



Office of Faith Formation and Lay Ecclesial Ministry
Directory for Catechesis

QUALIFICATIONS OF CATECHISTS AND OTHER PASTORAL MINISTERS

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES:

“Whoever is called ‘to teach Christ’ must first seek ‘the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus’... From this loving knowledge of Christ springs the desire to proclaim him, to ‘evangelize,’ and to lead others to the ‘yes’ of faith in Jesus Christ. But at the same time the need to know this faith better makes itself felt” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #428 - 429).

“Ensuring the quality of pastoral care provided by lay ecclesial ministers requires a process for deciding that a given candidate has the education, formation, and professional skills necessary to serve in a particular role. This involves establishing the requirements for education, formation, and experience for specific ministerial roles and evaluating the extent to which individuals meet these requirements” (Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, *The Certification of Candidates for Lay Ecclesial Ministry*).

IN THE DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN:

1. Parish ministers are to be practicing Catholics who
 - Live in the Spirit of Jesus
 - Participate in the sacramental life of the Church
 - Know and witness to the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church.
2. Parish ministers are to demonstrate ongoing intellectual and spiritual growth as a lived priority to nurture personal and communal faith.
3. Parish ministers are to be certified at or working toward the level of diocesan certification required for their ministry.
4. Parish ministers are to be in compliance with the Diocese of Youngstown Safe Environment Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults.
5. Parish ministers are to be at least 21 years of age (or 18 years of age if accompanied at the ministry site by a qualified adult).