



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

1601 Cherry Street, Suite 1100 · Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102-1310
Telephone (215) 587-0506

OFFICE of the METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP

September 2026

Dear Catechists and Directors of Religious Education,

I am deeply thankful for the generous sacrifices you make to serve in catechetical ministry for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Throughout the history of the Church, catechists have always played an important role in the journey of evangelization. Pope Leo XIV affirmed this role during the Jubilee Mass for Catechists when he said, "When we teach the faith, we do not merely give instructions, but we place the word of life in hearts, so that it may bear the fruits of a good life."

By sharing the Good News and your love of God with others, you are helping a new generation of believers become fully alive. With joyful gratitude for your dedication to the Church and Her people in Philadelphia, I invite you to join me at the annual Mass for Religious Education on:

Saturday, January 16, 2027

11:00 AM

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul

Immediately following the celebration of the Eucharist, I will distribute the annual Catechetical Awards for catechists as well as Directors and Coordinators of Parish Religious Education. The Office for Catechetical Formation will be in touch to share more information about the Mass and awards ceremony in the coming weeks.

I hope you will be able to join me for this celebration recognizing your good works. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your intentions. May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nelson J. Pérez".

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.
Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia