

Synod 2023: Contribution of Catechists

17 March, 2022

In Attendance:

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Notes:

Religious education and attracting families

There is a lack of education in faith. Religion was separated from school. But there should still be the option. Maybe schools could include the history of religions in general).

Compare our community and the ones we go back to (home country): what brings people to our community? What makes it lively? Is there a different evolution of priests and/or our perception of them (more welcoming, accepting). Are other communities more strict (ex. Italy)

Seeing through the eyes of children: see the church as a familiar place where we feel comfortable. Does our community have more down to earth priests, welcoming to children, making parents more willing to come? Are they more willing to understand 'bad' behaviour?

Why don't Families return to church after the sacraments? If you're not a 'regular', why? Why don't you want to go to church?

The pandemic made us turn people away, but technology was helpful.

How to use resources we already have? We have a big list of volunteers and should make the most of their qualities/talents (organising, events planning, dealing with different age groups).

Create ongoing activities open for all.

Considerations for different age groups/phases:

1. BAPTISM
What would Jesus ask for? (considering that many parishes demand a lot of documentation and conditions to allow children to be baptised).
2. {between = 0-8 years old}
Regular catechesis/Sunday school.

3. FIRST COMMUNION

Certain Luxembourg parishes require 3 years preparation for FHC.

How to make the most of the 'power' we have over 64 families of FHC? Organise a lunch?

Make parents get to know each other and create/discover/maintain connections.

Retreats/activities for target groups with regularity.

4. {between = 9-16 years old}

Catechesis – what to do with this age group? Scouts?

Some scouts clubs have priests and the church involved and bring children closer to church.

But not all responsibility should be of the priests.

Parents are the KEY. What would make families/parents bring their children back to church?

What do we offer? How to keep the momentum? Parents should be involved, readings, monthly children's Mass, altar service, collection.

Day camp during school break?

5. CONFIRMATION

6. {after = teenagers and young adults, university students}

There are many requests of activities for young people and Confirmation for adults

Retreats/activities for target groups with regularity.

How to reach university students who go to Luxembourg universities, or leave Luxembourg to study?

World youth day is very motivating – including the time that builds up to it – not just the event.

Marriage preparation groups.