



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

September 15, 2020
Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

My Brother and Sister catechist,

Each year since 2009, I have written to thank you and your fellow catechists for "handing on the faith" in our parish religious education programs. However, this past year has been like no other in the history of the Archdiocese of New York.

So many members of our archdiocesan family have fallen victim to Covid-19. So many have mourned their loss while worrying that they themselves, along with their other loved ones, might have been infected. Our parish religious education programs have moved from the parish to computers, tablets, and cell phones with the leadership of the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office. This was an extraordinary feat.

I would say that I was amazed by the creative responses of you, your director or coordinator, the parents in the program, and your pastor. However, the truth is that I was not at all amazed. During the past nearly 12 years as your archbishop, I have come to realize that New Yorkers always come through in a crisis. Nothing fazes or defeats you.

Each year on *catechetical Sunday*, many of our parishes honor their catechists. This year, that may not be possible. However, it is my hope that your pastor finds a way to let all the parishioners know how much you are loved, respected and valued for your service to the sacred ministry of sharing the faith with new generations of Catholics and their families.

Be assured of my gratitude to you for carrying on in the face of adversity.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

† Timothy Michael cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York

TMD:mb