



# Current Issues in Prayer

December 2021

**Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.**



## Getting started:

I take my time to recollect myself and to let the presence of God lead me in prayer. I concentrate on those persons who set me an example in my life: my parents, teachers, catechists, priests, persons who live the Gospel's principles to the full. I think about the impact that they had on my life.



## Short story:

For the past weeks, I prepared craft resources for my daughter Emma to take with her to the children's catechises lessons organised by MUSEUM. I was happy to see her go with a smile on her face and enjoy doing crafts with her friends, but always wondered how my little girl could link the craft activity to the message and true meaning of the Bible stories. She is still young. At times, I find it hard to understand the Bible myself! But as long as Emma was happy cutting, pasting, drawing and colouring, it did not matter.



At the end of summer, the catechists invited us for a parents' evening. I was hardly at the gates when Emma excitedly pulled me to an exhibition stand where the crafts she made were on display. She proudly explained in detail the significance of the stories behind the crafts. Emma could connect to every character and story frame. I couldn't hold back my astonishment. How wrong I was to think that this was just an ordinary craft for her. This made me realise how powerful a simple craft can be. It does not just draw out creativity from children, but it helps them learn and understand Christian values. I also understood the powerful mission of catechists, whose apostleship is so central to the Word of God.



## Time to reflect:

What are my thoughts about catechists and the way they announce the Gospel? How aware am I of the efforts they make to teach in an interactive and interesting way in today's world?



## Let us pray:

Dear Lord, may your spirit inspire all the catechists so that they will use modern resources in a creative way to reach our children, adolescents and youth effectively, and so that parents will support their mission.



## Inspiration:

God is not calling you to be successful, but to be faithful.

*Archbishop Mons. Charles Scicluna to Maltese catechists (2016).*



## Hands on:

I participate in the activities that are organised by catechists in my parish and encourage my relatives and friends to appreciate the hard work that is carried out by these catechists.