

Diocese of Spokane

Catechist Certification Process

Diocese of Spokane



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.*

Catechist Certification

According to the National Directory for Catechesis, the process of catechesis is comprised of six fundamental tasks:

1. Catechesis promotes knowledge of faith.
2. Catechesis promotes knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and the Sacraments.
3. Catechesis promotes moral formation in Jesus Christ.
4. Catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ.
5. Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.
6. Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society.

Catechist Certification

The objective of these six tasks is the formation of disciples of Jesus Christ, and it is the catechist who participates directly in this fundamental evangelical service.

Catechist Certification

People from many different backgrounds are called to this special role of catechist. These women and men bring a variety of **experiences, knowledge and skills** to this unique role. However, as a result, there is a wide diversity of competence. Therefore, it is important that all catechists be appropriately formed as catechists.

Catechist Certification

“Programs for formation should be designed to help them acquire the knowledge and skills they need to hand on the faith to those entrusted to their care and assist them in living as disciples in Christ.” (National Directory for Catechesis, #55)

Catechist Certification

These formation programs should:

- help the catechist to understand the nature of catechesis,
- familiarize the catechist with appropriate resources,
- provide formation in the knowledge and understanding of our Catholic faith and practice,
- encourage the importance of ongoing study.

Furthermore, these programs need to foster a deeper practice of daily prayer in the catechists and help them develop their own spiritual lives.

“We teach who we are.”

Catechist Certification

After several years without a formal diocesan catechist formation and certification program, a small diocesan ad hoc committee developed a renewed catechist preparation, formation, and certification program in our diocese.



Catechist Certification

This new process is based on several fundamental principles:

- **There should be a variety of paths through which individuals can obtain Catechetical Certification in the Diocese of Spokane.**
- **The process will consist of both local and diocesan resources.**
- **The use of webinars occasionally can be made available for those living outside of the Spokane area.**

Principles continued...

- **The new process is primarily a video assisted program, using both Echoes of Faith Plus and Fr. Barron's Catholicism Series.**
- **The process also includes several face-to-face presentations throughout the year from some of our local priests, vowed religious and laity who have the knowledge and skills necessary to enrich those seeking certification.**
- **There are four levels of certification: Initial, Basic, Advanced, and Master Catechist.**
- **Everyone will be required to participate in a minimum of 6 hours of ongoing formation annually in order to maintain certification.**

Certificate	Requirement	Hours	
Initial Catechist required	For new employees (Catholic and Non-Catholic) <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 and Morality In addition, all new employees must take the IFG
Basic Catechist required	All Catechist K-12	Additional 24 clock hours in 4 years	A minimum of 6 hours annually
Advanced Catechist required	All Catechist K-12	Additional 48 clock hours	
Master Catechist optional	Undergraduate or Graduate credit	20 semester credit hours	From an approved university
***Continuing required	Must continue taking coursework annually to maintain certificate status at any level	Additional 6 hours annually	

Grandfather Clause

- Teachers who are employed by the Diocese for a period of time are grandfathered to a certified status as follows:
- Initial Catechist = 5+ years of employment in the Diocese
- Basic Catechist = 9+ years of employment in the Diocese
- Advanced Catechist = 17+ years of employment in the Diocese
- Master Catechist = submit transcripts for 20 semester hours of coursework from an approved university

Program Resource Options:

- Echoes of Faith Plus - video series
- Catholicism by Fr. Barron- video series
- Diocesan religious education workshop
- Regional or local religious education workshops
- Guided spiritual retreats
- University course work

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

Content Requirements:

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

General Theology

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

Content Requirements:

Catechetical Formation and Methodology

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

Spirituality 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

Why IFG?

All catechists will be asked to participate in the Information for Growth survey. There is a twofold purpose. First, it is used to assist individuals in assessing their own level of religious knowledge for ongoing spiritual and intellectual formation. Second, it provides parishes, schools and dioceses with group data to use in designing programs or faith formation initiatives for adult ongoing faith formation.

What is the new “Foundational Core” required for all new catechists?

All new catechists are required to participate in the following Echoes of Faith sessions during their first two years:

- I Believe – We Believe: Segment 4-The Christian Creed (15:15)
- I Believe – We Believe: Segment 2 – God the Son (15:32)
- The Scriptures: Segment 1- What is the Bible? (22:17)
- The Scriptures: Segment 3 – What’s in the Bible? (23:56)
- Prayer and Spirituality: Segment 1 – What is Prayer? (16:27)
- Prayer and Spirituality: Segment 2 – How Do We Pray?(14:17)
- Catholic Morality: Segment 1 – Foundations of the Moral Life (16:35)
- Catholic Morality: Segment 2 – Objective and Subjective Morality (18:28)
- Liturgy and Sacraments: Segment 1 – What is Liturgy? (20:17)
- Liturgy and Sacraments: Segment 3 – Sacraments of Initiation (18:29)
- Person of the Catechist: Segment 1 – The Vocation of the Catechist (13:03)
- Person of the Catechist: Segment 2 – Qualities of Catechists (9:35)

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The Office of Education will offer these various sessions throughout the school year.

What is the new “Foundational Core” required for all catechists?

The Echoes of Faith and the Catholicism video series will also be available on loan through the diocesan Office of Education.

What criteria will be used to determine whether a retreat or a workshop qualifies as appropriate for catechist hours?

- All presentations, workshops, etc. must be preapproved by the diocesan Office of Education
- All presentations, workshops, etc. must address one of the six major categories.
 - ✓ Theology
 - ✓ Scripture
 - ✓ Liturgy and Sacraments
 - ✓ Morality and Social Justice
 - ✓ Spirituality and Prayer
 - ✓ Catechetical Formation and Methodology
- All presentations, workshops, etc. must be a minimum of one hour in length.
- All presentations, workshops, etc. must be facilitated by a qualified presenter or be from an eligible video-assisted program or an online program from an accredited university.

Thank you!!