



Archdiocese of New Orleans

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To: Clergy, Religious, and Laity of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Today, throughout the Catholic Church, we celebrate Catechetical Sunday with the theme of **“Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened.”** We hear in this theme both the invitation from Jesus to follow him as well as his acknowledgement that life can indeed be filled with many challenges. Jesus wants to be our strength and lighten the burdens in our lives.

Catechetical Sunday is a special observance in each parish as we pray for and ask God’s blessings upon all those who share in the important work of catechesis and Christian formation. Those who share in this ministry are our catechists in the Parish School of Religion (or Family Formation program), the administrators and teachers in our Catholic Schools, youth ministers, as well as those who are involved in the ministry of RCIA and Adult Faith Formation. Please join me in thanking them for not only giving of themselves in a generous way to form our youth and adults in the life of faith, but also pray that God will continue to bless them and inspire them in their ministry. They give of themselves in a generous way to help others open their hearts to Christ. Furthermore, their example of faith is one that can be a source of inspiration to us.

Join me in praying for students, parents, and families on this Catechetical Sunday. We are reminded that parents are the primary teachers of their children in faith and we pray for them that they will joyfully fulfill this vocation. I strongly encourage parents to be actively engaged in the education and Christian formation of their children; this is so important. Parents, they need you, your support, and they need your example of living out your faith. You are a powerful witness to your child.

Please know of my deep appreciation and prayer of thanksgiving to all of you who share in this important ministry of catechesis and Christian formation.

Wishing you God’s blessings, and with the assurance of my prayers, I am

Gratefully in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

Please print this in your parish bulletin the weekend of September 16-17, 2023.