

## Office of Religious Education

**Mission & Goals:** In keeping with the teaching mission of the Church, the Office of Religious Education promotes the importance and ensures the quality of life-long religious education for everyone in the Diocese of Worcester. Goals of the ORE: 1) To have all parishes and schools demonstrate quality religious education programs, 2) To have quality life-long religious education for everyone be a priority of diocesan, parish, and school leadership, 3) To have the Office of Religious Education provide and promote current, quality religious education resources, and 4) To have all who teach and catechize be certified and competent for their ministry. (from *Handbook for Religious Education*)

### Tasks/Programs:

- **Parish Catechetical Leaders**
  - Assisting parishes in hiring process
  - Ongoing consultation with and support of catechetical leaders pursuing certification as ARE, CRE, DRE (*ARE course* offered annually)
  - *Passport to Success* – enrichment/skill workshops
  - Consultations/mentoring re: curriculum, models, texts, resources
  - Workshops on new universal/national guidelines (e.g. *Framework for Adolescent Catechesis*)
- **Catechists**
  - Certification programs including: 7-hr intro course offered 4 times a year
  - Annual Advent and Lent retreats
  - Ongoing courses leading to basic certification and master catechist certification
  - Intro to the Ministry of RCIA (8-hr course)
  - Enrichment programs (e.g., annual *Spotlight on Adolescence*)
- **Catholic School Religion Programs**
  - Certification of Catholic School religion teachers through Master Catechist courses and Dayton online courses
  - Annual system wide religious enrichment day
  - Consultation re: curriculum, texts, resources and programs
- **Direct Services**
  - Annual retreat/preparation for adults seeking Confirmation
  - Coordinating: Adult Confirmation celebration, Rite of Election, Multi-Parish Confirmations, implementation of regional Confirmation celebrations
- **Adult Faith Formation**
  - Annual facilitator training
  - Partnership with online Dayton University program
  - Consultation re: parish adult faith formation programs
- **SPRED** – special religious education
- **Safe Environment** – resourcing, administering, data collection for education for parents/children
- **Resourcing/Oversight** – researching new programs and models, collecting data for national reports, implementing new guidelines/directories etc. Site visits. Maintaining text/resource/media library. Bookstore to assist parishes and schools with educational and general ministry resources.