



Office of Faith Formation and Lay Ecclesial Ministry
Directory for Catechesis

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).

“The formation of the catechist includes various dimensions. The deepest one has to do with *being* a catechist, even before *acting* as a catechist. Formation, in fact, helps him to mature as a person, as a believer, and as an apostle. This dimension is also viewed today in the sense of “*knowing-how to be with,*” which highlights the extent to which personal identity is always a relational identity. Moreover, for a catechist to perform his task adequately, formation will also be attentive to the dimension of *knowledge*, which implies a twofold fidelity to the message and to the person in the context in which he lives. Finally, since catechesis is a communicative and educational act, formation will not neglect the dimension of practical *savoir-faire*” (Directory for Catechesis #136).

“Like all Christians, catechists are called to continual conversion and growth in their faith and, for this reason, are called to ongoing spiritual formation. The catechist should continue his or her own spiritual formation through frequent reception of the sacraments, especially the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Penance and Reconciliation, through spiritual direction, and through continued study of the faith. The catechist is also in need of pedagogical formation, especially as society, teaching methods, and culture change” (National Directory for Catechesis pp 236-237).

Therefore:

All persons involved, both as volunteers and professionals, in the catechetical and pastoral mission of the Catholic Church will hold a diocesan certification according to the guidelines of the Office of Faith Formation and Lay Ecclesial Ministry, and give evidence to their commitment to lifelong catechesis.