



THE ECHO



A newsletter for CATECHISTS and RE TEACHERS

Issue 29

Spring Term 2026

POPE LEO'S KEY MESSAGES AT THE JUBILEE OF CATECHISTS

The Jubilee of catechists took place in Rome at the last weekend of September 2025. Here are some points Pope Leo shared in his reflections. A lot of food for thought for anyone involved in the ministry of catechesis.....



As you instruct others in the faith, keep in mind the importance of teaching them to **cultivate a relationship with Jesus**. May his love revive in all of us the hope that does not disappoint.

Catechists and everyone who teaches others by their example **cooperate in the Church's pastoral work** by listening and serving the desire for justice and truth that dwells in the human conscience.

We have all been **taught to believe through the witness of those who believed before us**. From childhood, adolescence, youth, adulthood, and even old age, catechists accompany us in our faith, sharing in this lifelong journey.



At the doorstep of today's opulence stands the misery of entire peoples, ravaged by war and exploitation - Through the centuries, nothing seems to have changed." Even as many Lazaruses die while the rich ignore what is before their eyes, **the Gospel assures us that God will do justice** to both, putting an end to the poor man's sufferings and to the rich man's revelry.

As St. Augustine told the Deacon Deogratias, "Explain everything in such a way that the one who listens to you, **by listening, may believe; by believing, may hope; and by hoping, may love.**"

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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

SDC in LONDON

MEETINGS FOR PARISH CATECHISTS

Two formation meetings were organised for catechists in nearby parishes and deaneries. The aim of these sessions was to provide an opportunity for parish catechists and others interested to come together to reflect on this important ministry. It was also an opportunity for some new catechists from other parishes to get in touch with SDC and our work. The first session focused on **the role of the catechist** while the second session focused mainly on **the purpose of catechesis**. These were hybrid sessions so those who were not able to attend in person were able to join online.



MEETING FOR PARISH CATECHISTS
SESSION 2
FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER
7.30 P.M.
THEME: THE FUNDAMENTAL TASKS OF CATECHESIS

Join us in person at:
SDC House
38 Ryefield Road
Upper Norwood
London SE19 3QU

Join us online on ZOOM
Go to the ZOOM website at
pwa.zoom.us/jc
Enter Zoom ID:
4454292726

For more information email:
sdcmeetings@gmail.com

SDC SOCIETAS DOCTRINAE CHRISTIANÆ

SDC FRIENDS GROUP

On Friday 14th November, our SDC Friends group met at St Andrew's Parish Church, Thornton Heath. We visited the **exhibition on St Carlo Acutis** and his work on Miracles of the Eucharist. We then met for reflection time on these various miracles then spent time in adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament using different prayers including the Coram Domino adoration written by the SDC Founder St George Preca.

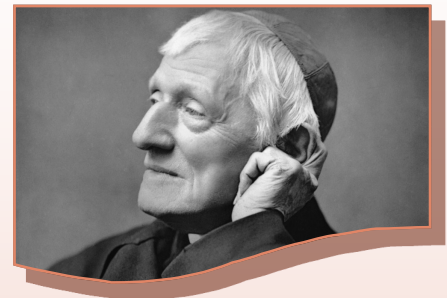


International Exhibition
MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST
ACROSS THE WORLD
Devised and planned by Carlo Acutis
GOD'S SERVANT CARLO ACUTIS
(London, 3 May 1991 – Milan, 11 October 2006)

"My life plan is to always be connected to Jesus". With these few words, Carlo Acutis, who died of leukaemia when he was only fifteen years old, outlined the distinctive feature of his brief existence: living with Jesus, for Jesus and in Jesus".

To quote Carlo's own words: "Our destination must be what is infinite, not what is finite. Infinity is our homeland. We have been exiled in Heaven since time immemorial". He also said: "All are born with their wings folded".

A new Doctor of the Church St JOHN HENRY NEWMAN



Newman's impressive spiritual and cultural stature will surely serve as an **inspiration to new generations** whose hearts **thirst for the infinite**, and who, through research and knowledge, are willing to **undertake that journey** which, as the ancients said, takes us **per aspera ad astra, through difficulties to the stars.**

From Pope Leo's homily at the concluding mass of the Jubilee of Education during which St John H Newman was declared Doctor of the Church
1st November 2025

CATHOLIC NEWS ONLINE



News from the Catholic world including the Vatican itself and dioceses and Christians around the world. Also includes a direct link to the Vatican Radio

vaticannews.va



The website of the Holy See - Vatican news, information, special events, pope's speeches, links to church publications, biographies of popes and more

vatican.va



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.
SDC, 38 Ryefield Road, Upper Norwood, London SE19 3QU.