



# Serra Catechetical Institute

## Requirements for Exit Presentation

### *Basic California Catechist Certificate*

Students in the Serra Catechetical Institute who would like to complete their formation for the basic California Catechist Certificate must complete a final exit presentation.

This presentation has two parts: a brief 2-3 page (maximum) written description and a 20 minute (maximum) oral presentation.

For this catechetical presentation, the student catechist may select doctrine from the first or third pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: the Profession of Faith (the creed), or Life in Christ (Christian morality). In addition, the catechist chooses a specific context and audience for the catechesis. The catechist should use the ecclesial method to prepare the written and oral parts of the presentation (see below).

### **Part 1: Rationale and Description Paper**

At the time of evaluation, the catechist must submit a 1 page (maximum) *rationale* of the context for their catechesis. In addition, they must submit a 1-2 page (maximum) *description* of their catechesis.

#### **Rationale (1 page)**

**1. State the context and motivation for your catechesis.**

Example: This catechesis will be delivered to high school students preparing for their reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**2. Describe the group of students for whom the catechesis is intended. This will include information on the targeted group of students including their prior study of the Faith, current practice of the Faith, age and abilities ranges, socioeconomic and cultural factors, etc.**

Example (for a class for parents of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children who are in sacramental preparation): In general, the parents have had limited formation in the Faith, and many are not attending Sunday Mass. The population is lower- to middle-class. They live in a rural agricultural area with influence from Amish and Quaker populations.

**3. Describe the setting and time frame in which the catechesis will be delivered.**

Example: Classes meet once a week on Sunday morning during normal parish religion instruction for an hour and a half. Students meet in the parish hall, which has three partitions to divide the students into classrooms.

**4. State the goals for this catechesis (between 3-4 goals). Refer to *Catechesi Tradendae* (Catechesis in Our Time) no. 20. Remember that these objectives must be reflected in the catechesis.**

Example (for a catechesis on the dignity of the human person):

**Understanding:** Students will be able to state clearly where every human being derives his or her dignity from, and how that differentiates them from other creatures.

**Change:** Students will have a renewed respect for themselves and their bodies, their families and community, especially those who are poor or in any way marginalized. Students' prayer will include petitions to help stop damaging habits. They will seek God's strengthening in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

### Description (1-2 pages)

This description of the ecclesial method is from *The Mystery We Proclaim: Catechesis at the Third Millennium* by Msgr. Francis Kelly. The catechist should also refer to the handout “Introduction to the Ecclesial Method” distributed in January, 2007.

1. **Preparation:** “The catechist must help create the conditions for the possibility of a deepening of God’s Word in the hearts of those being served...[This step] must be a ‘calculated disengagement’ that helps the believer to become open, docile, and receptive to the absolute truth of God’s Word.”  
*The preparation may include songs, directed meditations, biblical narratives, or recited prayers, etc.*
2. **Proclamation:** “The announcing of God’s Word...This proclamation may interweave deductive and inductive approaches, but the catechists needs to be clear that ultimately the truths being taught are from God, are based on Revelation, and can only make sense with the inner teaching of the Holy Spirit.”  
*The proclamation should be one sentence, or two if needed. The proclamation is not simply a definition, but rather, a statement that gets to the heart of the doctrine. The catechist should refer back to the proclamation during his or her teaching to continue to “unpack” it. Look at the proclamations in your SCI course book for examples of how this is done.*
3. **Explanation:** “A proper explanation in catechesis will always help participants to be able to find a ‘reason for your hope’ (1 Pt 3:15). Our explanation will help present the credibility of the Christian faith and message as well as their special relevance to our times.”  
*The main references for this section are Sacred Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Church documents. Catechists may use art, music or literature to help explain doctrine. A laptop with projector, CD player and whiteboard with markers will be available.*
4. **Application:** “In the fourth step of catechesis, the focus is having the truth and knowledge acquired in the prior steps now bear fruit...it is intended to facilitate a response to the call to be a witness for the Person of Jesus as the world’s only Savior and to His way of life.”  
*The catechist should develop questions to help students apply the doctrine to their lives. These are not questions for comprehension but rather for application. This helps to bring about “teaching for conversion”.*
5. **Celebration:** “If the catechetical process begins...with prayerful attentiveness and openness to the Word of God, it must also end in prayerful gratitude and praise to God.”  
*An effort should be made to refer the closing prayer back to the liturgy. This is done to relate the doctrine to prayers from applicable celebrations, such as Ordination Masses, Mass for Pentecost, Easter Vigil, etc. Examples of these prayers include: the Entrance antiphon, Blessing of Water, Anointing with Chrism, etc.*

### Part 2: Oral Presentation

Although the catechist must submit the entire five-step ecclesial method in writing, the oral presentation will only include the *Proclamation* and *Explanation*. Catechists should present for 18-20 minutes, including a brief introduction describing the context and intended audience. The evaluator will give verbal comments as well as a written evaluation following the presentation. Peers will have the opportunity to provide peer evaluations.

**Note:** Presenters must be present for the entire morning or afternoon session to attend the presentations of their peers and participate as the intended audience.