July 1, 2019

Dear Father,

We are blessed to have an increasing number of co-workers among the laity serving in our parishes and schools. They serve in a variety of pastoral and educational ministries, including directors of religious education, youth ministry, on RCIA teams, Catholic school leaders, volunteer catechists and team members, liturgical ministers and more. As these dedicated persons seek to assist you in the mission of catechesis for your parish, we take seriously our shared responsibility to make sure that they are well-formed for their leadership roles.

Toward this goal, our Diocesan Pastoral Services Department, and in collaboration with the Jordan Ministry Team, has established an excellent ministry formation/certification processes (levels 1, 2, and the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Certification) in both English and Spanish.

My great hope is that all catechists, Catholic school teachers, and others who teach our faith enter into a journey of ongoing faith formation resulting at least in Certification Level 1 as outlined in the diocesan curriculum. The support and ongoing formation of our catechetical leaders must be a priority as we evangelize and catechize our children, youth, and adults. Your leadership is indispensable in accomplishing this goal.

I strongly encourage you to invite your lay ministers (volunteers and paid employees) to take advantage of these formation opportunities. Communicate your expectation to the leadership of your catechetical ministries that at a minimum all should be working toward Certification Level 1, consistent with a pace appropriate to their particular situation. Gratefully, this now is far more easily achievable with a combination of on-site classes at the parish or vicariate level, as well as the formation opportunities now available online. The Jordan Ministry Team has been revitalized under new leadership and have expanded their formation team. If you or one of your parish leaders would like to explore what would be possible for your own parish, please contact one or more of the following:

- Mike Berger, Director: Office of Catechesis (520-838-2541)
- Brother Silas Henderson SDS, Executive Director: Jordan Ministry Team (520-623-2563)
- Sister Gladys Echenique (classes in Spanish), Director: Office of Hispanic Ministry (520-838-2540)
- Joe Perdrauville, Assistant Director: Pastoral Services and Formation (520-838-2539)
- Sister Lois Paha, O.P., Director: Pastoral Services and Formation (520-838-2542)

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the mission of Christ in your parish!

Very sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Edward J. Weisenburger
Bishop of Tucson