



The Function of Confirmation Catechesis in Toraja Churches for Teenagers in the Era of ChatGPT

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Abstract

ChatGPT is a technology that can generate text responses quickly based on human requests. This application is known through chatbots, where this technology has been widely used by teenagers to share stories, particularly about mental struggles, which can lead to loneliness if they are not guided properly. It is important to re-examine the meaning of confirmation catechesis of Toraja Church in educating teenagers so that they can develop mature characters based on Christian teachings, thereby becoming wiser in obtaining information such as from ChatGPT, which is based solely on internet data processing. Researchers used a descriptive qualitative approach to explore the function of confirmation catechesis at the Toraja Church, Karambe congregation during the period of ChatGPT's influence. Based on field research, researchers found that teenagers at Karambe Congregation only use chatbots to complete school assignments or catechisis tasks, so they have not yet reached the stage of providing information related to personal struggles. On the contrary, Confirmation Catechesis remain important for teenager in shape their character and knowing his faith in Christ personally, even though chatbots are a rich source of knowledge.

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INTRODUCTION

The developments that occur in this world are taking place rapidly. Everyone is faced with technological developments almost every day. Technology is experiencing very rapid development because it provides many conveniences for mankind, such as the emergence of AI developments, especially ChatGPT. This case have widely used by youth because it can be used to ask questions and help in every aspect of life. Data from a 2024 Common Sense Media report indicates that a significant majority of the adolescent population has utilised generative AI for

about 70%.¹ Chatbots, one example of AI technology, have the potential to respond quickly to questions, and they are made in a text that is easy to understand. The sophistication provided by this technology makes people see ChatGPT as a friend who truly understands their problems. American Psychological Association has report that in February 2024 there has been a tragic death of a 14-year-old in Florida after an AI chatbot character encouraged him to act on his suicidal thoughts.² This happens because chatbots possess a natural tendency to echo the information they receive from the users, and they cannot push back against destructive thinking patterns as effectively as a counsellor would.³ Despite this, users still choose to use ChatGPT as a place to share their stories. In Indonesia, many teenagers have become self-disclosed because someone trusted in sharing personal information toward chatbot.⁴ If so, the convenience provided by chatbots can reduce the development of teens' social interaction in the real world.

Besides that, the use of chatbots has entered the church environment, where the church can use a chatbot to guide the congregation in seeking answers to Christian questions without experiencing complications or having to meet a pastor.⁵ Meanwhile, the use of AI by church members is more prevalent among young people than older people, because of their intelligence in applying technology to search for information, especially if it relates to Christian education. For teenagers, it is not always easy to open up and share their stories with others.⁶ This can be due to feelings of shame and fear of being judged. And technological advances provide a solution by providing a place to share stories through ChatGPT, so they can be more comfortable.⁷ Thus, if teenagers can learn about faith based solely on ChatGPT's knowledge, then the presence of the church in the growth of youth faith can be replaced. Based on these issues, it is necessary to reunderstand the meaning of catechisis in truly knowing the Christian faith of a young man based on the understanding of the Toraja Church. Confirmation Catechisis is an important forum to build

¹ Efua Andoh, "Many Teens Are Turning to AI Chatbots for Friendship and Emotional Support," American Psychological Association, 2025, <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2025/10/technology-youth-friendships>.

² Efua Andoh.

³ Efua Andoh.

⁴ Febfi Norsely, Heidy Arviani, and Zainal Abidin Achmad, "Pengalaman Interaksi Pengguna Remaja Curhat Dengan ChatGPT," *Komunikologi: Jurnal Pengembangan Ilmu Komunikasi Dan Sosial* 7, no. 2 (December 27, 2023): 120, <https://doi.org/10.30829/komunikologi.v7i2.16653>.

⁵ Opriyaman Laoli et al., "AI Dalam Gereja : Mengungkap Peluang AI Bagi Pertumbuhan Iman Jemaat Dalam Gereja," *REI MAI: Jurnal Ilmu Teologi Dan Pendidikan Kristen* 2, no. 1 (May 31, 2024): 75-84, <https://doi.org/10.69748/jrm.v2i1.95>.

⁶ Norsely, Arviani, and Achmad, "Pengalaman Interaksi Pengguna Remaja Curhat Dengan ChatGPT."

⁷ Norsely, Arviani, and Achmad.

the maturity of Christian youth in understanding their personal faith in Christ. Therefore, it is necessary to dig deeper into this research to find out whether catechesis education is no longer meaningful in the era of ChatGPT, where the character formation of teenagers is determined by their use of AI technology as a channel for acquiring knowledge directly, rather than through education in the church.

Thus, several previous studies have addressed similar topics related to ChatGPT in a religious context. For instance, responding to AI technology (ChatGPT) based on biblical truth by Zendrato;⁸ while Raka Raditya used theological pastoral studies on artificial intelligence in religious practice.⁹ Pantan discussed the chaos and development of artificial intelligence for Christian education in the postmodern era;¹⁰ and Hirome focused on strategy for a missional church in the age of humanlike chatbots.¹¹ Furthermore, Simmerlein explored the strengths and weaknesses of AI when implementing into the church.¹² Then, other researchers have more focused on the role of educators: like Machidon discussed about challenges and renewal in Catholic education that relate with young people in the AI Era;¹³ while Kurnia examined the catechist strategies as faith educators in facing the impact of artificial intelligence.¹⁴ Similarly, Widiatmoko analyzed whether AI can replace the position of catechists based on the Catholic understanding.¹⁵ Meanwhile, this research offers a new perspective by focusing on understanding

⁸ Carlin Puspinta Zendrato, "Menyikapi Perkembangan Teknologi AI (ChatGPT) Sesuai Dengan Kebenaran Alkitabiah," *REI MAI: Jurnal Ilmu Teologi Dan Pendidikan Kristen* 2, no. 1 (May 31, 2024): 23–37, <https://doi.org/10.69748/jrm.v2i1.105>.

⁹ Andreas Gandhi Raka Raditya, "Kajian Teologi Pastoral Terhadap Artificial Intelligence Dalam Praktek-Praktek Religius," *Proceedings of The National Conference on Indonesian Philosophy and Theology* 2, no. 2 (September 1, 2024): 388–407, <https://doi.org/10.24071/snf.v2i2.8508>.

¹⁰ Frans Pantan, "CHATGPT DAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: KEKACAUAN ATAU KEBANGUNAN BAGI PENDIDIKAN AGAMA KRISTEN DI ERA POSTMODERN," *Diegesis : Jurnal Teologi* 8, no. 1 (February 28, 2023): 108–20, <https://doi.org/10.46933/DGS.vol8i1i108-120>.

¹¹ David Hirome, "A Missional Church Strategy in an Era of Humanlike Chatbots," *Ecclesial Futures* 5, no. 1 (2024), <https://doi.org/10.54195/ef18743>.

¹² Jonas Simmerlein, "Sacred Meets Synthetic: A Multi-Method Study on the First AI Church Service," *Review of Religious Research* 67, no. 1 (March 7, 2025): 126–45, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034673X241282962>.

¹³ Octavian M. Machidon, "Forming Hearts and Minds: Challenges and Renewal in Catholic Education in the Age of AI," *International Studies in Catholic Education*, October 28, 2025, 1–16, <https://doi.org/10.1080/19422539.2025.2576899>.

¹⁴ Fransiska Kurnia, "Strategi Katekis Sebagai Pendidik Iman Dalam Menghadapi Dampak Kecerdasan Buatan," *Sapa: Jurnal Kateketik Dan Pastoral* 8, no. 2 (November 20, 2023): 157–67, <https://doi.org/10.53544/sapa.v8i2.475>.

¹⁵ Eugene Mario Widiatmoko, "Posisi Katekis Di Tengah Revolusi Industri 4.0," *Sapa: Jurnal Kateketik Dan Pastoral* 9, no. 1 (2024).

the function of confirmation catechesis in Toraja Church, to shape the faith of Christian Youth amid the rapid development of ChatGPT.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach, with the aim of exploring the subjective meaning of catechism based on the understanding of the Toraja Church and the in-depth experiences of catechists. To obtain accurate and comprehensive data, researchers used two main sources: the first was a literature study, collecting data from various relevant literature, such as several documents on the understanding of confirmation catechesis in the Toraja Church, then from a journals related to the development of ChatGPT and youth psychology in the digital age. This data obtained also through direct interaction where researchers conducted face-to-face interviews with several confirmands. The aim was to find out the extent to which young people use ChatGPT to find answers to questions about faith.

This research was conducted at the Toraja Church, Karambe congregation. This location was chosen because the Karambe congregation has an active youth group (confirmands/participant) that represents the characteristics of Toraja Church youth who are currently facing digital transition.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Understanding of ChatGPT

ChatGPT is a development of several previous versions of GPT that started in 2018, which is called GPT-1.¹⁶ ChatGPT is a machine learning model trained on a large collection of texts, allowing it to create human-like responses and handle many different language tasks. ChatGPT was created by OpenAI, which aims to benefit humanity. OpenAI's ChatGPT, introduced or launched in November 2022, has emerged as a breakthrough artificial intelligence model with versatile applications across a variety of domains. ChatGPT works well in understanding and using language because of its smart design, which helps to give good answers for many tasks like answering questions, translating languages, and summarising text. It is well known that ChatGPT gained 1 million users just five days after its release, as it quickly drew great interest for its ability

¹⁶ Paramarshi Banerjee et al., "Understanding ChatGPT: Impact Analysis and Path Forward for Teaching Computer Science and Engineering," April 19, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.36227/techrxiv.22639705>.

to provide detailed and accurate answers across many subject areas.¹⁷ ChatGPT provides a neutral platform because people do not feel judged, gossiped about, or rejected. This allows people to feel safe expressing their deepest feelings, as the artificial intelligence is non-judgmental and does not demand anything in return.¹⁸ This technological development is known as a chatbot. Chatbots allow young people to engage with a fictional character, where they can get feedback and information that they are looking for.¹⁹ Based on the background of chatbots that are more focused on text, this related with the lives of youth who are accustomed to the development of social media, where texting is more comfortable when they interact with other users in social apps like Instagram or WhatsApp than using voice calls or voice notes. The main reason that motivates young people to be open in expressing their struggles through chatbots is that they feel comfortable. As in the bullying context, researchers note that children and adolescents are more likely to engage with chatbots because they feel safer and more at ease discussing sensitive issues with digital agents.²⁰ Indeed, because many bullying cases are not reported, chatbots can help young people report bullying without feeling ashamed or afraid. Chatbots are also easy to access and can quickly offer emotional support when young people need help.

Chatbot ChatGPT have been widely used by young people to share stories, particularly about mental struggles, especially as they adapt quickly to technology. However, there is still a lack of research on young people asking chatbots when they are struggling with their faith or want to learn more about Christianity. So far, research has focused more on general issues (not specifically for adults or young people) regarding the number of Christians using ChatGPT to deepen their Christian knowledge. However, gradually, young people can quickly use ChatGPT to be a story friend when they want to know more about Christianity. As reported in Siyu Qiu's research in Shanghai, China. That adolescents' trust in AI chatbots is at a very high level when

¹⁷ Bulbul Gupta et al., "ChatGPT: A Brief Narrative Review," *Cogent Business & Management* 10, no. 3 (December 11, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311975.2023.2275851>.

¹⁸ Samuel Akihary, "Kala ChatGPT Jadi 'My Bestie,'" GKI Samanhudi, 2025, <https://gkisamanhudi.org/kala-chatgpt-jadi-my-bestie/>.

¹⁹ Efua Andoh, "Many Teens Are Turning to AI Chatbots for Friendship and Emotional Support."

²⁰ Laura Iseut Lafrance St-Martin and Stéphane Villeneuve, "The Uses of Chatbots in the Context of Children and Teenagers Bullying: A Systematic Literature Review," *Cogent Education* 11, no. 1 (December 31, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.1080/2331186X.2024.2312032>.

they have good psychological resilience, even though it is still in the area of being a learning aid or for gaining knowledge.²¹

Function of Confirmation Catechesis

Catechesis comes from the Greek verb *Κατεχειν* (katekhein), which means to preach, to inform, to teach, and to give instruction.²² The meaning of the word “Katekhein” emphasises teaching in a practical sense, namely teaching or guiding someone to do what is taught to him. Catechesis, which occurs in the church, means the activity of teaching the faith that guides a person (or some people) to do what is taught to them.²³ Meanwhile, confirmation is understood as an ecclesiastical graduation ceremony.²⁴ Through confirmation, the youth publicly profess their faith for themselves and personally assume responsibility for their faith journey that was previously affirmed on their behalf by parents and sponsors at baptism.²⁵ In Indonesia, those who come from the Protestant Church consider confirmation as *sidi*, which in the Christian context is a special term that refers to the church membership. Thus, the *sidi* (confirmation) catechesis are teaching, deepening and educating in faith so that a Christian has maturity in his faith, in order to prepare Christian youth to become members of the church who understand the meaning of their calling as people who are mature in faith.²⁶ Based on the book of *Tata Gereja Toraja*, catechesis is followed by the baptised member who will declare his confession of faith before God and His congregation.²⁷ Through confirmation, this is held during congregational worship on Sundays or at another place designated by the Church Council using the Toraja Church Confirmation Liturgical Text. Furthermore, the Toraja church requires that a *sidi* confirmation be carried out for baptised members who are at least 15 years old and have completed confirmation catechesis.²⁸

²¹ Siyu Qiu et al., “Exploring Teenagers’ Trust in AI Chatbots: An Empirical Study of Chinese Middle-School Students,” *ArXiv* 2512, no. 06647 (2025), <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2512.06647>.

²² Ezra Lumbantobing and Tioma Simarmata, “ANALISA FAKTOR YANG MEMPENGARUHI RENDAHNYA KEAKTIFAN REMAJA DALAM MENGIKUTI KATEKISASI SIDI DI GEREJA HKBP PEA RAJA TARUTUNG,” *Pediaqu: Jurnal Pendidikan Sosial Dan Humaniora* 3, no. 4 (2024).

²³ Lumbantobing and Simarmata.

²⁴ Knut Alfsvåg, “The Role of Confirmation in Christian Initiation,” *Journal of Youth and Theology* 22, no. 2 (September 14, 2022): 251–70, <https://doi.org/10.1163/24055093-bja10036>.

²⁵ Alfsvåg.

²⁶ Tumpal Richardo Sirait, “Pengaruh Katekisasi Sidi Terhadap Perubahan Perilaku Remaja Kristen Di HKBP Kobun Kopi,” *Bulletin of Community Engagement* 4, no. 2 (2024).

²⁷ Badan Pekerja Sinode Gereja Toraja, *Tata Gereja Toraja* (Rantepao: PT. SULO, 2022), 13.

²⁸ Toraja, 13.

The Toraja Church, in guiding teenagers in catechesis, uses books *Melangkah Lebih Pasti: Bahan Pembelajaran Katekisasi*, which, if translated, means “Stepping More Confidently: Catechesis Learning Materials” to help and accompany the participants or confirmands to grow further in their faith, so that they can move forward with full certainty and in obedience to Christ. It is hoped that the certainty of salvation in Christ will be the driving force and strength for them to make unhesitating decisions of faith in every step of their lives.²⁹ One of the basic principles in catechesis teaching in Toraja Churches is the formation of Christian character, as Jesus said in Matthew 7:26. It is not those who know, those who are eloquent, or those who think diligently, but those who do that which Jesus desires.³⁰ So that through this learning process, it is hoped that they will have a clear identity and not be easily swayed by various misleading offers and teachings from the world around them. Catechesis functions as a means to foster, mature, and strengthen the faith of church members in actualising Christ’s teachings in their daily lives.³¹ This teaching teaches the youth to live on the right path and not take the wrong steps (becoming problematic youths) or simply follow the crowd.

The confirmation catechesis, in addition to providing educational material, pastors guide the participants to understand the meaning of Christian belief for them personally and for their lives as members of the congregation and society.³² This is what differentiates it from the knowledge that teenagers obtain directly through chatbots in studying the Christian faith, with just one search, and then the information appears. Because catechesis is the education for prospective children of confirmation, with the aim to help them understand the meaning and function of faith, the congregation, and the church, where it is impossible to complete in a short time. To achieve the goals of confirmation catechesis education, then it must be carried out for at least six months or one year.³³ However, there are still many who consider catechesis teaching to be just a formality that teenagers take part in, because they have reached the age of 15-16 years or because church tradition requires it. If the situation where teenagers can learn by themselves in ChatGPT are more

²⁹ Indu’ Yohanis Panggalo et al., *Melangkah Lebih Pasti: Materi Pembelajaran Untuk Katekisasi Gereja Toraja*, ed. Ery Hutabarat Lebang, Suleman Allo Linggi, and J. Ma’dika (Rantepao: Balai Buku dan Percetakan Sulo Gereja Toraja, 2002),iii.

³⁰ Panggalo et al, iv.

³¹ Yosefo Gule, Samuel Diar Hariara Sinurat, and Miduk Mario Simbolon, “Pentingnya Pendidikan Katekisasi Sidi Di Gereja,” *Edukatif: Jurnal Ilmu Pendidikan* 4, no. 4 (2022).

³² Gule, Sinurat, and Simbolon.

³³ Gule, Sinurat, and Simbolon.

ease to understand, cause the way the chatbot explains is much more understandable than listening to a catechist (teacher), then it can be justified that confirmation is just a formality that must be followed.

However, it is important to understand that catechesis classes is a forum provided by the church, so that the teenagers can learn properly and correctly about the basic foundations of Christianity before finally being ordained as a members of the congregation.³⁴ The emphasis of catechesis classes is not on intellectual knowledge, but rather about fundamental principles where a person can encounters Christ personally, experiences deep fellowship, and lives a life of true faith.³⁵ Maturity in faith requires struggle, which cannot be achieved without going through a process like the one a chatbot performs. In the Christian faith, difficult questions (such as suffering or doubt) often don't require a quick answer, but rather guidance. Therefore, the role of catechesis is very important in providing advice in correcting and reprimanding young people when they are open to sharing and struggling with their faith. Compared to ChatGPT, which only reacts based on user commands, this can be dangerous if young people have a wrong understanding and ask questions in the wrong way.

Amidst the flood of digital information, *sidi* (confirmation) serves as a theological anchor. Without a solid foundation in catechesis, young people are easily swayed by various teachings provided by AI, which may not align with the Toraja Church's creed. Therefore, confirmation catechesis is seen more as a learning process that can help participants to "step more confidently." This means a learning process that can help participants strengthen their faith, foster enthusiasm to bear fruit in their daily lives, and support one another through spiritual exercises developed during the catechesis period.³⁶

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Role of Confirmation Catechesis In the ChatGPT Era

In a world that has been influenced by AI technology, it is necessary to re-understand the role of catechesis as an educator for young people, even though the conditions of the world around us are undergoing very rapid changes due to the influence of AI. The catechist needs to have a

³⁴ Lumbantobing and Simarmata, "ANALISA FAKTOR YANG MEMPENGARUHI RENDAHNYA KEAKTIFAN REMAJA DALAM MENGIKUTI KATEKISASI SIDI DI GEREJA HKBP PEA RAJA TARUTUNG."

³⁵ Lumbantobing and Simarmata.

³⁶ Panggalo et al., *Melangkah Lebih Pasti: Materi Pembelajaran Untuk Katekisasi Gereja Toraja*,iii.

strong personal qualities by having integrity, patience and sensitivity to the needs of catechumens,³⁷ especially since chatbot technology has provided satisfaction to users in obtaining information. In catechesis services, the Toraja Church strives to shape the Christian character of each of its members. Based on research conducted by Lumbantoruan and Tobing, it was found that catechesis has a great influence on the character of Christian teenagers so that they are ready to become church members who understand their calling.³⁸ Based on this, the confirmation catechesis remains the best place to face the struggle of faith because the most important thing is not just about transferring data as a chatbot does, but rather about forming a life based on a real human relationship.

While AI can only provide information about faith based on data patterns, the catechesis is designed as a place for young people to bring up a complex life issues and discover the meaning of life in Jesus through dialogue and verbal examination.³⁹ This is a character-building process, not just a question-and-answer session like those provided by chatbots. As John Dyer emphasises that Christian life essentially requires the ability to concentrate and maintain focus for a considerable amount of time.⁴⁰ Spiritual depth is not formed quickly, but through consistent spiritual discipline, such as prayer that is not merely brief, serious reading and memorisation of the Scriptures—not just searching for them instantly through digital media—and loving God with all your heart and mind.⁴¹

Confirmation Catechesis is a space for young people where a pastor or catechist can capture the emotional and spiritual nuances behind a teenager's questions. They can understand why someone is asking a question, not just what is being asked, so they can provide guidance that is appropriate to the participant's life context.⁴² While ChatGPT is fast, it is unable to consider the deep pastoral burden. Such as giving neutral answers or simply justifying the user's feelings for

³⁷ Maria Sonita Bay and Lorentius Goa, "Pengaruh Digitalisasi Terhadap Pembentukan Karakter Katekis Dalam Berkatekese," *In Theos: Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Theologi* 3, no. 9 (September 30, 2023): 196–201, <https://doi.org/10.56393/intheos.v3i9.1877>.

³⁸ Sirait, "Pengaruh Katekisasi Sidi Terhadap Perubahan Perilaku Remaja Kristen Di HKBP Kobun Kopi."

³⁹ Gule, Sinurat, and Simbolon, "Pentingnya Pendidikan Katekisasi Sidi Di Gereja."

⁴⁰ John Dyer, *From the Garden to the City: The Redeeming and Corrupting Power of Technology* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2011), 138.

⁴¹ Dyer, 138.

⁴² Yosefo Gule and Desra Vealosa Ginting, "Edukasi Pentingnya Pendidikan Katekisasi Sidi," *Jurnal Abdidas* 2, no. 5 (October 30, 2021): 1245–50, <https://doi.org/10.31004/abdidas.v2i5.462>.

the sake of comfort,⁴³ thus distancing oneself from the growth of faith through healthy and wise admonition.

When interacting through chatbots, interactions tend to be solitary and individualistic. This puts people at risk of becoming socially isolated and losing out on the experience of faith growth that should occur in a church community.⁴⁴ Therefore, Confirmation Catechesis offer a strong community as a place to share burdens. Through this process, young people not only learn doctrine but also learn to love, sacrifice, and grow together with others.⁴⁵ Thus, this community becomes a tangible manifestation of the “Body of Christ.”

Interview Results with The Catechumen Members at Toraja Church of Karambe Congregation

This section presents data obtained through field research at the Toraja Church, Karambe congregation. The main focus of this research is to understand how catechesis functions for young people amid the massive use of artificial intelligence technology, particularly ChatGPT. Based on the interviews, the author found several explanations from young people when linking their understanding of catechism with ChatGPT.

Informant 1

“I use ChatGPT every day of the week, usually to ask questions about my studies. Honestly, I have never used it for sharing when I am struggling with personal issues.”

Informant 2

“I rarely use ChatGPT, maybe a few times a month. I’ve never used ChatGPT to vent my feelings; I probably only use it to compose sentences or like a quote.”

Informant 3

“I’ve only used ChatGPT a few times, just to look up material when I didn’t understand something that the teacher explained. But even though in ChatGPT it is easy to get an answer, sometimes they don’t make sense, like in math. If, for example, I have inner struggles, I often talk to my parents rather than using ChatGPT.”

⁴³ Efua Andoh, “Many Teens Are Turning to AI Chatbots for Friendship and Emotional Support.”

⁴⁴ Machidon, “Forming Hearts and Minds: Challenges and Renewal in Catholic Education in the Age of AI.”

⁴⁵ Gule, Sinurat, and Simbolon, “Pentingnya Pendidikan Katekisasi Sidi Di Gereja.”

It is known that the use of ChatGPT by young people from the Toraja Church in the Karambe Congregation is limited to completing school assignments and has not yet reached the stage of becoming a confidant when they have problems in life. When focusing on catechesis classes, they only use a chatbots to get answers related to several terms in the Toraja Church confession, which are still not well understood directly.

Informant 3

“The reason I joined catechesis class was to become more mature and get to know my faith on a more personal level. Then the material connected directly to my personal life, such as topics about “me and my family”, because it reminded me of the importance of family harmony.”

Informant 1

“Honestly, the explanations from ChatGPT are more concise and easier to understand than those given by catechist teachers in class, which are long-winded, difficult to grasp, and sometimes boring. Even so, in catechesis class, we can exchange ideas and reflect on ourselves. Then we have a Bible study class where we discuss together and share stories, such as life struggles. Meanwhile, ChatGPT is not human and has no feelings... .. However, during the nine months that I attended catechesis class, I became more responsible for myself.”

Even though AI technology has made life more convenient, catechesis still considered important by the informants at Toraja Church, Karambe Congregation. Based on their experiences of attending catechesis classes, the informants felt that their lives had gradually changed. Because during catechesis classes, informants felt that they had more matured in character, faith, and spirituality. Then they were able to study the Bible together, which opens up the habit for young people to be able to love God’s word. Based on the explanation from informant 1, ChatGPT is very quick to understand when explaining material compared to catechist teachers. However, in catechesis classes, participants can exchange ideas with catechist and reflect together. This is impossible to achieve through ChatGPT, which is not human and is limited to textual knowledge and without the spiritual life experience that humans have in their special relationship with God. Therefore, based on the informants’ responses, catechesis classes have a positive impact on shaping the character of young people, enabling them to participate more actively in church activities.

Informant 1

“Usually, in a catechesis class, I am not very open when talking about my struggles. However, during the nine months that I attended a catechesis class, I became more responsible for myself.”

Informant 2

“Through the catechesis retreat, I felt happy and experienced a new atmosphere through the quiet activities.”

Informant 3

“..... I rarely share my struggles with other friends in catechesis class, because I am not very close to them.”

Based on their experiences participating in catechesis classes, the informants felt that they did not dare to open up with other fellow catechesis members because they still felt ashamed. Even though catechesis classes are the perfect community space for sharing and growing, this did not convince the informants to talk about their personal problems.

Analysis

The impact of chatbots on current developments has been very rapid since their release a few days ago, as ChatGPT aims to provide convenience to users and strives to replace the role of humans. Teenagers who are still in the process of finding themselves find it difficult to open up to the social world when they are struggling with their own inner conflicts. ChatGPT sees this as an opportunity to become a place where users are not judged when they want to share their stories. The convenience provided by AI technology can be a challenge for the role of catechesis in Toraja Churches as a place for young people to develop their character and faith, so that they are not swayed by various offers and misleading teachings from outside the church.

Based on direct field research, it was found that teenagers only use chatbots as a search tool for school assignments or catechesis classes and have never used them as a place to share stories when they are struggling in life. Confirmation Catechesis remain an important part for teenagers at the Toraja Church, Karambe Congregation, as a place for learning to develop Christian character and maturity in knowing Christ as Lord and Saviour. However, confirmation catechesis in Toraja Churches still needs to be improved, particularly in terms of explaining the material, to

encourage participants to actively engage in the catechesis process. In this way, the learning that takes place in this particular community will help participants strengthen their faith and foster a spirit of fruitfulness in their daily lives.

CONCLUSION

The sophistication provided by chatbots makes people see them as a friend who truly understands their problems. Their presence has made many teenagers become self-disclosed because someone trusts in sharing personal information with a chatbot. The convenience provided by chatbots has led to a decline in social interaction among teenagers in the real world. It is necessary to reunderstand the meaning of catechesis in truly knowing the Christian faith of a young man based on the understanding of the Toraja Church. Based on the results of interviews at the Toraja Church, Karambe congregation, it was found that teenagers only use chatbots to complete school assignments or catechesis assignments, so they have not yet reached the point of providing personal information about their life struggles. On the contrary, catechesis classes remain as an important place for teenagers in Toraja for shape their character and knowing his faith in Christ personally, even though chatbots is a rich source of knowledge. However, catechesis teaching in Toraja Churches still needs to be improved, particularly in terms of explaining the material, in order to encourage participants to actively engage in the catechism process.

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