

Dedication

We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us and we reap the harvest of what they have planted.

African Proverb

Christiane Brusselmans

Probably no other individual contributed as much to changing the hearts, minds, and paradigms of those involved in parish life in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Australia than this vibrant Belgian woman. Christiane came on the scene of American catechetics in the late 1960s with a concept of sacramental preparation of children that was so foreign to the way things were being done that it was difficult at first to see how it would be possible to implement. Programs that involved parents over a period of time and a catechesis that was ritually based were unheard of at that time. Liturgical catechesis as a method of preparation was incomprehensible to many.

However, Christiane's storytelling emphasis on the essential and constitutive nature of the family, religious education, and the worshipping community, and her attention to the scriptural and doctrinal bases for the Sacraments convinced more than a few people to try it. And in the implementation, those initial pioneers witnessed such a flowering of faith and conversion in parents and children that gradually the word got around and what was once considered a new idea became the norm.

It was her own dissertation on Infant Baptism that plunged her into a study of the baptismal catechumenate. She used the resulting model to educate people on the topic even before the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults was issued in 1972.

Over the years, Christiane's vision and philosophy were shared with students in workshops, institutes, and symposia, as well as in university settings, including the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium and Fordham University in New York. Through her teaching and her keen interest in her students, she formed another

generation of ministers who were seduced by a passion for initiation.

I cannot help but believe that the journey we are on today with lifelong and intergenerational catechesis, a journey that involves the whole parish assembly and family members

in liturgical catechesis, owes much to the travels and teachings of this modern-day Saint Paul.

Thank you, Christiane.

**The sacramental resources
for *Call to Celebrate*
are lovingly dedicated to
Christiane Brusselmans
1931-1991**