



# CATECHETICAL SUNDAY KIT '22

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is all about, and how it began..... 1

Invite children to thank their  
parents with a special  
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# What is Catechetical Sunday ?

Catechetical Sunday began as an opportunity for catechists, parents and guardians to recommit themselves to the mission of catechesis, and to celebrate and affirm in them this great vocation, as a community of faith. The celebration of Catechetical Sunday came as a response to a document produced by the Vatican, all the way back in 1935 – *“On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education”*. In this document was a call for the worldwide Church to not only acknowledge the importance of this teaching ministry, but to also honour our catechists, who serve the Christian community.

## When is Catechetical Sunday 2022 ?

This year, Catechetical Sunday will be celebrated on 30 January 2022 !

## What is the theme for this year ?

This year's theme is *“Family Life: A Path to Holiness”*. You are invited to reflect more deeply on this theme by reading the *Catechetical Sunday Message*, prepared by the Malaysian Catechetical Commission!

## This Catechetical Sunday Kit

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Dear,

\_\_\_\_\_

(parent here)



Thank you for giving me  
the greatest gift of all!

With appreciation  
and love,

\_\_\_\_\_

(my name)

Dear,

---

(name of my catechist)



THANK YOU FOR BEING MY  
CATECHIST!

With appreciation and love,

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(my name)

# Appreciating my Parents on Catechetical Sunday

Choose 1 (or more) of the options below to show appreciation for your parents !

1. Write a **prayer** for your parents in your own words !

2. Share what your parents **taught** you about God !

3. Write a message of **appreciation** for what your parents have done, and what they continue to do for you !

4. Did you **learn** something you thought was especially important or special from your parents? Share it with them !

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With appreciation and love,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(my name)

# A Prayer for Families



The 10<sup>th</sup> World Meeting of Families will soon be taking place in Rome, from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022. In preparation for this event, the Diocese of Rome, and the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, have jointly released the following official prayer. Let us come together to pray for our families:

*Heavenly Father,*

*We come before You to praise You and to thank You for the great gift of the family.*

*We pray to You for all families consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony.*

*May they rediscover each day the grace they have received, and as small domestic Churches, may they know how to witness to Your presence and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.*

*We pray to You for all families faced with difficulty and suffering caused by illness or circumstances of which only You know. Sustain them and make them aware of the path to holiness upon which You call them, so that they might experience Your infinite mercy and find new ways to grow in love.*

*We pray to You for children and young people: may they encounter You and respond joyfully to the vocation You have in mind for them;*

*We pray for parents and grandparents: may they be aware that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood of God in caring for the children who, in body and spirit, You entrust to them; and for the experience of fraternity that the family can give to the world.*

*Lord, grant that each family might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church as a call to become missionary disciples, in the service of life and peace, in communion with our priests, religious, and all vocations in the Church.*

*Bless the World Meeting of Families*

*Amen.*



# 5 Wholesome Ways we can Support Our Families

This year, we will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> January. The current COVID-19 pandemic has caused many of our families to struggle in more ways than one. In line with the theme for this year – “Family Life: A Path to Holiness” (1 Cor 12:12), let us come together to support our families in every way we can. Below you will find some ideas for supporting other families, as well as your own. Let us take heart, and overcome these hardships together, as one body!

## 1. AS A CATECHIST

Previously, face-to-face catechesis utilized the parish as its main environmental context. As this context has now changed to that of the family home, this has undoubtedly added to the many other undertakings that have circumstantially fallen under its roof (pun intended). That being said, as catechists, we can support the families of the children / teens we help catechize, by checking in with them *individually*, and *identifying their struggles and needs*. The change of environmental context also highlights an opportunity for us, to design activities which *involve the family* – encouraging the spiritual growth of the entire family, rather than only the children / teens we help catechize. These personal approaches to catechesis invoke the *intimate* and *communal* nature of God!



## 2. AS A PARISH PRIEST OR CATECHETICAL COORDINATOR

Parish priests and catechetical coordinators are in unique positions to *summarize*, *communicate* and *collaborate*. Our ‘birds-eye-view’ helps us to identify the struggles, needs and best practices of the catechists and families within our parish. We are also able to utilize our networks in an effort to share what works in our parish, and learn from other parishes, in turn. Communication between members of the clergy, and catechetical coordinators with other coordinators and catechetical ministry heads within your arch/diocese, is crucial to the adaptation and growth of your ministry / parish. As members of one body (1 Cor 12:12), let us come together to reach for our highest potential, and support those in need, in every way we can!



### 3. AS A MEMBER OF THE PARISH

As members of the parish, we are called to be attuned to the struggles faced by our brothers and sisters, and of the many ways other families have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. When it comes to spiritual formation in the home, do we have anything that works particularly well in our own family? Why not share our experiences with other families? Have we perhaps made something, or come across resources that may be of particular use for catechesis? Why not share these as well? Let us not be afraid of reaching out to build bridges in our communities. Let us foster a spirit of unity in our parishes, and actively fight against the spirit of indifference and ignorance, by thinking of one another in these times!



### 4. AS A GODPARENT

As Godparents, we have undertaken the responsibility to support those whom we have sponsored, in their Christian upbringing / living. The current pandemic has highlighted the importance of roles such as these, where we are able to provide support through prayer, and other means. Let us not forget that we as Godparents, are also representatives of the wider community of faith, *"...standing as guarantees of the candidate's faith and desire for ecclesial communion"* (n.98, Directory For The Application Of Principles And Norms On Ecumenism). Supporting many other families in our parish might seem too daunting a task, but if we are Godparents, let us at least strive to provide support for those whom we have sponsored. We could do so by keeping them in our prayers, or checking in to see how their catechesis is progressing. Perhaps we could support them with resources or simply offer a listening ear. Let us grasp these opportunities for connection, as one body in Christ!



### 5. WHAT CAN I DO FOR MY OWN FAMILY ?

This COVID-19 pandemic has affected many families in numerous ways. For some of us, our priorities might have caused us to neglect the spiritual formation of our children / teens. While we may not have intended so, some of us might feel at a loss for how we can juggle all of our responsibilities during these trying times. Do not lose heart however, for as parents, the primary way by which we catechize our children is by the simple living of our lives. As we celebrate Catechetical Sunday this year, let us ask ourselves, *"How am I currently influencing my children / teens in the faith, and are there any areas that could be improved?"*.





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