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**In Service
to the Master:
Catechist
Certification
in the
Diocese of
Joliet**

Dear Catechetical Leader,

Catholic faith is like a banquet that our God has placed before us. What a joy and a privilege it is to be Catholic and to share in this abundance of grace, goodness and truth! Even more so to be in ministry as a catechetical leader, charged with overseeing the formation of people in the “Good News” of Jesus Christ!

I thank you for having heard and responded to God’s call to catechetical leadership in our diocese. And I welcome you to *In Service To The Master: Catechist Certification in the Diocese of Joliet*, a process that has been crafted in the light of the most important faith formation document of our time, the *General Directory for Catechesis*.

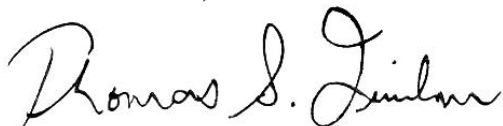
In its introduction, the *General Directory for Catechesis* urges us, as catechetical leaders, to embrace as our “primary task the preparation and formation of catechists in the deep riches of the faith.” (GDC, 33) Later, the *GDC* devotes an entire chapter to the subject of catechist formation. Among other things, it calls for an approach to formation that is holistic and balanced, attending to the “being”, the “knowing”, and the “savoir-faire”, or the effective doing of catechesis. (GDC, 238)

In Service To The Master: Catechist Certification in the Diocese of Joliet articulates the covenant relationship between this local church and its catechists. I hope that you will find this process to be affirming of the partnership that exists among catechists, parishes and diocese. Together we are called, by no less than Jesus himself, to proclaim his truth and build the “Reign of God”.

Let us continue, with all diligence, to attend to our essential responsibility to form catechists in Christ. May we help those in our care to joyfully feast on the rich fare that is Catholic faith, so that they, in turn, will be worthy of their esteemed role and have much to share with the people of God!

May God bless you and your ministry, which is so essential to God’s saving plan for our world!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas S. Quinlan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas S. Quinlan
Diocesan Director

**IN SERVICE TO THE MASTER:
CATECHIST CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES**

Catechesis is...

Catechesis is much more than a “function” that needs to be carried out in the parish. “The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ” (General Directory for Catechesis # 80). To know this Jesus and to know how to follow him is the very heart of catechesis. Through Baptism one is configured to Christ and in catechesis that relationship with Jesus is guided and nurtured. Fundamentally, catechesis helps one to know, to celebrate and to contemplate the mystery of Christ.

Who has encountered Christ desires to know him as much as possible, as well as to know the plan of the Father, which Jesus revealed. Knowledge of the faith is foundational.

Communion with Jesus leads to the celebration of his presence in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist. Catechesis not only shares the meaning and knowledge of liturgy and sacraments but desires that all the faithful be brought to full, conscious and active participation in the liturgical life of the church.

Conversion to Jesus Christ implies walking in his footsteps. Catechesis must transmit the core values and attitudes of Jesus. This moral testimony, which catechesis addresses, always demonstrates the social consequences of the Gospel.

When catechesis is permeated by a climate of prayer, the assimilation of the entire Christian life reaches its summit. To learn to pray with Jesus is to pray with the same sentiments with which Jesus prayed to the Father—adoration, praise, thanksgiving, confidence, supplication and awe.

Finally, catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.

The Fundamental tasks of catechesis:

- Knowledge of the faith**
- Liturgical understanding & celebration**
 - Moral formation**
 - Prayer**
 - Community Life**

THE IMPORTANCE OF FORMATION FOR CATECHISTS

Go, therefore make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20

For God's grace and truth to be shared, formation of the catechist continues to be valued as a key factor. Catechists, the women and men, who share our Catholic faith with children, youth and adults, those who keep the Gospel alive in the hearts of the members of our faith communities, deserve no less than quality formational experiences.

Adequate preparation & formation are indispensable for the catechist. Goodwill alone does not ensure success. A living active faith does not automatically include the basic skills necessary for effective catechesis. When people respond to the "call" to be catechists, they are looking for assistance and guidance so that they may confidently fulfill their catechetical responsibilities. Catechist Certification in the Diocese of Joliet will address these needs.

OVERVIEW OF
Catechist Certification
In the
Diocese of Joliet

FOUNDATIONAL CERTIFICATION 36 hours

- . 8 hours in BEING
- . 20 hours in KNOWING
- . 8 hours in DOING

ADVANCED CERTIFICATION 24 hours

- . 6 hours in BEING
- . 12 hours in KNOWING
- . 6 hours in DOING

ONGOING RECOGNITION 18 hours
over 3 years

- . 6 hours in BEING
- . 6 hours in KNOWING
- . 6 hours in DOING