



Catechists in Mission

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Catechists, men and women, are the Church's real treasure in the Salesian mission in Carchá and Raxruhá, Guatemala.

The word "catechist" may mislead us unless we know something of the truth of this in the Salesian mission. The native catechist is someone who has a vocation as a religious leader, who takes on the task of encouraging the community in an ongoing way.

There are catechists with already dozens of years of service behind them. They receive no financial remuneration for their work. They work as a team. They enjoy prestige in their community.

The catechist team coordinates and

encourages Sunday religious services. Ordinarily, they preside at the service because of a shortage of priests. When visiting the communities, catechists offer invaluable support.

Catechists specialise in particular kinds of catechesis: there are catechists for the younger children, older youth, baptisms or marriages, the sick, the elderly, and musicians. Catechists also catechise other catechists as trainers. To this we can add their role as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist: The most faithful and those with the most prestige in the community accept this role.

How many catechists are there in our Salesian mission? Not even the missionaries themselves know exactly how many there are. A rough estimate

