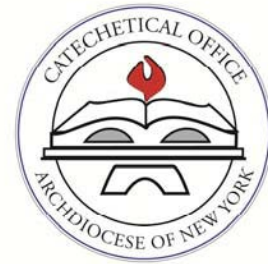


Catechist Formation Program Course



Handing On the Faith with Excellence
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LEVEL ONE

Level One courses are for all parish catechists of Religious Education, Catholic Youth Ministry, and the Catechumenate (RCIA). There are five required Level One courses:

- **Prayer and Spirituality** course presents the mission and vocation of the parish catechist, the norms and history of catechesis, an understanding of prayer and the ways of Catholic Christian prayer, the meaning and practice of faith, the stages of faith growth and the distinction between faith, belief, doctrine and theology.
- **Profession of Faith** course presents various Catholic images of God, ways of knowing God, the meaning of Divine Revelation, the meaning and understanding of Sacred Scripture, an examination of the life of Jesus Christ, and the meaning of the Church and its mission.
- **Celebration of the Christian Mysteries** course presents the definition, history, and effects of the sacraments of Christian Initiation, Sacraments of Healing and Sacraments at the Service of Communion.
- **Life in Christ** course presents the sources and principles of Catholic Christian morality, stressing the Ten Commandments, the beatitudes, and the Church's understanding of grace.

Methodology (at least one):

- **Methodology for Elementary Catechesis course** presents the archdiocesan Guidelines for Catechesis, Grades Kindergarten to Six, the effects of culture on catechesis, the creation of an effective teaching environment, methods for positive discipline, effective lesson planning, stages of moral, intellectual, social and faith development, ways of meeting the needs of the special child, the effects of media on catechesis and the use of media in teaching.
- **Methodology for Adolescent Catechesis course** presents the characteristics of the adolescent learner; prayer for adolescents; the archdiocesan Guidelines for Catechesis, Grades Seven and Eight, creative approaches for adolescent catechesis, the role of parents in adolescent catechesis, sacramental catechesis for adolescents, and effective approaches in teaching human sexuality.
- **Methodology for High School Catechesis course** presents the characteristics of the older adolescent learner, prayer for older adolescents, the components for comprehensive Catholic youth ministry, creative approaches for older adolescent

catechesis; the role of parents in older adolescent catechesis, and effective approaches in teaching human sexuality.

- **Methodology for the Catechumenate (RCIA)** course presents the goals and history of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (the Catechumenate), the order and the ministries needed for the Catechumenate, methods for evangelizing, and liturgical catechesis. An experience of an adapted combined Rite of Acceptance and Welcome, Rite of Sending, Breaking Open of the Word session, and Scrutiny will be offered.

LEVEL TWO

Level Two courses are for all parish catechists of Religious Education, Catholic Youth Ministry, Adult Faith Formation, and the Catechumenate (RCIA). There are five required Level Two courses:

- **Introduction to the Old Testament** course presents the Catholic understanding of Divine Revelation history of the Jewish people, the Pentateuch and its sources, the composition and purpose of the Historical Books, the Literary books, the Prophets, the Wisdom Literature, the Psalms and biblical literary genres.
- **Introduction to the New Testament** course presents a review of the books of the New Testament, the development of the Canon, an introduction to the Four Gospels, the content, interpretation and liturgical use of the Gospel accounts, the composition and purpose of the Acts of the Apostles, Epistles and the Book of Revelation.

The catechist is to choose the other three courses from any of these nine electives:

- **Catholic Moral Principles and Contemporary Issues** course presents a review of basic Catholic moral principles, Catholic teaching on the nature of human sexuality, bioethics and life issues.
- **The Church in the World** course presents an overview of the nature, mission, and history of the Catholic Church, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium), and the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes).
- **Prayer and Worship** course presents the nature, source, and expressions of Catholic Christian prayer, the liturgical celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments, sacramentals, devotions, liturgical ministries and liturgical planning.
- **Christology** course presents the Church's understanding of the person and nature of Jesus Christ based on the New Testament, the early Church Fathers and Councils.
- **Understanding the Apostles' Creed** course examines the Apostle's creed as presented in the new Catechism of the Catholic Church.

- **Multi-Cultural Catechesis** course presents the relationship between culture, society and Church, the history of the relationship of Christianity to culture, the introduction of the Gospel into culture, and the importance of adapting catechesis to the diverse ethnicities in the parish community.
- **Special Religious Education** course provides the parish catechist with the tools necessary to work with children with disabilities including autism. The areas covered include an overview of disabilities, an introduction to several models of inclusion in the parish religious education program, practical implications, sacramental considerations, and a review of available resources. This course also presents the rationale and need for Special Religious Education, the skills of the effective special religious education catechist, an overview of emotional, behavioral, developmental and physical challenges requiring special education.
- **The Social Mission of the Church** course presents the history, biblical roots, and seven main principles of Catholic social teaching.
- **Pastoral Issues with the Catechumenate (RCIA)** course presents the various common pastoral issues that may arise in a Catholic parish with the full implementation of the Catechumenate.