



Meeting Topic: **When Families and Children Don't Go to Church**
Presenter: **Therese Boucher**
Date: **15 July 2010 3:00 pm EDT**
Audio: Use computer speakers or headset or call 719-359-9722 (toll), then enter participant code 207844



PNCEA Host
Fr. Tony Krisak
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Our Presenter



Therese Boucher

- Diocese of Trenton, leader in catechetics, evangelization, and family ministry
- Author of *Evangelizing Unchurched Children*
- PETI teacher
 - Spiritual Grandparenting
 - Keys to Reaching Inactive Catholics (w/ husband John)
- personal historian
- tmfboucher@gmail.com




Overview and Prayer

- **Goal:** Overview of catechetical issues and evangelizing strategies for teaching children from inactive families, with some attention to parents, as well.

Opening Prayer:

"Lord Jesus, may the words that I speak to your children be like snow and rain, allowing your love to shower down on them. May I be grounded in your abiding compassion and convinced of your willingness to give new life, over and over again. Let the waters of their Baptism be released in their hearts. Help me, Jesus, to be an evangelizing witness to your presence, your life and your love. Amen."

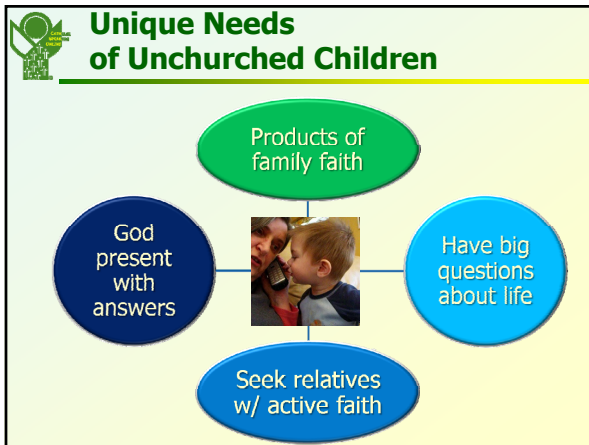


Concerns of the Catechist

How to deal with unchurched children?

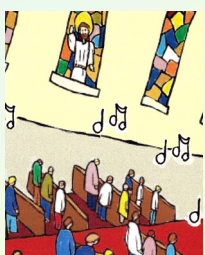
- Identify concerns
 - little experience with liturgy
 - unfamiliar with Scripture
 - inactive in parish community
 - no religious language
 - small expectations of God
 - indifferent to religious learning
- Avoid blaming
- Team teach with Jesus
- Be an evangelizer





Evangelizing Catechetical Assumptions

Little experience with liturgy



- Focus on proclaiming Good News
 - to families
 - to children
- Encourage meeting Jesus in sacraments
- Connect
 - Jesus
 - Sacraments
 - Daily life

Stirring Baptismal Waters


Being inactive in parish community



- Parents do ask for faith
 - What do you ask of the Church?
 - of God?
- Community has promised help
- Affirm gift of God's life
- Promote
 - Sign of the Cross
 - Signing of senses

Let Me Tell You about Jesus

- Living, missionary awareness of Jesus
- Bring bible stories to life
- Connect Jesus to
 - Saints
 - Our own faith stories
- Answering Jesus, who asks, "Who do you say that I am?"
- Introduce Jesus through prayer



You Did It!

Life **God** **Family** **Parish**




- Connecting
 - "refrigerator evangelists"
 - "Ask me about . . ."
- Connecting to parish and parish space
 - Pictures of liturgy or symbols/furnishings
 - Posting children's images
 - Videos (usage policy necessary, if children in videos)
 - Internet presence to family


 **Openness and Sensitivity**

- Radical openness to Holy Spirit who
 - Offers compassion
 - Changes hearts and minds in diverse ways
- Sensitivity to spiritual needs
 - Warm, intimate encounters
 - Energizing fire (dramatic)
 - "Prescribed" bonfire (welcoming)
- Holy Spirit as primary evangelizer



 **What's a Quasi-catechumen?**

- Various needs among inactive Catholics
 - Religiously indifferent
 - Need to complete initiation
 - "Quasi-catechumens"
 - "sacramentalized," but no conversion
 - need evangelistic nourishment (also seekers)
- Respond accordingly
 - Quality relationships
 - Deliberate communications
- Become a resource for families: live, online, with other ministries



 **Ministry to Families and Children**

Essential and evangelizing moments

- Act of faith: bringing children to catechesis
- "Surface" presence of Jesus
- Strategies for doubt, indifference
 - Name opportunities for relationship growth
 - Church as "hospital" for sinners
 - Welcoming/enrolling rites
- Intergenerational catechesis



Invitation to a Global Family



Shared call to holiness – with parish community and global church

Presenter's Resources

For a more expansive treatment about reaching unchurched children and families, please consider these resources.

www.christkey.com
www.catholicsevanglizer.com



Youtube offerings

- You Know Me Lord
- A Shepherd Asks, "Am I in the Bible?"
- How to Sing and Pray the Sign of the Cross

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