

BASIC CATECHIST CERTIFICATION

“The quality of any form of pastoral activity is placed at risk if it does not rely on truly competent and trained personnel.” (GDC #234)

All parish catechists should be certified or in the process of certification. The requirements for certification are:

COURSEWORK:

- *Echoes of Faith Plus* “Catechist” and “Methods” Modules (English) or *Sembrando la Palabra* (Spanish)

14 hours minimum

In English this formation is done at the parish level and is the responsibility of the Catechetical Director/Coordinator.

- FAITH beyond 2000, part 1 (11 sessions)
- FAITH beyond 2000, part 2 (12 sessions)

OR

- Into the Fields: Year 1, 2 and 3 Twenty Third Publications

EXPERIENCE, OBSERVATIONS and SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING:

- Satisfactory completion of one year as a catechist.
- At least one observation by a Master Catechist with a written evaluation of performance
- An observation of an experienced catechist and a written report and discussion with a Master Catechist
- Completion of Safe Environment Training at www.shieldthevulnerable.org, The training is required to recertify every three years.

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION:

When a catechist has met all of the requirements for certification, the Catechetical Director/Coordinator submits the following to the diocesan office:

- The completed diocesan record form
- A request for certification

COURSE OF STUDY FOR CATECHIST CERTIFICATION

A. Catechist and Methods Modules using *Echoes of Faith* video and booklets

Getting Started as a Catechist - 4 hours

Roles of the Catechist - 4 hours

Person of the Catechist – 2-3 hours minimum

Methods for Grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 – 4 hours

In Spanish, *Sembrando la Palabra*, parts 1, 2, and 3 is equivalent to the Catechist and Methods Modules using *Echoes of Faith*

Total: 14 hours minimum

B. FAITH beyond 2000, part 1

Revelation and Response

Jesus the Fullness of Revelation

The Holy Spirit

The Church

The Christian Creed

Intro. to the Scriptures

Intro. to the Old Testament

Intro. to the New Testament: Gospels

Mary and the Saints

Prayer and Spirituality part 1

Prayer and Spirituality part 2

C. FAITH beyond 2000, part 2

Liturgy

Liturgy and Christian Identity

Sac. of Initiation: Bapt. and Conf.

Sac. of Initiation: Eucharist

Sacraments of Healing

Sacraments at the Serv. of Comm.

Morality, Part 1

Morality, Part 2

Social Justice

Faith and Human Development, part 1

Faith and Human Development, part 2

Faith Formation: Family, Culture and Church

GUIDELINES FOR USING *ECHOES OF FAITH* FOR CERTIFICATION

Catechist and Methods Modules may be facilitated by either

- Master Catechists or by
- Directors of Catechetical Ministry, Coordinators or certified catechists (recommended by the DCM), all of whom have attended *Echoes of Faith* facilitator training.

Process for Catechist and Methods Modules: Normally catechists watch the video, discuss it, and use the workbook as a group. At the discretion of the Director of Catechetical Ministry, a catechist may be permitted to use the video and companion workbook alone if s/he

- completes the written material in the companion workbook as prescribed and turns it in to the facilitator and
- meets with the facilitator and, if possible, other catechists to discuss the material for a minimum of 30-45 minutes.

Watching the video alone should be the exception, not the rule.

FAITH beyond 2000 MAKEUP SESSIONS

Makeup session given in parishes or clusters of parishes must be presented by Master Catechists or equivalent and approved by the diocese, follow the approved guidelines developed for FAITH beyond 2000 since *Echoes of Faith* does not cover everything required for catechist certification.

RECORD KEEPING

Parish catechetical leaders are expected to keep the formation records of their catechists. Catechists are also encouraged to keep a record of the sessions they attend. A diocesan form is available.

When a catechist has completed all modules and has met all requirements for certification as a Basic Catechist, the Director/Coordinator of Catechetical ministry submits the following to the Diocesan Director for Catechetical Ministry:

- the completed diocesan record form
- a request for certification.