

Dear Catechist:

Like all Christians, Catechists are called to continual conversion and growth in their faith. Lay men and women who answer the call to serve as religious education catechists and Catholic school teachers provide a tremendous service to the Church. Because they lead their students by constantly striving to follow Christ ever more closely, catechists are required to complete a **minimum of six (6) hours** of faith formation in any of the following ways:



- The Newman Institute's "Foundations of the Faith" sequence offers catechists a concrete path toward continuing education and **Diocesan Certification**. The "Foundations" mini-courses are offered locally at parishes and schools.
- The University of Dayton's online courses lead to an **Online Certificate**. This sequence of courses serve as the equivalent to Diocesan Certification.
- Faith formation experiences provided locally and at diocesan-wide events will continue to fulfill the requirements for **Parish Recognition**. The six hour minimum can be fulfilled in a variety of ways.

www.dioceseofjoliet.org



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CATECHIST FORMATION AND CERTIFICATION

Diocese of Joliet



“On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: ‘Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.’ This first proclamation is called ‘first’ not because it exists at the beginning and can then be forgotten or replaced by other more important things. It is first in a qualitative sense because it is the *principal* proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment.”

—Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, n. 164

DIOCESAN CERTIFICATION: FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH

Completion of this sequence of course sessions results in Diocesan Certification in the Foundations of the Faith.

I. New Evangelization

1. Disciples Called to Witness
2. Sharing the Joy of the Gospel

II. Methods of Faith Formation

1. Understanding Students and Leading Them to Christ
2. Planning an Engaging Catechetical Session

III. The Creed

1. I Believe in God the Father
2. I Believe in Jesus Christ
3. I Believe in the Holy Spirit

IV. The Sacraments

1. The Sacramental Economy & The Liturgy
2. The Sacraments of Initiation
3. The Sacraments of Healing
4. The Sacraments of Service

V. Moral Life of Christ

1. The Vocation of the Human Person
2. The Commandments-Love of God
3. The Commandments-Love of Neighbor

VI. Christian Prayer

- 1: Prayer in the Christian Life
- 2: The Lord's Prayer— "Our Father"

ONLINE CERTIFICATE: UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON VLCFF



Completion of this sequence of courses through the University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community of Faith Formation (VLCFF) results in a University of Dayton Certificate in Catechesis:

<http://vlc.udayton.edu/courses/>

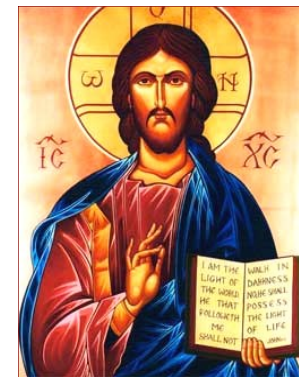
- I. Survey of Catholic Doctrine
- II. Introduction to Scripture
- III. Images of Jesus
- IV. Sacraments
- V. Introduction to Catechesis
- VI. Introduction to Prayer

This online certificate is the equivalent to Diocesan Certification in the Foundations of the Faith.

PARISH RECOGNITION: ONGOING FAITH FORMATION

Catechists and Catholic School teachers are to participate in faith formation events that support their ministry. They need to be life-long learners who pursue faith formation in the areas of spirituality, theology and methodology. Faith formation experiences can be recorded on the Catechetical Record Form, which can be printed from our website and submitted to the catechetical leader.

Completion of at least **6 hours per year** results in parish recognition of ongoing faith formation. These hours may be earned in "Foundations of the Faith" sessions, parish training or regional events, diocesan offerings, or approved online studies.



"Go, therefore, and 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."
(Mt 28:19)