



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

September 8, 2016
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Year of Mercy

Dear Catechist:

This is the eighth time that, as your archbishop and fellow catechist, I am writing to say thank you for who you are and what you do to pass on the faith to our young people with excellence and devotion. Words seem inadequate to express my gratitude, but let me try.

You bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to children, youth, and, very importantly, their families.

This year's *Catechetical Sunday* theme is "Prayer: The Faith Prayed." And, I cannot think of a better antidote to the troubles of our world than prayer. You, as a catechist, administer that antidote. You are often the one who enables young children to pray together the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary. You are the one who teaches them about the greatest of all prayers, Holy Mass. You prepare them for First Penance, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Very importantly, through your family catechesis sessions, you awaken in parents the desire to make their homes houses of prayer and affirmations of our Catholic faith.

Know that I will be thinking of you and giving prayerful thanks for you on *Catechetical Sunday*, September 18.

With prayerful best wishes, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York