

Memorandum

To: Priests, Deacons, Religious, Parish Directors of Religious Education
From: Dr. Marlon De La Torre, Sr. Director for the Department Evangelization
CC: Fr. Adam Streitenberger-Vicar for Evangelization; Fr. David Arroyo-Vicar for Hispanic Ministry
Date: 4/08/2024, Solemnity of the Annunciation of Our Lord
Re: Department of Evangelization Catechist Certification Guideline

To ensure that any lay person who engages in the ministry of a catechist is provided with the necessary catechetical formation to transmit the Catholic faith in a religious education setting effectively, the Department of Evangelization is providing a structured and comprehensive catechist formation process to serve as a resource for Pastors and their parish religious education staff. The specific objective of this resource is to assist the evangelist-catechist to serve as an effective pedagogical witness and teacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. St. John Paul II echoes this gift which describes that the aim of all Catechetical instruction is to place the student in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. (Catechesis In Our Time, 5, 20)

An important characteristic of the catechist is his/her ability to effectively transmit the Gospel of Jesus Christ in fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Hence, the Diocesan Catechist Formation process is anchored by Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This structure assures that our instruction will conform to the Deposit of Faith which is comprised of Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture, and the Magisterial teachings of the Catholic Church.

This resource will provide the necessary catechetical foundation in the proclamation of the kerygma, catechetical practice, content, method, and a concise awareness of the proper doctrinal application of the faith to foster a clearer and deeper understanding of the role and mission of the catechists within the Diocese of Columbus.

Certification can be achieved in three levels: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced.

- ✦ Beginner: Courses offered by the Department of Evangelization
- ✦ Intermediate: Courses offered by Franciscan University Catechetical Institute
- ✦ Advanced: Degrees Programs from Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio Dominican University, Catholic Distance University, Augustine Institute, and other approved Catholic Institutions of Higher Learning

At times, the journey toward catechist formation may prove spiritually, mentally, and logistically challenging. We hope that this new resource will help all catechists develop a more profound awareness of their vital role as both evangelists and catechists to all families within their parish communities.

I appreciate your willingness to serve the people of God to further the catechetical mission of the Diocese of Columbus in the proclamation of Jesus Christ to the faithful. May St. Francis De Sales patron of the Diocese of Columbus guide us in our ministry as evangelists and catechists and may our Blessed Mother Mary intercede and protect us in our work for the salvation of souls.



Yours in Christ,

Dr. Marlon De La Torre
Senior Director for the Department of Evangelization
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If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Marlon De La Torre, Sr. Direct for the Department of Evangelization
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