

CERTIFICATION OF CATECHISTS AND OTHER PASTORAL MINISTERS

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES:

“Lay people also fulfill their prophetic mission by evangelization, ‘that is, the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life.’ For lay people, ‘this evangelization...acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world.’ This witness of life, however, is not the sole element in the Apostolate; the true apostle is on the lookout for occasions of announcing Christ by word, either to unbelievers...or to the faithful...Lay people who are capable and trained may also collaborate in catechetical formation, in teaching the sacred sciences, and in use of the communications media” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 905-906).

“Yet, while the entire Christian community is responsible for Christian catechesis and all of its members bear witness to the faith, only some receive the ecclesial mandate to be catechists. Together with the primordial mission which parents have in relation to their children, the Church confers the delicate task of organically transmitting the faith within the community on particular, specifically called members of the people of God” (General Directory for Catechesis #221).

“All of these tasks are born of the conviction that the quality of any form of pastoral activity is placed at risk if it does not rely on truly competent and trained personnel. The instruments provided for catechesis cannot be truly effective unless well used by trained catechists. Thus the adequate *formation of catechists* cannot be overlooked by concerns such as the updating of texts and the reorganization of catechesis. Consequently, diocesan pastoral programs must give absolute priority to the *formation of lay catechists* (General Directory for Catechesis #234).

Therefore:

All persons involved, both as volunteers and professionals, in the catechetical and pastoral mission of the Catholic Church will be certified according to the guidelines of the Office of Religious Education, and give evidence to their commitment to lifelong catechesis.