Evangelization and Catechesis

- Mission of the church is evangelization
- Aim of evangelization is conversion to Jesus Christ
- Catechesis is an essential stage of evangelization
- Catechesis has the same goal as evangelization: conversion to Jesus Christ
- Catechesis accomplishes its goal through six tasks
- The baptismal catechumenate is a model for all catechesis
Theological Reflection

- Theological reflection is a framework that helps us uncover the intimate connection between faith and daily life. It assists us in the process of integrating our faith and our life.
- It is intended to lead to new insights, transformation and action.
What theological reflection is not:

- A study of theology
- A Bible study session

What theological reflection is:

- An interactive and somewhat fluid process of reflection that puts experience, faith and culture into a “dialogue”.
- A fruitful group activity
Components of Theological Reflection

“To engage in a theological reflection process is to see beyond the external elements of our life to the ‘God-touched’ reality.”  

Leichner 2012
Components of Theological Reflection

- **Experience**
  - “the transcendent God is immanently present in the world and in our lives.” *Dei Verbum, Article 3*
  - Includes personal experiences, convictions, feelings, ideas, biases

- **Tradition**
  - Sacred Scripture
  - The history of the Church
  - Church teachings

- **Culture**
  - Values, attitudes, symbols, behaviors and preferences of the culture in which we live
Theological Reflection **Method** always begins with a focus

1. **Attending:** “Listening” to the wisdom and insights of each sphere regarding the **focus** of the reflection.

   *Requires careful listening – both to external information and the internal movement of our hearts*

   *Important to suspend judgment while “attending” to the three spheres*

2. **Asserting:** Bringing the information from the three spheres into a process of mutual clarification.

   *How does what one sphere says relate to the other spheres? Where is the point of intersection?*

   *Where is there agreement? Disagreement?*
Theological Reflection Method always begins with a focus

1. Attending
2. Asserting
3. Decision-making: Choosing to put faith into action

What difference does this make in my life?
What attitude or value shifted for me?
What action does this lead me to take?

Transformation is the goal of Theological Reflection
Attend to the information from each of the spheres. Then compare and contrast (assert) their views.

Finally address the question, “So what?”
Reflection:

What new insights did you gain from the reflection and sharing? What surprised you? What challenged you?

How do you think you could use Theological Reflection in your ministry – or your life?
Some Points to Remember

- Everyone’s experience is unique and must be respected.
- Theological reflection takes time to do.
- It requires personal honesty, comfort with Scripture and our Tradition, prayerfulness and basic people skills.
- The goal: transformation and growth in faith... a slow process.
- Theological reflection is intended to move us to something new that we take back into our lives.
Theological Reflection

- There is no way to predict the outcome of theological reflection – either what or when.
  The Holy Spirit is at work here.
- Theological reflection is an art which improves with practice
Theological Reflection

Response:

What is one thing that you will do to apply the learning from tonight to your daily life or ministry?
Assignment for Theological Reflection

- Complete the second theological reflection in the journal (p. 4).
  - Focus: Sacrament of Reconciliation
  - Starting point: Tradition

- Write or print clearly in the journal or.

- Use the form on the web to complete the theological reflection. If you type the reflection, please limit it to no more than 2 pages, 12 point type.

- Due October 17
Closing Prayer

Lord of our heart, give us vision to inspire us.
Lord of our heart, give us wisdom to direct us.
Lord of our heart, give us courage to strengthen us.
Lord of our heart, give us trust to console us.
Lord of our heart, give us love to mission us.
Lord of our heart, give us grace to root our lives in you.
Amen.