

**SCRIPTURE QUOTE
TO MEMORISE:**

Give a lad
training
suitable to his
character and
even when
old, he will
not go back
on it

(Proverbs 22:6)

**SCRIPTURE
of the DAY**

Zephaniah 2: 3, 3:
12-13;

Psalms 145: 6-10;

1 Corinthian 1: 26-31;

Matthews 5: 1-12.



Published by:
Peninsular Malaysia
Pastoral Team

Email: api@archkl.org

INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY

BUL 05/2023

In the Church, our catechism classes are filled with youngsters, many of whom are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. Often, the enrolment drops dramatically in the ensuing years. And after Confirmation, many young people do not return to church.

Why don't they come back? Why do so few remain in the Church or are regularly involved in service projects or youth groups? Perhaps with our catechism classes, faith formation and youth programs, Bible camps, retreats and rallies for young people, we may have, unfortunately, communicated to families, and especially to parents, that the best thing they can do for their children is to "drop them off" at church, and we, the parish priests, catechists and others will make disciples out of them.

However, our disciple-making efforts seem to yield fewer positive results than we had hoped for. This makes us conclude that families and parents are not doing their part. Or could it be that we have conditioned them to "behave" in this way? It is time to raise the bar in our commitment to challenge and support families in their faith-building efforts and for families to make a stronger commitment to explore faith at home. We need to shift the paradigm of household faith growth from something viewed as optional and hoped-for to something that is expected; from extraordinary to ordinary.

Ultimately, **renewal in the Church is the work of God.**

However, He works through us. The privilege and the challenge belong to us. We need to be watchful, firm in faith, courageous, and strong, (cf. 1 Cor 16:13-14). "Renewing the Church with Families of Faith" can only be realised if the definitive aim of catechesis be actualised by putting "people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Spirit" (*Catechesi Tradendae* 5). ✠

29 JANUARY 2023
(Catechetical Sunday)

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

MONTHLY FOCUS: **EDUCATION**

Renewing the Church with Families of Faith

These days, the challenges and realities facing modern families make it difficult for them to intentionally grow in faith. Societal and cultural trends point toward individualism, atheism, pluralism, and instant gratification, all of which challenges the Christian family.

