

## Why Be Certified?

Some catechists think of themselves merely as “parish volunteers.” They are in fact much more than that. Catechesis is an ecclesial endeavor. The person who agrees to teach religion is not just doing someone a “personal” favor. A catechist is standing for the entire Church whenever she or he ministers to others in the name of Christ. This meaningful endeavor is as old as the Gospel it proclaims.

Your parish has conferred upon you the honor of being a catechist in a particular faith community. With this privilege comes responsibility and an element of trust. Knowledge of Scripture, Tradition and Church teaching is essential to authentic catechesis. Good catechists are not only competent teachers of the faith; they are agents of change. The goal of all catechesis is to lead others to a personal relationship with the living Christ. The responsible catechist is one who continues growing in his or her own faith while consciously learning how to pass that faith on to others in a credible manner.

## Provisional Certification

*Provisional Certification* is the fundamental program for all catechists. It includes two multi-session courses that could be completed within one year. The courses are:

1. *Introduction to the Ministry of the Catechist*
    - The person and role of the catechist – 3 hrs
    - Lesson planning and developmental learning theory – 2 hrs
    - Teaching methods and classroom management – 2 hrs
    - Spirituality of the Catechist – 6 hrs – retreat
  2. *Overview of the Creed* – 3 options
    - ORE sponsored Introduction to the Creed - (16 hrs)
    - Dayton on-line: *Survey of Catholic Doctrine*
    - Echoes of Faith Plus: *I Believe/We Believe* - (8 hrs)
- N.B. Provisional certification expires after three years unless the catechist has begun the next level of certification

## Basic Certification

Once a catechist has been granted provisional certification, the requirements for Basic Certification may be completed through the DVD-assisted resource *Echoes of Faith Plus*. *Echoes of Faith Plus* includes four 8-hour modules beyond “I Believe/We Believe” which was covered in the requirements for provisional certification:

- *Catholic Morality*
- *Scripture*
- *Liturgy and Sacraments*
- *Ecclesiology*

- N.B. Certification at this level should be completed within four years. Once achieved, certification must be maintained by completing one CEU every two years. Facilitators must consult with the ORE before offering any of these modules. (1 CEU = 10 hrs)

## Master Catechist

*Master Catechist Certification* is for those who have come to understand parish catechesis as a personal calling and wish to become knowledgeable and competent in their teaching of the faith.

This process must be completed in four years or less. The following courses are required for the Master Catechist Certificate. Each course, sponsored by the Office of Religious Education, includes a required sixteen hours of class time.

- *Introduction to the Creed\**
- *Introduction to Scripture*
- *Introduction to Church History*
- *Introduction to Morality*
- *Introduction to Worship and Sacraments*

Candidates may opt to complete these courses through the Dayton on-line program with the following equivalents:

- *Survey of Catholic Doctrine (Creed)*
- *Introduction to Scripture*
- *Church History I*
- *Introduction to Christian Morality*
- *Sacraments*

- N. B. Certification must be maintained by completing one CEU every two years. (1 CEU = 10 hrs)

\*Candidates for Master Catechist Certification must complete an Introduction to the Creed beyond the Echoes of Faith Plus *I Believe/We Believe*.

The Office of Religious Education offers three certificate programs for catechists:

1. *Provisional Certification\**
2. *Basic Certification*
3. *Master Catechist Certification*

All catechists are expected to take *Introduction to the Ministry of the Catechist*. Once this has been achieved, the catechist might pursue one of two paths: **(1) Basic Certification OR (2) Master Catechist Certification**. One does not have to complete *Basic Certification* before embarking on the requirements for *Master Catechist Certification*.

*\*Provisional Certification is granted after completion of Introduction to the Ministry of the Catechist and a Creed course at either the Basic or Master Catechist level depending on which track the catechist intends to pursue.*

After consultation with the Office of Religious Education, certified DREs may offer any of the courses leading to master catechist certification. After consultation with the Office of Religious Education, certified DREs and CREs may facilitate any of the *Echoes of Faith Plus* modules. *Echoes of Faith Plus* modules must be completed in their entirety, including the booklets.

All records will be maintained by the Office of Religious Education. Instructors and facilitators must submit record information in a timely fashion.

All certification is granted by the Office of Religious Education for a specific time and will expire unless maintained as described herein.

The Office of Religious Education highly recommends the VLCFF on-line program of the University of Dayton. The Diocese of Worcester is a partner diocese which reduces the cost for each course. Participants earn university CEUs through this program. Go to: [vlc.udayton.edu](http://vlc.udayton.edu)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

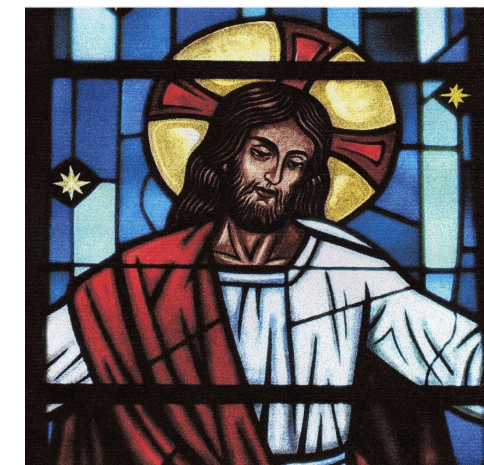
Barbara Ramian (508) 929-4308/[bramian@worcesterdiocese.org](mailto:bramian@worcesterdiocese.org)

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BASIC CERTIFICATION	MASTER CATECHIST	
Introduction to the Ministry of the Catechist – (same at Basic and Master Catechist Levels)	Dayton on-line courses	
Parish DVD Assisted Courses	ORE sponsored courses	Survey of Catholic Doctrine
<i>Echoes</i> + - “I Believe/We Believe”	Introduction to Creed	Introduction to Scripture
<i>Echoes</i> + - Scripture	Introduction to Scripture	Sacraments
<i>Echoes</i> + - Liturgy and Sacraments	Introduction to Worship/ Sacrament	Introduction to Christian Morality
<i>Echoes</i> + - Catholic Morality	Introduction to Morality	Church History I
<i>Echoes</i> + - Ecclesiology	Introduction to Church History	
Process completed in four years. Then 1 CEU every 2 years to maintain.		

*Provisional Certification is granted after completion of Introduction to the Ministry of the Catechist and “I Believe/We Believe” at Basic Level OR either Introduction to Creed or Survey of Catholic Doctrine.*

**Proclaim to all the nations . . .**



## CATECHIST CERTIFICATION

DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609

◆ (508) 929-4303

