

Pope Francis - Lesson 4

Engage (January)

To "be" catechists!
Not to "work" as catechists.
Catechesis is a vocation:
"being a catechist",
this is the vocation,
not "working" as a catechist.

Pope Francis,
Congress on Catechesis



I would prefer a thousand times over a bruised Church to an ill Church! A Church, a catechist, with the courage to risk going out, and not a catechist who is studious, who knows everything but is always closed - such a person is not well. And sometimes he or she is not well in the head...

- Address to the Participants at the International Congress on Catechesis, September 27, 2013

The strength of Peter and the other apostles strikes us all. In response to the order to be silent, no longer to teach in the name of Jesus, no longer to proclaim his message, they responded clearly: "We must obey God rather than human beings." And they remain undeterred even when flogged, ill-treated, and imprisoned. Peter and the apostles proclaim courageously, fearlessly, what they received: the Gospel of Jesus. And what about us? Are we capable of bringing the word of God in the environment in which we live? Do we know how to speak of Christ, of what he represents for us, in our families, among the people who form part of our daily lives? Faith is born from listening and is strengthened by proclamation.

- Homily for the Mass in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, April 14, 2013

For this reason, being pastors also means being prepared to walk among and behind the flock; being capable of listening to the silent tale of those who are suffering and of sustaining the steps of those who fear they may not make it; attentive to raising, to reassuring, and to instilling hope. Our faith emerges strengthened from sharing with the lowly. Let us therefore set aside every form of arrogance, to bend down to all whom the Lord has entrusted to our care.



- Homily at the profession of faith with the Bishops of the Italian Episcopal Conference, May 23, 2013