

We have a Partner who works in people's hearts far more effectively than we can. Taking too much responsibility for the outcome of catechesis amounts to replacing the Holy Spirit, rather than being an instrument through whom the Spirit works.

Beyond taking a great weight off catechists' shoulders, knowing and trusting that each person has the gift of the Holy Spirit should shape how we teach. We need to teach in ways that allow the Spirit to work, that prompt learners to draw upon the Spirit within them. For example:

- Find ways to engage the learners' very souls—to get into their hearts through what matters most to them and to have them listen to themselves and to their own depths.
- Ask questions and use activities that invite learners to reflect, recall, and question. This encourages

learners to recognize that the Spirit works through their own minds and hearts.

- Share faith stories and use images, examples, and creative lessons to stimulate their imaginations. This is where the Spirit moves most readily.
- Encourage learners “to look and see for themselves,” confident that the Spirit will inspire them.
- Invite learners to make decisions about living their faith, allowing the Spirit within them to guide them.

Faith in the Holy Spirit, of course, should never be confused with magic. Our best efforts as catechists are still necessary! And yet, these efforts are only an instrument through which the Spirit works. Trust the Spirit within people to cause the growth. (See 1 Corinthians 3:6.)

### *For Reflection*

- In what ways have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your personal life and in your ministry?
- What effect could your conscious awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit have on your catechesis?

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