

Echoes of Faith Plus: *How Do I Use the Bonus Interviews?*

By Jo Rotunno

As I've traveled around the country the past few months, a number of DREs have asked me about the bonus interviews included on the DVDs for the new *Echoes Plus* modules. Instructions for their use will be included in the Director's Manual, scheduled for completion next spring. In the meantime, here is some background on the interviews and how to use them.

Each interview can provide the basis for an enrichment session one to two hours in length. Over the past two years, we have conducted video interviews with thirty catechetical and theological experts on topics related to the module themes. The interviews appear as two 15–30 minute bonus features on each DVD, but not the CD-Rom. The CD-Rom has less space available, and on some modules the bonus interviews double the length of the video content.

Among the experts interviewed, Dr. Tom Groome provided us with a master interview that we edited into three half-hour segments, one for each of the three DVD's in the Catechist series. Amy Florian, a well-known workshop presenter, spoke on topics related to ritual prayer in the classroom. Her interview was used in a new fourth segment on the Methodology modules, with additional material becoming a bonus interview on all four modules. Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski provided material for two separate bonus interviews: new trends in catechesis, which appears in the Catechist series, and media in catechesis, used in the Adult Faith Formation module.

Presenters on the theology bonus interviews include Dr. Margaret Ralph on biblical interpretation, Fr. Bryan Massingale on Catholic social teaching, Fr. Ron Rolheiser on prayer and spirituality, Sr. Catherine Dooley and Sr. Linda Gaupin on liturgy and sacraments, and Fr. Bert Buby on Marian theology.

Each interview is divided into four to six subtopics that can be viewed separately or continuously. A summary screen concludes each of the subtopics. If you are interested in using one of these interviews in the winter or spring before the Director's Manual is completed, here is a simple format you could use:

Bonus Interview Enrichment Session

1. **Prayer.** Open the session with a brief prayer asking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Invitation.** Invite the participants to reflect on a life experience question related to the interview theme. For example, for the bonus interview from the Roles of the Catechist module where Tom Groome reflects on the six tasks of catechesis, you could begin by asking participants to describe aspects of their own catechetical roles. Map their responses on newsprint or a white board.

3. **Watch the Interview.** Show the interview to the participants. Be sure you have previewed the interview ahead of time. Decide whether or not you wish to show the interview in its entirety or in segments. (The total length of each interview is noted on the front of each DVD disk.) You may wish to show longer interviews in sections, perhaps one or two parts at a time.
4. **Discuss the Video.** Invite participants to share their thoughts on the interview content. Ask a few specific questions to guide their reflection. For example, in the case of the Groome interview, you might ask: *What insights did you gain about your catechetical role as you watched this video? Which task of catechesis do you feel most qualified to perform? In which area do you feel that you need more knowledge and support?*
5. **Conclusion.** Summarize the group's conclusions. Refer to related summary statements in Church documents and suggest further reading from sources listed in the Resource Bibliography of the booklet. In the case of the Groome interview, you could also refer catechists to the enrichment article on the six tasks of catechesis in the back of the Roles of the Catechist booklet. Conclude your session with prayer. The ritual prayer service found at the end of segment 4 in each booklet is available to you if you have not already used it.

Take the opportunity to watch some of the valuable video content in these interviews. Use them to expand the knowledge base of your catechists and as a basis for sharing. The interviews are just one more way that *Echoes Plus* can help you to build a more capable and committed community of catechists.

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