

CATECHIST CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

1. Catechist Certification Through the Church

The *General Directory for Catechesis* states that catechist formation is necessary to encourage vocations for catechesis, assist catechists in transmitting the Gospel, cultivate technique, and grow in faith.

Formation seeks to mature an educational capacity in the catechist which implies: an ability to be attentive to people, an ability to interpret or respond to educational tasks or initiatives in organizing learning activities and the ability of leading a human group toward maturity. (*GDC 233, 234, 235, 236, 244, 248*)

The *National Directory for Catechesis* strongly encourages initial and on-going formation of parish catechist. It states: “[s]ince effective catechesis depends on virtuous and skilled catechists; their ongoing formation should enhance the human, spiritual, and apostolic qualities and catechetical skills they bring to their ministry... Diocesan pastoral programs must give absolute priority to the formation of lay catechists”. (*NDC 55 E*)

2. Catechist Certification Through the Diocese

The policy of the Diocese of Rockford states that Catechists are to comply with the most current Catechist Certification Program established by the Diocesan Office of Catholic Education, under the supervision of the Director of Religious Education and Formation. (*Office of Religious Education Policies and Procedures 4311, 4312*)

3. Where to find Catechist Certification Classes

Group classes are offered during the year in each Deanery. For registration information and schedules, a listing of classes can be found under the Catechist Certification Opportunities section on the Diocese of Rockford’s Catholic Education Office web page www.ceorockford.org.

Self-Study opportunities are available for renewal electives. This process should be discussed with your catechetical leader to obtain approval before beginning a self-study.