Obtaining & Renewing a Catechist Certificate

For Parish Catechists
in the Diocese of San Jose

Common Questions

How can I start the certification process?
Simply talk with your Catechetical Director/Coordinator and tell them of your interest.

How much does FAITH beyond 2000 cost?
The parish pays the fee for FAITH beyond 2000. The catechist is asked to buy some inexpensive workbooks.

Who teaches catechist certification sessions?
In the parish, catechist certification sessions are facilitated either by the Catechetical Director/Coordinator, a Master Catechist, or an experienced catechist.

FAITH beyond 2000 sessions are taught by Master Catechists of the Diocese or by other qualified people.

How can I register for FAITH beyond 2000?
All that you need to do is to let the Catechetical Director/Coordinator in your parish know that you are interested. He or she will take care of the details. Online registration is available at:

http://www.dsj.org/faith-beyond-2000-part-2-online-registration

Faith Beyond 2000

Faith Beyond 2000 sponsored by the Office of Parish Services, Catechetical Ministry. Monday evenings from 6:45-9:00 P.M. $8.00 for the workbooks. Check the DSJ Catechetical Ministry webpage, for registration and information.

Lighting the Fire of Young People Faith (Counts for the Person of the Catechist) St. Mary, Los Gatos. Sponsored by Pflaum.
- September 26, 7:00-9:00 P.M.
  RSVP to tcotting-mogan@pflaum

Faith Formation Conference (click here for workshops that count toward certification) Registration closes October 19.
  November 9, and November 10
  Santa Clara Convention Center.
  Cost: $31-72. Register online at http://www.faithformationconference.com/

*Knowledge of the Faith: Focus on Lectio Divina (Counts for Prayer and Spirituality, Part 2) Presented by Fr. Tony Mancuso. Registration closes February 11
  - February 20, 2:30-5 P.M. Chancery. Cost $15


*Moral formation (counts for Moral Formation 1 & 2) Registration closes June 7
  June 14, 9 A.M.- 2:30 P.M. Chancery. Cost $40 include lunch.

Department of Catechetical Ministry
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Catechist Certification
Upcoming Workshops

(Registration Forms Available Online)

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Catechist Certification

Being a catechist is a great privilege. Catechists are called by God to help adults, youth, and children come to a closer, more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. They do this by sharing their own faith and the faith of the Church.

Catechists also have a great responsibility. The responsibility of continuing their own spiritual development is primary. It is no secret that catechists teach first by who they are.

Along with growing in their own life of faith, catechists are also called to grow in their understanding of Scripture and the teachings of the Church and to acquire the skills they need to communicate the Gospel effectively.

Because effective catechesis is so essential to the life of the Church, all catechists in California are expected to be certified according to the guidelines approved by the California Bishops.

The Catechist Certification Process

The process of catechist certification enables catechists to carry out their responsibilities. It is designed to nourish their spirituality, help them learn the basics of what the Church believes, celebrates and lives, help them understand their role and learn the skills involved.

The process of certification in the Diocese of San Jose has three parts:

1. Introduction to Catechetical Ministry.

The first step in the process of catechist certification usually takes place in the parish or in a cluster of parishes. It focuses on the following areas:

   - Called to be a Certified Catechist!

   - FAITH beyond 2000.

   The second step in catechist certification is a basic formation program which is offered monthly in two parts, over two years. The topics covered are:

   1. FAITH beyond 2000, Part 1
      - Revelation and Faith Response
      - Jesus, the Fullness of Revelation
      - The Holy Spirit
      - The Church
      - The Christian Creed
      - Introduction to Scripture
      - Introduction to the Old Testament
      - Introduction to the New Testament, Pt. 1
      - Introduction to the New Testament, Pt. 2
      - Prayer
      - The Prayerful Life

   2. FAITH beyond 2000, Part 2
      - Liturgy
      - Liturgy and Christian Identity
      - Christian Initiation: Baptism and Confirmation
      - Christian Initiation: Eucharist
      - Sacraments of Healing
      - Sacraments at the Service of the Community
      - Morality, Part 1
      - Morality, Part 2
      - Social Justice
      - The Learner, Part 1
      - The Learner, Part 2
      - Faith and Culture


   The last step in the process of certification consists of the following:

   - Successful completion of at least one year as a catechist
   - An observation and evaluation of a catechetical session by a Master Catechist
   - An observation and written evaluation of an experienced catechist
   - Diocesan completion of Safe Environment Training at https://www.shieldthevulnerable.org/

   When all requirements are met, the parish Catechetical Director/Coordinator requests a certificate from the diocesan office.

Catechist Certification:

- Builds confidence
- Promotes effective catechesis
- Nurtures personal faith growth
- Confirms ability to catechize

Catechist Recertification

Catechists are certified for four years. The certificate may be renewed for another four years by attending 10 hours of courses and workshop each year or by repeating Faith beyond 2000.