

VIRTUAL CATECHETICAL DAY
PARTICIPATION PACKET



DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

*let the children come to me
dejad que los niños vengan a mi*

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IN CATECHESIS
ENCONTRANDO A CRISTO EN LA CATEQUESIS





Opening Prayer

Loving God, Creator of all things,
You call us to be in relationship with You and others.
Thank you for calling me to be a catechist,
for the opportunity to share with others
what You have given to me.
May all those with whom I share the gift of faith
discover how You are present in all things.
May they come to know You, the one true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.
May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide my heart and lips,
so that I may remain constant in loving and praising You.
May I be a witness to the Gospel and a minister of Your truth.
May all my words and actions reflect Your love.
Amen.

Prayer from Loyola Press

Icebreaker Ideas

1. Who is your favorite Patron Saint? If you were a Patron Saint, what would you want to be known for?
2. How did you become a catechist? What is your favorite thing about being a catechist?
3. Tell me something unique about yourself.



"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3



Keynote: The Kerygma and Catechesis

Prof. Paco Gavrilides

Paco says that the powerful starting point of catechesis is the "kerygma." He defines kerygma as "the proclamation of the Paschal Mystery, which is the life, the death, the resurrection, and the glorious ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ." How can we be more intentional in weaving this "golden thread" throughout our catechetical efforts?

Commenting on *Catechesi Tradendae* by Pope St. John Paul II, Paco says that catechesis is meant to lead to a living, vibrant, genuine, reciprocal relationship between Jesus and the new disciple. What can we do to help foster an authentic relationship with Jesus as we catechize children, youth, and adults in our parish programs?

For many participants in catechetical programs, evangelization has not yet taken place. Paco gave an example of a confirmation class full of kids who didn't want to be there. They adapted the program to include: 1) testimonies, 2) the kerygma, 3) pastoral accompaniment and individual attention, and 4) prayer and worship. What stood out to you about this example?

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"On the lips of the catechist, the first proclamation must ring out over and over: 'Jesus Christ loves you; He gave his life to save you; and now He is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.'"

Pope Francis,
Evangelii Gaudium



Prayer in the Family

Alicia Nagy

Why is it important for parents to cultivate prayer, hospitality, and forgiveness in the home?

What are aspects of God's relationship with His creation that parents can bring into the home to cultivate an environment for prayerful living and the celebration of the liturgical year?

Share some examples of family prayer during the day, week, or year that have been meaningful for you and your family.

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"Without confidence and love, there can be no true education. If you want to be loved you must love yourselves, and make your children feel that you love them."

Saint John Bosco



Getting More Out of Your Weekly Catechesis

Cyndi Wolf

What is the importance of sharing WHO you are with your students and sharing your personal relationship with God?

How can we, as catechists, be more aware of the different needs of our students? Educationally? Emotionally? Spiritually?

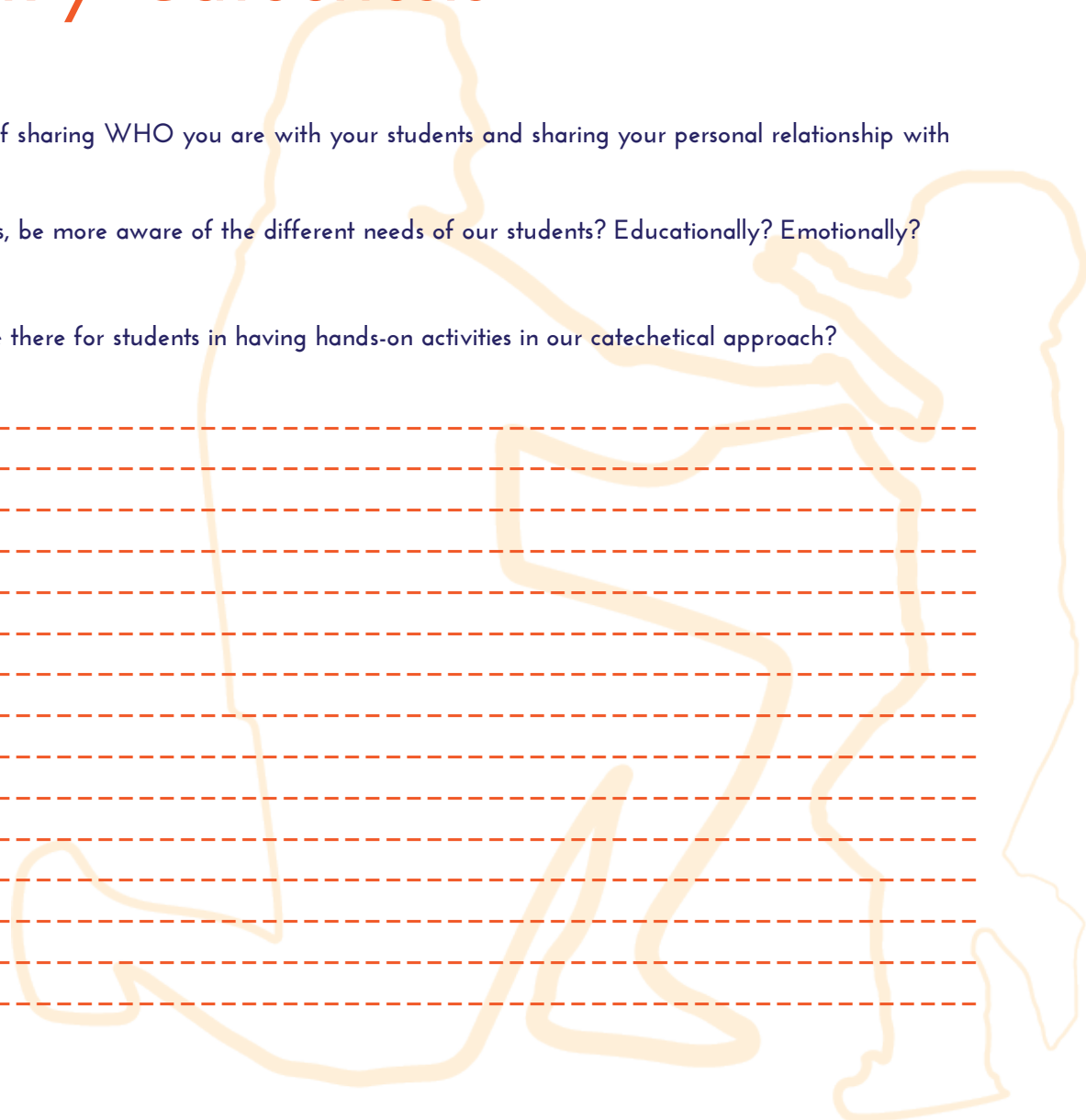
What kind of benefits are there for students in having hands-on activities in our catechetical approach?

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"The mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart."

Blessed Basil Moreau, CSC





Fostering Devotion in Children before First Communion

Betsy Williams

Name some ways you can aid students in developing a deep and lasting *relationship* with Jesus.

What physical reminders of Jesus and the faith can you add to your classroom environment?

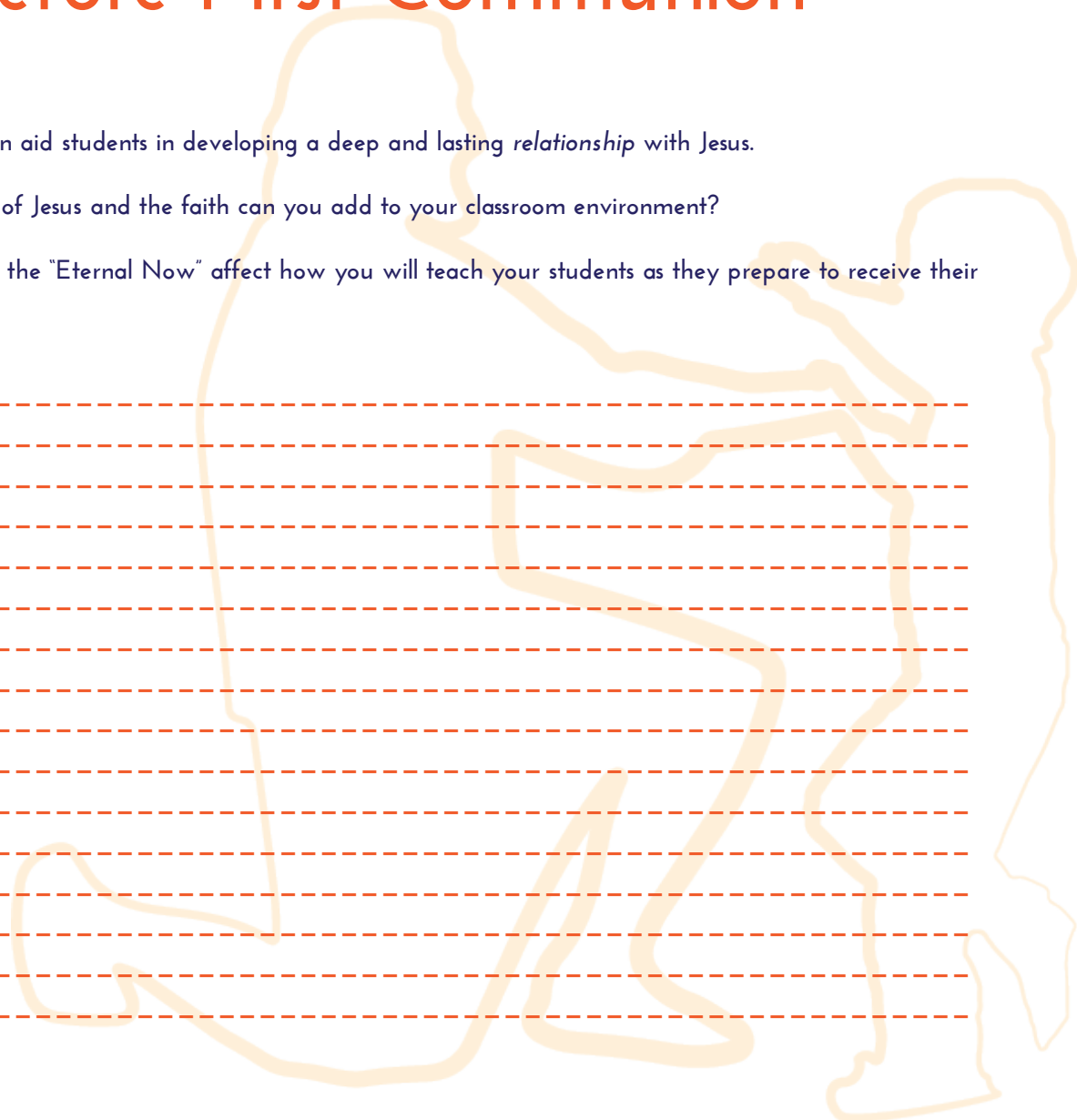
How does knowing about the "Eternal Now" affect how you will teach your students as they prepare to receive their first Eucharist?

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"I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep."

John 10:14-15





Practical Tips for Confirmation Preparation

Chad Helmkamp

What activities have you found or which ones do you use that have made the Sacrament of Confirmation more real and understandable for the students?

St. Jerome once said that "Ignorance of Scripture is Ignorance of Christ." What is the best Bible passage or story for Confirmation students to learn and remember? I contend that Matthew Chapters 5-7 (Sermon on the Mount) features arguably the greatest homily delivered in the history of our Church by Jesus and provides the blueprint for eternal salvation, if the students applied those words to their daily lives.

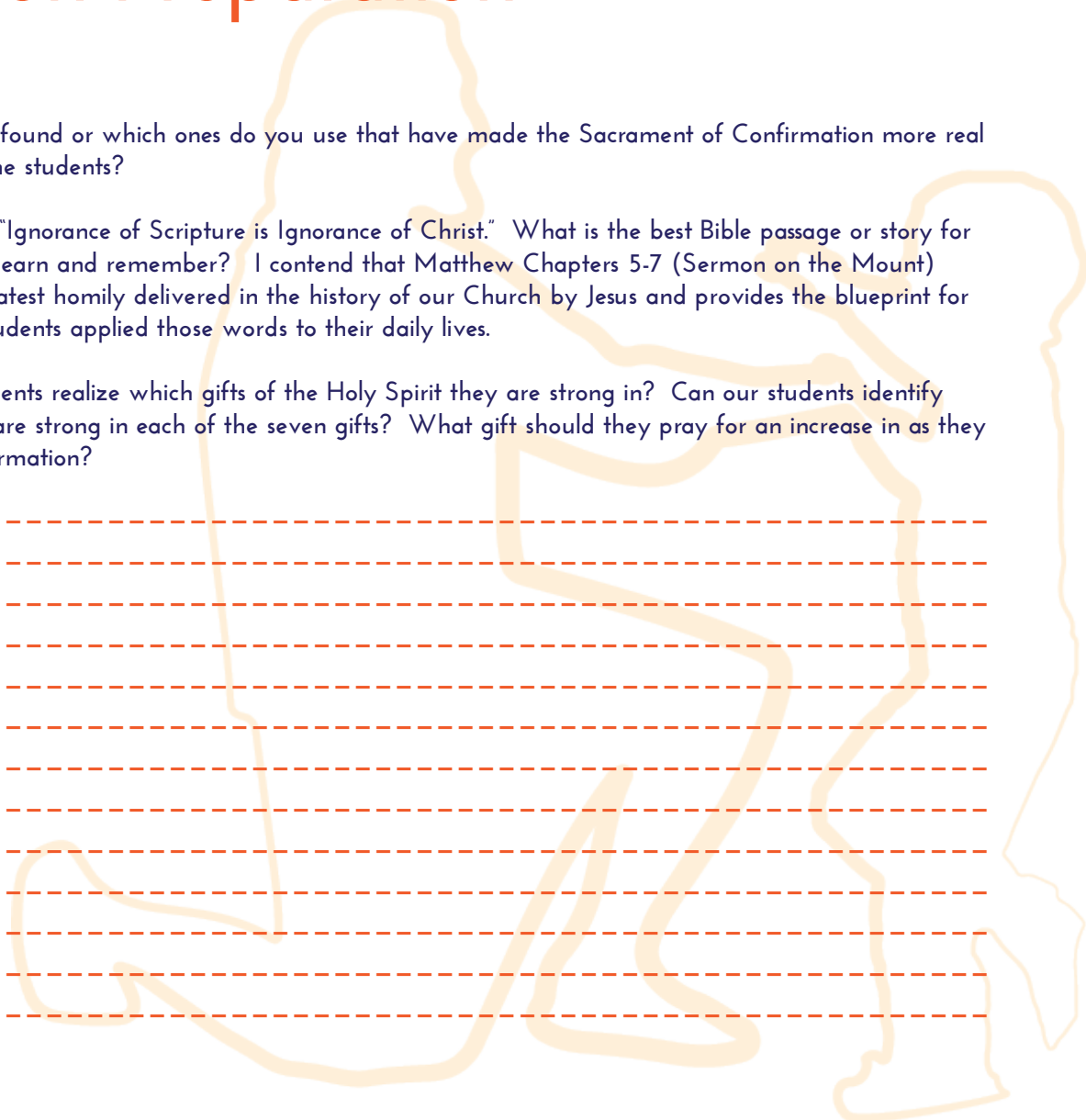
How do we help our students realize which gifts of the Holy Spirit they are strong in? Can our students identify people in their lives who are strong in each of the seven gifts? What gift should they pray for an increase in as they draw closer to their Confirmation?

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"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."

Acts 2:17
(Joel 2:28)





Social-Emotional Health of Our Children during the Pandemic

Mary Glowaski

Can you identify the greatest challenges your students and their families face in light of the uncertainty we are living? What are they for you?

What does resilience "look like" to you? How can this be modeled for the children and the families you serve?

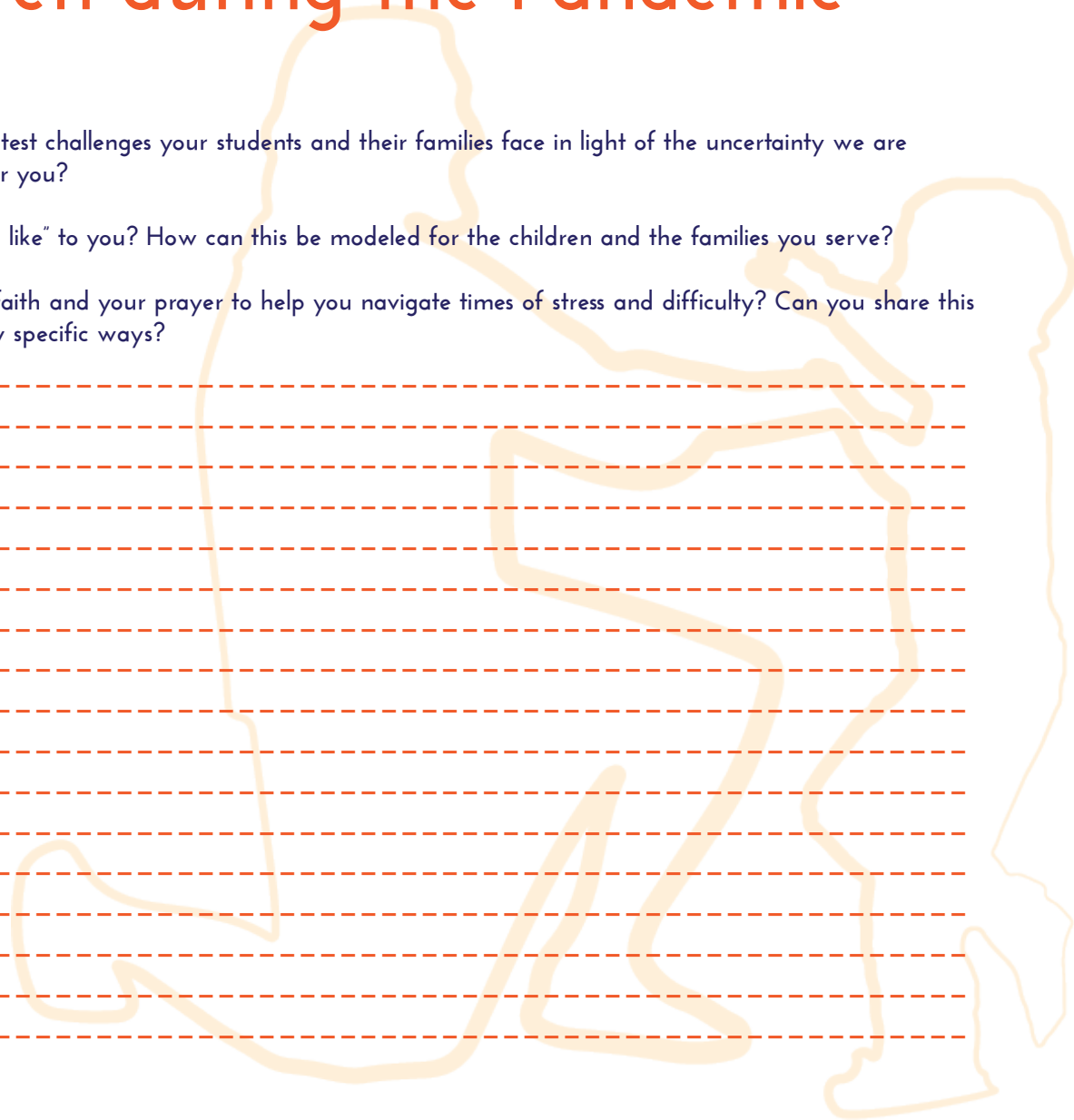
How do you access your faith and your prayer to help you navigate times of stress and difficulty? Can you share this with your students in very specific ways?

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal dashed orange lines.



"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 19:14



diocesefwsb.org/catecheticalday



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"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5