

Redemptive Teaching

Teaching becomes a ministry when its focus is on a relationship between the catechist and the student, which calls forth a growth in faith. This ministry becomes “redemptive” when it builds faith relationships in the classroom—when it creates community.

The opposite of redemptive teaching is competitive teaching—teaching which destroys relationships and sets students against each other and which sets the teacher apart from the process.

Redemptive teaching reflects the teaching style of Jesus.

- It calls for the uniqueness in each student. It invites and encourages the students to grow and to change.
- Redemptive teaching is a two-way street. The student and the teacher are fellow pilgrims on a journey; there is always the element of mutual searching. In this atmosphere, the exchange of ideas is respected. No one has all the answers.
- Redemptive teaching is real life. In the redemptive classroom, what is taught happens. The students experience freedom, dignity, and peace. Justice and love are important values shared between catechists and students. Community can be experienced without undue competition or fear.

Describe your own personal style of teaching. What are some practical and specific ways you can create a more redemptive atmosphere in your classroom?

Look through the Gospels for examples of Jesus’ teaching in a redemptive way. How can you follow his example?