concepts taught in catechesis.

It is crucial to **incorporate the use of technology** in catechesis.



# Pastoral and Conceptual Insights

Lastly, the selected catechized Catholic Filipino youth see that effective catechesis means improving the conditions by which catechists work.







# Concluding insights

Understanding the experiences of catechized youth provides a glimpse of who the Filipino Catholic Youths are.

In studying Filipino Catholic Youths, looking at their Catechetical Ministry experiences is necessary.





# Concluding insights

Their perspectives, prospects, and potentials manifest their high engagement with Catholicism and shared religious dispositions within their community.

The Catholic Youth Ethic which stems from their outlooks on Catholicism provides one angle into understanding Filipino Catholic Youth, and more so, to the sociology of Catholicism



# References

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