

CORE CURRICULUM FOR CATECHETICAL MINISTRIES

Core Courses

Sowing God's Word

The Heart of Catholic Evangelization

Catechesis is firmly rooted within the mission of the Church and is an “essential and remarkable moment” within the process of evangelization (GDC #63). What do these words mean to each of us as participants in the mission of the Church? This course explains major documents and principles of catechesis and evangelization, reflects on the vocation of the catechist, and explores the ministry of catechesis for initiation and with adults, adolescents, and children. This course is normally taken as a prerequisite for the methods courses for adults (Ready Your Hearts), adolescents (Forming Youth as Disciples) or children (Forming Children As Disciples).

Catechetics 10 hours

Catholic Belief and Tradition

Catholic Belief and Tradition provides a review of the Catholic faith by examining the creed as statements of belief. What do Catholics believe about revelation, faith, trinity, incarnation, redemption and grace? Through a process of study and personal reflection, participants grow in their understanding and appreciation of the Catholic faith.

Creed 20 hours

Introduction to Scripture

Introduction to Scripture surveys the origin, composition and foundational stories of the Bible. In addition to acquiring a basic biblical literacy, participants explore and reflect upon dominant Scriptural themes within the context of their life experience. This approach to Scripture invites participants to recognize that ongoing dialogue with the Word of God is essential on their journey to Christian maturity.

Scripture 20 hours

Catechetical Methods

Elementary Catechesis

Forming Children as Disciples

This course will help catechists attain the basic knowledge and skills necessary to minister with children and their families. The course explores: catechetical terms, session preparation and activity selection, learning styles, special needs and diversity, preparing the learning environment, prayer, discipline/group management, teaching techniques, exploring Scripture with children, using technology effectively, guided discussions and hands-on learning.

Catechetics 10 hours

Adolescent Catechesis

Forming Youth as Disciples

Building upon the vision of the Church’s mission of evangelization as emphasized in The General Directory for Catechesis, participants are invited to consider adolescents within the context of the total life of the parish. Those who minister with adolescents and their families will explore pastoral practices and strategies that nurture their spirituality, call them to ongoing formation, and empower them to fulfill their roles as disciples.

Catechetics 10 hours

Issues and Topics in Christian Initiation

Examines the process of initiation, focusing on the various rites, periods, and ministries. For beginners as well as those with some experience with the rite. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Study Edition is the required text (Liturgy Training Publications, 1988).

Initiation 20 hours

Ready Your Hearts

Forming Adults as Disciples

This introduction to adult faith formation is for members of adult faith formation teams, RCIA teams, and small Church communities; for intergenerational faith formation catechists; and for others who minister with and to adults. Participants will examine the lifelong process of faith formation; explore who, what, why, where, and how of adult faith formation; and experience the skills for this ministry.

Catechetics 10 hours