

The Heart of the Matter Video Series

Art as tool for Catechesis by Jan Bentham

Theme:

Artistic expression and appreciation give us a wonderful place to begin catechetical discovery and learning. The intersection of artistic expression and appreciation can become a place where we meet the sacred in concrete ways.

Welcome and Pre-Video Activity:

- Create space where participants can easily interact with one another (a semicircle?).
- Offer a strong welcome that expresses appreciation for the gifts each person brings to the gathering
- As you begin, you may want to share the following prayer:

Creator God,

You have blessed us to see the beauty that surrounds us and you have gifted us with talents to respond. Give us eyes of the heart that we may recognize your sacred presence in the creative process and in our artistic expression. Help us to encourage new ways of seeing in our approach to catechesis.

We ask this in the name of your Son.

Amen

Introducing the Video:

This video seeks to explore how Fine Art and an appreciation for the Arts can enhance our approach to catechesis and religious learning.

As you progress through the content of the slides and the video, consider your own approach to catechesis and the way you may want to explore incorporating the Arts into your teaching. Also, reflect upon the six tasks of catechesis and how they are accomplished with an artistic approach.

The Heart of the Matter:

The Learning Goals of this video are as follows:

- We will become familiar with the six tasks of catechesis.
- We will explore biblical narratives and how they are depicted in Fine Art, as well as how they elicit a response from us as we look deeper into the meaning and history.
- We will see how integrating arts appreciation can support the tasks of catechesis from concrete examples.

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Learning Activities - Engaging the Heart:

Read the passage of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38)

Consider the approach of the three-part lesson:

- o Access prior knowledge. What do we know about the Annunciation? What happens in this event?
- o Activation: Let's read the scripture passage together.
- o Let's look at some paintings of this gospel passage. What are the differences in each artist's image? What is emphasized? How is colour used?

Present a culminating activity about the Annunciation. It could take the form of a Liturgy of the Word with dramatic interpretation included.

Review - Gathering the Learning:

The book, "Praying in Colour," gives us an example of how doodling can be used as a prayer form or response to scripture.

Distribute small squares of card stock and ask the participants to draw an image that is their personal response to this learning experience and the Annunciation passage.

Closing:

"I Heard a Bird Sing' by Oliver Hereford

I heard a bird sing in the dark of December

a magical thing and sweet to remember

We are nearer to spring than we were in September

I heard a bird sing in the dark of December

How does this poem speak to you of a journey in faith?

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE HEART OF THE MATTER VIDEO](#)

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Resources:

'I Heard a Bird Sing' by Oliver Hereford

'Art' by Patrick McDonnell (child's read aloud)

Google images of Fine Art and biblical narratives.

Sybil Macbeth, '*Praying in Colour*'