

Week 3: Presentation on Becoming a Catechist volunteer in your Parish

*This is an outline of a talk you might give at weekend Masses in your parish as part of the annual 3 or 4 week drive for Catechist volunteers. Note that it focuses on the positive side of volunteering and **does not stress the need** there is for catechists. You are inviting parishioners to consider being involved in work you really enjoy doing. Feel free to relate a short story from your lesson that is joyful and positive.*

After mass and on other weekends, look out and personally invite individuals, you believe suitable. Personal invitations work best.

Good morning/evening

My name is *(first name is sufficient)* and today I would like to speak to you about being a catechist in our parish. A catechist or Special Religious Education teacher is a volunteer who goes into a local state primary school class for 30 mins a week to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. In this parish we have *(Insert number e.g. 10)* catechists and we go into *(Insert number e.g. 3)* schools including *(Insert school name)* public and *(Insert school name)* public school.

I have been part of our parish SRE team *(Insert number e.g. 6 months or 5 years)* and I am here to say that it is very rewarding. The children love the Jesus stories we tell and we offer different activities to engage them.

I didn't know any of this when I started but with training and being able to observe other catechists I have learnt what to do. I appreciated the class management and the bible study part of the training too.

I look forward to *(insert SRE teaching day and time eg. Tuesday at 10am)* when I get to see the children again. I know that for some of these children I am the only person talking about the love God has for them. I believe that I am part of this parish's mission into our community and I invite you to consider volunteering your time too. I love it! This ministry is open to men and women of all ages and even if you are working or at University or TAFE you might be able to squeeze in a class once a week. Here is a short video in which Special Religious Education teachers share something of their experiences. Thank you for including the catechists in your prayers as well as the students in state schools that they teach.

After Mass I will be outside together with *(say name of other SRE(s))* to answer any questions that you might have and for you to sign up! Thank you.

Be outside before people leave the church to hand out brochures and be ready to record volunteer names & contact details.

Always contact those who have signed up within one week with details of orientation etc. and try to organise a meeting of new volunteers with parish priest and parish coordinator within a few weeks. SREs need to be outside the following week to respond to enquiries after the priest repeats the call for volunteers.

