



OFFICE FOR CATECHETICAL FORMATION

Teaching, Forming, Sending in the Name of Jesus

TO: Parish Directors, Coordinators, and Administrators of Religious Education

FROM: Dennis M. Mueller, Director

DATE: September 2026

RE: **Mass for Parish Religious Education and Presentation of Anniversary Awards**
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
Saturday, January 16, 2027 (11:00 AM)
CATECHISTS AWARDS

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia, is the celebrant of this annual Mass. Immediately following Mass, the Archbishop will present the catechetical anniversary awards individually to catechists who serve in parish religious education programs, as well as for Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education who are celebrating an anniversary year.

Attached please find:

- Criteria/Eligibility for Catechist Anniversary Awards – a D/CRE is **not** eligible for these awards unless he/she volunteers as a catechist in a parish outside the parish of employment.
- Criteria/Eligibility for D/CRE Anniversary Awards – All D/CRE Award recipients **must be active members** of the PDCARE Association.
- St. John Neumann Award for Catechists who have served for 5 years – The official award is attached fillable PDF which is presented at the parish. Those catechists eligible for the St. John Neumann Award who attend the Mass for Religious Education will receive a third-class relic of St. John Neumann. ***The relic is only distributed to catechists attending the Mass.***
- List of Anniversary Awards and prices.
- Information to be duplicated and distributed to catechists:
 - + Letter of Invitation from Archbishop Pérez
 - + Letter of Recognition from the PDCARE Board President and Vice-President
 - + Registration flyer

Catechist award orders are submitted electronically for presentation at the Cathedral. The instructions for placing orders follow on page 2. The deadline for orders is **Monday, November 16, 2026**.

Note: Registrations for catechists who are going to receive their catechetical awards at the parish level will be sent separately.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Wanda Nouel at phillyocf@archphila.org



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Registration Instructions: Mass for Religious Education

Cathedral Awards with Acceptiva

1. Please only use Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari as a browser.
2. Award orders **ONLY** for those who will attend the Mass at the Cathedral Basilica:
 - If your catechists plan to come to the Mass for Religious Education at the Cathedral for their award, please use the link below.
<https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=rT2uGM>
3. You are going to submit as many registrations as you have catechist awardees. It should be auto-filled, so you will type most of the information only once. Please choose only one award criteria per registration.
4. After submitting your awardee, there will be an option to add another catechist. Click on where it says [CLICK HERE](#). It will take you to a new registration for the next catechist. You will repeat the process with each additional catechist.
 - People should be allowed to make repeat transactions. It is possible that if you make repeated transactions within just a few minutes apart, the system may think it is fraud and you may receive a Fraud Alert message. If that happens, you can switch to a different browser or space out their transactions.
5. You will receive email confirmation with the information you submitted. Please print and use it as an invoice.

For questions or concerns: Email Wanda Nouel at PhillyOCF@archphila.org.

**** Please be attentive to spelling and capitalization for the Cathedral recipients. ****

**Their names will appear in the ceremony booklet
EXACTLY as you enter them in Acceptiva.**