CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CATECHISTS

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

2. Inclusion
   a) Catechists recognize the dignity of each person and refrain from behaviors or words that are disrespectful of anyone or any group.
   b) Catechists serve all people without regard to gender, creed, national origin, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political beliefs.
   c) Catechists 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) Catechists are accountable to the pastor, catechetical leader, or other duly appointed representative, under the authority of the diocesan bishop.
   b) Catechists are called to serve the faith community, carrying out their ministry “...conscientiously, zealously, and diligently” (§ 231, Code of Canon Law).
   c) Catechists exercise responsible stewardship of resources while holding themselves to the highest standards of integrity regarding fiscal matters placed in their trust.

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

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

c) Catechists are aware of the signs of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and neglect.

d) Catechists 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.

5. Conduct

a) Catechists support the rights and roles of parents while ministering to the needs and concerns of minors.

b) Catechists 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.

c) Physical, sexual, or romantic relationships between catechists and a minor are unethical and are prohibited.

d) Catechists model healthy and positive behaviors with minors and other adults.

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

6. Parish

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

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

Signature: __________________________ Date: ____________________

Office of Religious Education and Catechesis
Catholic Diocese of Columbus

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