



Memorandum

To: Priests, Deacons, Religious, Parish Directors of Religious Education

From: Dr. Marlon De La Torre, Sr. Director for the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

CC: Fr. Adam Streitenberger-Vicar for Evangelization; Fr. David Arroyo-Vicar for Hispanic Ministry; Fr. Robert Penhallurick-Vicar for Respect Life

Date: 10/01/2025, Memorial of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Re: **Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, St. Francis De Sales Institute, Catechist Certification Process/Guideline**

To ensure that any lay person who engages in the ministry of catechist is provided with the necessary catechetical formation to transmit the Catholic faith in a religious education setting effectively, the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis 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 sentiment, describing the aim of all Catechetical instruction as placing 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 for proclaiming the kerygma, including catechetical practice, content, method, pedagogy (age-appropriate instruction), 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 catechists within the Diocese of Columbus.

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Certification will be offered in three levels: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced.

- **Beginner:** Courses offered through the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, St. Francis De Sales Institute
- **Intermediate:** Courses offered through Franciscan University's Catechetical Institute
- **Advanced:** Degree 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dr. Marlon De La Torre". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Marlon De La Torre
Senior Director for the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis
Catholic Diocese of Columbus

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Marlon De La Torre, Sr.
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