

## Outings/Speakers to Enhance Catechesis

Speakers can be brought into your classroom, but outings into the “classroom” of the real world provide added blessings. It will be vital for you to share goals and suggestions with the speakers well ahead of time. Before the presentation, have students think of and write down questions they would like to ask on the topic. This will heighten their attention to the speaker.

Involving parents, congregational members, and people from the community as presenters and speakers will help students understand the important Biblical teaching of vocation and can be a wonderful way for adults to contribute toward the church’s ministry for the youth. Some speakers might most easily present via “Zoom”, (i.e. a Bible Translator, Seminary Professor).

Part of Catechism	Outing / Speaker	Emphasis	Possible Points
Commandment 1	Sanctuary	Have students look for all the symbols of the Triune God. How is He different from all other gods?	In love, our God creates, becomes Man to redeem us, and by His Spirit works faith in us and indwells us.
Commandment 2	Member’s Home	Have a member speak of the dangers of Ouija boards, astrology, or games associated with occultism/violence.	Our thoughts and words are to be directed to God and that which is good, right, pure, and praise-worthy.
Commandment 3	Nursing Home or Home for Elderly	Have students help plan and lead a short devotional service for residents, with readings, singing, devotional truths, etc.	We treasure God’s word and time to receive its blessings in worship.
Commandment 4	Police Station	Have an officer speak about the blessings of authority and why authority is needed in our lives.	Authority is God’s gift - a way He extend protection and blessings to everyone.
Commandment 5	Christian Ministry to Pregnant Women or Elementary School	Have a staff member speak of the value of life from womb to tomb and how they assist pregnant women and counsel against abortion OR A Principle/Teacher could speak of the damaging effects of bullying, violent video games, etc.	All life is precious. It is so easy to “murder” people in their spirit by having a bad attitude toward them or saying evil things to or about them.
Commandment 6	Elderly Couple’s Home	Have them share what is most important in a spouse, also God’s role and other keys to their remaining faithfulness to each other, perhaps showing wedding, anniversaries celebrations, etc. photos.	God’s gift of marriage is a wonderful blessing, but whom we marry is important as well as having Christ in the middle the relationship.
Commandment 7	Local Business or Family desiring/needing project help	Get permission to have students pick-up trash in their parking lot. OR Volunteer to help someone with needed home/yard work.	There are many ways we can help people “improve and protect their possessions and income.”
Commandment 8	Courtroom	Have a lawyer or judge speak about the importance of truth, especially as it relates to people’s reputations	A bad reputation is a very difficult thing to deal with and repair.
Commandments 9 & 10	Estate or Divorce Lawyer or Someone who has spent time in jail for a crime that began with coveting	Have the lawyer speak about how easy it is for family relationships to be damaged, which often begins with coveting. OR Have the (repentant) ex-inmate relate his story and warn against coveting	God wants us to be content, and we will avoid much trouble as we think and live in that way.
Close of Commandments	Artist’s Workshop  Sanctuary	Have an artist show and tell the artistic beauty of their work. Back at the church, talk about how artistic beauty reflects the beauty of the God we worship, perhaps pointing out banners, crucifix, candle holders, fine communion ware, stained glass windows, wood-carved altar, etc.	God is beautiful in His grace toward us, in His ministry among us, and in the way in which He has asked us to live in relation to Him and to one another.

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First Article Apostles’ Creed (part 1)	Ophthalmologist or Otolaryngologist or Neuroscientist or Kinesiologist or Psychologist	Have the doctor explain the wonders of how God created the eye or ear or brain or muscle system. A psychologist might emphasize the blessings of a balance of good variety in life (limiting screen time, good exercise, healthy eating, serving others, etc.)	I am fearfully and wonderfully created.
First Article Apostles’ Creed (part 2)	Carpenter OR  Member with a strong faith who suffers from an ongoing physical affliction	Tour his job site. Have him speak of the benefit of shelter that lasts generation to generation.  Have the person speak of their affliction and how it has impacted their life. Have them share how they are trusting God in the midst of the affliction and commending themselves to God and His good purposes.	God provides by working in and through His creation.  God’s purpose for suffering, why some experience it more than others, remains hidden in God. We can rejoice that Christ is with us in suffering and will one day end it all.
First Article Apostles’ Creed (part 3)	Hymn/Song Writer OR  Conservationists Bee-Keeper	Have the person speak of the art and joy of writing a song of praise and thanksgiving to God.  The person could speak of how their work helps care for the earth.	Our very lives and everything created is an undeserved gift from God which we are to care for and for which we are to thank, praise, and serve Him.
Second Article Apostles’ Creed (part 1)	Blacksmith or Farrier  OR Artist who draws or paints Bible scenes	Have the person show how fire and heat permeate iron and making it adaptable for many purposes.  Have them speak of the joy of being able to draw/paint our “invisible” God because He became Man. Have them tell or show how they have/would depict the transfiguration.	The human nature of Jesus was permeated by God’s divine nature that Christ might fulfill God’s saving purpose.  God’s becoming man showed the uniqueness of the true God and His great love for mankind.
Second Article Apostles’ Creed (part 2)	Parks Ranger, Pool Lifeguard, Rescue Personnel OR Hematologist	The person may tell of rescuing lost individuals.  Have the hematologist explain the wonders of blood and its vital role in life	We are all utterly lost in sin.  “The life of the flesh is in the blood”, and Jesus shed His blood to redeem us.
Second Article Apostles’ Creed (part 3)	Emergency Responder or Mortician + (also Article 3-pt3)	Have them discuss how a dead person has a total absence of life (maybe the challenge of handling a dead person) and that their body immediately begins to decay or return to “dust”.	Christ’s body did not see decay but was raised glorious. In the resurrection, we too will be given glorious bodies.
Third Article Apostles’ Creed (part 1)	Blind Person  OR Someone involved with purification processes (i.e. emergency room nurse, people involved with air, water, food, silicon for semiconductors, etc.)	Have them speak of what it is like to be blind, including how they cannot know on their own, when approaching someone new, whether that person is friend or foe.  Have the person speak about what they do to purify and sustain the purity of their environment or material, and how contaminants would create problems.	On our own, we are blind as to who God is, what He’s done for us, and whether He is friend or foe. Thus, we actively resist going to Him.  The Holy Spirit brings us into union with the pure, saving life of our Savior, and continues to sustain and purify our lives that we might be a blessing as we live for His sake.

Third Article Apostles' Creed (part 2)	Mature Member ++ (also Conf/Absol)  Any Member, perhaps one who was once part of a false religion	Someone who knows the great comfort of being forgiven of a "big" public sin, but also conveys the great relief of all sins forgiven, "big", "small", even "hidden" ones.  Have them share how communion with God's people brings blessings beyond any false religions or earthly organizations.	For Christ's sake, God daily and richly forgives my sins and the sins of all believers, even our hidden faults (Ps 19:12).  God's Spirit brings us to the saving truth of Christ and binds us together as an eternal family.
Third Article Apostles' Creed (part 3)	Elderly Member with a strong faith who knows they are near life's end  Also + (see above)	Have them speak about their increased anticipation of a new glorified body and going to be with Jesus.	As Christians we can look at death as a portal to the life God originally intended for us.

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The Lord' Prayer (introduction) "Our Father"	Mature Member who did not have a good earthly father  Nurses' Station	Have them speak of how, in spite of their earthly father, they have come to see God as their perfect Father, and have forgiven their earthly father.  Have the nurse explain how the well-being of each patient is monitored.	God is the only perfect Father that any of us have.  God monitors everything in the universe, even the impulses that make up your thoughts. That is why He is our Father.
The Lord' Prayer (first petition) "Hallowed"	Seminary Professor	Have them speak of the importance of rightly interpreting God's Word.	God's name is hallowed when we teach His Word correctly and live according to it.
The Lord' Prayer (second petition) "kingdom come"	Bible Translator	Have them speak of the importance and joy of translating God's Word into a new language and of prayer support for the work.	God's kingdom coming includes bringing His Word to all people everywhere.
The Lord' Prayer (third petition) "will be done"	Person who formerly opposed Christianity	Have the person tell how they actively worked against God's will, but then how the Gospel brought them to faith and working for Christ.	God breaks all our sinful, selfish wills to receive our Savior and value His will for our lives.
The Lord' Prayer (fourth petition) "daily bread"	Farm or Orchard  OR  Public Official	Have the owner/workers share the many things involved in the process (with animals or crops) to provide food or bring about a harvest.  Have them speak of the value and blessing of good government that works for the welfare of all citizens.	God makes things grow and provides daily food by working in and through His creation.  Without the protection of good government, problems abound.
The Lord' Prayer (fifth petition) "forgive us"	Jail Officer or Someone who has been in jail/prison	Have them describe what it is/was like to be captive to that place and to long to be free.	Not forgiving others holds us captive to the offense we continue to hold against them.

The Lord' Prayer (sixth petition) "temptation"	Mature Member	The person should be willing to humbly confess (perhaps without exactly naming what) that a certain temptation is strong for him/her and then share what has helped them resist.	We all face temptations. God tells us to pray in the midst of them and to build hedges or flee from those strongest for us.
The Lord' Prayer (seventh petition) "deliver from evil"	Mature Member	Someone who has experienced many evils in life yet remains faithful in trusting God both now and for an evil-free forever.	God promises to be with us, and even to be at work, in the midst of evil; and eventually to end it.
The Lord' Prayer (conclusion)	Prayer Chain Leader	Have them speak of the privilege of prayer, the value of intercessory prayer, and the confidence we can have in our gracious heavenly Father's power to answer our prayers in the best way.	Our heavenly Father bids us to pray about all of life, and He is wise and powerful to answer as is best for us.

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Baptism (Nature)	Member who struggled with identity until they found it in baptism OR	Have the person share their story, including how God's adoption of them in baptism finally brought them peace and ended their vain searching elsewhere.	To be a child of the God of the universe is the greatest privilege anyone can have.
	Midwife or "Delivery Doctor"	Have them share the joy of being involved in bringing new lives into the world.	God's Church rejoices to -share God's Word and Baptism to bring about new spiritual life.
Baptism (Blessings)	Mature Member who now knows that one baptism was enough OR	This person may have come from another denomination that baptizes more than once. Have them tell their story, including how God helped them see Baptism as His saving work.	Baptism is God's work, not ours, and He gives us all His salvation blessings in our first baptism.
	Plant Nursery	Have a person talk about their work with germinating seeds, including the life-inherent wonder of seeds; man can't create even one.	For believers, both God's Word and Baptism are "seeds" of God's life-inherent saving promise sprouted/growing in our hearts.
Baptism (Power)	Adoption Agency Personnel	Have them share how the new parent's signatures make the adoption of their child legal and binding	Baptism is like God signing my adoption papers binding me in Christ as His own child forever.
Baptism (Indications)	Military Soldier / Veteran / Chaplain	Have them speak of the realities of battle and the advantage of the right focus and weapons	Being baptized as God's child enters us into a battle – our old sinful nature against our new nature in Christ. Focusing on or remembering all that God gives us in Baptism gives us a strong weapon for the battle.
	Sanctuary gathered around the font	Review the lessons on Baptism. Field any questions. Speak of the value of daily <i>remembrance</i> of Baptism. Perhaps invite all to dip their fingers into the water and make the sign of the cross over themselves.	

Confession	Alzheimer's Unit Also ++ (see above)	Have a Nurse explain the basic problem of Alzheimer's – that of forgetting, with its potential harm to the individual or others. Visit and converse with some of the residences, noting whether they display forgetfulness.	God does not have Alzheimer's but, because Jesus paid for all sin, God chooses to remember them no more. He forgives rather than hold them against us.
Office of the Keys	Courtroom	Have a judge talk about his authority to set individuals free or to confine them to prison. Perhaps he could speak of how he needs to act not based on his own emotions but on what is true and right under the authority he's been vested with.	God gives His Church authority to announce forgiveness – to repentant sinners and to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.
Sacrament of Altar (Nature)	Physicist	Have them talk about mysteries that cannot be explained, such as the precision of the laws of nature, even though there is no inherent reason for them to be precise.	God's power is beyond us; and Christ can unite His body and blood to bread and wine, for He is omnipotent and omnipresent.
Sacrament of Altar (Benefit)	Telecommunication Personnel	Have the person talk about the various ways that data can be brought to us.	God's means of grace all bring us forgiveness, life and salvation.
Sacrament of Altar (Power)	Business Owner	Have them talk about the authority of their word and where that is seen in their business.	Christ's Word is authoritative to give what it promises.
Sacrament of Altar (Worthy Reception)	Soup Kitchen or Homeless Shelter	Have the Manger talk about their work of mercy, explaining also that their gracious invitation is to all who see a need for help – and how this help keep people from feeling unworthy of the help they receive.	God desires to bring forgiveness to sinners. His gracious invitation to come to Christ as we are brings us to see our great need and trust His Word of forgiveness; and this makes us worthy before Him to receive His precious gifts.

Note: I would like to add other good suggestions to this list. I welcome you to share any that you have with me.  
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