



# Diocese of Joliet

Religious Education Office

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Dear

I want to congratulate you on this special occasion of your achievement of certification as a catechist in the Diocese of Joliet. It represents a milestone on your life's journey as a disciple attempting to grow in understanding the love of God and the richness of our Catholic faith. It shows that you recognize the importance of your ministry and the need for continuing personal faith formation in your life. I hope that you will continue to participate in study and other opportunities to deepen your grasp of our faith. And I ask that you not only serve as a wonderful role model, but also as a source of encouragement to other catechists, as they venture toward certification and beyond.

I cannot begin through a letter to tell you how grateful I am for the time, energy and love you dedicate to catechetical ministry. It is because of you, working in cooperation with your parish and parents, that the youth of our diocese come to learn and grow in Catholic faith. I hope you frequently take the time to look in the mirror and remind yourself that you are generously and directly serving the will of Jesus. You are fulfilling the prophetic dimension of your baptismal identity and making a difference for God! What a wondrous privilege, what a meaningful ministry!

In his last words while among us, Christ commanded,

...go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations...Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world! (Matthew 28:19-20)

*Thank you, on behalf of Christ's church, for your dedication to evangelizing the young people and families of your parish community. May the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is our "north star", our guide in all things, continue to shine brightly for you...and in you! May you radiate the love of our Triune God for a world too often in darkness. In doing so, you are being "sacrament"!*

May God bless you and those close to you with an abundance of joy!

In Christ,

Thomas S. Quinlan  
Diocesan Director of Religious Education