



# Handing on Our Faith

Activities for Catechists, Families, and Students

## BACKGROUND

Saint Peter the Apostle encouraged early Christians to, “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence. . .” (1 Peter 3:15-16). In time, the ministry of catechesis developed as generations of Christians sought to spread the Gospel and make disciples of all nations. People from all walks of life shared the hope and joy they found in Jesus with others.

Today, the work of catechesis continues through your tireless ministry. As you teach and hand on the faith, you show others by word and example that, “Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you, and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen, and free you!” (*Evangelii Gaudium* 164). In other words, you share the hope that you have found in faith.

Sometimes this sharing happens formally in parish faith formation and Catholic school classrooms during catechetical instruction. At other times, parents, godparents, and other family and community members inspire and serve as examples of Christian living and how to practice the Gospel in daily life (*Directory for Catechesis* 124-125).

On September 26-28, 2025, the Church will celebrate the Jubilee of Catechists in Rome. By noting this Jubilee of Catechists during the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Church is recognizing the importance of your ministry in the mission of the Church and your part in showing the world the hope that is found in life with Christ.



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# Handing on Our Faith

## Activities for Catechists, Families, and Students

### OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

#### Scriptural Reflection for Catechists

Catechists are often tasked with providing resources for others—so catechists, this first resource is just for you, with no adapting necessary! It may be used by you individually, or a team of catechists or parish staff could pray it as a group. This resource invites catechists to reflect prayerfully on their time as catechists and to recognize how God has been at work in their ministry.

#### Family Gratitude Activity: Pray for Catechists

This printable activity for families with children of all ages will help to recognize catechists in their families, schools, parishes, and communities. Families may use the thank-you note template to thank a catechist for his or her ministry.

#### Rosary Cut-Out Chaplet: Activity for Primary Students

What is the best gift we can give our catechists? Praying for them, of course! This resource helps primary-aged children to pray for a catechist they know. As they pray one decade of the Rosary, children can color the corresponding beads. Then children can give it to someone who has taught them in their faith as a symbol of their prayers.

#### Interview a Catechist: Activity for Intermediate Students

This template invites students in grades 4-6 to interview a catechist. In doing so, students will learn more about the ministry of catechesis and deepen their understanding of another person's faith.

#### Handing on the Faith: Catechists in My Life Activity for Junior High Students

Using the image of a baton relay race and a short passage from Saint Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, students will be able to understand a key component of catechesis: hearing and receiving faith and then joyfully handing it on or, "passing the baton" to others.



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# Scriptural Reflection

## for Catechists

Catechists, thank you for the love that you bring to your ministry and for your participation in the mission of the Church.

To begin, take a moment to find a quiet place if possible. Consider lighting a candle. Start with the Sign of the Cross. Now read and prayerfully consider Saint Paul's message:

*"Now I am reminding you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you. . . . For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures. . . . After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. . . . Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed."*

**1 Corinthians 15:1-5**

### QUESTIONS FOR PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

1. What word or phrase stands out to you the most?  

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2. Saint Paul says he "hands on what he first received." Who is one person who "handed on faith" to you? Why was his or her witness significant for you?  

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3. How did you first become a catechist? How has your approach to handing on faith grown and matured over time?  

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4. "Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed." How have you impacted the faith of others?  

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# Family Gratitude Activity

## In Appreciation of Catechists

### BACKGROUND

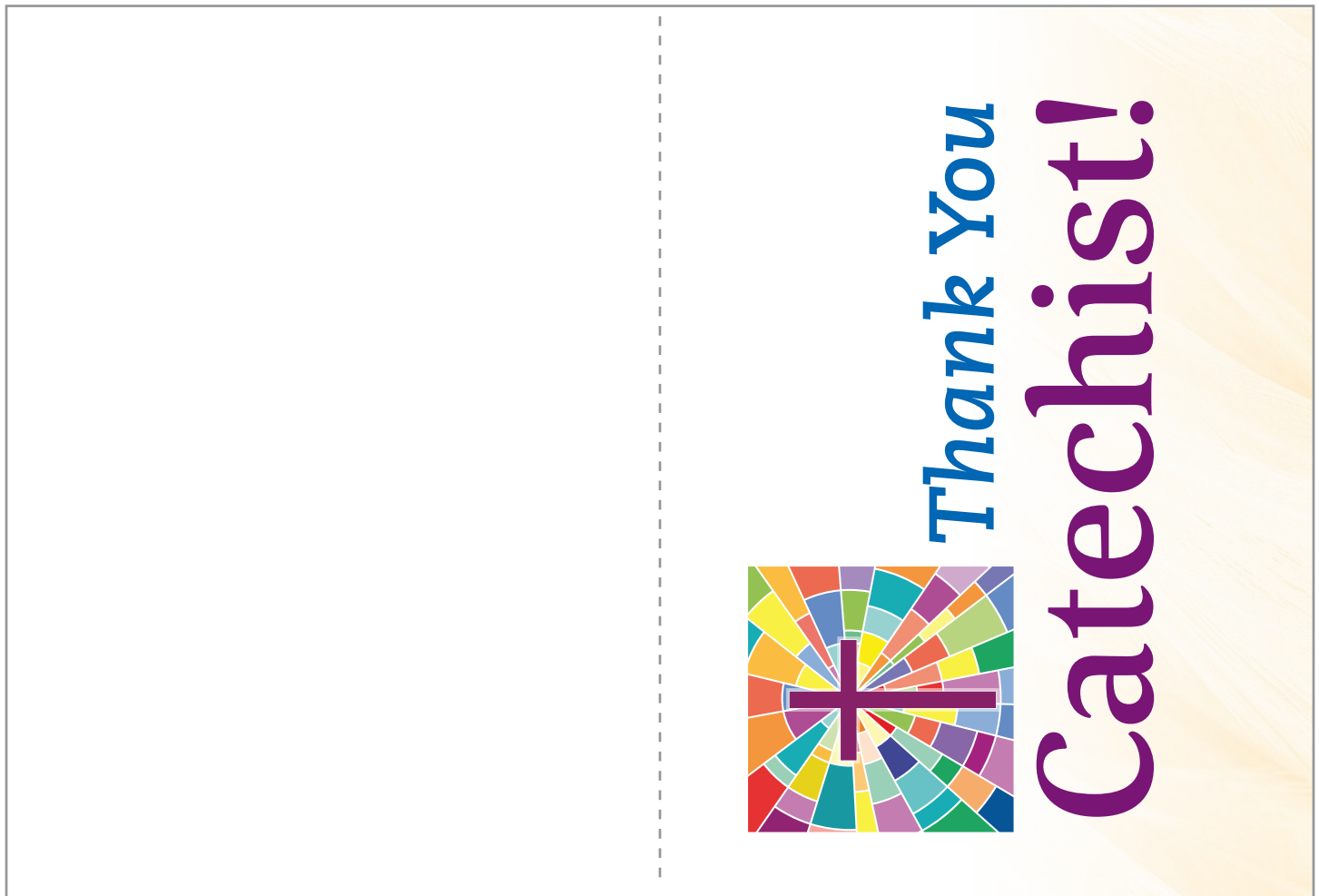
Parents participate in the Church's mission of witness and handing on faith in daily practices of love and mercy. To embrace this role as catechists in daily life, here are two ideas.

1) During a car ride or family meal this week, tell your children about someone who formed and shaped your own faith.

2) Write a thank-you note to someone who has helped your child or family grow in faith. Use the template below or write your own. Plan to mail it or deliver it to that person this week!



Cut along outline of card.



FOLD

# Pray for Catechists!

## A Rosary Cut-Out Chaplet for Primary Grades

### BACKGROUND

Get out crayons or colored pencils. Think of someone who has helped you learn about Jesus! Then pray a decade of the Rosary—one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, and a Glory Be—for him or her.

As you say each prayer, color in one bead.

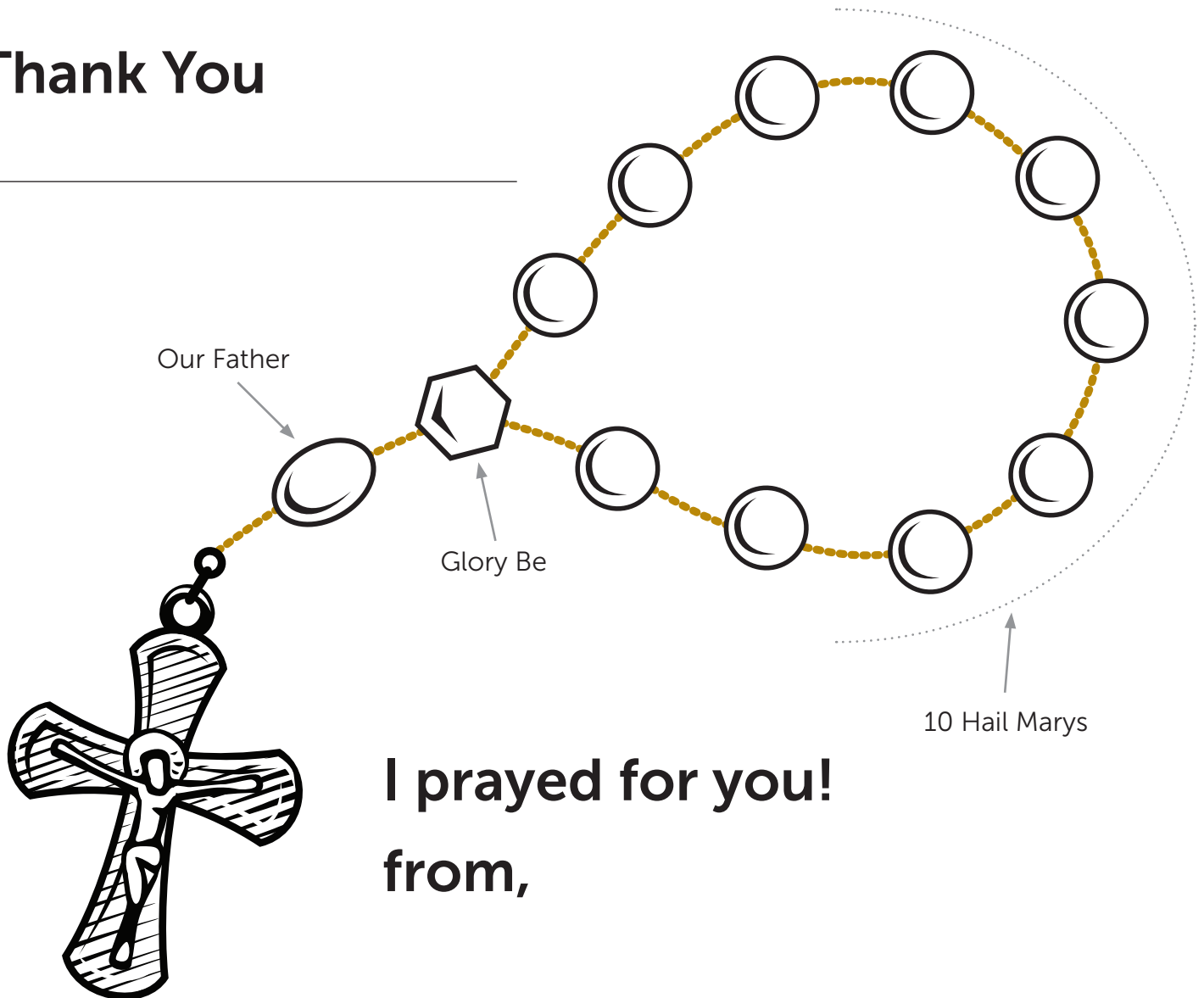
Write the name of the person who you prayed for. Sign your name, and give this to him or her.



Cut along this line.

## Thank You

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**I prayed for you!**  
**from,**

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# Interview a Catechist

## An Activity for Intermediate Grades

### BACKGROUND

Catechists share their faith with others. Ask someone who has helped you grow in faith if you can interview him or her. Then ask these questions. Write the answers on the lines.

I am interviewing: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What does a catechist do?

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2. Who helped your faith grow when you were younger?

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3. What is your favorite way to pray?

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4. What is one of your favorite Bible stories?

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5. What is one thing I should do to grow in my faith?

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# Handing on the Faith:

## Catechists in My Life Activity for Junior High

### DIRECTIONS

Read the passage and reflection below, and answer the questions that follow.

*"Now I am reminding you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved. . . . For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures. . . ."*

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

### REFLECTION

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul explains how he can only hand on faith in Jesus to others because of "what [he] also received." Think of a track and field relay race with a baton. Teammates can only continue the race when they take the baton from someone and then run to hand it on to the next person.



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### QUESTIONS

- Who has helped hand faith on to you?**  
This could be a catechist in your parish, a teacher at your school, a coach, or family member.  

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- Think of a specific time someone helped you grow in your understanding or practice of faith.** What happened? Why do you remember that moment?  

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- The gift of faith has been handed on to you by catechists and others in your life.** How can you "pass the baton" on to others?  

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Close by praying an Our Father for someone who has helped you grow in your faith.  
*Our Father. . . .*