



Catechesis should be a life experience

Catechesis is an act of an ecclesial nature, born of the missionary mandate of the Lord and whose objective, as its name indicates, is to make the proclamation of His Easter resound continually in the heart of each person, so that his or her life may be transformed.
(Directory for Catechesis 2020)

* By:

Gloria Quirós Pérez
District Catechesis
Coordinator

Distrito
Antillas-México Sur

Catechesis is born and preserved as a key instrument for the transmission of the faith; that is its nature.

When we hear that Catechesis needs to be renewed and to take a step forward to update it to the contemporary world, it does not mean that we should forget the importance of going back to its origins, since it is an experience as old as the Church itself.

It is a “return to the sources”; that the infinite love of the Father for each one of his children be proclaimed with fidelity and joy, but in a renewed, up-to-date way; it is to show the Risen Jesus, and his Spirit illuminating and accompanying his Church.

To transmit the faith, it is fundamental to ask ourselves this question: Who will receive the proclamation: children, adolescents, young people, adults, the elderly, parents, who? and once we have the answer, we must know the context in which they live, this will give us the guideline to open our hearts and be sensitive. In short, for catechesis to be effective, it must take into account the whole person.

This comment arises because sometimes it is believed that to transmit the faith is to saturate it with doctrinal and theological contents, without taking into account that these contents must be accompanied by the experience of faith of the one who transmits them and also of the one who is receiving them.

Of course, the methodology of catechesis plays a very important role. “See, judge, act and celebrate” is today a way of life, on which we must rely to live the experience of God in our history, which will lead us, in most cases, to a continuous personal conversion and to the commitment to build a better world, more humane, just and in solidarity.

We must look at this process as a whole, in order to really understand its fundamental purpose.

- See: to discover God in personal and social reality.
- Judge: to find God in the Word, in the Magisterium of the Church, etc.
- Act: to commit one’s life to transform reality.
- Celebrate: be grateful for the experience lived, because for the Christian, faith and life are integrated.

Taking into account all these elements, Catechesis will be a life experience, in which the image of God is compromised; an image that, as formators in the faith, we show or manifest, so we would have to distinguish between what is our idea and representation of God and what God is.

As a Lasallian catechist I have discovered and, of course, understood the vital importance that catechesis has had in the work of De La Salle, a work that has transcended and continued for more than three centuries.

In this regard, De La Salle declares, “The purpose of this Institute is to provide a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to it.

Christian schools, which need to be constantly renewed, are the preferred sphere of activity for the Brothers. The Institute is open also to other forms of teaching and education, suited to the needs of times and place” (Rule 3).

These phrases from the Rule of the Brothers have inspired and continue to inspire many Brothers and Partners who have discovered and continue to discover that it is God who works in their schools and his Spirit who encourages them to transcend in the lives of the children and young people he has entrusted to them.

I believe that we are at a moment in the history of humanity that confronts us with ourselves and where there are many unanswered questions, that is why it is important to practice a Catechesis that leads us to enjoy a true personal and communitarian experience of God, where we have the certainty that God is with us.

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