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Religious Education

The Office of Religious Education operates in the context of the ongoing evangelization and conversion process that is the goal of the Church for every Christian. We provide for pastors, homeschooling parents and pastoral teams, Catechetical Leaders, Catechists and leaders of Adult Faith Formation, leadership, enablement, support and coordination through which they may effectively grow in and find success in catechetical ministry. We strive to provide the encouragement, and challenge for continuing growth in vision, purpose and commitment for the catechetical ministry of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

Our Goal

“To enable catechists to transmit the Gospel to those who desire to entrust themselves to Jesus Christ” (General Directory for Catechesis #235)

In order to fulfill its responsibility of the formation of catechists, the diocese offers formation in all three dimensions described in the GDC:

- The personal faith and spirituality of the individual catechist;
- Knowledge of the Scriptures, the teachings and traditions of the Church and of the people to be catechized;
- Skill in transmitting the sacred message through use of various effective methods of catechesis

Communication and Collaboration

- Consultation (phone or on site) with clergy and other parish leaders and catechists
- Communication and assistance to parish catechetical leaders in implementation of archdiocesan sacramental preparation policies and guidelines

- Identification and promotion of new models for catechesis and religious education
- Communication and collaboration with all pastoral ministries
- Communication and collaboration with the Province of Santa Fe Diocesan Directors (5 dioceses: Gallup, Las Cruces, Phoenix, Santa Fe and Tucson)
- Communication and collaboration with the National Conference of Catechetical Leaders (NCCL) and other national organizations, e.g. NCEA
- Personal consultations for all parishes on new or ongoing catechetical issues, trends and concerns
- Ex-officio to the Religious Education Advisory Board

Leadership Development

- Implement standards and competencies for catechetical leaders
- Conduct monthly in-service meetings for parish catechetical leaders (DREs or CREs)

- Provide ministry formation and certification for catechists and other leaders
- Aide parish catechetical leaders in sponsoring regional catechetical conferences

Completing Certification

- Completion of Basic Level Certification is expected for all catechists (40 hours of theology plus 20 hours of skills)
- Completion of both Basic Level and Advanced Level Certification is expected for anyone serving in a leadership role in catechesis (Basic Level plus 60 of theology and 20 hours of skills)

Events

- Annual Affirmation Luncheon-Catechists are nominated from each parish and are recognized during this annual event
- Annual Catechetical Leader Retreat and Formation Day (for parish catechists)