



DIocese OF ROCKFORD Catholic Education Office

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Diocesan Catechist Certification Program 2020-21 Modifications & Updates

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Dear Pastors, Principals, & Catechetical Leaders,

The Rockford Diocese has always been blessed with catechists who facilitate the formation of their students. As you know, the catechetical documents of the Church provide direction regarding the ongoing formation of catechists through a diocesan certification program. With all that has been happening over the past several months, we would like to update you on some of the changes affecting this certification program.

At this time, our catechists and teachers are diligently working to make in-person and virtual learning possible. In recognition of the extraordinary effort required, the Catholic Education Office is offering modifications to the requirements of participation and availability of classes in order to make the Catechist Certification Program easier to implement this year.

Requirement Suspension

- Teachers and catechists are still required to complete the three prerequisite classes, which are now available [online](#). These classes still need to be completed in the regular time frame.
- For the 2020-21 academic year, the requirement to complete certification classes for Levels I, II, and Renewal is suspended.

Opportunities for Certification

While the requirement for Levels I, II, and Renewal has been suspended, there are still many formation opportunities for teachers and catechists.

- The Prerequisite classes can be completed [online](#) as an individual, or in a classroom setting with a facilitator.
- Non-required Classes - Elective credits can be earned by making use of the independent study option. Following guidelines set forth on the [Catechist Learning Assessment Instrument](#), before beginning any Catholic podcast, video, book, DVD, or webinar, confirm the source and receive written approval from your Catechetical Leader. Once the study is finished, complete the second part of the Catechist Learning Assessment.
- Due to gathering restrictions, the Catholic Education Office has suspended open enrollment for Catechist Certification classes. However, we are delighted to schedule in-person or virtual sessions with individual parishes, deaneries and schools.
- A qualified presenter such as a priest, deacon, or Catechetical Leader who has completed Ministry Formation can lead classes at a parish or school. The [session outlines](#) for required classes are on the Catholic Education Office website.

My Catholic Faith Delivered Online Classes

- Due to changes in MCFD fee structure, the Diocese is no longer able to partner with My Catholic Faith Delivered.

As we move forward with our certification efforts, our goal is to provide formation opportunities that are meaningful, flexible, and applicable to the needs of everyone involved in catechetical ministry.

God Bless,

John Jelinek

Director of Religious Education & Formation
Catholic Education Office