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MOST REVEREND
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

September 2, 2013

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each year, on the third weekend of September parishes nationwide celebrate Catechetical Sunday to highlight the importance of the catechetical ministry. We are all given the responsibility of sharing our faith with others, but on the weekend of September 14-15, 2013, we recognize the many faithful who have chosen to share their faith as catechists in their parishes.

This year's theme for Catechetical Sunday is taken from the apostolic letter issued by Pope Benedict XVI to mark the Year of Faith. Pope Benedict wrote: "To enter through that door (of faith) is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime."

We are all challenged to heed these words, to open the doors of our hearts and to make our faith visible to others.

Mindful of my role as chief catechist of the Diocese of Norwich, I want to express my deep gratitude for the many and varied ways catechists assist me in proclaiming the Word of God and sharing faith with the children and adults of our Diocese.

Of course, catechists do not carry out their ministry in isolation. We must keep in mind that parents are the primary educators of their children. Our parish faith formation programs exist only to support parents in their responsibility of instilling faith in their children.

As the catechetical year begins, it is my prayer that our parish communities will come together to show gratitude to catechists and to support parents and families. Then we will, indeed, walk together on a lifetime journey of faith and hope. Catechesis is a life-long pursuit. We can never fully know or understand God, nor exhaust God's riches.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich