



## Catechist Certification Program Outline

### Foundation for Catechist Certification: Code of Canon Law

**803.2** The instruction and education in a Catholic school must be grounded in the principles of Catholic doctrine: teachers are to be outstanding in correct doctrine and integrity of life

**804.2** The local ordinary is to be concerned that those who are designated teachers of religious instruction in schools, even in non-Catholic ones, are outstanding in correct doctrine, the witness of a Christian life and teaching skill.

**805** For his own diocese the local ordinary has the right to appoint or approve teachers of religion and even to remove them or demand that they be removed if a reason of religion or morals requires it.

Certificate	Requirement	Hours	
Initial Catechist <i>required</i>	For new employees (Catholic and non-Catholics) <i>Pre-school employees are encouraged but not required</i>	12 catechist clock hours in 2 years (2 hours each category and 2 hours elective)	Creed, Scripture, Prayer, Sacraments, Social Justice/ Morality, Information for Growth Survey (IFG)
Basic Catechist <i>required</i>	All Catechist K-12	Additional 24 catechist clock hours in 4 years (4 hours per category plus 2 hours on methodology and 2 hours elective)	Theology, Scripture, Prayer, Sacraments, Social Justice / Morality, Catechetical Formation and Methodology
Advanced Catechist <i>optional</i>	All Catechist K-12	Additional 48 catechist clock hours	
Master Catechist <i>optional</i>	Undergraduate or Graduate credit	20 credit hours	From an approved university
***Continuing <i>required</i>	All employees (Catholic and non-Catholic) must continue taking coursework annually to maintain certificate status at any level	Additional 6 catechist clock hours annually	Theology, Scripture, Prayer, Sacraments, Social Justice / Morality, Catechetical Formation and Methodology

Teachers who are employed by the Diocese as of June 30, 2014 are grandfathered to a certified status as follows:

- Initial Catechist = 5 years of employment in the Diocese of Spokane
- Basic Catechist = 9 years of employment in the Diocese of Spokane
- Advanced Catechist = 17 years of employment in the Diocese of Spokane or submit 48 catechist clock hours to the Diocesan Office of Education
- Master Catechist = submit to the Diocesan Office of Education an official transcript indicating 20 semester hours of coursework in theology and/or religious studies from an accredited university

VERIFICATION OF ADVANCED STATUS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DIOCESAN OFFICE OF EDUCATION BY OCTOBER 1.

\*\*Certificate status is valid for up to 5 consecutive years of non-active employment.

## **Content Requirements:**

### Scripture

- Old Testament
- Ten Commandments
- New Testament
- Trinity and Images of God
- Christology and Redemption
- Mary, Church, and the Saints

### Liturgy and Sacraments

- The Paschal Mystery
- Sacramental Theology
- Sacraments of Initiation
- Sacraments of Healing
- Sacraments at the Service of Communion
- Effective Liturgy

### Morality and Social Justice

- Faith and Human Development
- Science and Faith
- Dignity of the Human Person
- Theology of the Body
- Bioethics
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Conscience Formation and Decision-Making

### Theology

- Creed
- Church History
- Catholic Culture and Tradition
- Apologetics
- Church Documents
- Catholic Spiritualities
- Ecumenism
- Living the Faith in Society

### Catechetical Formation and Methodology

- Ministry Formation
- Evangelization and the Nature of Catechesis
- Catechetical Process
- Learning and Teaching Styles

### Spiritually and Prayer

- Vocation of the Catholic School Teacher
- Building a faith community
- Spiritual person Call to Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer
- Forms and Styles of Prayer

## **Program Resource Options:**

- Echoes of Faith video series
- Fr. Robert E. Barron's - Catholicism video series
- Diocesan Religious Education presentations/workshops
- Regional Religious Education presentations/workshops
- University course work
- Parish and/or school religious education presentations/workshops
- Guided spiritual retreats