



# THE ECHO



A newsletter for CATECHISTS and RE TEACHERS

Issue 22

Spring Term 2023

## The MODERN AREOPAGI



In the book of the Acts of the Apostles we read about when St Paul found himself speaking at the **Areopagus**. The Areopagus was the key meeting place where the council and influential people met in **Athens** at the time.

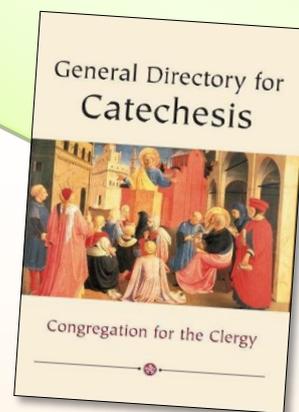
Fast forward two thousand years and although the world has completely changed and so many things have evolved, the concept of speaking at the 'Areopagus' is still relevant for us today as it was for Paul.

Many think that **catechesis** is something that is only delivered by someone within a parish to prepare children and young people for Holy communion and Confirmation. The way things have evolved, particularly in recent years and decades however, means that there are so many other areas or topics that the Church and particularly catechists and teachers simply cannot ignore.

If we truly believe in the transforming power of the Gospel, we ought to make sure that the Gospel message also arrives to areas or 'Areopagi' that have become so important over the years and are now high on everyone's agenda. Among these are areas and topics such as the **environment, human rights** and the **media** to name but a few.

It is therefore crucial for all of us involved in teaching to make sure that our catechesis and formation is relevant and also tackles whatever issues are being discussed in the modern Areopagi. As the Directory for Catechesis puts it, **'it is important for catechesis to discern and penetrate these environments'** (DfC, 211)

From:  
**General Directory  
for  
CATECHESIS**



There are so many sectors to enlighten with the light of the Gospel, especially those cultural areas denominated **'modern areopagi'** like **communications**; **civil campaigns** for peace, development and liberation of peoples; **the protection of creation**; the **defence of human rights**, especially of minorities, women and children; **scientific research** and **International relations**.  
(para 211)

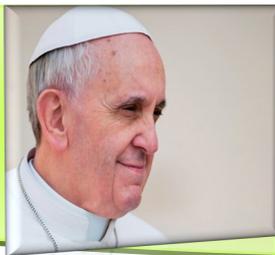
## THE ECHO



The word 'CATECHIST' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to echo'. As Catechists or teachers of RE we do not proclaim our own word. We echo the message of Jesus Christ our Lord.

This newsletter aims at providing parish catechists and teachers of RE in schools some support in terms of reflections, ideas, useful resources they can use and so on. Feel free to make more copies for other colleagues and friends. There is also an online version on our website [www.sdc.me.uk](http://www.sdc.me.uk)

## THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CATECHESIS



### SHARE A LIVING EXPERIENCE OF THE FAITH Pope Francis to catechists

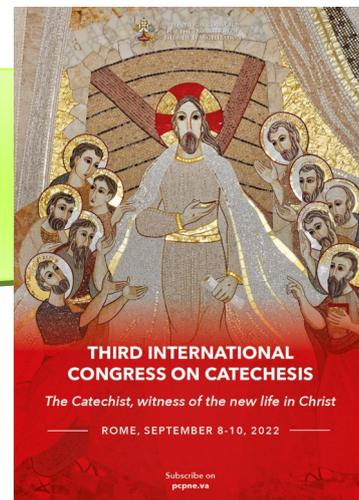
Around 1400 catechists from around the world gathered in Rome last September for the **3rd International Congress on Catechesis**.

This gathering focused on the theme of the **Beatitudes** and how these play such a vital part in Christian life.

Speaking to participants at this congress, Pope Francis exhorted those present **'never to get tired of their ministry'**, acknowledging that catechesis is a challenging ministry as it involves finding the best ways to communicate the faith to people from different walks of life and from different age groups.

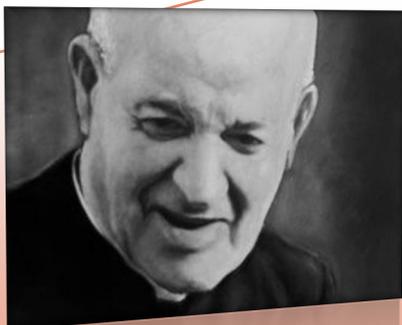
Pope Francis also suggested that catechists should **avoid the school lecture type** of catechesis as this ministry is aimed at achieving an **interpersonal encounter** that opens one's heart to hear the Gospel and accept the invitation to live and grow in Christian life.

The next Congress on Catechesis will take place in 2025, the next Jubilee Year of the Lord.



The Lord  
Calls us all  
to make His Gospel  
resound  
in the heart of every  
person.

*Pope Francis*



Those who come forward to teach must strive  
to be well instructed, exemplary and with the  
right intention.

They should above all pray to God for the ensuing  
fruits depend only on God.

*St George Preca - SDC Founder*

### SOCIAL MEDIA

#### HAVE A LOOK AT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

- Videos on RE themes to use in catechism sessions
- Short videos for prayer and reflection
- Other videos on St George Preca and SDC
- Links to other resources for catechists and teachers.

#### FOLLOW US ON



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**SDC** is a Catholic organization that works in the field of catechesis within Catholic Parishes. It was founded in 1907 by St George Preca. For more information or to download resources for parish or school catechetical programmes visit our website [www.sdc.me.uk](http://www.sdc.me.uk).  
SDC, 38 Ryefield Road, Upper Norwood, London SE19 3QU.