

Diocesan Office of Religious Education

Diocesan Office of Religious Education
 Diocesan Catechist Certification Program [DCCP]
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SCHEDULE OF COURSES AND REGISTRATION

Each year the schedule of courses is sent to every parish catechetical leader. Every catechist/teacher is to have a copy of the entire schedule for the year as well as a copy of this DCCP brochure.

All participants for courses MUST register through the parish DRE or Catholic School Principal [or one designated by them]. All registrations MUST take place on the official registration form and sent to the diocesan office with payment for courses by the required deadline [by the 15th of the month preceding the course].

Cost per person per course is \$15.00

Participants are to bring their own bag lunch for all courses.

CERTIFICATION FOR SACRAMENTAL CATECHESIS

Catechists involved with the sacramental preparation for Confirmation, First Communion and/or First Penance MUST be certified catechists. They should have at least :

- ⇒ Basic Certification including Course 104: Leading People to Sacraments: Sacramental Catechesis;
- ⇒ Taken one of the following specialized certification courses for the sacrament that pertains to their ministry:
 - Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation
 - Sacramental Preparation for First Communion
 - Sacramental Preparation for First Penance

Courses for specialized certification are offered in each deanery. Check the schedule for the year.

Further Opportunities for Master Certification and On-going Formation After Master Certification

Those who have COMPLETED Basic and Advanced certification may obtain Master Certification in several ways:

- ⇒ by taking further 200 courses;
- ⇒ by participating in the INTO THE FIELDS adult faith formation program;
- ⇒ by participating in other programs recognized by the Diocesan Office of Religious Education.

INTO THE FIELDS

Into the Fields is an adult faith formation program for the Whole Community. It combines spirituality, theological content, and skills for handing on the faith to others. It is rooted in Scripture, liturgy, and the Catechism and is based on both the General Directory for Catechesis and the National Directory for Catechesis. The program will deepen your faith through powerful spiritual exercises; offer a comprehensive, Catechism-based review of Catholic teaching; and provide opportunities for faith sharing and meditation.

Procedures for Certification for Into the Fields

All parishes implementing Into the Fields for certification must first register with the DCCP office for approval. Once approved they will receive registration and other pertinent information for those participating in the program for catechist certification.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults [RCIA]

Catechists whose ministry involves participation in the periods of formation of the baptismal catechumenate and/or full communion are expected to have basic and advanced certification.

The Diocesan Office of Religious Education will also provide specialized formation and networking for all those involved in any way with the implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in their parish.

Diocesan Catechist Certification Program

Diocesan Office of Religious Education
 Diocese of Orlando

The Diocesan Catechist Certification Program [DCCP] is the official faith formation certification program of the Diocese of Orlando. It serves all those involved in the ministry of catechesis in any way: religious education, Catholic School, youth and young adult ministry, adult faith formation, catechumenate, etc.

Courses are offered in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. The program is user friendly. Courses are scheduled in every deanery. The schedule is determined by parish DRES and Catholic School Principals in the Spring of each year.

There are three [3] levels of certification: Basic, Advanced and Master. A catechist moves from one level to another by satisfactorily completing a series of six ten-hour courses (total of 60 hours) sponsored by the diocese.

Equivalency certification is also granted to those who have taken courses or completed certification or a degree program in other dioceses or areas of the United States. To obtain equivalency certification you must complete the required forms and submit them to the Director of the Certification Program.

LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION AND COURSES

BASIC CERTIFICATION is granted to all catechists who have completed 6 courses (60 hours) in the following courses listed below.

BASIC CERTIFICATION COURSES

Ministry and Catechesis	101
We Believe: Catholic Faith and Life	102
Introduction to Scripture	103
Leading People to Sacraments: Sacramental Catechesis	104
We Live Our Faith: Catholic Moral Teaching	105
We Celebrate Our Faith: Catechesis and Liturgy	106

ADVANCED CERTIFICATION is granted to all catechists who have completed 60 hours in any one of the following courses listed below after receiving a basic certification.

MASTER CERTIFICATION is granted to all catechists who have completed 60 hours in any one of the following courses listed below after receiving an advanced certification.

ADVANCED/MASTER CERTIFICATION COURSES

A Journey Through the Old Testament	201
A Journey Through the New Testament	202
"Who Do you Say I Am?" The Person of Jesus	203
Celebrating and Living the Sacramental Life	204
Celebrating the Eucharist:	
The Source and Summit of Our Faith	205
Ecclesiology: The Mystery of the Church	206
The Catechumenate	207
Catechesis & Social Ministry	208
Catechetical Documents of the Church	209
Catechesis & Human Development	210
Catechesis & Sexuality	211
Adult Faith Formation	213
Church History	214
World Religions	215



Turn to Page 4 for Information on:

- Certification for Sacramental Catechesis
- Master Certification and ongoing faith formation after Master Certification
- Registration Procedures
- Contact Information

"Since effective catechesis depends on virtuous and skilled catechists, their ongoing formation should enhance the human, spiritual, and apostolic qualities and catechetical skills they bring to their ministry. . .Diocesan pastoral programs must give absolute priority to the formation of lay catechists."

-National Directory for Catechesis, p. 238

Ministry and Catechesis

Course 101

Through our baptism we are called to hand on the faith through our active participation in the Church's ministry of formation. This introductory course examines the nature and vision of catechetical ministry as set forth in the various catechetical documents of the Church. Special attention is given to the revised *General Directory for Catechesis* [GDC] and the *National Directory for Catechesis* [NDC].

We Believe: Catholic Faith and Life

Course 102

We are called to 'hand on the faith' of the Church. But to do this effectively we must both know and live this faith. Many times there is a gap of grand canyon proportions between what the Church teaches and what we 'think' the Church teaches. This course will examine the major teachings of the Church in terms of both knowledge and our own spiritual development. Topics covered include Trinity, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, Sacraments, Grace, the Moral Life, Mary and the Saints, and Death, Judgment and Eternity.

Introduction to Scripture

Course 103

Biblical signs constitute one of the four main sources of catechesis. This course introduces the catechist to basic beliefs about the Catholic understanding of scripture. Special attention is given to the chief signs that are to be emphasized in catechesis: the creation account, which culminates in the establishment of God's kingdom; the covenant made by God with Abraham and his descendants and God's covenant with Jesus, the exodus from bondage to freedom; the passage from death to life accomplished by Christ's paschal mystery.

Leading People to Sacraments: Sacramental Catechesis

Course 104

Although there is a close relationship between sacramental catechesis and religious education, sacramental catechesis is a distinct component within the catechetical ministry of the Church. The purpose of this course is to examine the unique activity of sacramental catechesis in the Church especially as it has been defined by the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. The course will focus on the nature, purpose, methods, and goals of sacramental catechesis within the context of the meaning of sacraments in the Church. Special attention will be given to sacramental catechesis for Baptism, Confirmation, First Communion, and First Reconciliation for those baptized Catholic as infants as well as to the Catechumenate for children of catechetical age.

We Live Our Faith: Catholic Moral Teaching

Course 105

"Catechesis in morality is an essential component of catechetical ministry" (NCD). Therefore catechesis includes the Church's moral teaching which has been an integral part of the Catholic message throughout the ages. This course will focus on the basic principles that underlie the Catholic approach to morality. What makes an action moral? What is sin? What is conscience? Why are there commandments and Beatitudes? Various approaches for teaching morality is included with this course.

We Celebrate Our Faith: Catechesis and Liturgy

Course 106

Liturgical signs constitute one of the four main sources of catechesis. Therefore catechesis has the task of preparing people and communities for full, conscious, and active liturgical and sacramental celebration and for profound reflection. The purpose of this course is to enable catechists to form people into the liturgical life of the Church and not out of it. The course will focus on basic principles of liturgical theology, the wealth of liturgical celebrations for use in the Church, preparing liturgical celebrations for all age groups, and the dominant liturgical symbols of the Church. Special attention will be given to coordinating liturgical celebrations in light of the liturgical year and the use of liturgical prayer within the Catholic School or parish Religious Education program.

PROCEDURES FOR RECORD KEEPING**Diocesan Catechist Certification Office**

- Records all catechists or teachers who have registered and those who have completed courses; records all fees collected for courses; records all equivalency certification.
- Transmits course completion letters and Basic, Advanced, or Master Certificates to the DRE or Catholic School Principal.
- Notifies the Office of Catholic Schools when a teacher has completed a course.

Parish or School Level – DRE or Catholic School Principal

- Updates the Diocesan Catechist Certification Program concerning catechists' or teachers' status and information.
- Keeps files, which include completion letters and certificates, on all catechists or teachers.

- Registers catechists or teachers for courses by collecting fees and transmitting the registration form to the Diocesan Catechist Certification Office.
- Gives the catechists or teachers the completion letters and certificates for their files.
- Keeps track of courses that catechists or teachers have taken in order for future planning within the deanery and with the Diocesan Catechist Certification Office.

Personal Level - Catechists or Teachers

- Register with the DRE or Catholic School Principal.
- Keep a personal file that includes all Diocesan Catechist Certification Program completion letters and certificates.

A Journey Through the Old Testament

Course 201

The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Christians venerate these scriptures as the Word of God. This course will examine God's loving self-revelation from creation down through the ages until the coming of Jesus Christ. Special attention will be given to the three collections in the Hebrew Scriptures: the Pentateuch, the prophets, and the Writings.

A Journey Through the New Testament

Course 202

God's revelation is ultimately expressed in the incarnation, life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Spirit (NCD 53). This course will examine the books of the New Testament. Special attention will be given to the Gospels which enjoy preeminence as principal witness of the life and teachings of Jesus, and the principle themes found in the epistles and the Acts of the Apostles. The course will also focus on the literary characteristics of the books in the New Testament as well as providing an introduction to critical exegesis.

"Who Do You Say I Am?"

Course 203

The Person of Jesus Christ
At the heart of catechesis is the person of Jesus Christ. This course will explore the various approaches that have responded to this question over the centuries. Special attention will be given to the contemporary state of Christology in the Church today and our own call to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Celebrating and Living the Sacramental Life

Course 204

Through our baptism we are called to live the sacramental life. Our full, conscious and active participation in the sacramental life is the way we most fully celebrate our faith. This course will explore the nature and meaning of sacraments in the Church today. Special attention will be given to the sacraments of healing [reconciliation and anointing of the sick] and marriage.

Celebrating the Eucharist:

Course 205

The Source and Summit of Our Faith
"Liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the font from which all her power flows" (Constitution on the Liturgy, 10). This course will provide a brief historical account of liturgical development in the Church up until the present time. Special attention will be given to the celebration of the Eucharist and how it forms and transforms us into a Eucharistic people.

Ecclesiology: The Mystery of the Church

Course 206

The Church is a mystery, and as a divine reality inserted into human history, it is also a kind of sacrament. This course will examine the nature and meaning of Church throughout the centuries. Special attention will be given to the understanding of Church as proclaimed in the documentation of Vatican Council II and contemporary theological writings. The Faithful Revolution: Vatican II videos: Human Dignity and The Genius of the Heart examine the dramatic changes fostered by The Second Vatican Council and its continuing effects on history and the modern world.

The Catechumenate

Course 207

With the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* all unbaptized persons of catechetical age and older are led to full initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) through the catechumenal process. This course will provide a brief overview of the rite and its meaning and purpose. Special attention will be given to the relationship of the Catechumenate to Parish Programs in Religious Education and the Catholic School.

Catechesis and Social Ministry

Course 208

Catechesis supports the ministry of service which is linked to efforts to achieve social justice in our world today. This course will describe the basis of the Church's social ministry, sketch the development of Catholic social teaching and identify its principal themes, and explore many of our contemporary social issues that confront Catholic Christians in our contemporary culture. Special attention will be given to recent issues that affect us today: immigration, assisted suicide, death penalty, violence, etc.

Catechetical Documents of the Church

Course 209

Since Vatican Council II the Church has promoted the priority of catechesis for the strengthening of her internal life as a community of believers and of her external activity as a missionary Church (*Catechesi Tradendae*, CT). The purpose of this course is to provide an in-depth examination of the major catechetical documents of the Church. Special attention will be given to the *General Directory for Catechesis* [GDC] and the *National Directory for Catechesis* [NDC].

Catechesis and Human Development

Course 210

Catechesis must be adapted to the age, culture and the developmental states of the learner. This course will examine the various stages of human development and how catechesis is meant to help at each stage so as to lead to full identification with Jesus. Methods appropriate to each particular age are studied and shared.

Catechesis and Human Sexuality

Course 211

The Second Vatican Council stated that children and young people should be given positive and prudent sexual education that includes moral, spiritual, psychological, emotional, and physical dimensions. This course will examine the context, content and methodology of a Catholic approach to teaching sexuality. Special attention will be given to approved catechetical materials for all age groups.

Adult Faith Formation

Course 213

This course is based on the Pastoral letter from the U.S. Bishops "Were Not Our Hearts Burning Within Us" that shows the plan and implementation leading to a mature faith for today's Catholics. Participants will examine the various principles and goals of adult faith formation and will assess the present status of adult faith formation in their parish. It will enable participants to make decisions regarding the specific strategies that would help their parishes and schools to strengthen its program for adult faith formation and create a network of adult religious educators among the parishes and Catholic schools who can support and be resources for one another.

Church History

Course 214

Church History is based on the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Church History records how Christians have lived out the Gospel message, shaping the Church and the world. Today Church History gives Christians a sense of identity and helps them to continue to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

World Religions

Course 215

Because the "desire for God is written in the human heart" [CCC27], the search for God is a part of who we are as humans. This course provides an overview of the major world religions and the desire for God. Emphasis will be on the aspects where Catholic Christianity and non-Christian religions converge and where they diverge. The course will increase awareness of other religions' traditions, creeds, cults, codes and prayers and the relationship of other religions to the Catholic Church.