

OFFICE of  
**EVANGELIZATION**  
*and* **CATECHESIS**

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October 1, 2025

Memorial of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Dear Fellow Catechist,

The art of teaching the Catholic faith involves many facets on the part of the catechist, e.g., the ability to study what the Church teaches through Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the teaching office of the Church, the Magisterium, and faithfully deliver Jesus' message of conversion and salvation. Our identity as disciples of Jesus Christ is rooted in the ability to both live and promote the Catholic faith to anyone willing to listen. Part of our identity encompasses our natural role as a catechist, as a witness of faith to help someone develop an active relationship with Jesus Christ.

The *St. Francis De Sales Institute* aims to form faithful evangelists and catechists to serve as faithful witnesses of the Gospel in the transmission of the Catholic faith to anyone. A catechist is a person who desires to be an authentic witness of the Gospel through his ability to faithfully teach the Catholic faith. The primary emphasis of the Institute is to form faithful evangelists who are also catechists. The Institute intends to assist the lay person to become both an effective witness and teacher by providing formation in the following catechetical areas: introduction to catechetics, content and method of catechesis, lesson planning, age-appropriate catechesis, the role of the liturgy, the OCIA process, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, proper methodology, and introduction to prayer.

The structure of the Institute is to provide a foundational baseline (Beginner) for formation that will help the catechists move forward in his/her ability to teach the faith and be able to matriculate into further study with our catechetical partner, Franciscan University of Steubenville's Catechetical Institute (Intermediate). From here, if the catechist desires further study through a degree program, the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis would assist the catechist (where applicable) in enrolling in a degree program with an institution of higher learning (advanced).

I hope that anyone who participates in the Institute will gain a better awareness and appreciation of catechesis and catechetical formation and the central role it plays in forming the Catholic faithful to develop an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, with a love that is never-ending.

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In conclusion, I leave you with the following quote from St. Francis De Sales, Patron of the Diocese of Columbus, that provides us with a fitting view of our role as catechists,

God did not create you because He had any need of you, for you are wholly useless to Him, but only that He might exercise towards you His goodness, bestowing on you His grace and glory. To accomplish this, he has given you an understanding to know Him, a memory to remember Him, a will to love Him, an imagination to recall His mercies, eyes to see the wonders of His works, a tongue to praise Him, and so with all your other faculties. Therefore, being created and placed in the world for this purpose, you should avoid and reject all actions which are contrary to it, and despise as idle and superfluous all which do not promote it. (St. Francis De Sales, Introduction to the Devout Life)

Yours in Christ,



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