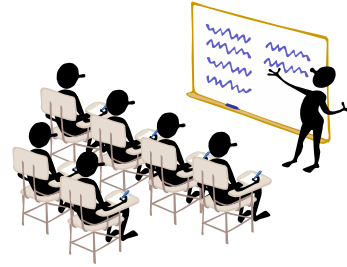


DESCRIPTIONS of TOPICS

(useful for creating on-site advertisement)



Topics can be adapted to

- keynote presentation
- half-day in-service
- full day inservice

The core issues in Formative Education are recommended in this order:

1. Development of Self-Esteem / Soul Formation / Positive Identity
2. Understanding Needs and Behavior / Fostering Self-Discipline
3. Conscience / Character Formation / Moral Development

ABOUT THE PRESENTER:

Dr. Patricia M. McCormack, IHM is an international formation-education consultant who focuses on the whole-person development of children. Her practical experience in education includes both classroom and administration experience at the elementary, secondary, and college levels. In addition to a bachelor's degree in theology and sociology and a master's degree in K-8 education, she holds a doctorate in private school administration. Currently, Dr. McCormack is director of the IHM Office of Formative Support for Parents and Teachers, Arlington, VA. She is the author of the "Parent Partnership Handbook" feature of *Today's Catholic Teacher* magazine, numerous articles, and several books. Books and CDs will be available for sale.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teachers & Catechists

Catholic Schools - Agencies of Formation Education

Providing foundation for the lifelong process of soul formation is the primary responsibility of parents and the mission of the Catholic school. Parents and teachers contribute vitally to the soul formation of a child when they communicated genuine affection and foster development of security, autonomy, initiative and industry. This presentation will lead K-8 teachers to identify practices of home and school that foster identity formation and positive self-esteem.

Partnering WITH Parents

Mutual respect and open communication between parents and teachers is vital for the positive, whole-person development of children. Respectful assertiveness is also characteristic of disciples of Jesus. *WITH* (*wisdom, initiative, truth, hope*) suggests a formula for a positive partnership. Teacher goals include:

- Adopt a Pro-Active Perspective.
- Safeguard Personal Boundaries.
- “Read” and “Feed” Parent Hungers.
- Speak the truth in love.
- Demonstrate an “A Plus” Approach.
- Facilitate Hope.

Misbehavior? Name It, Claim It, Tame It, Or Prevent It from the “Get-Go.”

Often forethought nips behavioral problems before they bud. Proactive teachers think ahead, identify predictable glitches, make time for advance organization and preparation, establish routine, and generally structure the classroom environment for efficiency. Proactive teachers use effective communication skills, develop a positive style of authority, know how to connect needs and behaviors, apply skills to avoid and/or redirect misbehavior, practice encouragement and use consequences rather than punishment. This gargantuan task is the vocation of the Catholic School Teacher. These dynamics of self-discipline are learnable skills and they are the focus of the presentation.

Thrive versus. Survive- A Gospel Imperative

“THRIVE rather than merely survive!” is the goal of effective teachers. **T-H-R-I-V-E** requires that we **TEACH** more than proctor; **HONE** teaching skills; **RESPOND** rather than react; **INTEGRATE** Gospel values; Model **VIRTUE**; and **EVANGELIZE** by being intentional, invitational, and inspirational. This presentation will provide practical support for this process.

***Middle School Teaching -
Not for the Faint of Heart!***

OR

It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's a Middle School Teacher

Be affirmed and stretched by discussing the social, cognitive, moral, and spiritual and sexual profile of “tween-stagers,” the characteristics of effective middle school teachers, and the challenges peculiar to this stage of life. Take heart! There is life after adolescence and joy in the journey.

The Secret to Classroom Management? T.E.A.C.H.

Effective teachers **T.E.A.C.H.** to establish and maintain a positive learning environment. They **TEACH** more than proctor, **ENGAGE** students, **APPLY** developmental psychology, **CREATE** a sense of community and **HARVEST** hope within students, particularly those most at risk. Educators will benefit greatly from the spiritual, theoretical, practical, & motivational support available in this presentation. Extended support is available in the NCEA book, *Student Self-Discipline in the Classroom and Beyond*.

***Catechists and Student Discipline -
A Six-Step Approach***

Make the most effective use of time within the Religious Education class by structuring for success. Participants will consider a six-step approach, each supported by tried and true practices:

- Step 1: Structure for success via Classroom Management and Student Motivation
- Step 2: Know your leadership style.
- Step 3: Cultivate a developmental understanding of children.
- Step 4: “Read” human need.
- Step 5: Establish proactive practices & effective consequences.
- Step 6: Partner with parents.

A Catholic School Teacher - The “I” in Evangelize

OR

The ABCs of Catholic Identity

Evangelization, that is, leading students and parents to meet the person of Jesus Christ, is core to the identity of the Catholic School. It is a mission that transcends curriculum and schedules. Whether in the classroom, on a field trip, or in the health office, what we do and the way that we do it speaks more effectively than our words. The presenter will expand these ideas and issue the challenge to *LIVE the ABC's of Catholic Identity* so as to *BE the “I” in Evangelize!*

- A- Accentuate Gospel Values*
- B- Build Bridges to Evangelization*
- C- Create a Culture of Community*

The Sacramentality of Catholic Educators

A truly Catholic educator is like a sacrament: *a visible sign, called by Christ, to be a catalyst of grace* — the presence of God to others. Enter into a period of reflection on the Presence, Power and Providence of God in your life. Christ calls you to be a **STEWARD** of Souls, that is, a **Servant, Transformational Leader, Evangelizer, Welcomer, Affirmer, Referee, and Defender** of the Gospel.

***Promoting Christian Character via a Liturgical
Classroom Environment***

Fall initiates a new year in the lives of students and simultaneously marks the closing of the liturgical year. To a catechist/teacher, the intersection of the two life-seasons presents an opportunity for Christian character development. This session will offer strategies for applying the Sunday Gospel to daily life and for establishing a liturgical culture within the classroom.

Catechesis for Christian Character

Character, *the distinguishing feature of personality and behavior that persists, regardless of outside pressure or personal temptation*, is both taught and caught! Character development begins at home and progresses by developing habits of mind, heart and action that lead to moral maturity.

Core issues included in this presentation are:

- Knowing the good (Reasoning Skills)
- Desiring the good (Emotional Skills)
- Doing the good (Decision-making Skills)
- Objective Criteria of Christian Character
- Overview of Moral Maturity through Ages & Stages

Structure for Success — Tips that replace SURVIVE with THRIVE

Make the most effective use of time within a class session (*or the weekly Religious Education Program*) by structuring for success. Session participants will consider “housekeeping” tips, grouping activities, classroom routines, student behavior, teaching procedures, and ways to organize the classroom environment for success.

Teacher as Compass: “True North” for Teens (Audience: High School Teachers)

An effective teacher of teens serves as mentor, mirror, and model. During a time of searching and role confusion, teens need a teacher who will be “true north” for them. This presentation reviews the core elements of teen-stage development and the characteristics of effective high school teachers:

- Developmental Tasks of Adolescence
- Pre-teen Foundation for Identity Formation
- Characteristics of High School Teens
- A “textbook profile” of Teen Adolescent Development (Emotional, Cognitive, Moral, Spiritual, Relational)
- Characteristics of Effective High School Teachers

Catholic Schools - Our Mission to Form Saints

It is the vocation of the Catholic School Teacher to form saints. This awesome responsibility requires the teacher to live well the baptismal call to be PRIEST, PROPHET, and KING – in the classroom, on the playground, and during informal encounters. This presentation will “unpack” these terms and suggest concrete applications that integrate the Gospel throughout the school day.