

“Always be ready to give an explanation...
for a reason for your hope” 1 Peter 3:15

The theme for this year’s Catechetical Sunday is, “Always be ready to give an explanation... for a reason for your hope.” These words are from Saint Peter’s first letter to Christians living in Asia Minor (west peninsula of modern-day Turkey). In this third chapter of his letter, Peter encourages the Christians to find hope in Christ even in the midst of suffering.

Saint Peter’s encouraging words are needed today. To be hopeful is a struggle when anxiety is on the rise and regions of the world rage wars. How might we encourage one another to hold on to hope? We start with ourselves seeking grace from God in prayer.

PREPARATION

- In preparation for the prayer, set the family prayer table with a green cloth (for Ordinary Time), a Bible open to 1 Peter 3, and a candle and matches.
- In preparation for the closing prayer, place small slips of paper, pencils or pens, and a small basket or jar on the table.

INTRODUCTION

- Gather the family around the prayer table. Light the candle, and invite all to quiet themselves for prayer. Explain that today, September 21, is Catechetical Sunday. It is the day when we bless and pray for all who teach us how to follow Jesus’ call to serve the universal mission of the Church.
- Invite family members to spend a minute silently thinking about people who, through their words and actions, have taught us with gentleness and reverence.



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SCRIPTURE READING

- Pray together the Sign of the Cross. Then invite a family member to proclaim 1 Peter 3:13-18.
- Invite family members to share times when they suffered because of our faith and recall how they responded. Encourage one another to identify ways we can respond with gentleness and reverence.
- Have each person share aloud the names of people who have taught him or her with gentleness and reverence. Invite them to write the names on the slips of paper provided. Explain that these individuals are witnesses of faith for us. Tell them that the following is a prayer of thanksgiving for these catechists who taught us like Jesus taught his disciples.

PRAYER

Pray the prayer below together, holding the slips of paper with the written names. End with the Sign of the Cross.

Lord, sanctify our hearts so that we may always be ready to explain our hope in you. Give us the grace to teach as you taught, with gentleness and reverence. You have given us great witnesses of faith. Thank you for those who teach us about you, our reason for hope. Help us to serve and love through our words and actions, always in imitation of you. Amen.



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WITH YOUR FAMILY

- After the prayer, identify ways to continue to pray and honor those who teach and witness our Christian faith through gentleness and reverence.
- Throughout this week, set aside time to pray for all catechists, especially for:
 - ♥ volunteers at your church who make the many ministries possible
 - ♥ children and young people who beam with the joy of the Gospel in the littlest of tasks
 - ♥ parents who sacrifice for the temporal and spiritual needs of their children
 - ♥ members of religious orders who dedicate sacred time praying for our fallen world to embrace its redemption
 - ♥ and the clergy who some are called to serve, while others are called to celebrate, preach, and shepherd the Church