CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CATECHETICAL LEADERS

PROFESSIONAL ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

1. Ecclesial & Theological
   a) Catechetical leaders work collaboratively with the pastor (and/or other supervisors) and associates in ministry.
   b) Catechetical leaders faithfully represent and practice the teachings of the Catholic Church with integrity in word and action.
   c) Catechetical leaders are competent and receive education and training commensurate with their role(s) and responsibilities (§ 231, Code of Canon Law).
   d) Catechetical leaders respect the diversity of spiritualities in the faith community and will not make their own personal form of spirituality normative.

2. Inclusion
   a) Catechetical leaders recognize the dignity of each person and refrain from behaviors or words that are disrespectful of anyone or any group.
   b) Catechetical leaders serve all people without regard to gender, creed, national origin, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political beliefs.
   c) Catechetical leaders act to ensure all persons have access to the resources, services and opportunities they require with particular regard for persons with special needs or disabilities.

3. Accountability
   a) Catechetical leaders are accountable to the pastor or other duly appointed representative, under the authority of the diocesan bishop.
   b) Catechetical leaders are called to serve the faith community, carrying out their ministry “...conscientiously, zealously, and diligently” (§ 231, Code of Canon Law).

(Continued on next page)
c) Catechetical leaders exercise responsible stewardship of resources while holding themselves to the highest standards of integrity regarding fiscal matters placed in their trust.

4. Confidentiality

a) Catechetical leaders respect confidentiality, yet are not held to confidentiality in the same way as ordained ministers and licensed, certified counselors.

b) Catechetical leaders adhere to civil and ecclesial law concerning the reporting of neglect, abuse or when physical harm could come to the person or to a third party.

c) Catechetical leaders support the rights and roles of parents while ministering to the needs and concerns of minors.

5. Conduct

a) Catechetical leaders are aware they have considerable personal power because of their ministerial position. Therefore, they will sustain respectful ministerial relationships, avoiding manipulation and other abuses of power.

b) Physical, sexual, or romantic relationships between a catechetical leader and minor is unethical and prohibited.

c) Catechetical leaders model healthy and positive behaviors with minors.

d) Procuring, providing, or using alcohol and/or controlled substances for or with minors is unethical and prohibited.

6. Referrals and Intervention

a) Catechetical leaders are aware of the signs of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and neglect.

b) Catechetical leaders are aware of their limitations with respect to paraprofessional counseling and make appropriate referrals.

c) Catechetical leaders adhere to civil and ecclesial law, policy and procedure for reporting abuse, suspected abuse or neglect.

(Continued on next page)
7. Parish/Diocesan Policies

a) Catechetical leaders are aware of and comply with all applicable parish, organizational and/or diocesan policies with special attention to sexual misconduct, safety, transportation, parental permission, and medical emergency policies.

I have read and understand the above code of ethics and commit to uphold this code in my ministry.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

Office of Religious Education and Catechesis
Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Adopted 8/04
Reviewed 8/10, 7/17
Revised 7/17