TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR CATECHISTS

The following "commandments" offer a challenge to all catechists to keep in touch with God, to be informed, and to be open to the truth.

1 I, the Lord am God who brought you into being. As catechists, you will have as your primary purpose to arouse a conscious and active faith among my children through your instruction.

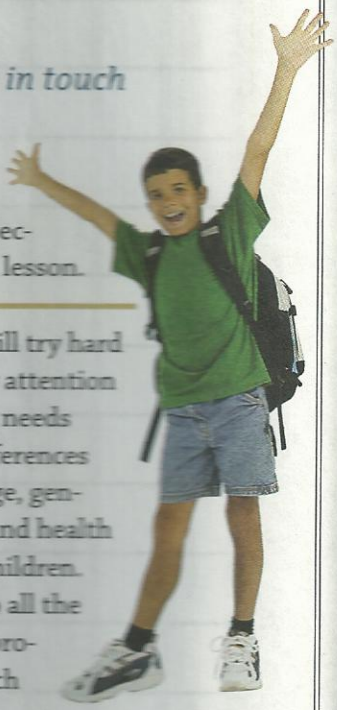
2 Never try to carry out this duty without keeping your intimate relationship with me through constant and genuine prayer: your work draws support and direction from your relationship with me.

3 You will always seek training, so that you may always teach what is true and right and never teach false doctrines.

4 You will invite and encourage the involvement of parents because the home is the first and most basic catechetical setting.

5 You will also seek the involvement of the community of believers, for the parish provides a welcoming and supportive environment for your catechesis.

6 You will always try to follow a catechetical plan of action and orientation to determine the objectives of each lesson.



7 You will try hard to pay attention to the needs posed by differences of culture, age, gender, status, and health among my children. Be flexible to all the methods appropriate for such needs.

8 When you teach, be not a lecturer but a "midwife," one who brings to birth the seed of faith I have planted in my children. Only then can you teach them the faith.

9 You will remember to take some time off to revisit and improve your skills (ongoing formation), so you can be an effective catechist all of the time.

10 You will always evaluate your ministry, for this helps you to check achievements, as well as failures, and to improve and grow.

ADAPTED WITH PERMISSION FROM **DAVID NWANZE**