**Myths of RE/YM in Diocese of GB**

Just clarifying a few points!

1. **“Textbooks are not discipleship minded.”**
   1. It’s not an either or - content or experiences.
   2. We cannot have one without the other - head and heart.
   3. Just because we have textbooks doesn’t mean you have to read from them, nor turn students off from Christ
   4. Textbooks are where our topics and information come from. The way it is conveyed is distinct from the textbook.
   5. Head knowledge isn’t everything, but we have to know something about Christ in order for our hearts to be compelled to love Him
   6. It’s an art to introduce students to Christ through the head and the heart
   7. Textbooks guide the knowledge piece once students are ready.
   8. You might take the first few classes and focus heavily building a relationship with students, introducing them to Christ, bringing them on a retreat, or experiencing life together
   9. A good teacher and witness knows how to weave witness, experiences, knowledge, stories, and prayer into a class without making it dry or irrelevant.
   10. There are times where the textbook won’t be used, experiences that students have that are not based in a book and areas where students might ask questions that aren’t related to what that semester is about - that’s ok.

**2. “Textbooks are then pretty irrelevant in my program.”**

1. Say I have a chapter on the Paschal Mystery of Christ. Here are my possible options:
   1. Ask the class - what would the world be like without Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection?
   2. Have students share how their daily life is different because Christ died and rose on the cross
   3. Have someone in your parish come and give a witness on how they gave their life to Christ because they realized the immense power in the Paschal Mystery
   4. Ask students where their greatest suffering happened. Ask for students to talk about why God allows suffering to happen. Play youtube video on “Why does God allow suffering?”
   5. Bring students into the Church and talk to them about the difference Christ’s dying on the cross and rising has made to your own life
   6. Hold a debate with two sides - defend that Jesus’ death and resurrection actually happened
   7. Come up with a list of ways that Jesus’ death and resurrection changed the course of history (even our daily lives today)
   8. Bring students near the tabernacle and sing a song with them, praying for specific intentions and for their hearts to know Christ’s heart
   9. Print the story of the Passover and Passion of Christ. Lay them side by side - have a male group and female group. Have them draw similarities between the Old and New Testament sacrifices.
2. Textbooks don’t dampen creativity!
3. Need more ideas like this? Visit [www.gbresources.org](http://www.gbresources.org)

**3. “Catechists already give so much of their time. They don’t have time to move outside of the textbook.”**

1. First, not every chapter needs to be covered. That will not happen and honestly, probably shouldn’t happen.
2. If we want things bad enough, we have to pray about it, and then do it.
3. We have to change things if we don’t see them working. The Holy Spirit pulls on our heart to change something in the parish programs when it is not ordered, fruitful, or Christo-centric.
4. Excuses carry us nowhere.
5. The power of your baptism is amazing - don’t doubt that power of God
6. Building relationship with the catechists, training them, praying with and for them, and gathering them is huge. Do not rush catechist formation or preparation. This is the most essential part of your ministry next to your personal prayer and sacrifices.

**4. “I don’t have time to step back from my program and evaluate it.”**

1. Then we can’t expect anything to change.
2. Anything that is not evaluated or reflected upon is going to fail more than likely
3. Life can’t be lived without reflecting. Your ministry can’t afford to either.
4. Are you being evaluated? Is there someone helping to direct you as to how you can be growing personally, spiritually, and professionally?

**5. “I feel like I’m working SO HARD to introduce people to Jesus in my program and more and more families just don’t seem to care.”**

1. Are you personally praying?
2. Do you have a team of people praying for the parish program?
3. Do you have your parish staff praying for the parish program?
4. Do you have people in the parish adopt a parish program family to pray for?
5. Prayer, Prayer, Prayer...doesn’t stop there, but is often the most overlooked piece that makes programs flourish and hearts open to Christ

**6. “I feel like I cannot impact my program when my own spiritual life or family life is...well...not that great?”**

1. First, your priority is to God.
2. Second, your priority is to your marriage/family.
3. If you don’t have these in order, the parish program is going to suffer.
4. The devil loves to tempt us away from sitting in quiet and praying, reading the daily Gospel before the day begins, praying the Angelus at noon, or praying on the way into work. There are more important things to do, the devil says. And then we believe him, and we know where that takes us.
5. We become overwhelmed, confused, out of sorts, and quite honestly, bad at our jobs.
6. The people of the program suffer if we don’t pray. ***We can’t afford not to pray.*** We just can’t. We don’t have a relationship with Christ if we don’t pray.
7. Secondly, if you are devoting your time to your ministry, but neglecting your family, that is also going to negatively impact your work.
8. Marriages suffer and fail if ministry comes before it.
9. If you are in a bad place in your prayer life, consciously make a decision to pray. Where is one place in my day that I can devote to him specifically?
10. If you are in a bad place in your marriage, make a decision to boldly put it back into priority. What is one thing this week that I can do to bring joy to my spouse?
11. If you are not balanced as a single person, what is one thing this week that I can do to say no to expectations that I simply cannot fulfill?

**7. I am a one person show at my parish. There is no way I can get everything done.**

1. All of us are hired to carry out the same mission. Why are we doing this alone?
2. Do you have a mentor or close friend who helps you with issues or discerning situations?
3. Do you have some people who you collaborate with on lesson plans, discipleship plans, or prayer ideas in nearby parishes?
4. How are we working together as a team of people united under Christ and obediently do what he is asking of us?
5. And after all, it’s not about us getting things done. It’s about us being open to the Father and listening to what he is directing us to do. Nothing more, nothing less.

**8. “I feel like the only way I can serve God well is to be in ministry...even if I’m not really feeling like God wants me here!”**

1. God doesn’t call all people to be in ministry. Just because you’re in it now doesn’t mean you have to stay in it.
2. There are so many holy people who aren’t paid in ministry who do amazing things.
3. We owe it to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to be prayerful, joyful, sacrificial, and motivated. We have to discern if we are being called to stay in ministry or leave it.
4. There are rough patches, no doubt. Mother Teresa had plenty. But we can’t stop asking God where he wants us.
5. If you are feeling like he has been calling you out of ministry for a while now, maybe it’s time to discover another opportunity. Do you find yourself consistently frustrated, depressed, complaining, or hating going into work each day? Don’t be fearful to ask God where he wants you (even if it’s outside of ministry). God won’t call us to something that will make us miserable. And if you leave ministry, you aren’t betraying the Church. You’re following God’s call.
6. If you are feeling in need of a renewal but still feel called to ministry, find a retreat, continue coming to inservices that feed your creativity, find a mentor, and continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen you.
7. Do not be afraid to say yes to God!