

Exploring NDCFcians' Perceived Role in Matamis-Mission: Reshaping Catechists Role

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Abstract— This study explored the role of catechists within the Matamis-Mission community, acknowledging societal shifts and cultural backgrounds. This study employed a descriptive-qualitative approach involving parishioners and church leaders from various areas. Data collection utilized face-to-face interviews and thematic analysis, revealing both positive aspects and challenges associated with the catechists' role. Positive observations highlight leadership, clear communication, and indigenous youth involvement in conveying the gospel message. However, challenges such as lack of encouragement and resistance to growth persist. Respondents identify positive behaviors such as empathy, cultural preservation, and effective communication as contrasted with negative ones like discrimination and delayed action. The impact of catechists on the community is significant, fostering trust, guidance, and hope, yet negative perceptions persist, hindering effective engagement. Ideal characteristics of a model catechist include sacrifice, patience, and effective leadership. Ongoing formation is proposed to further enhance catechists' skills and attitudes in an open dialogue with anti-discrimination policies, accountability mechanisms, and proactive engagements. Future research is suggested to delve deeper into the catechists' role, involving a larger sample size and focusing on specific issues faced by the community.”

Keywords—Catechist: Model: Issues: Evangelization: Community.

I. INTRODUCTION

The perceived role of a catechist, according to Xavier (1993) encompasses joyful witness, missionary discipleship, compassionate accompaniment, dialogue with others, ongoing formation, and humble service, all aimed at fostering encounters with Christ, nurturing faith, and building community within the Church and society.

In the evolving landscape of religious education in the Matamis-Mission community, the catechist's role is transforming, driven by societal and cultural changes. This study focuses on the perceived role of NDCFcians in shaping a new image of the catechist, recognizing their unique perspectives and insights. Motivations for this exploration include responding to societal shifts, empowering catechists, and advancing broader pastoral care and evangelization goals. Understanding the significance of NDCFcians aims to enrich religious education, empower catechists, and further the church's mission within the community.

The motivation behind exploring the perceived role of NDCFcians in Matamis-Mission and their contribution to shaping a new image of the catechist is multifaceted. According to Cardaronella (2013), “Firstly, societal, and cultural changes necessitate reassessing the traditional role of

the catechist to ensure relevance in meeting spiritual needs. Secondly, there's a desire to empower catechists with skills and resources through understanding perceptions and experiences. Fostering a participatory approach aligns with broader church initiatives, promoting dialogue and synodality. Ultimately, the aim is to adapt and innovate catechetical practices to meet evolving community needs, enrich religious education, empower catechists, and advance the church's mission”.

The problem is seen in the Catechist, which includes delayed action and information, insensitivity to the needs of the needy, discrimination, lack of dialogue, encouragement, and resistance to change and growth. There's also a lack of verification about the issues, creating a negative perspective that leads to division, especially between priests and catechists. Despite these challenges, there is unity among all involved to address and resolve the problem through proper discussion.

The study was conducted at a remote location in Matamis. Suburban and remote locations present serious difficulties; a high mortality toll causes rifts in society, especially when corruption impacts people in comparable roles. Climate change and soil-destroying pesticide use have ravaged the area. Notwithstanding the challenges they face, the Tagakaulo people never forget certain cultural customs. For example, they share what little they have with the impoverished and observe their simple way of life; they are joyful and content and have an abundance of crops and soil. Even though they have realized that they lead a challenging existence, they are content and, thanks to the many harvests, they don't have to worry about food because they have enough for three days (which is plenty for them). They depend on "MAGBAYO NG HUMAY" for food, therefore the others are left without anything.

1.1 Research Questions

The study aimed to explore the perceived role of NDCFcians in Matamis Mission in developing the new image of the Catechist. This study aimed to answer the following Research Questions (RQ):

- 1) What is the NDCFCIANS's role in developing the new image of Catechist in Matamis- Mission?
- 2) What kind of behavior do the NDCFCIANs experience with the People Matamis Mission?
- 3) How does the catechist's presence affect the community?

4) What characteristics should a catechist have to be considered as a model catechist?

II. METHODOLOGY

The study sought to investigate the perceived contribution of NDCFCians in Matamis-Mission towards the development of the catechist's new image. The researcher utilized a descriptive-qualitative study design. The study sample comprised individuals who were members of the congregation and held leadership positions in Matamis-Mission located in Kangko, Kamugna, and Tambelang. The sample consisted of 6 males and 10 females. The self-designed questionnaire

underwent evaluation by specialists to validate its face and substance. Information was collected via in-person research interviews. The data produced by the research instrument were documented, examined, and evaluated utilizing thematic analysis.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section presents the results and discussion of the study.

R.Q. 1. What is the NDCFCIANS's role in developing the new image of Catechist in Matamis- Mission?

TABLE 1. The role of NDDCFCIANS in developing the new image of Catechist in Matamis- Mission.

Respondents	Code	Theme
Respondent 1	“Sabi ng isang katekista hindi mag focus sa sacrament eh yan man ang pinaka importante. Lack of encouragement na matulungan ang misyon especially financial matter, my own program sila na ginagawa na hindi namin alam. Di naga follows sa mga dapat gawin. Hindi sila open to change dahil doon lang sila nag stay sa nakasanayan nila, not open to grow at hindi naga open sa priest lalo na sa mga ideas.”	Lack of encouragement not open to change and growth
Respondent 2	“Ang experience ko ay maganda ang kanilang leadership at maganda sila mag entertain sa mga Tao.”	Good Catechist Clear communication
Respondent 3	“Para sa akin maganda magturo at magbigay ng advice sa community.”	Good in giving advice
Respondent 4	“Ang experience ko sa kanila specially sa ugali nila ay maganda sila mag intertain sa mga tao lalo kapag may bisita. Kaya ang mga tao hindi sila magdalawang isipna lumapit dahil sa kabutihan na pinapakita nila.”	Attitude matters a lot
Respondent 5	“Attitude matters a lot,na build ang confidence at may natutunan lalo na sap ag respeto sa kapwa.”	Attitude matters a lot
Respondent 6	“Always naga remind tungkul sa ikakabuti ng pag-aaral, at lalo na sa epekto ng generation ngayon naapektuhan ang culture kaya base on my experience sa kanila nagsusumikap silang ibalik ang kulturang Tagakaulo lalo na sa kung ano ang nakasanayan sa Tribu. At isa na doon sa mga activity nila na pinapasali ay ang mga youth specially sila ang sumusunod at magpatuloy nito.”	Conducts Indigenous Youth Leadership Program
Respondent 7	“Ang experience ko ay maganda dahil naging kabahagi ako sa kanila na kapag magkaisa may saya, ngunit kahit ganon kailangan kung mag-adjust kase shempre magaiba ami ng ugali.”	Unity
Respondent 8	“Ang epekto nila sa community ay tinulungan nila amin a I encourage na patuloy na magtiwala sa Panginoon.”	Encouragement
Respondent 9	“Malaki ang tulong nila na sama-samang magtulungan ang bawat isa lalo na sa mga Gawain sa simbahan, fiesta, seminar, mga activities at iba pa.”	Creative Substances
Respondent 10	“Maganda mag advice para sa aking ikakabuti at na experience korin na I form ka talaga lalo na sa mga roles.”	Good in giving advice
Respondent 11	“Mabuti dahil sa ginawa nilang Indegenious Youth leadership at marami ring nag sponsor na mga teacher para makatulong sa kulturang Tagakaulo.”	Indigenous Youth leadership
Respondent 12	“Para sa akin maganda sila magpa intindi lalo na sa mga sharing about Gospel na mas pinapalaliman ni at gina base sa contex para mas maunawaan.”	Can communicate to the people with depth the message of the gospel based on the context
Respondent 13	“Ang experience ko sa kanila ay maganda dahil creative sila magpa intindi may substance at mabilis maka intindi ang mga Tao.”	Creative Substances
Respondent 14	“Maganda sila mag organize sa mga gawain lalo na sa Simbahan.”	Community organizer and they have done a lot
Respondent 15	“Ang na experience ko ay maganda dahil marami silang nagawa na maatulong sa community, lalo na ang kanilang pag organize sa mga tao lalo na kapag may misa.”	Community organizer and they have done a lot
Respondent 16	“Ang na experience o ay maganda dahil naging mabuti silang silang katekista at nagbigay ng mga ideas at ahead of time sila mag, announce.”	Good Catechist Clear communication

Table 1: The respondents identified the influence of NDDCFCIANS in building the new image of catechists in Matamis Mission as Respondent 1 exhibits a dearth of motivation and is resistant to personal development. Respondents 2 and 16 reported that there was effective leadership and transparent communication. Respondents 3 and 10 possess a commendable aptitude for dispensing counsel. Respondents 4 and 5 highlight the significance of attitude. Respondents 6 and 11 possess expertise in Indigenous youth leadership. Respondent 7 reported a sense of unity. Respondent 8 conveyed optimism. Respondents 9 and 13 consumed illicit substances. Respondent 12 possesses the ability to engage in profound discussions with individuals

regarding the contextualized message of the gospel. Respondents 14 and 15 possess extensive experience as community organizers and have achieved significant accomplishments.

The Catechist experiences may involve planning lessons, facilitating discussions, and answering questions to help learners deepen their understanding of their faith. Catechists may also offer pastoral care and support to those they teach. This could involve listening to concerns, providing spiritual guidance, and offering encouragement during challenging times. According to Madrigal, (2024), “Catechists play a significant role in the church’s evangelization. Despite the

numerous problems they experienced, they remained faithful to their vocation.”

Despite the importance of their role, catechists also face various challenges. These challenges include recruiting new catechists, providing adequate formation and support, and addressing the needs of students with different beliefs or backgrounds. Additionally, catechists may face personal challenges, such as lack of time or childcare, or lack of inclination. However, despite these challenges, many catechists find the experience to be personally rewarding and spiritually fulfilling (Madrigal, 2024).

By serving as role models and practicing stewardship, catechists can experience personal growth and spiritual development. Through their work, catechists can deepen their faith and share their knowledge and experiences with others. The experience of being a catechist can also provide a sense of community and belonging within the church, as well as the satisfaction of making a positive impact on the lives of others. Despite the challenges, the rewards of serving as a catechist are significant and can contribute to personal growth and spiritual fulfillment (Madrigal, 2024).

RQ 2. What kind of behavior do the NDCFCIANs experience with the People of Matamis Mission?

TABLE 2. The NDCFCIANs experience a peculiar behavior with the People of Matamis Mission

Respondents	Code	Theme
Respondent 1	“They try their effort wala lang sila masanay na I open ang kanilang sarili na meron pa palang kailangang gawin. Sa music kailangan dapat naka ankla hindi lang salita but walk the talk, sa music naman importante sana na ginagamit din sa may mga activity lalo na sa liturgical music dapat may instrumental music na pang Tagakaulo para ma highlights din ang tribe at magamit.”	Bad – They should walk the talk
Respondent 2	“Ang magandang nagawa nila ay ang pag-bigay ng advice sa mga tao lalo na sa mga Kabataan na nag-aaral.”	Good - giving advice for a better future
Respondent 3	“Ang nagawa nilang mabuti ay binuhay nila ulit ang kulturang Tagakaulo.”	Good - revive the culture
Respondent 4	“Ang hindi mabuti ay kapag may mga obligation sa Simbahan ay matagal nila ma aksiyonan.”	Bad - delayed action
Respondent 5	“Ang maganda nilang ginawa ay katulad ng MAAD na nakakatulong ito sa amin na kapag may mamatay makatanggap ka ng 7,000 at lalo na Malaki din ang natulong nila for Uburn na Kettal upang balikan ang tribu na Tagakaulo.”	Good - sensitive to the needs of the needy
Respondent 6	“Ang mga nagawang mabuti na naidulot sa akin ng Katekista ay ang IYL (Indigenous Youth Leadership) mas marami akung natutunan at na discover tungkul sa culture na Tagakaulo lalo na sa mga history nito. Na mas napalaliman ang aking pag-unawa kung gaano kahalaga ang kulturang Tagakaulo (Pagtatanim, Ritual, Pananamit, at pamamaraan ng pag-asawa). Ang hindi mabuti ay paminsan minsan nalang sila namamansin dahil sa isang mistake na nagawa ko which is naging bf ko ang working student nila na pinagbabawal minsan sila ang mag decision na ito ang gawin mo lalo na kung nakakatulong sa aking at sap ag-aaral.”	culture and decision making
Respondent 7	“Naga pa remind sila always sa kahalagahan ng education. Hindi pantay pantay ang pagtingin, unfare dahil one time nag apply ako na mag trabaho ako kasama nila ngunit hindi ako tinaggap dahil ALS lang ang natapos ko kaya di karapat dapat na tulungan dahil mababa lang ang grade ko at ang prioritize nila at tinulungan ay 85+ ang grade. Kaya para sakin isang pang down isa isang tao na hindi matalino, at tingin nila ay walang kakayahan.”	Bad - discriminating
Respondent 8	“Ang hindi maganda ay ang hindi pagkakaintindihan minsan kase shempre may kaniya kaniyang ugali ang bawat isa. But kailangan talaga na may pagkakaisa, pagkaka intindihan, respect at pagmamahalan sa bawat isa. At kung may pagkakamali dapat tingnan muna ang isang situation hindi agad mag comment lalo na pag hindi alam ang pangyayari, but despite of this situation ay maganda sila kasama. Ang akin lang need talaga ang dialogue if may ganiyang mga situation.”	Bad - lack of dialogue
Respondent 9	“Ang mabuting nagawa nila ay maganda sila magbigay ng advice at maganda ang mga pamamaraan nila sa Simbahan na makakatulong sa mga tao.”	Good - giving advice for a better future
Respondent 10	“Ang nagawang mabuti ay nakilala ang bawat isa at patuloy na mag spread ng good news kahit na malayo pinupuntahan nila.”	Good - spread the Good news. Good - passion for God’s mission
Respondent 11	“Naga advice sila for a better future at wag muna unahin ang pagkaroon ng relationship, at naga guide sila sa isang bagay lalo na kung hindi ko alam. Naka experienced din ako ng hindi maganda specially kung nilabag ko ang role nila as working student.”	Good - they advise for a better future.
Respondent 12	“Ang mabuti na nagawa nila ay tinulungan nila ang Anak ko para sa scholarship para makapagtapos siya nang pag-aaral.”	Good - sensitive to the needs of the needy
Respondent 13	“Ang nagawa nilang mabuti ay paintindihin ka talaga nila hanggat maka intindi ka at maliwanagan at dinadaan nila ito sa dialogue.”	Good - knows how to dialogue. Good - simplify things to understand
Respondent 14	“Ang mabuting naidulot ng Katekista sa akin ay meron silang malalim na pasensiya which is sa lahat na na experience ko is may natutunan ang bawat isa. Lalo na nakiisa sila sa amin at nakihalubilub din at masaya ako kapag bumubisita sila sa amin.”	Good - Patience Good - able to join with us
Respondent 15	“Ang nagawa nilang mabuti ay tumutulong sila na I motivate ang mga tao at kahit walang Pari andoon palagi ang prensiya nila.”	Good – motivating presence
Respondent 16	“Ang hindi mabuting naidulot sa akin ay ang mga pag process sa mga bibinyagan dahil hindi ahead of time sinasabi kaya as PSL mahirapan ako mag followup.”	Bad – lack of follow-up

Table 2 shows the NDCFCIAN's encounter with the individuals in Matamis Mission. Respondent 1 emphasized the importance of taking action that aligns with one's words. Respondents 2, 9, and 11 possess a strong aptitude for providing guidance on improving future outcomes. Respondents 3 and 6 revitalized the culture and decision-making. Respondent 4 exhibited a postponement in taking action. Respondents 5 and 12 exhibit a high level of sensitivity towards the requirements of individuals who are in need. Respondent 7 is engaging in discriminatory behavior. Respondent 8 exhibits a deficiency in engaging in conversation. Respondent 10 enthusiastically shared the positive news and fervor for God's purpose. Respondent 13 possesses the ability to employ discussion to elucidate complex concepts for the comprehension of others. Participant 14 was able to join our group. Respondent 15 is driven by their existence. Respondent 16 provided a subsequent response.

Personal experiences with catechists can have a significant impact on an individual's faith journey. Positive experiences with catechists can lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Catholic faith. Catechists who are knowledgeable, compassionate, and engaging can inspire a love for God and a desire to grow in faith. For example, a catechist who takes the time to answer questions and explain complex concepts can help individuals develop a stronger foundation in their faith. Positive experiences with catechists can also foster a sense of community and belonging within the Church, which can be essential for spiritual growth.

Unfortunately, negative experiences with catechists can also occur, which can have a detrimental effect on an individual's faith journey. Catechists who are dismissive, judgmental, or unprepared can leave individuals feeling discouraged or disillusioned. Negative experiences can also arise when catechists teach concepts that contradict Church teachings or fail to address challenging topics. These experiences can lead to confusion, doubt, or even a loss of faith. Catechists need to be aware of their audience and approach their role with humility and compassion. By doing so, they can help individuals feel valued and supported on their faith journey.

The personal experiences of a person with catechists can have a profound impact on an individual's faith journey. Positive experiences can inspire a deeper love for God and a desire to grow in faith, while negative experiences can lead to confusion, doubt, or even a loss of faith. Catechists need to approach their role with humility, compassion, and a commitment to Church teachings. By doing so, they can help individuals develop a strong foundation in their faith and foster a sense of community and belonging within the Church. Ultimately, the impact of catechist experiences on personal faith journeys highlights the importance of a strong, supportive, and knowledgeable Catholic community.

Catechists often provide valuable educational guidance on religious teachings, ethics, and moral values Naibaho, (2023). They help individuals deepen their understanding of their faith and foster spiritual growth. Community-building catechists

play a crucial role in building and strengthening religious communities. Through their teachings and leadership, they foster a sense of belonging and unity among believers. Instilling a sense of social responsibility and compassion in their students. They may organize charitable initiatives, volunteer work, or mission trips to serve those in need. Personal Growth: Serving as a catechist can be personally rewarding and spiritually enriching. It offers opportunities for personal growth, deepening one's faith, and developing leadership skills. Dogmatism: Catechists who adopt a rigid or dogmatic approach to teaching may discourage critical thinking and discourage open dialogue about complex theological or ethical issues. Abuse of Authority: Unfortunately, there have been instances where catechists, like any authority figure, have abused their position of trust and authority, leading to harm or exploitation of those under their care. Catechists also promote exclusivity or intolerance towards individuals from different religious backgrounds or beliefs, which may contribute to division and hostility rather than fostering unity and understanding.

R.Q. 3. How does the catechist's presence affect the community?

Table 3 shows the presence of the catechist and the subsequent influence it has on the community. Respondent 1 has claimed that the catechists have allowed them to enhance their performance in their pastoral endeavors. Respondent 2 claimed that she felt confident in the advice and optimism provided by the catechists. Respondents 4 and 14 claimed that catechists exhibited outstanding leadership. Respondent 5 spoke about catechists providing guidance. Respondents 6, 9, and 12 claimed that catechists provided protection and support to them. Respondent 7 demonstrated both the trust and understanding offered by the catechists. Respondent 8 claimed that catechists demonstrated understanding, while Respondent 10 claimed that the catechists exhibit patience while Respondent 16 claimed that catechists show respect.

Spiritual Growth: Catechists play a vital role in nurturing the spiritual growth of individuals within the community. Through their teaching, guidance, and mentorship, they help deepen the understanding of religious teachings, foster a personal relationship with the divine, and encourage spiritual practices such as prayer, meditation, and reflection. Education and Formation Catechists provide formal education and formation in matters of faith, morality, and theology. They teach individuals about the beliefs, rituals, and traditions of their religion, especially the I.P. tradition, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to live out their faith in their daily lives. Catechists contribute to building a sense of community and belonging within the religious community. Through their leadership in religious education programs, youth groups, and other activities, they create opportunities for individuals to connect, build relationships, and support each other on their spiritual journeys. Service and outreach: many catechists are actively involved in service and outreach efforts within the community or GKK. They organize charitable initiatives, volunteer activities, and mission trips to address the needs of the less fortunate and promote social justice and

solidarity. The leadership development catechists often serve as role models and mentors for others within the community, especially young people. Through their example of faith, dedication, and service, they inspire and empower others to become leaders and active participants in the life of the

community. Cultural Preservation: In some religious traditions, catechists play a role in preserving and passing on cultural traditions and practices associated with the faith. They may teach language, music, dance, and other cultural expressions that are integral to the identity of the community.

TABLE 3. The effects of catechist’s presence in the community

Respondents	Code	Theme
Respondent 1	“Ang impact nila sa community dapat opportunity to enhance, lalo na inculturation kailangan open dahil different culture ang ma meet ng bawat isa kaya dapat magkakaintidihan na dapat open to change not exclusive, like Kasaulugan sa pulong ang nakita ko sa mga NDCfcians ay sila nalang palagi ang nagagitara dapat give chance to other naman for learning hindi dapat ikaw nalang lagi nangunguna. Allow the people na sila naman dahil work ng Katekista isa na doon ang tumulong sa community lalo na sa Matamis – mission.”	Opportunity to enhance
Respondent 2	“Nakatulong sila sa mga tao na sumunod, magtiwala lalo na kung may advice.”	Trust
Respondent 3	“Ang impact ng Katekista sa community ay na guide sila at maraming natutunan lalo na sa mga taong nawalan ng pag-asa at paniniwala na ngayon ay nanumbalik na dahil sa presence ng Katekista sa community.”	Guidance and hope
Respondent 4	“Maganda ang kanilang leadership sa community.”	good Leadership
Respondent 5	“Maganda ang kanilang leadership at maganda sila mag advice lalo na sa mga youth.”	Advice
Respondent 6	“Ang impact ng katekista sa community ay naga-encourage sila na tumulong sa Simbahan lalo na kung may mga activity at iba pa. Walang division at maganda ang epekto sa community sa kanilang leadership.”	Protection and encourage
Respondent 7	“Ang impact sa community ay napalaliman ang kanilang paniniwala sa Panginoon. But sana kung may ibibigay sila na tulong ay marunong silang tumingin sa situation ng mga tao sa lalo na sa community kung karapat dapat ba itong bigyan o hindi. Kase one-time naga react ang community lalo na sa policy na dapat magpabinyag ang Parents kaya dapat always magsimba. Ngunit ang iba nagtatrabaho sa araw ng linggo dahil araw-araw na pangangailangan. Kaya dahil doon nagkaroon ng misunderstanding.”	Faith and misunderstanding
Respondent 8	“Maganda ang epekto sa community at maganda silang maging modelo lalo na sa kultura o indigenous youth leadership na maganda na ipagpatuloy para din sa mga Kabataan na mahawakan nila at masundan kung ano ang kulturang Tagakaulo.”	Grasp
Respondent 9	“Ang epekto nila sa community ay tinulungan nila kami na I encourage na patuloy na magtiwala sa Panginoon.”	Protection and encourage
Respondent 10	“Maganda ang impact nila sa community dahil kapag may mga occasion andiyan sila para tumulong at mahalaga para sa community ang presensiya nila.”	Presence
Respondent 11	“Tumutulong sila sa mga gawain lalo na sa Simbahan naga guide sa iba na hindi alam ang mga gawain specially sa pagbigay ng seminar at activity sa Simbahan.”	Guidance and hope
Respondent 12	“Nakatulong sila sa community lalo na sa pag protekta sa mga environment at pagtatanim ng punong kahoy encouraging the people in community.”	Protection encourage
Respondent 13	“Ang epekto ng Katekista sa community ay patuloy na magsimba ang mga members at sumunod sa Panginoon na di mawalan ng pag-asa.”	Hope and hope
Respondent 14	“Maganda ang epekto nila sa community lalo na sa kanilang leadership na pamilya na ang turingan sa kanila, at always sila welcome sa community.”	Good Leadership
Respondent 15	“Lumago ang kanilang mga ginagawa lalo na kung may mga gawain specially seminar madali silang magamit.”	Developed and growth
Respondent 16	“Maganda ang epekto nila sa mga tao dahil may respect ang mga tao sa kanila at may pagkakaintidihan dahil wala namang taong perpekto.”	Respect

According to Gallagher and Newton, (2009). The ways in which lay people express their understanding of spiritual growth, the practices that contribute to their sense of growth, and how a shared vision of what spiritual growth is and how it happens contribute to the sense of community in the congregation.

RQ 4. What characteristics should a catechist have to be considered as a model catechist?

Table 4 outlines the exact criteria that a model catechist should possess in order to be regarded as exceptional. Respondent 1 asserted that a catechist should be flexible and willing to make concessions. Respondents 2 and 9 remarked that catechists should exemplify qualities such as patience, generosity, and the capacity to consistently display a smiling and kind demeanor. Respondents 3, 5, and 8 asserted that catechists should demonstrate exemplary leadership. Respondent 4 discussed the qualities of catechists who exhibit composure, skillfully handle disagreements, and have the capacity to participate in meaningful conversations. Respondents 6 and 12 listed the qualities that a model

catechist should possess, including being helpful and polite. Respondent 7 asserted that a catechist should serve as a mentor to young people. Respondents 10 and 16 expressed the belief that catechists should exhibit hospitality. Respondent 11 asserted that an exemplary catechist should exhibit the qualities of patience, respect, and composure when addressing conflicts. Respondent 13 expressed the view that a catechist should communicate in a straightforward and concise manner. In contrast, Respondent 14 humorously remarked that a catechist should be easy to approach. Respondent 15 emphasized the need for trust in a role model catechist. The catechist in Matamis Mission was approachable and welcoming, making learners feel comfortable and valued. The compassion they show genuine care and empathy towards their learners, understanding their struggles and offering support and encouragement. The patience of the catechists in Matamis demonstrates patience and understanding, allowing learners to grow at their capacity and providing guidance with gentleness and grace. Fostering a positive and nurturing learning environment. The humility of a catechist in Matamis

was recognizing their limitations and seeking to learn and teach from others as well.

TABLE 4 A model catechist should possess specific characteristics to be considered exemplary.

Respondents	Code	Theme
Respondent 1	“Go with the flow nalang sila palagi, I think ang maiambag nila is sacrifice. At dapat I work out nila ang kanilang mga weakness.”	Go with the flow and Sacrifice
Respondent 2	“Ang ugali nila na maging magandang modelo ay, mabait, mapagbigay, may respect, patience and Love specially ang kanilang smile.”	Role model, patient, generous always smiling giving love
Respondent 3	“Maganda silang maging modelo dahil sa leadership nila, lalo na hindi sila bumibitaw sa mga masakit na salita marunong silang magpa intindi at magpa kumbaba at welcome kami lagi at maganda sila mag approach.”	Role model good leadership
Respondent 4	“Ang katangian na meron sila ay halimbawa mga conflict sa mga GKK hindi agad sila magsigaw o magalit kundi pag-usapan ng maayos at magsabi sila na next time hindi na sana mangyari ulit, but masabi kurin na minsan hindi pantay pantay.”	Calm and can manage the conflict capacity to Dialogue
Respondent 5	“Maganda silang modelo dahil maganda sila mag handle lalo na dito sa GKK Kangko na always sila ang naga lead at nagpatuloy sila at aktibo na tumulong sa mga GKK kaya until now nagpatuloy ang GKK namin.”	Role model good leadership
Respondent 6	“Matulungin sa kapwa lalo na kung may mga pangangailangan, may respeto at maganda magbigay ng advice.”	Helpful, respectful
Respondent 7	“Naga-guide sa mga kabataan upang maging professional naga paremind na hindi magsinunggaling. Pinagbabawalan na pumasok sa relationship lalo na kung scholar ka nila for safety din ang iniisip nila.”	A guide to the youth
Respondent 8	“Maganda ang leadership nila dahil mabuti sila mag advice lalo na sa mga youth dahil isa rin silang tagasunod ni Hesus kaya makapag bigay rin sila ng mabuti sa iba na maging tapat na disipulo ni Hesus at nagbigay rin sila ng lakas sa mga tao na hindi mawalan ng pag-asa.”	Role model good leadership
Respondent 9	“Ang ugali na meron sila ay may paggalang sa kapwa at ang importante ay ang smile nila na nagbigay lakas sa amin.”	Role model, patient, generous always smiling giving love
Respondent 10	“Kapag may dumating na bisita or kami maganda sila mag welcome na at home ka talaga lalo na mas nakakagaan sa pakiramdam na malayo pa naka smile na sila.”	Hospitable
Respondent 11	“Mataas ang patience, maganda mag handle pagdating sa problem hindi naga sigaw which is dinadaan sa proper way at pinag-uusapan, may respect sa kapwa kahit hindi kilala.”	Patient, respectful Calm in handling the conflict
Respondent 12	“Tumulong sila sa kulturang Tagakaulo upang hindi maiwanan o makalimutan ang tradisyunal.”	helpful, respectful
Respondent 13	“Ang magandang ugali nila is direct to the point sila magpa intindi at nakikinig sila.”	Direct to the point
Respondent 14	“Ang magandang ugali nila ay maganda sila mag-area lalo na the way sila mag approached sa mga tao, madali silang malapitan maganda mag expleain sa lahat ng bagay at magpakumbaba”	Approachable
Respondent 15	“Matulungin, mapagkatiwalaan hindi pabaya sa community.”	Trust
Respondent 16	“Ang katangian na meron sila ay ang mainit na pag-welcome nila sa mga tao lalo na kapag may bisita at maganda rin sila mag advice kung ano ang magandang Gawain.”	Hospitable

Evangelical zeal is a value a catechist should possess. They should have a strong passion for sharing the Gospel message and are enthusiastic about inviting others to encounter Christ. Dedication to the Matamis-Mission catechist is deeply committed to the mission of spreading the faith and nurturing the spiritual growth of others. To find innovative ways to engage learners and communicate the message of the Gospel effectively. Willing to adjust their methods and strategies to meet the needs of diverse learners and changing contexts. Seeking to serve others and meet the needs of the community with humility and selflessness. The catechist takes a holistic approach to formation, nurturing the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth of learners. They help learners integrate their faith into all aspects of their lives, fostering a deep and authentic relationship with God that informs their actions and decisions. Seeking to deepen their understanding of the faith and grow in their relationship with God. The catechist cultivates a rich interior life, grounded in prayer, contemplation, and reflection. Authentic Witnesses, live out their faith authentically, serving as a living witness to the transformative power of Christ's love in their own lives. Discernment they seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their ministry, exercising discernment and wisdom in their teaching and pastoral care.

As stated by Stanz (2017), “We are echoes of hope, echoes of love, echoes of truth, and echoes of mercy. What an

incredible gift catechists are. Some might even say you are a hero. And in many ways, you are!”

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the research, the following recommendations were addressed to the Parish in Matamis Mission.

Encourage Timely Action: Emphasize the importance of prompt action in addressing community needs and concerns. Provide catechists with resources and support to respond effectively to challenges as they arise, avoiding delays that may hinder growth and development.

Promote Open Dialogue: Encourage regular dialogue sessions between catechists and parishioners to foster better communication and understanding. Create opportunities for feedback and discussion, allowing concerns to be addressed promptly and constructively.

Implement Anti-Discrimination Policies: Establish clear policies within the parish to combat discrimination in any form. Provide training and education to catechists and parishioners on the importance of inclusion and respect for diversity within the community.

Foster a Culture of Accountability: Hold catechists accountable for their actions and behavior, ensuring adherence to the values and principles of the faith community. Establish mechanisms for feedback and evaluation to monitor performance and address any issues that may arise.

Promote Proactive Engagement: Encourage catechists to take initiative and lead by example in promoting positive attitudes and behaviors within the community. Empower them to actively seek opportunities for growth and improvement, resisting the temptation to simply "go with the flow" when faced with challenges.

Ongoing formation: Ongoing formation refers to a continuous process of learning, growth, and development aimed at enhancing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of catechists in their ministry. This formation would provide opportunities to improve their leadership and communication skills and cultivate a positive attitude that fosters encouragement and openness to growth.

For further study on the role of a catechist in a Matamis mission, a descriptive qualitative study design through research questions and interviews is recommended. Increase the number of respondents to be interviewed in 44 BECs in Matamis Mission with consent, to find out more about the role of Catechists and what are the problems that people may have faced with them.

V. CONCLUSION

The role of catechists in Matamis Mission reveals that catechists exhibit strengths in leadership, clear communication, and providing valuable advice, while their attitude significantly impacts their effectiveness. Indigenous youth leadership plays a crucial role in effectively communicating the gospel message within the community, emphasizing unity, encouragement, creativity, substance, and community organization. Despite these positive aspects, parishioners in Matamis-Mission also face challenges, such as a lack of encouragement and resistance to growth.

Respondents observed positive behaviors in the catechists, including walking the talk; being skilled at offering advice for a better future; protecting culture and decision-making; being sensitive to the needs of the poor; sharing the good news; being passionate about God's mission; being able to communicate and make things simple enough for others to understand; and having the patience to join us. Respondents perceived the following negative behaviors with the catechist: discrimination, lack of dialogue, and delayed action.

A catechist's effects in the community include an opportunity to enhance trust, guidance, and hope; good leadership; advice; protection and encouragement; faith; patience; and respect. Respondents perceived the following negative behaviors with the catechist: discrimination, lack of dialogue, and delayed action.

A catechist should exemplify characteristics such as sacrifice, patience, generosity, always smiling, giving love, being a role model for good leadership, being calm and managing conflict, having the capacity to dialogue, being helpful and respectful, serving as a guide to the youth, being hospitable, patient, respectful, calm in handling conflict, being direct to the point, approachable, and fostering trust. However, despite the positive characteristics of the catechists at Matamis Mission that make them role models, there is a negative aspect, which is their tendency to adapt to situations without critically analyzing the context.

APPENDIX A

Interview Guide Questions

Name: _____ Sex: _____

- 1) What is NDCFCIANS's role in developing the new image of Catechist in Matamis- Mission?
- 2) What kind of behavior do the NDCFCIANS experience with the People Matamis Mission?
- 3) How does the catechist's presence affect the community?
- 4) What characteristics should a catechist have to be considered as a model catechist?

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