

Greetings in Christ! If you teach or write about the Catholic Faith and want to be the best you can be...

***Amazing Catechists* needs you!** The attached questionnaire will be used to develop content for the new website and on-line forum in English and Spanish (coming soon!), www.amazingcatechists.com. *Amazing Catechists* seeks to breathe new life into the religious formation of Catholic children, teens and adults. *Amazing Catechists* are sacramentally active, loyal to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church and persevering humbly, day-by-day, in their relationships with Jesus Christ.

How is *Amazing Catechists.com* different from other on-line forums? That's easy. Like other forums, our membership is FREE, but we offer *much more*:

1. In addition to our discussion forum we'll have a **FREE** point-and-click archive available to all our members – categorized by grade-level – in which real catechists share their wisdom, insight, techniques and ideas for everyone to use, in language you don't need a degree to understand.
2. In addition, when you register, you'll be able to download a **FREE GIFT** in .pdf; my booklet, *The Grace to Be Amazing: 5 Tips For Bringing Vitality and Staying Power to Your Catechism Lessons!*
3. Every month you'll get tons of **FREE** information you can use to bring new life to your lessons:
 - a. Columns and stories of interest to catechists everywhere – in English and Spanish – written by catechists themselves; again, in straightforward language.
 - b. Inspiring interviews and profiles of teachers and youth ministers, and students who have been touched by great teaching
 - c. We'll also provide links to many other sites with great, **FREE** resources.

Columnists and all other contributors will find that publishing in on-line venues is a great way to show your work and develop other, paying markets for your writing. **Those who think of yourselves as “non-writers,”** please compose material to submit in your own natural style, much as you would write a letter to a friend. Trust in the Holy Spirit to use each idea, story, lesson plan, activity or insight to help bring souls into the Heart of Christ.

I am also looking for a selection of tips and anecdotes **for a chapter in my book** – a lay-volunteer's guide to teaching religion to children – under consideration at a major Catholic publisher. If your tip or anecdote is published in my book, you will be credited for your contribution and will receive two autographed copies upon publication.

If you have created a website, blog or other on-line resource that would fit or supplement our mission, please feel free to submit your URL. We'd love to link up to you and we hope you will link up to us!

I am looking forward to hearing from you very soon! Please pray for our mission and feel free to pass this email along to everyone you know who teaches the Faith!

Blessings in Christ through Mary,

Lisa Mladinich lisamladinich@optonline.net www.catholicmom.com/puppet.htm

Questionnaire

After filling in your name, location and job description,
answer as many or as few questions as you like
(type in at the “X” and email back as an attachment

Or: copy and paste your answers
directly into the body of an email and send it to me – thanks so much!)

Full Name

X

Location

(Parish, school or town)

X

Your Job Description and Years on the Job

(i.e. new volunteer teacher, grade-level coordinator x number of years, DRE, home schooling parent, other)

X

Share Your Favorite Tips for Teaching the Faith

Where appropriate, discuss grade level, environment (home, parish, school), learning styles, discipline issues and tell us what you did (and do), what it costs (if pertinent) and how you know it is successful (what feedback or assessments tell you the technique or lesson is working). If you have implemented a new program, describe it in the same terms. Share as few or as many tips as you like. Also, feel free to email me at other times when you have more to share!

X

Share Anecdotes That Uplift, Entertain or Educate

For the sake of others teaching the Faith, share occurrences in your classes which you handled or reacted to, interesting or amusing things the children said, insights you discovered during a lesson, problems that were occasions of grace that might be a source of encouragement or simply provide enjoyment to other teachers and parents. Sharing our stories helps us to build community and lifts us all up.

X

Comment on the Ways Teaching the Faith Has Helped You Grow in Your Own Faith

We all experience new graces when we give of ourselves in ministry. How has teaching the Faith enriched you and drawn you closer to God?

X

Tell Us About Someone Exemplary Who Brings the Faith to Life for Others

We are planning a feature highlighting exemplary catechists. Tell us about someone you admire! If you think you *are* that person, get a friend to write to me about you. I want to share your inspiring story with others.

X

Recommended Resources

On-line, in print, on radio or TV, on VHS, DVD or audio tape, within your parish or any other venue: what resources have been most helpful to you in teaching and learning the Faith?

X

Would You Like to Be a Regular Contributor to *Amazing Catechists*?

We are looking for columnists and reporters to provide fresh content, annually, monthly or weekly as appropriate, on the following topics around the world (if you wish to write on a topic not represented, or write in another language, please feel free to suggest it – also, it is possible that we might assign more than one columnist to a particular topic and rotate their input, if necessary):

- Catechist of the Month
- Catechist of the Year
- K-8 Religious Education Tips (by grade level)
- Confirmation Preparation
- RCIA
- Adult Enrichment
- Spanish Language Catechesis
- Bringing the Faith to Special Needs Students
- Teaching the Sacraments
- The Holy Mass
- Apologetics
- Purity/Chastity
- Seasonal Lessons
- Bible Stories
- Memorizing Scripture
- Great Questions (and Answers) from the Kids We Teach
- Ministering to Parents of Students
- Teen and Young Adult Ministry
- Music in the Classroom
- Creative Movement
- Crafting and Visual Aids
- Lesson Planning
- Assessments
- Discipline
- Learning Styles
- Teaching Styles
- Safety Issues
- Working with Your Parish Hierarchy

[More topics on next page]

- What's in the News for Catechists?
- What's New in Catholic Catechetical Publishing? (Reviews and news)
- Questions About the Faith Answered for You
- Free Resources for Faith Formation

[X](#)

Additional Comments or Suggestions for Making *Amazing Catechists* the Best On-line Resource for Catholic Catechists in the World

[X](#)

God bless you! I welcome your comments!

In Christ through Mary,

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