

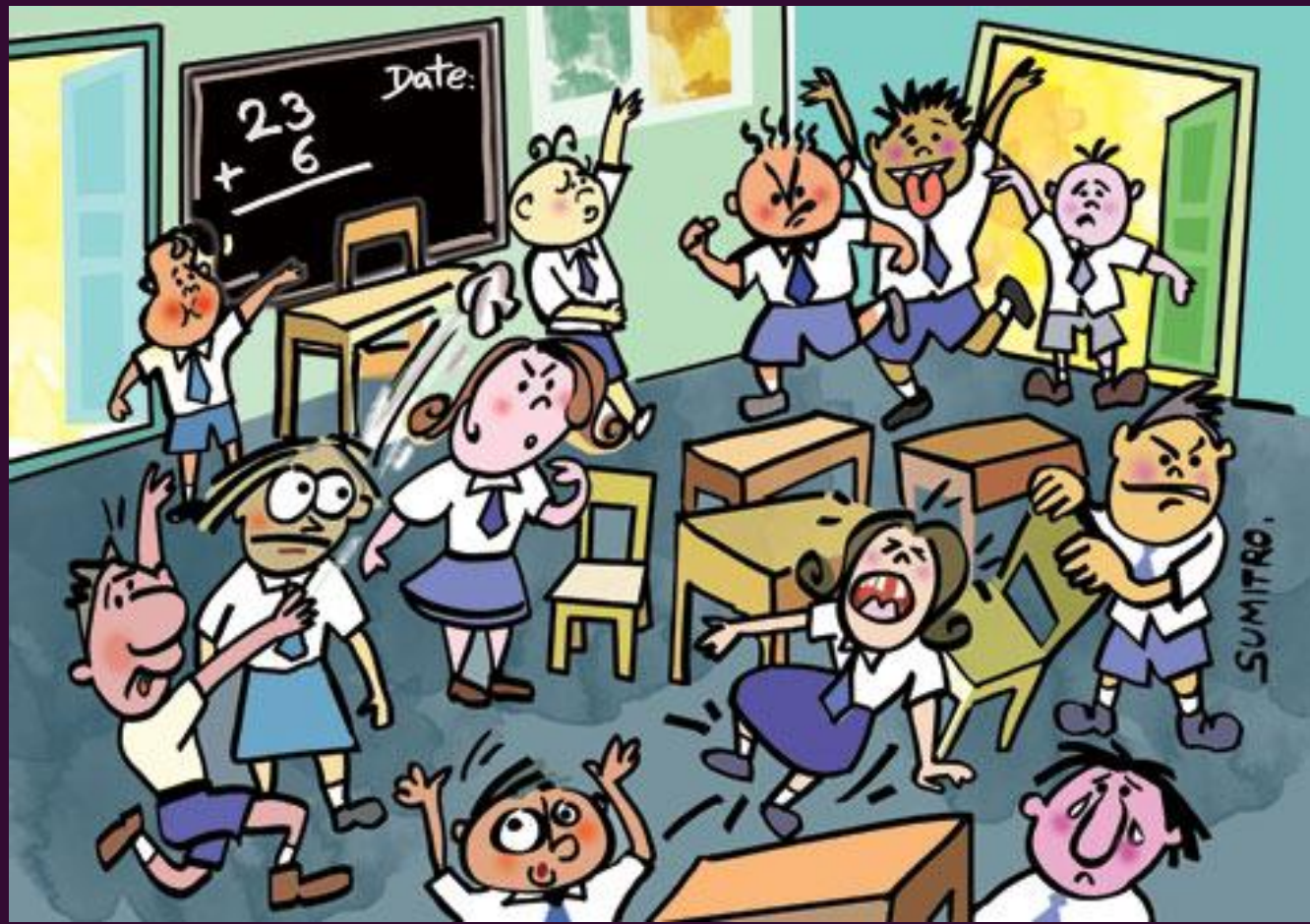
Key to Classroom Management? Strong Relationships!

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What is Catechesis?

- ▶ Catechesis
 - ▶ The word catechesis comes from the Greek meaning "to echo the teaching" meaning that catechesis or the teaching of the faith is an interactive process in which the Word of God re-sounds between and among the proclaimer, the one receiving the message, and the Holy Spirit!
 - ▶ Catechesis is a life-long process of initial conversion, formation, education, and on-going conversion. Through word, worship, service and community, it seeks to lead all God's people to an ever deepening relationship with God who reveals himself in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Catechesis

- ▶ The Christian faith is, above all, conversion to Jesus Christ, full and sincere adherence to his person and the decision to walk in his footsteps. (CT)
- ▶ “The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ” (CT)

Be the Face of Jesus

- ▶ Invite them into a personal relationship.
- ▶ Help them feel known and cared for.
- ▶ They will remember the connection long after the class ends.
- ▶ Feeling connected encourages parish participation.



Know Your Group

- ▶ Welcome them as they arrive, but start on time
- ▶ Learn their names and call them by name
- ▶ Know parents by face/name
- ▶ Celebrate the joys and Pray for the sorrows
- ▶ Point out where Jesus was/is present in their lives

Know Your Group

- ▶ Make a kite
 - ▶ Each child begins by drawing a kite on poster board and dividing the kite into four quadrants.
 - ▶ In the first quadrant have them write their family name and add a crest made of symbols that represent them as an individual.
 - ▶ In another quadrant write the name of the parish of which they are members.

Know Your Group

- ▶ In the third quadrant place things that make them special or shows their talents.
- ▶ Finally, in the fourth quadrant place things they like to do.
- ▶ Ask each student to set goals he or she wants to achieve this year in learning about the faith . Invite them to write their goals on the back of their kites as reminders.
- ▶ Let the children choose ribbon for the kite tail.
- ▶ When a goal is reached, students can write it on the tailpiece and add it to the ribbon.

Help them to know each other



- ▶ Encourage group to know names and welcome each other
- ▶ Spread out ice breakers over the year
- ▶ Ask the group, “Is anyone missing?”
- ▶ How are they positioned? Can they see each other? Outsiders?
- ▶ Encourage them to see Jesus in each other

Pray for Each Other



- Pray together and for each other.
- Ask the children who they would like to pray for.
- Use prayers that help you know more about each child.
- Celebrate family events in prayer.

Keep your session moving

- ▶ Know your lesson plan w/timing and answers
- ▶ Determine a plan for covering longer written material
- ▶ Be intentional where you sit/stand
- ▶ Introverts vs Extroverts
- ▶ Determine a turn taking procedure.
- ▶ Limit question responses, including yours

Close your session on a positive note

- ▶ Affirmations
- ▶ Invite them to return
- ▶ Peek into next week
- ▶ Walk to door-say good bye by name
- ▶ Invite them to attend mass with you
- ▶ Follow up with missing students



What to do when things don't go well

- ▶ No threats, no yelling
- ▶ Determine source of problem, ie hunger
- ▶ Address issues after class
- ▶ Do you need an Aide?
- ▶ Always inform your Director
- ▶ Is it appropriate to contact parents?
- ▶ Never talk about a child by name to other people



Pope Francis

Let us remain in Christ – abiding in Christ – and let us always try to be one with him.

Let us follow Him; let us imitate Him in His moment of love, in his going forth to meet humanity.

Let us go forth and open doors. Let us have the audacity to mark out new paths for proclaiming the Gospels.
(Address to Catechists 9/27/13)

