

Orientation Credit

- Orientation Elementary School Teachers

All elementary teachers must complete the annual orientation course during their first year of teaching. Upon completion, this course fulfills one (1) required credit.

- Parish Religious Education Catechists

Parish catechists must complete this orientation course within the first two (2) years of teaching. This course is offered by the parish D/CRE. Upon completion, this course fulfills one (1) required credit.

Core Courses

Core courses are offered through the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Catechetical Institute (CI) and the Office for Catechetical Formation (OCF).

Catechetical Institute Core Courses St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

- Overview of the Old Testament
- Overview of the New Testament
- The Person of Jesus
- Foundations of the Church
- Sacraments of Initiation
- Sacraments of Healing and Vocation
- Christian Anthropology
- Catholic Moral Teaching
- Philosophy and the Catholic Mind: (four modules)
 - The Searching of Wisdom
 - The Fullness of the Human Person
 - Metaphysics and Creation
 - Human Action and Moral Agency

For more information, go to:
<https://www.scs.edu/school-theological-studies/catechetical-institute>

OCF Core Courses Synchronous Learning (Formerly DVD)

- DVD: Blessed Virgin Mary: Doctrine & Devotion
- DVD: Catholic Identity: Celebrate the Difference
- DVD: Lumen Gentium I: Mystery & Communion
- DVD: Reconciliation
- DVD: 2020: Seeing the Devil Clearly

For more information, go to:
<http://phillyocf.org/dvd-courses/>

Elective Credits

Elective credits (7) are earned through the successful completion of the requirements associated with programs, seminars and workshops that are provided and approved by the OCF.

For more information, go to:
<http://phillyocf.org/upcoming-events-for-certification/>

Professional Update

To maintain certification, one (1) credit each year must be earned annually. Verification of these credits should be kept on file in the local school or parish office.

College Course Credit

Upon approval by the OCF, credits in theology that have been earned at a Catholic university or college can be applied toward the fulfillment of requirements for certification. Copies of transcripts must be forwarded to the OCF for review and approval.

"GO TEACH ALL NATIONS . . ."

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA



CATECHETICAL CERTIFICATION POLICY



<http://phillyocf.org/>

OFFICE FOR CATECHETICAL FORMATION

215-587-3720

Revised August 2019

Catechesis

Catechesis is sharing the teachings of Jesus Christ in such a way that the believer comes to know God, believe in Him and his teachings, and enter into a deeper and transformative relationship with God. Catechesis involves the teaching of doctrine as well as the living practice of the faith. Catechizing and being catechized are lifelong responsibilities for every Catholic.

Catechesis seeks to: promote knowledge of the faith; promote knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and Sacraments; promote moral formation in Jesus Christ; teach Christians how to pray with Christ; prepare Christians to live in community and participate actively in the life and mission of the Church; foster a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society.

Called to be a Catechist

The ministry of catechist is a vocation, an interior call of the Holy Spirit. It springs from the Sacrament of Baptism and is strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation. Catechists need to be practicing Catholics who participate fully in the communal worship and life of the Church, and who have been prepared for their apostolate by appropriate catechetical training.

Catechists are called to holiness. A catechist should be characterized by a love of God and a life of faith, hope and love that manifests itself in daily prayer. Catechists are marked by an apostolic spirit and missionary zeal, a love for their brothers and sisters through generous service, and a life devoted to the Eucharist and Mary.

All the baptized are called to participate in the catechetical ministry. Some are called to more specific catechetical roles. Bishops are primarily responsible for catechesis. Priests share the teaching role of the Bishop and are his immediate collaborators. Catechists assist bishops and priests in the catechetical mission.

All Archdiocesan elementary school administrators, teachers, and directors of religious education and catechists are considered catechists and fall to this policy.

Catechetical Formation

In order to present the Catholic faith in its fullness and in a way that is attractive, those who catechize need preparation and ongoing formation. Catechist formation must ensure that catechists receive assistance in developing their knowledge of the faith and the Gospel message as well as the ability to transmit it.

Catechetical Formation involves intellectual, spiritual, pastoral and human dimensions. It promotes: an understanding of the nature and goals of catechesis; knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and practice; familiarity with resources; awareness of methodologies associated with the social, cultural, ethnic, demographic and religious circumstances of people who are served; ongoing study of scripture and theology; growth in human, spiritual and pastoral qualities necessary for the work of a catechist; unity with pastors and the Church where all authentic religious education occurs.

Catechetical Certification Policy Requirements

Certification is earned upon completion of 16 credits:

- Orientation Credit: one (1) credit
- Core Courses Credits: eight (8) credits
- Elective Credits: seven (7) credits.

Records

A copy of each credit form must be submitted to the Principal or D/CRE. A copy of each credit form must be sent to the OCF for the Archdiocesan catechetical record. Records of completed courses and earned credits should be kept on file in the local school or religious education office. All under this policy are encouraged to keep a personal record as well. Upon completion of all requirements, the OCF should be notified for a review of the catechetical record. A formal certificate is awarded by the OCF upon certification.

All Catholic School Administrators and Teachers must complete certification at the completion of the eighth year of teaching.

For more information, go to:

<http://phillyocf.org/certification/>

