

**Santa Clara University**  
**Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries (GPPM)**  
**CATE 220 - The Foundations and Process of Catechesis**  
**Summer 2026**

**Instructor:** Fr. James Okafor

**Email:** [jokafor@scu.edu](mailto:jokafor@scu.edu)

**Phone:** 4085008218 (Cell)

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Location:** Through Zoom

**Course Format-** Online only

**Course Description and Objectives:**

The Foundations and Process of Catechesis offers a study of the history, nature, goal (tasks), and models of catechesis. It examines catechetical renewal through the history and the catechetical models that emerged from this renewal. It will also study processes for catechesis and the implications of the processes for all age groups.

Through readings, discussions, papers and presentations, students will deepen their understanding of the nature and goals (tasks) of catechesis and how catechesis has evolved through history. The course will also offer students the opportunities to study and explore different catechetical processes as they relate to different age groups and efficient tools for catechesis in the present digital world.

**Program & Course Learning Objectives**

The GPPM Program learning objectives for the Foundation and Process of Catechesis course stipulate that, by the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Integrate core theological competencies in the chosen area of concentration (***GPPM, Objective 1.B***)
  - a. Identify the foundations of Catechesis in relation to Evangelization (Reflection Paper #1, class 2).
  - b. Develop a catechetical program based on a community you are serving or seeking to serve (Class Final Project/Paper, class 7)
2. Demonstrate a depth of practical and theoretical knowledge in their area of concentration (***GPPM, Objective 2A***).
  - a. Summarize different stages of the history of Catechesis and different practical models of Catechesis that emerge from them (Reflection Paper #2, class 4).
  - b. Develop a project that employs one of the catechetical processes that have been discussed in the class (Class Final Project/Paper, class 7).
3. Integrate the perspective of the poor and the marginalized in your reflection on theological and pastoral issues(***GPPM, Objective 4B***).

- a. Identify and reflect on the Missionary Spirit as one of the tasks of the catechesis in relation to the poor and marginalized (Reflection Paper #3, class 5).
4. Describe and address cultural differences in Christian practice (**GPPM, Objective 5B**).
    - a. Identify and reflect on the Community Life as one of the tasks of the catechesis in relation to cultural differences in Christian practice (Final Project, Reflection Paper #3, class 5).

### **How to Prepare for Class**

*Reading and Study Prior to Class:* Students are required to read before class the readings listed in the class schedule in order to participate fully during class discussions. There will be time for presentations, questions, discussions and small group work. There will be time also for clarifications regarding the next class requirements, especially with regard to papers and the final project.

### **Required Texts**

*Directory for Catechesis.* Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, 2020

Baumbach, Gerard F. *The Way of Catechesis: Exploring Our History, Renewing Our Ministry*, Ave Maria Press: Notre Dame, Indiana, 2017.

Hater, Robert J. *Common Sense Catechesis: Lessons from the Past, Road Map for the Future*, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing: Huntington, Indiana, 2014.

Roberto, John. *Lifelong Faith: Formation For All Ages And Generations*. Church Publishing: New York, 2022.

### Recommended Books:

- ❖ ***The Catechetical Documents: A Parish Resource.*** Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1996.
- ❖ ***Congregation For the Clergy. The General Directory for Catechesis.***  
[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccclergy/documents/rc\\_con\\_cca\\_theduc\\_doc\\_17041998\\_directory-for-catechesis\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccclergy/documents/rc_con_cca_theduc_doc_17041998_directory-for-catechesis_en.html)

Additional short chapters and articles will be made available in electronic format on Camino.

*Camino is the repository for all course readings that are not in the required textbooks (links appear on the Camino syllabus). Camino is also the site where you will upload your written work for this class.*

### **Course Assessment and Grading:**

Student progress in the course will be assessed based on:

Class Participation (attendance, in-class work and oral participation)-	30%
Reflection Papers (3 @ 10 points each) -	30%
Course Project/Final Paper-	25%
Class Presentations-	15%

#### ***Attendance & Participation:***

Attendance and active participation are expected at every class meeting. If an absence from a scheduled class is absolutely essential the student should contact me as soon as possible to identify the reasons for the absence and how to make up work missed. Readings and assignments should be completed as and when due. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings, share insights, raise questions and relate the readings to their pastoral and catechetical experiences. 30% of grade.

#### **Reflection Papers:**

There will be three reflection papers for this class. These papers will be integrative in style (reading, class discussion and life experience) and are designed to build toward your final project/paper. All typed papers will be due electronically on the course Camino page by 11.59 pm on the due dates (see Course Schedule) 30% of grade.

#### **Course Project-Final Paper**

The course project will involve a written (6-8 pages) of a developed catechetical program based on a community one is serving or seeking to serve. The project should employ different catechetical processes and methods that have been discussed in the class. The electronic copy of your paper (25% of grade) with the proper citations will be due in the Course Camino assignment drop box on Monday July 29<sup>th</sup> by 11.59pm

#### **Oral Presentations:**

You will have 20-25 minutes presentations on your final paper. This will be on the last day of class. Be prepared to answer questions after the presentations and to update your final paper with the feedback from the presentations. 15% of grade.

#### **Policies & Protections For You**

*Academic Integrity Policy-* The University is committed to academic excellence and integrity. Students are expected to do their own work and to cite any sources they use. A student who is guilty of a dishonest act in an examination, paper, or other work required for a course, or who assists others in such an act, may, at the discretion of the instructor, receive a grade of F for the course. In addition, a student found guilty of a dishonest act may be subject to sanctions up to and including dismissal from the University as a result

of the student judicial process as described in the Community Handbook. A student who violates copyright laws, including those covering the copying of software programs, or who knowingly alters official academic records from this or any other institution is subject to similar disciplinary action.

The Academic Integrity pledge is an expression of the University's commitment to fostering an understanding of -- and commitment to -- a culture of integrity at Santa Clara University. The Academic Integrity pledge, which applies to all students, states:  
*I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code.*

Students are expected to uphold the principles of this pledge for all work in this class. For more information about Santa Clara University's academic integrity pledge and resources about ensuring academic integrity in your work, see [www.scu.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.scu.edu/academic-integrity).

#### *Disability Accommodation Policy*

If you have a disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Disabilities Resources, Benson 216, [www.scu.edu/disabilities](http://www.scu.edu/disabilities), as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through that office, please discuss the arrangements with the professor during office hours early in the quarter.

#### *Title IX Protections*

SCU provides reasonable accommodations to students who are pregnant, have recently experienced childbirth, and/or have medical needs related to childbirth. Pregnant and parenting students can often arrange accommodations by working directly with their instructors, supervisors, or departments. Alternatively, a pregnant or parenting student experiencing related medical conditions may request accommodations through Disability Resources.

SCU has a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, domestic/dating violence or stalking, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. For more information, please consult the University's Gender-Based Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy (<http://bit.ly/2ce1hBb>) or contact the University's EEO and Title IX Coordinator, Belinda Guthrie (408.554.3043, [bguthrie@scu.edu](mailto:bguthrie@scu.edu)). Reports may be submitted online through [www.scu.edu/osl/report](http://www.scu.edu/osl/report) or anonymously through Ethics point: <https://www.scu.edu/hr/quick-links/ethicspoint/>.

### Schedule

*Before the first class, students will read:*

- ❖ Directory for Catechesis (DC), p. #11-109
- ❖ The Way of Catechesis, p. 1-10

<b>Dates/Time/Format</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings/Assignments</b>
Class #1- Monday, June 22nd, 6-9pm (3 hours)	Catechesis: Nature, Source(s) & Goal;	<u>Reading for Class #2:</u> The Way of Catechesis, p. 10-120- Reflection Paper #1- Due TBA
Class #2- Saturday- June 27th, 9am- 12pm (3 hours)	History of Catechesis: Foundations & Early Church	<u>Reading for Class #3</u> The Way of Catechesis, p. 121-172
Class #3- Monday- June 29th- 6-9pm (3 hours)	History of Catechesis: Middle Ages to Modern Era:	<u>Reading for Class #4:</u> Common Sense Catechesis, 37-196
Class #4- Monday- July 6th- 6-9pm (3 hours)	History of Catechesis: 20 <sup>th</sup> Century to the Present Tasks of Catechesis	<u>Reading for Class #5:</u> Lifelong Faith, 1-27 Reflection Paper #2
Class #5- Saturday- July 11th, 9am-12pm (3 hours)	Processes of Catechesis: Formation for All Ages & Generations	<u>Reading for Class #6</u> Lifelong Faith, 28- 59
Class #6-Monday- July 13th, 6-9pm (3 hours)	Processes of Catechesis: Formation for All Ages & Generations	<u>Reading for Class #7</u> Lifelong Faith, 60-101 Directory for Catechesis (DC), #224-281, Reflection Paper #3 Due TBA
Class #7- Monday- July 20th, 6-9pm (3 hours)	Processes of Catechesis: Formation for All Ages & Generations	<u>Reading for Class #8:</u> Lifelong Faith, 101-203 Directory for Catechesis (DC), #224-281 Reflection Paper #3 Due TBA
Class #8- Saturday- July 25th, 9am-12pm (3 hours)	Processes of Catechesis: Catechesis in the Digital Age	<u>Reading for Class #9</u> Directory for Catechesis (DC), #110-156, Reflection Paper #3 Due TBA
Class #9- Monday, July 27th, 6pm-9pm (3 hours)	The Person & Formation of the Catechists,	<u>Reading for Class #10</u> Complete Final Paper/ Project & be ready for presentations
Class #10-Monday, August 3rd, 6pm-9pm (3 hours)	Class Presentations	Final Paper due: TBA