Course of Studies

The Master Catechist program extends over three years and pursues an in-depth study of the same content offered in the Basic Catechist Formation course. The course of studies is consistent with the General Catechetical Directory, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us, Renewing the Vision: a framework for Catholic Youth Ministry and the National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Leadership.


Documents: Personal and Spiritual Maturity, Lay Ecclesial Ministry Identity, Catholic theology, Pastoral Praxis, Adult Learning.

Practicum: The development of personal teaching styles and an ability to relate to various cultural groups.

Catechist Recertification:

The certification is good for three years and is renewed by the following methods:

- Ten hours each year in courses offered by or as recommended by the OREYM
- Attendance at the annual Faith Formation Conference (2 out of the three years)
- Yearly course work from Boston College C21 program

Alternative Method of Certification

A Master Degree in Religious Education or related field, teaching experience and up-to-date workshops. Contact the Office for more information. It will also require an observation of the candidate’s skills.

Archdiocese of San Francisco
One Peter Yorke Way, SF  94109
415-614-5650
sforeym.org
Master Catechists are an extension of the teaching office of the Archbishop of San Francisco and are selected and commissioned by him.

They provide a vital service by:

- Providing the specific formation and courses of studies required by the Archdiocese of San Francisco to obtain or renew the California Bishop’s Catholic Certification.
- Providing workshops and in-services for the continued growth and formation of catechists.
- Building a core group of adults in the Archdiocese who will exercise catechetical leadership.

Cost: $100 per year. Scholarships are available.

Qualifications

In addition to having the personal qualities of a catechist, the Master Catechist must have:

- A current California Catechist Certification
- Proven expertise and recent experience in catechetical ministry at various age levels
- An ability to communicate and work effectively with adult learners in a formation setting
- The personal recommendation of the candidate’s pastor or other qualified person
- Evidence of the ability to work in diverse cultural communities
- An understanding of the purpose of being a Master Catechist and a willingness to serve as such when certified
- An ability to study at an advanced level
- Completion of the Inventory for Growth Assessment from the National Catholic Education Association.

Process for Beginning

- Each potential candidate must send to the Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry a letter of intent to become a Master Catechist and the reason for seeking this certification
- A letter of support from the Pastor or responsible authority as to the ability of the candidate to become a Master Catechist
- Completion of the Master Catechist Application Form
- Submit a list of continuing education and formation work done in the last five years
- Have an interview with a staff member of the Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry regarding the candidate’s potential to become a Master Catechist