



**Diocese of Rockford**

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Date: June 17, 2021  
To: Catechetical and Educational Leaders  
From: John Jelinek  
Director of Religious Education, Youth Ministry, and Adult Formation  
Subject: Catechetical Sunday

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Catechetical Sunday 2021 will be celebrated September 18 to 19. The theme this year is *"Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed."*

Thoughtful planning will allow you, your pastor, and your parish to recognize and affirm catechists who use their talents to develop the faith of students of all ages. Materials designed to assist with your preparation for Catechetical Sunday are included with this Memo. These materials are:

1. BISHOP O'NEILL AWARD SELECTION GUIDELINES
2. THE BISHOP O'NEILL AWARD - Recipient Selection Form
3. LONG-TERM CATECHIST AWARD - Recipient Selection Form.

To assist us in processing these forms, we ask that you adhere to the following 2021 timeline:

- August 20th**..... Deadline for submitting names of Parish / School / Deanery award recipients to the Catholic Education Office.
- August 31st**..... Award certificates and award letters sent to parishes for distribution at parish celebrations.
- September 18 to 19**..... Catechetical Sunday (Saturday Evening – Sunday)

I encourage you to recognize catechists of all ages and backgrounds, whose service impacts the faith formation of young people, adults, and families. Remember those involved in Adult Faith Formation, RCIA, and Sacramental Preparation.

Please direct any questions to Sara Danielson in the Educational Services Office at (815) 399-4300, ext. 390. For more information and additional forms, go to our website at [www.ceorockford.org/education](http://www.ceorockford.org/education).

Thank you for your participation and cooperation.

**John Jelinek**  
**Director of Religious Education, Youth Ministry, and Adult Formation**