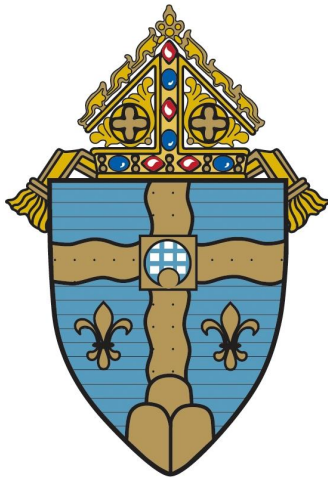


IN SERVICE TO THE MASTER: CATECHIST CERTIFICATION in the DIOCESE OF JOLIET



Catechist Name

A resource for catechists, the women and men who guide and support the journey of faith formation with individuals in one or more of the following areas: Children's Ministry; Junior High Ministry; High School Ministry; Young Adult Ministry; Adult Ministry [RCIA, Small Christian Communities, etc.]; Catholic School Ministry

Dear Catechist,

Greetings in our Lord, Jesus Christ from the Diocese of Joliet!

Thank you so much for being a catechist! As a catechist, you are engaging in public ministry of our Church, a ministry to which you have been called by God and by your parish. Your openness to sharing our Catholic faith shows your commitment as a baptized member of the Body of Christ. Saying yes to this beautiful and important ministry reveals a desire to live out your Christian discipleship in a generous and life-giving way.

No one serves in catechetical (faith formation) ministry alone. You are a representative of the parish community in which you live and worship. I encourage you to avail yourself of the resources and support of this faith community in which you serve. You are also participating in this ministry along with many thousands of fellow catechists throughout the diocese, and indeed, many millions worldwide! And ultimately, as a catechist, you stand with all holy women and men who have echoed the “Good News” of Christ down through every previous generation of the Church!

The saying, “You can’t give what you don’t have,” may be trite, but it is certainly also true. Every catechist must not only have an open heart for service, but also a hunger to grow in the understanding of Catholic faith. It is not enough to teach the faith, but it is essential that the catechist also becomes a living example of one who desires spiritual growth and continually strives to become more Christ-like. In short, while being a catechist means showing others the way, it first means traveling the journey of faith one’s self.

Your parish has an important responsibility to direct and assist you in your personal and ministerial formation. You have a right to expect this help, just as the parish has a right to challenge you to grow in your faith and teaching skills. Those being served in your parish deserve the best you can offer them. In partnership with your parish, you should find joy in your own, ongoing formation and satisfaction in your impact on young lives as an effective catechist.

To help affirm you in your development as a person of faith and as a catechist, your diocesan Religious Education Office has established *In Service to the Master: Catechist Certification in the Diocese of Joliet*. Its guidelines call for each catechist to grow in three essential areas, as described in your certification brochure.

I hope that you will embrace the concept of diocesan catechist certification as a way to focus your formational efforts and to be recognized for the generous investment that you are making in yourself. I look forward to having the privilege of signing your certificate in the not-too-distant future. And again, thank you! May God bless you for who you are and all you do in the name of our Lord!

Sincerely in Christ,

Thomas S. Quinlan
Diocesan Director

OVERVIEW

The General Directory for Catechesis identifies three dimensions for catechist formation [article 238]. They are:

- 1. BEING 2. KNOWING 3. DOING**

BEING - the spiritual formation of the catechist. The GDC points out that this formation of the catechist’s own spiritual and human life is critically important and therefore opportunities should be incorporated to sustain this area of formation

KNOWING – the transmission of the theological content of Catholic faith. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* offers a sound structural model of the primary areas for study of Catholic theology and a starting point for the “development of a process that fosters cognitive and personal appropriation of Catholic faith. The “four pillars of the Catechism are:

1. Creed
2. Liturgy/ Sacraments
3. Morality
4. Prayer & Spirituality

The GDC adds a fifth area, which is Scripture, as it is the “soul of all theological study.”

DOING - the ability to communicate the Gospel message with natural ease. Facilitating a group creatively and dynamically is an art that needs to be authored. Understanding specific age group methodology and interpersonal dynamics are necessary for effective catechetical ministry.

The levels of catechist certification in the Diocese of Joliet are:

Foundational Certification	Advanced Certification	Ongoing Recognition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of (36) hours will be needed for Foundational Certification. From the three areas identified in the General Directory for Catechesis, the following balance is necessary: • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ BEING – (8) hours ✓ KNOWING – (20) hours ✓ DOING – (8) hours • The parish catechetical leader in conjunction with the catechist will develop a plan for attaining this certification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After attaining Foundational Certification, (24) hours of additional formation is needed. The catechist continues work in each of the three areas identified in the GDC as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ BEING – (6) hours ✓ KNOWING – (12) hours ✓ DOING – (6) hours • The parish catechetical leader in conjunction with the catechist will develop a plan for attaining this certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As catechists continue serving in catechetical ministry, they need to participate in ongoing formation. Faith Formation in the Diocese of Joliet calls for a minimum of (6) hours annually, even when Foundational and Advanced Certification have been attained. • Ongoing Recognition will be granted to the catechist who completes (18) hours of formation in (3) years. The following balance is necessary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ BEING – (6) hours ✓ KNOWING – (6) hours ✓ DOING – (6) hours • The parish catechetical leader in conjunction with the catechist will develop a plan for attaining this certification.

CURRICULUM

Based on the three (3) areas of formation identified in the General Directory for Catechesis, the following aspects for catechist formation should be followed:

<p>BEING... the Faithful Disciple</p>	<p>The catechist's own spiritual life and human experience is critically important. Many catechists begin simply as well intentioned volunteers. Not all will embrace the richness of catechetical ministry. To do so, one must come to appreciate that a catechist is one who "must receive and respond to a ministerial call that comes from the Lord and is articulated in the local church." (NCD, 206) Catechists need to explore the depth of their "call" on a regular basis. Such topics to be explored are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The vocation of the catechist b. The role of the catechist in the Church's ministry c. The qualities of a catechist as expressed in contemporary Church documents d. The role of the Spirit in catechetical ministry e. The qualities of the catechist as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Storyteller ▪ Teacher/companion ▪ Leader of prayer ▪ Witness for justice f. The personal faith journey of the catechist
<p>KNOWING... the Catholic Faith Well</p>	<p>The GDC emphasizes the importance of the catechist having "sufficient knowledge of the message." Based on the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the fifth area identified in the GDC, Scripture, the following areas need to be addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The Creed</u> – core beliefs of the community, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God, the Creator of all that exists b. God's revelation in human history c. The call to relationship that God offers to each human being d. Faith as a response to God's call e. Scripture and Sacred Tradition as the primary modes of God's revelation f. Jesus Christ as the fullness of God's revelation g. God as a Trinity of persons-God the Father, God the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit h. The Incarnation i. The Holy Spirit as animator of the community of faith j. The Church as the Body of Christ, the community of believers 2. <u>Liturgy and Sacraments</u> – signs and symbols <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The meaning of ritual b. The nature of liturgy c. The relationship of liturgy to the Paschal mystery d. The celebration of liturgy in a cycle of time e. The role of space, music and cultural expression in liturgy f. The importance of the assembly in liturgical celebration g. The way in which symbolic actions express meaning and invite participation h. The relationship of the seven sacraments to the fundamental experience of human life i. The centrality of the Eucharist in the Church j. Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist as the sacraments of initiation k. Penance/Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick as the sacraments of healing l. The sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony as celebrating the two central vocations at the service of the community 3. <u>Morality</u> – how we live as followers of Jesus Christ, who described himself as, "the way, the truth and the life." (John 14:6) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Human dignity and community as the foundations of Catholic Social Justice. b. The meaning of virtue and its foundations in the teachings of Jesus c. The implications of the Beatitudes for daily life d. The meaning and validity of objective morality; the sources for arriving at objective moral truth e. The delicate relationship between objective moral truth and subjective or personal responsibility f. Moral actions as the responses one makes to the grace offered by a loving God

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. Moral actions as a combination of act, intention, and circumstance h. The nature, origin, and degrees of sin i. The effects of sin on the individual and the community j. The nature of conscience and the process of informing one's conscience k. The timeless quality and universal validity of the Commandments l. The relationship of the Commandments to the new law of Jesus Christ <p>4. <u>Prayer and Spirituality</u> – our relationship with God. Prayer is placed within the context of one's spirituality; the name given to the entire life lived in response to God's call.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The basic dynamic of prayer as listening and responding to God's call b. Mary as the perfect model of acceptance and response to God's call c. The relationship between personal prayer and the community of faith d. The various prayer forms through which we make our response to God e. Obstacles to the life of prayer f. The Holy Spirit as source of our prayer response g. The Our Father as the bedrock of Christian prayer. <p>5. <u>Scripture</u> – the “soul of all theological study”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A general overview of the Old Testament and the New Testament and central themes b. The formation of the Scriptures over time c. The importance of context when reading the Bible d. Literary forms found in the Bible e. The meaning of inspiration the establishment of the canon of the Scriptures f. The biblical themes of covenant and freedom g. The source of the Bible's holiness h. The root story of the Exodus i. The relationship of Jesus' saving action to the Exodus event j. The basic message of Jesus in the gospels k. The role of Paul in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.
<p>DOING ...Catechesis Effectively (savoir-faire)</p>	<p>The challenge, before every catechist, is to create a dynamic, interactive and creative experience each time his/her group gathers. The catechist is like a symphony conductor who interprets the score as all the different instruments are brought together into a unique expression. In order to accomplish this in a faith formation setting, a catechist will need to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How to shape a social environment in which faith can be nurtured b. How to create a good and safe physical environment c. How to use creative activities in learning d. How to develop successful session plans e. How to help learners to pray together f. Practical skills related to the specific age level of their learners g. Characteristics of human developmental h. Characteristics of the developmental faith stages i. Appropriate prayer forms that will lead to the inclusion of all children j. Characteristics of cognitive, psychosocial, moral and faith growth; catechists will come to understand how learners build knowledge, construct meaning and relate to others.



(duplicate as needed)



CATECHIST RECORD OF FORMATION

Name _____

A. For formal presentations please complete the following:

Workshop Title: _____
Presenter(s): _____
Location: _____
Date of Event: _____

B. For independent study please complete the following:

Topic Title: _____
Materials: _____
(book, article, video, etc)
Author: _____

C. Number of Hours: Being _____ Knowing _____ Savoir-Faire _____

Please reflect on the following questions below. You may use both sides of this sheet or attach additional sheets, if necessary. **Then return this form to your parish Catechetical Leader.**

1. What value did this formational opportunity provide for you personally?

2. How will you integrate this knowledge into your catechetical ministry?

Catechist Signature

Date

PARISH _____ **CITY** _____

**FOUNDATIONAL LEVEL
CATECHIST RECORD for**

KNOWING...the Catholic Faith Well – 20 hours		
Program	Hours	Date
Creed (4 hours)		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Liturgy/Sacraments (4 hours)		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Morality (4 hours)		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Prayer/Spirituality (4 hours)		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Scripture (4 hours)		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
BEING...the Faithful Disciple – 8 hours		
Program	Hours	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
DOING ...Catechesis Effectively (savoir-faire)– 8 hours		
Program	Hours	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Catechetical Leader Signature

Date

PARISH _____ **CITY** _____

**ADVANCED LEVEL
CATECHIST RECORD for**

KNOWING...the Catholic Faith Well – 12 hours		
Program	Hours	Date
Creed		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Liturgy/Sacraments		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Morality		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Prayer/Spirituality		
1.		
2.		
3.		
Scripture		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
BEING...the Faithful Disciple – 6 hours		
Program	Hours	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
DOING ...Catechesis Effectively (savoir-faire)– 8 hours		
Program	Hours	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Catechetical Leader Signature

Date

PARISH _____ **CITY** _____

**ONGOING RECOGNITION
CATECHIST RECORD for**

KNOWING...the Catholic Faith Well – 6 hours		
Program	Hours	Date
Creed		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Liturgy/Sacraments		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Morality		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Prayer/Spirituality		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Scripture		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
BEING...the Faithful Disciple – 6 hours		
Program	Hours	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
DOING ...Catechesis Effectively (savoir-faire) – 6 hours		
Program	Hours	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Catechetical Leader Signature

Date