

Echoing The Word

Introduction

The title reflects both the origin and scope of the course. A study group which met at CIE from 1992 to 1994 worked eventually with James Dunning's *Echoing God's Word* in their search for a way to provide training for RE teachers, especially in under-resourced areas. The raw idea for this course came out of the final meeting of this group on 23rd June 1994. Echoing The Word has been offered in various centres in South Africa, Lesotho and Zimbabwe since 1995.

The scripture focus of the course is captured in the Word, while the idea of echoing it suggests the activity of Theology, which seeks to understand the Word in the context of the faith community, and its application in daily living.

Course Aims

The two broad aims of the course are

- ongoing personal formation in Theology and Scripture, and
- development of a professional yet personalised approach to Religious Education.

Course Structure

A preliminary two-hour ORIENTATION MEETING, plus a one-year programme of TEN UNITS, each consisting of:

- Home preparation
- Half-day workshop (usually Saturday mornings)
- Home assignment

Home Preparation

This will consist of readings from selected texts, which will be given to participants ahead of the workshops. Participants will be encouraged to read more widely than the home preparation material and a few possible texts are suggested here:

- *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (St Paul's Publications)
- *Your Faith: a popular presentation of Catholic belief* (A Redemptorist Publication)
- *Connections* (brother Michael Burke)
- *This Is Our Faith: A Catholic Catechism for Adults* (Michael Pennock)
- *A Catholic Catechism for Adults* (G Bertinazzo MCCJ - St Paul's Publications)

The last-named is more suitable for reflection than for study purposes.

All of the above are available from:

Paulines Multimedia, cnr Queen & Cumberland Streets, Kensington, Johannesburg

Tel: 011-622-5195 / 622 5189; Fax: 011-616-7153

E-mail: booksmedia@paulines.co.za; Website: www.paulinesa.co.za

Workshops

- Each workshop, apart from the closing one, contains a component that reflects both of the above-named dimensions, namely SCRIPTURE\THEOLOGY and TEACHING PRACTICE.
- The time frame of the workshops is normally: 09:00 START - 13:00 FINISH with a half-hour tea break roughly halfway through.

- The CLOSING WORKSHOP is of 2-hour's duration. The starting and finishing times of workshops may be adjusted by the group when it assembles for the ORIENTATION MEETING.
- Dates for the MEETING and WORKSHOPS are fixed in advance, and can only be changed by consensus of the participant group and course facilitator.
- The content of each workshop can be found in the COURSE OUTLINE below.
- Tea will be provided at the workshops, but participants are asked to supply eats on a rotation basis.

Assignments

These must be handed in at the following workshop. An assignment that is deemed inadequately answered may be returned to the participant to be repeated. The assignments aim at deepening one or two aspects of the workshop but are not too time-consuming.

Course Fee

The course fee is based on a charge of R50 per unit - a total of R550, which includes a R50 non-refundable registration fee. The course fee can be paid in a lump sum, or in monthly installments to make up the balance. It is recommended that the participant be personally responsible for a part of this fee.

Certification

The local bishop will certify the course. The requirements for certification will be:

- full payment of the course fee, and
- a minimum of 85 course credits, awarded on the following basis:
 - ORIENTATION MEETING 3
 - WORKSHOPS 1 - 9 6 each
 - CLOSING WORKSHOP 3
 - ASSIGNMENTS 4 each
 - TOTAL 100

Note that participants will be penalised for latecoming, and for leaving workshops early, by forfeiting 1 credit for each half-hour missed.

Course Outline

UNIT	SCRIPTURE/THEOLOGY	TEACHING PRACTICE
1	Revelation; The Word of God	Teaching - Profession and Vocation
2	The Story of Israel	Learning and Teaching
3	Jesus and the Gospels	Aims and Principles of RE
4	The Church's Story	Basic Methodology for RE
5	The Church's Mission; Prayer	Methods, Techniques, Activities
6	The Church and Scripture	Key Resources
7	The Church as Sacrament; The Eucharist	Illustration
8	Personal and Structural Morality	The Learning Environment
9	The Last Things; Our Destiny	Network of Partnerships
10	Evaluation; Celebration	Means to Continuous Growth