


TEACHING DOCTRINE


Making the essentials essential



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THE GOAL OF CATECHESIS:

Teaching for Conversion



How then should I teach?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essence What it is. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance The constituent elements that something what it is. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accidens Individual properties (color, size, weight etc)
<p>Froggyness</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four legs • Smooth skinned • Webbed feet • Amphibian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Color • Weight • Size • Clothes

TEACHING DOCTRINE:

In 5 Easy Steps

Premise

Essentials

Common Misunderstanding

Scriptural Basis

Related Doctrine

1) TEACH THE PREMISE:


You must teach the faith as certitudes



The Apse of San Clemente.
Used as the image for the section on the Creed in the Compendium

1) TEACH THE PREMISE:

- 1) What is the foundational truth?
- 2) What is the purpose and how does it relate to other things?
- 3) Why is this important?
 - A statement that illustrates its importance. The underlying truth is not always the definition.
 - "What"-definition "So what" = premise
 - This premise sets the tone, theme and conclusion you could wrap up with.
 - A statement that points to the purpose of the doctrine.
 - Invites people to consider a doctrine's purpose relative to other things.
 - Implies a systematic concept of doctrine, one that builds on each other, offering a clearer picture of the whole.



II) TEACH THE PREMISE:**A Little Practice never Hurts:**

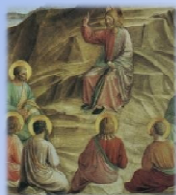
Consider the differences among the following ways of beginning a statement of truth.

- 1) "Purgatory is for souls who, at the point of death, receive from their Lord purification from the temporal effects of sin"
- 2) "The Church teaches Purgatory is for souls who, at the point of death, receive from their Lord purification from the temporal effects of sin"
- 3) "We as Catholics believe that purgatory is for souls who, at the point of death, receive from their Lord purification from the temporal effects of sin"
- 4) "Purgatory is thought to be for souls who, at the point of death, receive from their Lord purification from the temporal effects of sin"
- 5) "Some in the Church feel that purgatory is for souls who, at the point of death, receive from their Lord purification from the temporal effects of sin"
- 6) "effects of sin"



III) TEACH THE ESSENTIALS:

Direct them towards the love that never ends.



III) TEACH THE ESSENTIALS:

- 1) What are the things that you can not leave to chance that they will get on their own?
- 2) How can your witness make the truth compelling?
- 3) The Wonderful Basics
 - Teaching to how the culture might have distorted this teaching.
 - What essential elements must be taught?
 - The basics are best. They are what God wanted to say, what He wanted us to be sure about.
 - Let your passion show.
 - Building a firm foundation is always necessary.
 - 1 Corinthians 3:2
 - The truths of faith cannot remain un-incarnated
 - Make the truths you propose something compelling.



II) TEACH THE ESSENTIALS:

Oh, The Wonderful Basics

- 1) Catechesis: Public revelation that is necessary for salvation.
- 2) Theology: Reflection upon revelation.
You don't have time enough for this.
- 3) Private Revelation: Approved by the Church's magisterium.
It's place is limited.
- 4) Popular Piety: Practices that are normally good and encouraged but not essential.
They can help you in myriad of ways but are not essential for salvation.



II) TEACH THE ESSENTIALS:

A Little Practice never Hurts:

For each of the following statements, consider what mistake is being made by the catechist speaking and what they are confusing with catechesis.

- 1) "We've read in Matthew 20:18-19 that Jesus predicted his crucifixion to his disciples. As modern scholars tell us, this and similar 'prediction' texts from the gospels were put on Jesus' lips after this death to bolster the belief that he was more than a man"
- 2) "You may have heard about Mary's appearances to five young teenagers a city just south of here. There Mary told us that world events in the past ten years forewarn us of the immanent end of the world, and gave the five teenagers a really beautiful prayer that will shield you from danger. Here's a copy for you to pray."
- 3) "Here's the correct way to receive Holy Communion, genuflect just before you approach to receive the sacred Host, and receive it on your tongue. "



III) COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS:

"For we write you nothing but what you can read and understand, and I hope that you will understand completely" (2 Corinthians 1:13)



III) COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS

- 1) Consider your audience.
 - 2) Define terms.
 - 3) Don't self-project.
- You are not thinking of only what you may have misunderstood on your journey.
 - Think of the group, define words and concepts so that they can fully understand the premise.
 - Keep you audience in mind, what might they misunderstand?



III) COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS:

A Little Practice never Hurts:

Make a list of 15 common Catholic terms (not technical terms such as transubstantiation) that are likely to be unfamiliar to a non Catholic.



IV) SCRIPTURAL BASIS:

"All Scripture is inspired by God for teaching...
(2 Tim 3:16)



IV) SCRIPTURAL BASIS:

- 1) Scripture guides the the lesson vs. back it up
 - 2) All Doctrine is grounded in Sacred Scripture
 - 3) Scripture offers them a heritage. Fits them into the story.
- Properly understood all doctrine has its roots in Sacred Scripture. Scripture is part of tradition, and everything is grounded in scripture.
 - Let the scriptures have the first say, don't just use them to back you up.
 - All doctrines are not necessarily explicit in scripture but are implicit in the text. (e.g. Infant Baptism)
 - Scripture as God's word to us.



IV) SCRIPTURAL BASIS:

A Little Practice never Hurts:

Match up the scripture to the doctrine in the following tables.

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| - John 6:52-56 | ↗ | Indissolubility of Marriage |
| - James 5:14 | ↘ | Baptism |
| - Matthew 28:20 | ↗ | Celibacy |
| - John 20:22 | ↘ | Last Rites |
| - Matt 19:5-6,9 | ↗ | The True Presence of |
| - Matt 19:12 | ↘ | Christ |
| | | - Confession |



V) RELATED DOCTRINES


Teach the harmony of faith and the interconnectivity of God's revelation.



V) RELATED DOCTRINES

- 1) Building faith vs. created cafeteria Catholicism.
- 2) Lights along the path
- 3) The organic relationship of the doctrine.

- Dogmas acts as "lights along the path of faith, illuminating it and making it secure. (CCC 89)
- The Hierarchy of Truths (CCC 90)
- Teaching the faith as a harmony rather than a cacophony of disparate parts.




V) RELATED DOCTRINES:

A Little Practice never Hurts:

Consider the doctrines below and answer the following questions.


- 1) Conscience
- 2) Resurrection of the Body
- 3) The Corporal Works of Mercy

- What do you think are the four doctrines of our faith most closely related to the one above?
- Considering again these same doctrines, how do they each connect to sacred liturgy?
- Considering once more these same three doctrines, how do they each help a believer to understand the way God uses suffering to make a soul perfect?



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Teaching for Conversion



How then should I teach?



Ecclesial Method

- Preparation
- Proclamation
- Explanation
- Application
- Celebration