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## CATECHIST OBSERVATION

The *General Directory for Catechesis* tells us that 'to ensure the working of the catechetical ministry in a local Church, it is fundamental to have adequate pastoral care of catechists (233).' Part of this care is giving catechists meaningful, constructive and focused feedback on their presentation of the faith to their students. This is done through Catechist Observation.

Catechetical Leaders need to keep in mind that classroom observation is a part of the pastoral care of the catechist – not an evaluation. Catechetical Leaders are offering feedback in order to help the Catechist improve their classroom technique and, more importantly, their sharing of the faith with their students. Always keeping in mind the disciples-making-disciples aspect of the catechist's ministry, the Observer should keep the focus on how the students, through the catechist, are growing in their faith.

It is important that the Post-Observation Conference be a positive experience for the Catechist. The Observer should look for and make note of the Catechist's strengths in presentation of the faith – both in words and in actions. Areas of difficulty for the teacher should be presented as 'What do you think would happen if you presented it *this* way instead of how you did?' Think of the observation as an opportunity for coaching or mentoring the Catechist. Discuss ideas of how to improve their catechesis.

For the sake of consistency, Observers must be a *Vocare-certified* DRE/CRE/PCL, a *Vocare-certified* principal, or a catechist who has been at least 8 years in catechetical ministry. The catechetical experience of these veteran Observers provides meaningful feedback for Catechists.

Because of the need for 'due diligence' on the part of the Office for Evangelization and Discipleship, observations must be verified. For this reason, observers are required to complete and submit the online Catechist Observation form to VocareSupport.