**Catholic Church in Sweden and**

**Katolska pedagogiska nämnden (KPN) 2023**

The Catholic Church in Sweden has one diocese, the diocese of Stockholm led by bishop Anders Arborelius since 1998. Bishop Anders Arborelius was appointed a cardinal in 2017.

Registered Catholics: Around 130 000.

The diocese has 44 parishes from North to South.

Half of the Catholics belong to one of the language-groups (“missions”), where they celebrate mass and attend catechesis in their own language. The “missions” can be found in the larger cities. In the last years the Catholic population has increased due to large groups from Arab countries. They mostly use Swedish materials for catechesis, which is a gift for the integration into the Swedish society and for the Catholic church in Sweden.

The economy of the Church is stable since the registered members pay 1% of their income automatically when paying taxes (since 2000). The church still receives help from mainly the Catholic Church in Germany.

**Katolska pedagogiska nämnden - board**

KPN has a board with around 10 advisers on catechetical matters. The board meets four times a year, the bishop and the general vicar join once a year.

**New employees at KPN**

Anna Pasikowska (catechist at the Polish Mission) and Fidaa Hanna (active in the Melkite, Arab Mission) are two new employees at KPN. Both of them work a lot with maintaining good relationships to the parishes. Making telephone-calls every week, adding everything on an overview of the parishes and missions. On this overview all data on the parishes is added. Jim Lagerlöf and Ulrika Erlandsson work with writing new materials, making films and podcasts, visiting parishes and offering courses. KPN underlines the importance of listening to the needs of the parishes and for this reason KPN makes it a priority to visit the local churches.

**Katolsk tro för alla**

KPN offers weekend courses for adults that want to deepen their faith. The same course goes around to three different monasteries in the country.

**Formation for catechists** Jim and Ulrika travel around the country every month to visit parishes and organize courses for catechists. Often it is fundamental courses that present the Bishop’s guidelines for Catechesis (which in turn are based on the Directory of Catechesis). But depending on their wishes, we also offer courses on any topic. Our courses for catechists are pedagogical, they always offer very practical methods, singing, dancing, drama etc. Working on relationships is very important so the catechists know that we are listening and doing our best to help them. We travel a lot around and meet people and use every opportunity to ask for their needs.

**Catechists**

In Sweden there are around 700-800 catechists that engage in catechesis in their parishes on a voluntary basis. This is amazing! Most of them gather their groups every second week, on weekends, to offer the catechesis. KPN wants to do everything to support them!

**Catechist’s Day**

The Catechist’s Day every 2nd year is a big national gathering which celebrates the catechesis and his/her ministry. It is used to show appreciation and to encourage the catechists. The cardinal is always present and gives them a special blessing at the mass that is celebrated at the end of the day.

**Catechetical Congress**

Every 10th year, KPN organizes a Catechetical Congress. It will be on the weekend 22-24 September and gather around 200 catechists from all the country. The bishop will be there all weekend. There will be an international guest, Donna Lynn Orsuto, professor from Gregoriana in Rome who also talked at the Catechist’s Day in Rome. That will be a big celebration!

**Kateketnytt**

A magazine for catechists that is being sent to 1200 households 3 times a year. Giving news about what is going on and lifting up catechists.

**New videos**

• *Rakels bikt*, Video on confession for children preparing first communion. • *Frågor med svar* 3 videos of 8 minutes each for confirmation, linking the films to Tweeting with God and Krisma

**New podcasts**

• Gå med Gud (walk with God), 30 days of Ignatian spirituality light, 10 minutes a day with Gospel reading, music, questions. Very popular, over 9000 listeners. • Katolska pedagogiska podden: interview with interesting people about evangelisation and catechesis, first guest: bishop Anders Arborelius.

**New materials**

• Bikten lärarhandledning– material for the Sacrament of confession a Teachers’ Guide for catechists. • We reprint older books and revise them a lot! Listening to people’s feedback.

**Things to come**

• Directory of Catechesis in Swedish • Mitt ibland oss – preparation of first communion for people with special needs, booklet and video • Adventcalendar + booklet

Ulrika Erlandsson, May 2023