

## **God's Grace: Tying Scripture and the Four Pillars Together**

### *A Narrative Approach to Catechesis*

Overarching Theme:

*God's burning love and desire to be united with humanity.*

From the *General Directory for Catechesis*:

GDC #37. The "providential plan" (75) of the Father, fully revealed in Jesus Christ, is realized by the power of the Holy Spirit. This implies:

- the Revelation of God, of his "innermost truth", (76) of his "secret", (77) of the true vocation and dignity of the human person; (78)
- the offer of salvation to all men, as a gift of God's grace and mercy, (79) which implies freedom from evil, sin and death; (80)
- the definitive call to gather into the family of God all of his scattered children, thus realizing a fraternal union amongst men. (81)

Catechetical Overarching Question:

*How do we respond to God's grace, His invitation to union with Him?*

Catechesis as formation to respond to grace: From the glossary of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Grace:

GRACE: The free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become his adopted children. As sanctifying grace, God shares his divine life and friendship with us in a habitual gift, a stable and supernatural disposition that enables the soul to live with God, to act by his love. As actual grace, God gives us the help to conform our lives to his will. Sacramental grace and special graces (charisms, the grace of one's state of life) are gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us live out our Christian vocation (1996, 2000; cf. 654).

How 'grace' builds upon and connects the catechist formation courses:

ESS 101/Divine Revelation

- Our creation in grace
- The loss of grace and blessing
- God's beginning to restore grace
- Our inability to restore grace on our own power

ESS102/Foundations of Salvation History

- Preparation for the response/grace

ESS 103/Life of Christ

- Christ: God's response to sin and our source/model of grace

ESS 104/Christ and His Mission

- The Holy Spirit and the transformation of the disciple into a temple of grace
- The Church: Christ's instrument of grace and salvation in the world

ESS 105/Celebration of the Christian Mystery

- The Liturgy – the source of Christ's saving grace in the world

ESS 106/Foundation of the Life in Christ

- The moral life as the living of the life of grace

ESS 107/Love Your Neighbour

- The transformation of the world through the grace of Christ

ESS 108/Prayer

- The interior working with grace in our individual lives
- The transformative process of becoming a mediator of grace