**Share the Good News – National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland**

***Overview relevant to Post-Primary Schools***

Based on *General Directory for Catechesis* (1997) – it called for local directories (GCD 1)

Aim: To provide a framework and set down principles for the presenting the Gospel in Ireland. *Directory* – literally – sets the direction.

A ten year plan for reforming catechesis: shift from school-led to family and parish basis: strength of school has led to underdevelopment of other two “legs”. (Section D outlines how the change will be brought about).

**Section A: The Irish Context:**

The visit of John Paul II in 1979 saw an extraordinary outpouring of what it meant to be part of Christian community in Ireland. That value of community is now under threat. “Faith in today’s secularised world will always need community to sustain it. Community will not just be one uniform institution, but a community of communities.” (p. 36). The 2012 Eucharistic Congress as an opportunity to renew a sense of national Christian community.

**Section B – Understanding the Good News:**

**Chapter 2: Evangelisation, Catechesis and Religious Education**

Evangelisation is not “tele-evangelism” and not “preaching at” people. It is a real sharing of the Good News, leading people towards encounter with Christ. How to do that?

Six Evangelisation Moments

1. Initial Proclamation: involves *pre-evangelisation* – through awakening the search for meaning.

2. Christian Initiation: RCIA

3. Catechesis. A maturing of the initial faith encounter: it is *faith development.* GCD sees it in terms of six tasks pars.85-86:

- teaching knowledge of the faith - liturgical education.

- moral formation. - teaching to pray

- educating for community life - missionary initiation.

4. Religious Education (contributes to catechesis) helps people to develop religious skills (cf. p.151)

5. New Evangelisation: Reintroducing God for those who have lost their sense of the faith.

6. Theological Reflection: for those already committed to the faith.

**Chapter 3: Our Faith: the Gospel Alive**

A summary of what the faith is. We need to understand our faith before we can share it.

**Section C: Sharing the Good News**

**Chapter 4: Adult Faith Development**

Catechesis supports adults’ faith in the first place

**Chapter 5: Sharing Our Faith with the Young**

Presenting the Gospel to Adolescents: pp. 148-154

Young People are active participants in their own religious development (GDC par.183)

Adolescence is a time of change; identity search. It is normal and good for them to challenge.

150-151: Adapt RE to where young people are: pre-evangelisation; evangelisation; support.

152 – Support especially needed in post-Confirmation years: role of parish and school groups.

Religious Education of Adolescents: pp.154-159

JCRE and LCRE designed for people of every faith or none – a Catholic school will give priority to knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes based on the Catholic faith. These syllabi are “useful tools for religious education and faith formation of Catholic students.” (p.155)

The State syllabi have broad aims (including “moral and spiritual formation”) and seek the student’s encounter with living faiths. The teaching of RE should conform to the school’s “characteristic spirit.” (Education Act, par. 15) The Department of Education does not view RE as an impartial “religious studies” course.

156 – Timetabling RE; Role of the DA 157 – Role of the Trustees

158 – Transition Year: learning by doing; possibility of pastoral activities; accreditation by DA.

159 – Facilitating the discernment of vocations.

**Chapter 6: Reaching Out in Christ’s Love to All: special concern for those at the margins.**

**Section D: Supporting the Good News: How the Directory will be Implemented**

The role of the diocesan Faith Development Director.

pp.204-210: Indicators of Achievement in Schools.

p.215: The need for qualified RE teachers.