

The Level Three Formation course consists of 160 hours of study and prepares the catechist to work with Level III child (ages 9 to 12). The catechist will become grounded in both theory and praxis, in order to create and facilitate a Level III atrium in a parish setting. The following topics are covered:

- **Developmental and Religious Characteristics of the 9-12 year old child:** Catechists will learn the important aspects of the child's development, particularly the child's growing desire and capacity to wrestle with the mystery of time and their own role in history.
- **Trinitarian God:** Catechists will continue to study the Traditional Trinitarian prayer language of the Church – especially in the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist along with a study of several Johannine parables and narratives in Jesus' life that speak of the relationship of the Father, Son, and Spirit.
- **The Economy of Salvation/Salvation History:** Catechists will study the "Plan of God" in great detail through extensive study of the Old Testament, archeological and historical material. Key moments and figures in the history of Israel and common threads that run throughout this history to aid the child to reflect more substantially on his/her own role in God's plan. The prophets continue to be lifted up as those who have a special call in listening for and discerning God's Plan and announcing it to the world.
- **The Life of Jesus Christ/Incarnation and Salvation History:** Catechists will study events surrounding childhood, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, noting common themes that permeate these stories.
- **The Teaching of Jesus Christ:** Catechists will deepen their study of Jesus' 'Kingdom parables' so as to help the children grasp the true nature of this Kingdom and to wrestle with its social implications.
- **The Church:** Catechists will study the sacraments in light of the universality of the Church across nations, cultures, and history including the fractures that have taken place in the Church over the past 2000 years in this context of God's larger plan that 'all will be one'.
- **The Liturgical and Sacramental Life of the Church:** Catechists will study the rites of the sacraments and the Roman Missal.
- **Christian Morality:** Catechists will study the moral parables and maxims in the teaching of Jesus. The moral life is presented as a joy-filled path leading to ever more abundant life.

- **Prayer:** Catechists will explore how to help the 9-12 year old child link their prayer to the prayer life of the larger Church – especially through the practice of the Liturgy of the Hours and the planning of prayer rituals for themselves that include readings from scripture, praying the psalms, petition, praise, and song. Traditional scriptural prayers of the Church are introduced formally.
- **Education to Community Life:** Catechists will study the teaching of Jesus, the guidelines and practices of harmonious communal living– in context of the atrium community and in relation to the larger world.