



Diocese of Joliet – Religious Education Office

Dear Catechetical Leader,

In order to help you initiate the catechist formation/certification process, the Diocesan Religious Education Office will offer several Catechist Initial Formation Days. This experience will serve as an introductory focus to the role of catechesis in the Church's ministry. This day will explore:

- The qualities of a catechist
- The role of the Spirit in both the vocation of the catechist and the overall catechetical ministry of the Church
- The four critical roles of the catechist:
 1. Storyteller
 2. Teacher-companion
 3. Leader of prayer
 4. Witness for justice

Catechists will also review the four main purposes of catechesis, 1) teach the message, 2) build a faith community, 3) lead people to prayer and worship and 4) call all to Christian service. **This day can be credited for (4) hours in the Being category toward Catechist Certification.**

The cost is \$15.00 per person, which includes materials and refreshments. **All registrations need to be received at the REO by the due date indicated on the registration form.** If for some reason the catechist is unable to attend that session, he/she may switch to one of the other scheduled sessions. However, this adjustment needs to be communicated with the registration coordinator at the REO (815-727-6411).

Cancellations will only be accepted until the date indicated on the registration form. Cancellations completed by this deadline will not be charged otherwise the parish will be held responsible for the **full cost of (\$15.00)** for each registered catechist.

The material enclosed has been developed for your use:

1. Fill in the name of the person the form should be returned to and the due date.
2. Duplicate as many copies as you need.
3. Personally invite catechists from your parish to participate in this program.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the REO. Be assured of my prayers for you, *the catechetical leader*, and the catechists, *the catechetical ministers*, as together you parish team proclaims the "Good News" to God's people.

Peace,

Helen Johnson

Associate Director of Leadership and Formation