



Realizing

Catechist Certification

Echoes of Faith

Plus

Getting Started

STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ECHOES IN YOUR PARISH

- 1) It is recommended that you immediately purchase a copy of the ***Echoes of Faith Plus Program Manual*** from RCL Benziger. Please remember that this is a one time investment for a multi-year program.
- 2) Find an overview of the process at:
<http://rclbenziger.com/echoes-of-faith-plus/>
- 3) Review the previous Lay Ministry Training courses that your catechists have completed toward certification. This is important: courses that catechists have taken previously in the Ministry Training Program still “count.”
- 4) To assist in completing Basic Catechist Certification arrange for the modules: Role of the Catechist and I Believe, We Believe to be presented first. [View Basic Certification Requirements](#)
- 5) Call or email the Diocesan Resource Library to schedule the appropriate DVD.
- 6) After scheduling the module, order sufficient copies of the **"Companion Booklet"** from RCL Benziger for each catechist for the module you will be completing. The books are sold in sets of ten. Contact a neighboring parish or the Diocesan Office if you do not need all ten books.

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7) Please review the section:

Process for Authorized Use on page 5.

8) If the program will be presented by someone on the parish staff then go to the Diocesan website and download:

[*Echoes of Faith Plus Registration Form*](#).

***** You will need to return this completed form to the Diocesan Department of Religious Education to have your catechists properly registered with the diocese for certification *****

9) To be approved for certification, the plan must intend to follow the process as outlined in the *Echoes of Faith Plus Program Director's Manual*. **The diocese will not recognize for certification, a process which is designed solely as home study** unless there are significant extenuating circumstances. Obviously, individuals will occasionally miss a session and will need to make up that session at home using their booklet's CD- ROM. Someone should follow up to engage the catechist in a discussion of the material.

10) If you will need or would prefer a diocesan presenter for your program, please contact the Religious Education Department. We have trained people (The Catechist Formation Team) available to assist in all areas of the Diocese. They are also available to assist with the initial planning, the presentation of modules and with record keeping.

11) The "[Catechist Certification Record](#)" is designed with space to record information about Echoes of Faith. It will also show information about expectations for "Basic;" "Intermediate;" and "Final" certification.

Understanding the Costs

MODULES PRESENTED BY PARISH PERSONNEL:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| DIOCESAN DVD RENTAL | \$5 |
| (ON THE DIOCESAN SUBSCRIPTION PLAN) | \$0 |
| PARTICIPANT BOOKLET | \$7.75 |
| (WHEN PURCHASED IN LOTS OF 10; CURRENT PRICE AT THE TIME OF THIS PUBLICATION)) | |
| (PLUS THE ONE TIME \$56.50 FOR THE DIRECTOR'S MANUAL) | |

MODULES PRESENTED BY DIOCESAN STAFF/TEAM:

(STAFF OR THE CATECHIST FORMATION TEAM)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| DIOCESAN DVD RENTAL | \$0 |
| PARTICIPANT BOOKLET | \$0 |
| PER REGISTER PARTICIPANT | \$20 |
| (PAYABLE TO THE DIOCESE) | |

Catechist Certification in the Diocese of Erie

Echoes of Faith Plus is the primary process by which catechists can be certified in the Diocese of Erie. There are occasional courses offered through the older process referred to as the Ministry Training Program. Courses taken through the Ministry Training Program, if properly recorded with the Department of Religious Education, continue to be recognized for certification.

Authorized Use Policy

Catechist Set and Methodology Set

These two sets can be presented by any parish religious education leader after having completed two years of ministry.

Theology Set

This set may be presented by a parish religious education leader recognized by the Diocese as either a Coordinator or Director. Where the parish religious education leader does not have these credentials, the set may be facilitated by the pastor or a member of the Diocesan Catechist Formation Team.

Echoes of Faith Plus Modules

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF TITLES THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THE *ECHOES OF FAITH PLUS* PROGRAM.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| CATECHIST SET | 8 HOURS |
| GETTING STARTED (NOT REQUIRED) | 4 HOURS |
| ROLES OF THE CATECHIST | 4 HOURS |
| PERSON OF THE CATECHIST | 4 HOURS |
| | |
| METHODOLOGY SET | 8-12 HOURS |
| METHODS FOR GRADES 1 & 2 | 4 HOURS |
| METHODS FOR GRADES 3 & 4 | 4 HOURS |
| METHODS FOR GRADES 5 & 6 | 4 HOURS |
| METHODS FOR GRADES 7 & 8 | 4 HOURS |
| HOW DO WE LEARN | 4 HOURS |
| ADULT FAITH FORMATION (OPTION) | 4 HOURS |
| | |
| THEOLOGY SET | 30 HOURS |
| I BELIEVE, WE BELIEVE | 6 HOURS |
| LITURGY & SACRAMENTS | 6 HOURS |
| CATHOLIC MORALITY | 6 HOURS |
| THE SCRIPTURES | 6 HOURS |
| PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY | 6 HOURS |
| | |
| | TOTAL: 46 HOURS |

Echoes of Faith Plus Creators

Echoes of Faith Plus is a project of the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership and is produced by RCL Benziger. It is the most complete and widely used catechist formation resource ever developed.

Echoes of Faith Plus is a video-assisted process of formation for parish catechists, Catholic school teachers and facilitators of adult faith formation. Each catechist receives a study book and a self-study CD.

How Echoes of Faith, Plus is Organized

Echoes of Faith Plus is built around the three dimensions of catechist formation identified in the General Directory for Catechesis # 238:

“Being” The Catechist Set

“Knowing” The Theology Set

“Savior faire” The Methodology Set