

From “*ANTIQUUM MINISTERIUM*” – *INSTITUTING THE MINISTRY OF CATECHIST*
by Pope Francis

6. The role played by catechists is one specific form of service among others within the Christian community. Catechists are called first to be expert in the pastoral service of transmitting the faith as it develops through its different stages from the initial proclamation of the *kerygma* to the instruction that presents our new life in Christ and prepares for the sacraments of Christian initiation, and then to the ongoing formation that can allow each person to give an accounting of the hope within them (cf. *I Pet* 3:15). At the same time, every catechist must be a witness to the faith, a teacher and mystagogue, a companion and pedagogue, who teaches for the Church. Only through prayer, study, and direct participation in the life of the community can they grow in this identity and the integrity and responsibility that it entails (cf. Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, *Directory for Catechesis*, 113).

8. It is fitting that those called to the instituted ministry of Catechist be men and women of deep faith and human maturity, active participants in the life of the Christian community, capable of welcoming others, being generous and living a life of fraternal communion. They should also receive suitable biblical, theological, pastoral and pedagogical formation to be competent communicators of the truth of the faith and they should have some prior experience of catechesis (cf. SECOND VATICAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church *Christus Dominus*, 14; CIC can. 231 §1; CCEO can. 409 §1). It is essential that they be faithful co-workers with priests and deacons, prepared to exercise their ministry wherever it may prove necessary, and motivated by true apostolic enthusiasm.

The Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments will publish a Rite of Institution of the new lay ministry of catechist.

Certifying Your Catechists

There are just some of the certification programs recommended for catechists. These are many online courses available. Please check with the Office of Faith Formation for suitability of a course or program before beginning it. This gives you a brief summary of each, including cost.

Aquinas College in Nashville

Cost is FREE.

Aquinas College and the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia have created videos to help people understand their Catholic Faith deeper and as part of the Catechist Formation Program. They are also a great refresher if you have taken any of the Catechist Formation courses in the past or any adult who wants to learn more about their Catholic Faith.

There are 6 Courses to the Catechist Formation Program, each containing the 5 areas of: Creed, Sacraments, Morality, Prayer, and Methods. Any formal use of these videos may only be used with written permission from Aquinas College. Please contact [Sister Elizabeth Anne](#) for more information.

This curriculum is based on and follows the Catechism’s own pedagogy and emphasizes the unity of the Catholic Faith. What we believe as Catholics is expressed in the Creed, celebrated in the Sacraments, lived in the moral life, and prayed. It is important to remember that this formation in the Church’s doctrine is an essential part of any formation as a catechist, but it is

only one component of the formation of the individual. For more information or questions, please contact Sister Elizabeth Anne, the Director for the Center for Catholic Education. <https://www.aquinascollege.edu/center-for-evangelization-and-catechesis/catechist-formation-program-cfp/free-faith-videos/>

Loyola Press:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/parish-ministry/advancing-ministry-skills/the-catechetical-formation-series/>

This program that has ten lessons based on Joe Paprocki’s series of books for catechists. The cost is \$24.99 per individual subscription of \$199.99 per parish. You do not need the books to do the series, but some of them may be useful. There is a two-page handout with more descriptive info on the ten lessons:

Learning Session 1: Getting Started & Getting to Know Your Learners (DOING)

Learning Session 2: The Catechetical Process (DOING)

Learning Session 3: Prayer and Leading Prayer (DOING)

Learning Session 4: Facilitation Skills and Handling Difficult Situations (DOING)

Learning Session 5: What We Believe – The Creed (KNOWING)

Learning Session 6: What We Believe – The Sacraments (KNOWING)

Learning Session 7: What We Believe – The Moral Life (KNOWING)

Learning Session 8: What We Believe – Prayer (KNOWING)

Learning Session 9: Understanding God’s Word – Scripture (KNOWING)

Learning Session 10: The Person of the Catechist (BEING) of the Catechist (BEING)

Echoes of Faith

Two versions of this program. The newest version is the Emmaus version:

<https://www.rclbenziger.com/Echoes-Emmaus> The cost is \$50 for a one-year license or the earlier version, which is 3.0 version for \$34.95 for a one-year license. Catechists can take as many courses as they like over the one-year license period.

Two classes are needed for basic certification, then three additional for Intermediate and three more for the Certified Catechist level. (see chart)

Echoes of Faith Plus	
Basic Certification	Role of Catechist I Believe, We Believe
Intermediate Certification	Person of the Catechist Appropriate Methods Course 1 from the Theology Set
Certified Catechist	How Do We Learn 2 addl. From Theology Set

Franciscan At Home: from Franciscan University of Steubenville:

Cost is \$300 per parish per year for unlimited number of catechists, or \$12.99/month for individual subscriptions. The less expensive option of \$4.99/month gives you access to the

classes, but does not provide evidence you have completed the course, so will not allow a certificate to be issued.

Directed to any person engaged in teaching ministries at any level, this three-part comprehensive program offers spiritual, methodological, philosophical, and doctrinal topics essential to the teaching of the Catholic faith. Believing that the most significant factor in the catechetical endeavor is the individual catechist passing on the witness of a lived faith, this track aims to complement basic diocesan catechist certification. It does this by enriching in-diocese teaching with workshops designed to: 1) Take catechists to the next step of formation in key areas; 2) Address target areas needing strengthening in our current cultural context; and 3) Enable catechists to continue growing their skills and understanding in the years following completion of diocesan certification.

<https://franciscanathome.com/tracks-and-workshops>

My Catholic Faith Delivered

<https://www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com/home.aspx?pagename=Catechesis101>

Acceptable for basic and intermediate certification. Cost is \$33 for a one-year subscription for eight lessons. Catechesis 101 is an innovative, 8-lesson course designed to give all Catholic catechists a solid foundation. This course provides a solid understanding of the Church's vision for catechesis as well as practical, hands-on methodology that is proven to bear fruit in catechetical sessions. Each lesson contains high quality video instruction paired with quick quizzes and text that references the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the General Directory for Catechesis, and the National Directory for Catechesis.

- Catechesis, A Moment of Evangelization
- The Nature of Catechesis
- The Content of Catechesis
- Inculturating Gospel the Message
- Those Who are Catechized
- Methodology - Part 1
- Methodology - Part 2
- The Person and Spirituality of the Catechist

<https://www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com/home.aspx?pagename=Foundations>

These other options are for more catechist education. This site also includes: the Foundations Series. The Foundations Series presents the teachings of the faith in an interactive format which draws heavily from Scripture and the Catechism. This course makes it easy to learn and understand the four Pillars of Church: Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Life in Christ, and Prayer. Mike Scherschligt, the founder and executive director of the Holy Family School of Faith, engages the learner with videos, stories, analogies, prayers, and discussion questions. All four Foundations courses are available for \$80 for a one-year subscription (36 lessons) or individually at \$33 for each course. Completion of the four pillars results in Certified Catechist.

All Four Pillars

Foundations – Creed

Foundations - Life in Christ

Foundations - Liturgy and Sacraments

Foundations - Prayer and Spirituality