



DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG
Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship
723 EAST PITTSBURGH STREET • GREENSBURG, PA 15601-2597
724-837-0901 FAX 724-837-0857

Catechist Certification Policy

Introduction

1. Catechists are people who “echo the faith” through their example in their actions and through teaching. While the whole Christian community is responsible for the ministry of catechesis, particular men and women from among the laity are called to accompany others in their faith journey in a more formal way, including parish catechetical leaders, parish catechists in religious education programs, all teachers and administrators in Catholic schools, youth ministers, catechists in Christian initiation programs, Bible Study presenters, and other adult formation leaders.
2. The most recent Directory for Catechesis states, “Since catechists must be formed for evangelization in the present world, it will be necessary to use wisdom in harmonizing the attention due to persons and to the truths of faith, personal growth and the community dimension, care for spiritual dynamics and dedication to the effort for the common good” (*DC*, 135). Based on this statement, the Directory presents three dimensions for the formation of a catechist:
 - a. Being and knowing-how to be with: Human and Christian Maturity and Missionary Awareness - A catechist is formed to become a witness of faith and a keeper of the memory of God.
 - b. Knowledge: Biblical-theological formation and the understanding of human beings and the social context - A catechist is a teacher and a mystagogue.
 - c. Savoir-faire: Pedagogical and Methodological Formation - A catechist is formed to grow as an accompanier, educator, and communicator. (cf. *DC*, 139-150)
3. These dimensions are the basis of this Catechist Certification Policy for the Diocese of Greensburg to develop well-formed catechists. As our times have become more complex through technology and globalization, society experiences profound change, and the Church experiences a phenomena of detachment from a lived ecclesial and faith experience, the Church realizes the need for spiritual, moral, and pastoral renewal. (cf. *DC*, 38). This renewal can take place through well-formed catechists who make visible the mystery of faith and inspire others to discipleship. Therefore, these policies attempt to provide that foundational formation to the catechists of our Diocese, so that they may increase the efficacy of the Church’s mission in cooperation with the Holy Spirit.

Parish Catechists for Youth

4. All Catechists who teach religion, even if they work as part-time catechists, volunteer catechists, or are regularly involved in youth ministry, must complete Basic and Standard certification. Ideally, regular substitutes who assist with more than three sessions each year should complete the same certification. The Basic certificate should be earned within the first two (2) years of engagement. The Catechist should complete Basic and Standard certification within five (5) years of engagement. In extraordinary circumstances, catechists may apply for a one year extension to the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship, if employed or volunteering in a parish.
5. All parish Catechists, after the completion of their required level, maintain their certification by completing 30 hours of continuing faith formation to be submitted every three (3) years to the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship.

Elementary School Teachers

6. Because of the nature of Catholic schools, all administrators and teachers are viewed as catechists. Therefore, all elementary school (grades Pre-K -8) administrators and teachers, regardless of what subject (s) they teach, are required to complete Basic Catechist Certification within two (2) years of engagement or employment if they are employed three (3) or more days a week in a Catholic school.
7. All Catechists in a Catholic school **who teach religion**, even if they work as part-time catechists or are volunteer catechists, must complete Basic and Standard certification. The Basic certificate should be earned within the first two (2) years of engagement. The Catechist should complete Basic and Standard certification within five (5) years of engagement. In extraordinary circumstances, catechists may apply for a one year extension to the Office of Catholic Schools, if employed in a school.
8. A Catholic School Teacher who is primarily a religion teacher (Religion Specialist), defined as teaching three (3) or more classes of religion per day, is obligated to the standards found below in the section marked “High School Teachers and Religion Specialists.”
9. All school or parish Catechists, after the completion of their required level, maintain their certification by completing 30 hours of continuing faith formation to be submitted every three (3) years to the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship.

High School Teachers and Religion Specialists

10. All Catholic High School teachers, regardless of what subject they teach, must complete Basic Certification within the first two years of employment. After Basic Certification is completed, they go directly to the continuing formation level.
11. A religion teacher or campus minister in a Catholic high school or parish in the Diocese of Greensburg must be a practicing Catholic and in good standing in the Church and must be qualified in the following manner:
 - Must have a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in Theology, Religion, Religious Studies, or Theological Studies from a Catholic college or university. The religion teacher must be endorsed by the Bishop at the recommendation of the Principal and pastor (if applicable); OR,
 - Must complete the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program or IMF Program or another comparable Ministry Program approved by the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship. The religion teacher must be endorsed by the Bishop at the recommendation of the Principal and pastor (if applicable); OR,
 - Must have at least 12 hours of graduate credits in Theology, Religion, Religious Studies, or Theological Studies from a Catholic college or university and be certified by the State in another academic field and be endorsed by the Bishop at the recommendation of the Principal and pastor (if applicable). If working to complete this requirement while employed, the subject areas are to be approved through the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship and must match the area(s) that the person will be asked to teach;
 - All high school catechists, after the completion of their required level, maintain their certification by completing 30 hours of continuing faith formation to be submitted every three (3) years to the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

12. Catechists who serve in The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd approach are expected to undertake formation courses that are approved by the United States Association of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Therefore, the Diocese of Greensburg offers equivalency certification to those who successfully complete their certification through The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGSUSA):
- CGS Level I Certification is the equivalency of both Basic and Standard Certification (with completion of the Basic Level Administration/Legal Course).
 - Those who complete CGS Level II and Level III Certification receive equivalency of Advanced Certification (with completion of a seminar on practical skills for catechetical leaders offered by the Diocese of Greensburg).
 - Those who are recognized as Formation Leaders by the United States Association of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd receive equivalency of Master Catechist Certification (with completion of a seminar on practical skills for catechetical leaders offered by the Diocese of Greensburg).
 - Those who are recognized as Formation Leaders by the United States Association of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd are recognized to teach CGS Certification courses within the Diocese of Greensburg in accordance with the Speaker Policy of the Diocese.

Adult Faith Formation or Adult Christian Initiation Catechists

14. A catechist or teacher of a presentation on faith and morals in an adult faith formation program, including Bible Studies, or a Christian Initiation program should minimally possess standard certification in the Diocese of Greensburg. Ideally, a catechist for adults should be a graduate of the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program or IMF Program or possess at least a bachelor's degree in theological studies or religious education from a Catholic college or university. This policy does not include personal witness presentations or presentations on topics other than faith and morals, though presenters should have relevant experience in the topics being presented (such as a psychologist presenting on mental health or a lawyer or a licensed financial planner presenting on estate planning).

Directors and Coordinators of Religious Education, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Sacramental Preparation, Youth Ministry, or Christian Initiation

15. Those who are seeking to be a Director of Religious Education (or equivalent position) and who oversee the comprehensive Faith Formation programs of a parish are expected to have a M.A. in Religious Education, Theology, or Pastoral Studies from an accredited Catholic institution. Those who have achieved a B.A. in Religious education, Theology, or Pastoral Studies from an accredited Catholic institution or graduates from the Lay Ecclesial Ministry or IMF Certificate Program with five years of relevant experience may request equivalency from the Managing Director of Faith, Family, and Discipleship.
16. Those who are seeking to be a Coordinator of Religious Education (or equivalent position) and who oversee portions of the Faith Formation programs of a parish are expected to have a B.A. in Religious Education, Theology, or Pastoral Studies from an accredited Catholic institution or graduates from the Lay Ecclesial Ministry or IMF Certificate program. Those who are in the process of completing a program may request a temporary waiver from the Managing Director of Faith, Family, and Discipleship.
17. Those who are seeking to be an Administrator of Religious Education (or equivalent position) and who oversee portions of the Faith Formation programs of a parish under the supervision of a Regional Director are expected to have completed Standard Certification and participated in the seminar on practical skills for catechetical leaders offered by the Diocese of Greensburg, but would preferably complete Advanced Certification.

Catechist Certification Requirements

18. Basic Catechist Certification courses include:

- **Role of the Catechist:** An overview of effective ways for Catechists to share the Gospel with students and families (3 hours)
- **Mission of a Catholic School / Practical Skills for Catholic School Catechists:** An exploration of the best methods for guiding students attending Catholic School to a relationship with Jesus Christ *or*
- **Practical Skills for Parish Catechists:** An exploration of the best methods for developing guiding students attending Parish Religious Education or Youth Ministry programs to a relationship with Jesus Christ (2 hours)
- **Scripture:** An overview of the Old and New Testaments with application for daily life (3 hours)
- **The Catholic Church:** An overview of the purpose and structure of the Catholic Church based on the documents of Vatican II (2 hours)
- **Liturgy & Sacraments:** An overview of the liturgy and sacramental life of the Church (3 hours)
- **The Creed:** An overview of the Nicene Creed (2 hours)
- **Experiential Catechesis and Formation:** An examination of ways to engage various age groups with encounters with Christ through the Church (3 hours)
- **Administrative/Legal:** An overview of the various legal and ethical concerns of Church ministers today.

(See Appendix B for the Basic Level Certification Form that must be submitted at the completion of all courses with all Certification Certificates. See Appendix C for a more detailed set of objectives for each course.)

There are pre-reading assignments for each of these courses. Pre-reading assignments can be downloaded from the Diocesan website or requested from a Parish Catechetical Leader or Certification Coordinator.

19. Standard Catechist Certification Courses include:

- **The Mystery of God:** A deeper exploration of the Creed and the Church's teachings on God (10 hours)
- **God's Revelation in Scripture:** A deeper exploration of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures as the word of God and a privileged source of God's revelation to us (10 hours)
- **The Church and Church History:** A deeper exploration of the History of the Church, including the early Councils and Church Fathers, the founders of Religious Orders, and local Church history (10 hours)
- **Life in Christ:** A deeper exploration of the Church's moral teaching, utilizing Catholic Social Teaching, the Commandments and Beatitudes, in light of modern culture (10 hours)
- **Liturgy and Spirituality:** A deeper exploration of prayer life of the Church, both communal and personal, as a way in which God speaks to his people today (10 hours)
- **Proclaiming the Gospel Today:** A deeper exploration of our baptismal call to proclaim the Gospel to all people and practical ways in which we can be effective in our efforts (10 hours)

(See Appendix E for the Standard Level Certification Form that must be submitted at the completion of all courses with all Certification Certificates. See Appendix F for a more detailed set of objectives for each course.)

There are pre-reading assignments for each of these courses. Pre-reading assignments can be downloaded from the Diocesan website or requested from a Parish Catechetical Leader or Certification Coordinator.

Workshops/Classes for completion of both Basic and Standard certification will be offered by the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship quarterly. Additionally courses from Pathways or from an approved online program can be used to fulfill Standard Level Certification. *(See Appendix G for a correlation of Pathways courses and the Standard Certification requirements.)*

20. **Continuing Catechist Certification** is a continuing professional development component to help the catechist maintain his/her current level of certification. Every three (3) years, a catechist, principal, Parish Catechetical Leader, or Diocesan Formation staff member must submit a record of thirty (30) hours of formation in the Catholic faith. Professional continuing formation increases one's knowledge of the Catholic Faith and gives better skills in imparting that faith and sharing the Gospel more effectively. Suggestions would be: workshops, online classes, Catechism Studies, approved Bible studies. More suggestions on fulfilling this obligation can be obtained from the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship or by reading the electronic newsletter.
21. **Advanced Catechist Certification** is achieved in one of the following ways: completion of the Diocese of Greensburg Lay Ecclesial Minister Program, IMF Program at St. Vincent Seminary, or by obtaining a Bachelor's degree from an accredited Catholic institution in the area of theology, religious education, or pastoral ministry.
22. **Master Catechist Certification** is achieved by earning a Master's degree from an accredited Catholic institution in the area of theology, religious education, or pastoral ministry.
23. Presenters shall have obtained the following certification to teach:
 - Basic Certification theology courses must possess a B.A. in Religious Education or Theology from an accredited Catholic institution or be graduates of the Lay Ecclesial Ministry or IMF Certificate Program.
 - Standard Certification courses must possess an M.A. in Religious Education or Theology from an accredited Catholic institution or be a member of the ordained clergy. Consecrated religious, who have equivalency of credentials, would also be suitable presenters.
 - Continuing formation opportunities should be presented by those who possess the same qualifications as someone who would present Basic or Standard Certification.
 - Exceptions for this should be presented to the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship for review prior to the catechetical event.

Documentation of Certification Requirements

24. Each school should have a Catechist Certification Coordinator. Each school's Catechist Certification Coordinator should:
 - Explain in detail the Diocesan Catechist Certification guidelines to new teachers as well as remind others of the requirements as needed.
 - Distribute the appropriate level personal record form to each new teacher at the beginning of the academic year.
 - Make known certification opportunities being offered throughout the diocese and maintain records of completion. Opportunities can be found on the Diocese of Greensburg website or listed on the regularly published electronic newsletter.
 - Suggest appropriate in-service topics to the school principal.

25. Each parish's Parish Catechetical Leader should:

- Should maintain a record in the parish offices on each of the Catechists.
- Explain the diocesan Catechist Certification guidelines in detail to new Catechists, as well as explain to others the requirements, as needed. While it is the Catechist's job to fulfill these requirements, the Parish Catechetical Leader should make known certification opportunities being offered throughout the diocese and maintain records of completion. Opportunities can be found on the Diocese of Greensburg website or listed on the regularly published electronic newsletter.

26. Catechist Certification Documentation Requirements:

- Follow guidelines for completing the Catechist Certification Program Record of Courses for each certification level from the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship.
- The Catechist should keep Course Completion/Attendance Forms until a level is completed, turning in the documentation (certificates of attendance with summaries of the courses) to the School Catechist Coordinator or Parish Catechetical Leader.
- When a certification level is completed, the
 - School Catechist Coordinator should complete the appropriate form and review the Catechist's documentation. The Coordinator submits the completed form to the school principal for final approval or
 - The Parish Catechetical Leader should complete the required form and review the Catechist's documentation.
- Completed forms must include the signature of principal or Parish Catechetical Leader as local representative and are sent with supporting documentation to the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship.
- After diocesan approval, a copy of the certificate provided by the diocesan office should remain in the Catechist's file at the parish or school along with the documentation, now countersigned by the diocesan official. The original certificate should be given to the Catechist.

27. Course Completion/Attendance Forms for each Catechist Certification Level should include the following details:

- Instructor's name
- his/her signature (or principal/Parish Catechetical Leader signature)
- date(s) of the course
- number of hours of instruction
- a short summary of the topic provided by the catechist. (*see Appendix A for sample form*)

28. The Catechist should keep Course Completion/Attendance Forms until a level is completed. Undergraduate or graduate courses in theology or related religion coursework from a Catholic institution completed within the last fifteen (15) years may satisfy a course area requirement. In these cases, the college transcript will serve as documentation. These can be submitted to the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship for evaluation and approval.

Conclusion

29. **The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, JCL, Bishop of Greensburg has promulgated this Catechist Certification Policy. This policy is effective December 8, 2023 and supersedes and abrogates all other Catechist Certification Policies previously issued. Any variation or exception to this policy must be explicitly approved by the Diocesan Bishop through the Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship.**



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CERTIFICIATE FOR A BASIC LEVEL CERTIFICATION SESSION

This is to certify that _____ attended a 3-hour session entitled Role of the Catechist given by **Vincent Reilly** on **March 24, 2018** for Basic Level Catechist Certification in the Diocese of Greensburg.

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg
 Location

 Managing Director of Faith, Family, and Discipleship

Catechist lists below 5-7 of the main concepts learned in this Topic/ Course:

Catechist Instruction: Give this certificate to your DRE or School Catechist Coordinator.
Parish Catechetical Leader/School Catechist Coordinator Instruction: Attach to Catechist Personal Record From for submission to Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship when all classes have been completed for this level.
 Lost certificates are not replaced.



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BASIC LEVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Month and Year of Engagement as Parish or School Catechist ____/____/20____
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Location of Your Ministry: Parish Name: _____ City: _____
and/or School Name: _____ City: _____

Please use this form to record the formation opportunities that you have attended within 2 years of your engagement as a parish or school catechist. Attach certification certificates.

Title of Course	Hours	Presenter	Date of Course
Role of the Catechist	3		
Mission of a Catholic School <i>or</i> Practical Skills for Parish Catechists	2		
Scripture	3		
The Catholic Church	2		
Liturgy and Sacraments	3		
The Creed	2		
Experiential Catechesis and Formation	3		
Administrative/ Legal	2		

Parish Catechists and Catholic School teachers of religion classes must complete Standard Certification within five years of Engagement as a Parish or School Catechist. Catechist's Standard Certification (60 hours) is due ____/____/20____ or teacher is exempt from Standard Certification because they do not teach religion ____.

All parish and school catechists/teachers of whom Basic Certification is expected must complete 30 hours of ongoing enrichment every three years, beginning at the date of completion of Standard Certification, or Basic Certification, if exempt from Standard Certification.

RECOMMENDATION FOR BASIC LEVEL CERTIFICATION

(to be completed by Catechetical Leader or Principal)

Name of Catechist: _____

Catechist primarily works with: Pre-K/Kindergarten Grades 1-4 Grades 5-6
(check all that apply) Grades 7-8 Grades 9-12 College
 Christian Initiation Adults

Please indicate your general observation of the Catechist in each area, with 5 indicating excellence.

Catechist knows content well and is prepared for sessions.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist creates a positive Christ-centered atmosphere.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist gathers students and enables them to pray.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist is aware of the needs of each student and makes an effort to involve all students in faith formation.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist helps students make connections between faith and life.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist affirms the attention and participation of all students.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist draws connections with the Mass and the Liturgical Year.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist makes good use of Scripture with students.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist engages students to encounter Christ through experiential learning.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist allows students to ask question and share their faith with others.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist works to form missionary disciples.	1	2	3	4	5

Additional comments and suggestions for further development of skills in catechetical ministry:

I recommend this catechist for Basic Level Certification for the Diocese of Greensburg and that I would continue to minister with this catechist in the future.

Catechetical Leader or Principal’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Catechist Signature: _____ Date: _____

<i>(For FFD Use Only)</i>	Basic Certification is granted on ____/____/20____.
Managing Director of Faith, Family and Discipleship’s Signature: _____	



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OBJECTIVES FOR BASIC LEVEL CERTIFICATION COURSES

Title of Course	Hours	Objectives
Role of the Catechist	3	When completed, the catechist will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand that our calling to be a catechist is given to us by God and rooted in our Baptism. • Recognize that a catechist is a witness of faith and keeper of the memory of God, a teacher and a mystagogue, and an accompanier and educator. • Realize the importance for the learner to have an encounter with Christ through the Church community. • Inspire others to be true missionary disciples who are active participants in evangelization.
Mission of a Catholic School <i>or</i> Practical Skills for Parish Catechists	2	When completed, the catechist will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the importance of forming the entire person: spiritual, physical, and emotional. • Help individuals develop their identity in and through Christ. • Describe and plan an experiential faith formation lesson for a specific grade level utilizing their own talents and skills. • Identify the stages of faith development in their learners and techniques to help advance them to a mature faith.
Scripture	3	When completed, the catechist will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the beauty of Scripture and the richness it can bring to daily life. • Develop techniques for effectively incorporating Scripture in faith formation sessions. • Recognize Scripture as the main source of catechesis and the proclamation of salvation in written form. • Understand the way in which Catholics read, interpret, and use the Bible and its multiple literary forms.
The Catholic Church	2	When completed, the catechist will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and communicate with others the Church’s origin, foundation, and mission. • Identify the characteristics of the Church as the People of God, the Body of Christ, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. • Explain and celebrate the Marks of the Church that are recited in the Nicene Creed. • Describe the necessity for the hierarchy within the Church and the various roles of the members of the Church.



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OBJECTIVES FOR BASIC LEVEL CERTIFICATION COURSES

Title of Course	Hours	Objectives
Liturgy and Sacraments	3	When completed, the catechist will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively communicate the function of liturgy in the life of the Church and the learner. • Develop ways to incorporate liturgy and prayer into the faith formation session and learning environment. • Understand the significance of each of the seven sacraments and the formation of a sacramental worldview. • Connect the Sunday Mass with the faith formation session to encourage a deeper understanding of the Eucharist.
The Creed	2	When completed, the catechist will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate the basic teachings on the Trinity, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. • Help individuals to be able to answer personally “Who is Jesus Christ?” and be able to identify key moments from His life on earth. • Express the Church’s beliefs on Mary using Scripture and Tradition. • Understand the Catholic teaching on the Resurrection and eternal life.
Experiential Catechesis and Formation	3	When completed, the catechist will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a learning environment that includes the opportunity to engage all senses while communicating the faith effectively. • Develop an apologetics of love that proposes the faith using truth, goodness, and beauty in age appropriate ways. • Understand the role of the Holy Spirit in the faith formation process. • Practice the core catechetical methodologies of effective faith formation at all age levels.
Administrative/ Legal	2	When completed, the catechist will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know where to locate appropriate print and electronic materials for catechesis. • Understand the current copyright laws that govern print and media resources. • Recognize the catechist’s role in authentically exemplifying the Church’s teachings and moral beliefs. • Realize the role of Canon Law in faith formation and other similar parish settings.



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STANDARD LEVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Month and Year of Engagement as Parish or School Catechist ____/20____

Location of Your Ministry: Parish Name: _____ City: _____
and/or School Name: _____ City: _____

Please use this form to record the formation opportunities that you have attended within 5 years of your engagement as a parish or school catechist. Attach certification certificates.

Title of Course	Hours	Presenter(s)	Date(s) of Course
God's Revelation in Scripture	10		
The Mystery of God	10		
The Church and Church History	10		
Liturgy and Spirituality	10		
Life in Christ	10		
Proclaiming the Gospel Today	10		

Catechists who complete Standard Certification are expected to complete 30 hours of ongoing enrichment every three years, beginning at the date of completion of Standard Certification (or Basic Certification, if exempt from Standard Certification).

RECOMMENDATION FOR STANDARD LEVEL CERTIFICATION

(to be completed by Catechetical Leader or Principal)

Name of Catechist: _____

Catechist primarily works with: *(check all that apply)*

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-K/Kindergarten	<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> College
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Initiation	<input type="checkbox"/> Adults	

Please indicate your general observation of the Catechist in each area, with 5 indicating excellence.

Catechist knows content well and is prepared for sessions.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist creates a positive Christ-centered atmosphere.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist gathers students and enables them to pray.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist is aware of the needs of each student and makes an effort to involve all students in faith formation.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist helps students make connections between faith and life.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist affirms the attention and participation of all students.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist draws connections with the Mass and the Liturgical Year.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist makes good use of Scripture with students.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist engages students to encounter Christ through experiential learning.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist allows students to ask question and share their faith with others.	1	2	3	4	5
Catechist works to form missionary disciples.	1	2	3	4	5

Additional comments and suggestions for further development of skills in catechetical ministry:

I recommend this catechist for Standard Level Certification for the Diocese of Greensburg and that I would continue to minister with this catechist in the future.

Catechetical Leader or Principal's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Catechist Signature: _____ Date: _____

<i>(For FFD Use Only)</i>	Basic Certification is granted on ____/____/20____.
Managing Director of Faith, Family and Discipleship's Signature: _____	



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OBJECTIVES FOR STANDARD LEVEL CERTIFICATION COURSES

Title of Course	Hours	Objectives
God’s Revelation in Scripture	10	When completed, the catechist will be able to answer the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Do We Believe? • What Has God Told Us? • How Did God Prepare the Way for Christ? • What Good News Did Jesus Give?
The Mystery of God	10	When completed, the catechist will be able to answer the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Can We Speak About God? • Who is Jesus? • Who is the Holy Spirit? • What is the Human Vocation?
The Church and Church History	10	When completed, the catechist will be able to answer the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the Church? • What is the Local and Domestic Church? • What is the History of the Church? • How Have the Saints Shaped the Church?
Liturgy and Spirituality	10	When completed, the catechist will be able to answer the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Do We Worship? • How Do We Pray? • Why are the Sacraments so Important? • Who is the Eucharist?
Life in Christ	10	When completed, the catechist will be able to answer the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Do We Live God’s Commands? • How Do We Live Today? • What is Human Dignity? • How Do We Live the Good News?
Proclaiming the Gospel Today	10	When completed, the catechist will be able to answer the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Does It Mean to Be a Disciple? • What Does It Mean to Be an Apostle? • How Can I Share the Gospel Effectively? • How Do I Prepare an Apologetics of Love?



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 724-837-0901 FAX 724-837-0857

PATHWAYS SESSIONS IN RELATION TO STANDARD CERTIFICATION

Standard Certification Course	Pathways Sessions
God's Revelation in Scripture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerygma & Creed: What Do We Believe? • Revelation: What Has God Told Us? • Old Testament: How Did God Prepare the Way for Christ? • New Testament: What Good News Did Jesus Give?
The Mystery of God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trinity: How Can We Speak About God? • Christology: Who is Jesus? • Pneumatology: Who is the Holy Spirit? • Christian Anthropology: What is the Human Vocation?
The Church and Church History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecclesiology: What is the Church? • Ecclesiology: What is the Local and Domestic Church? • Church History: What is the History of the Church? • Catholic Reformers: How Have the Saints Shaped the Church?
Liturgy and Spirituality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liturgy: How Do We Worship? • Spirituality: How Do We Pray? • Sacramentality: Why are the Sacraments so Important? • Eucharistic Spirituality: Who is the Eucharist?
Life in Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Morality: How Do We Live God's Commands? • Modern Issues: How Do We Live Today? • Catholic Social Teaching: What is Human Dignity? • Discipleship: How Do We Live the Good News?
Proclaiming the Gospel Today	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipleship: What Does It Mean to Be a Disciple? • Evangelization: What Does It Mean to Be an Apostle? • American Church History: What Is Our Local Church History?



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CERTIFICATE FOR A CONTINUING LEVEL CERTIFICATION SESSION

This is to certify that _____ attended a 2-hour session entitled **Pope Francis and the Eucharist** given by **Vincent Reilly** on **March 24, 2018** for Continuing Level Catechist Certification in the Diocese of Greensburg.

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg
Location

Managing Director of
Faith, Family, and Discipleship

Catechist Instruction: Give this certificate to your DRE or School Catechist Coordinator.

DRE/School Catechist Coordinator Instruction: Attach to Catechist Personal Record Form for submission to Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship when all classes have been completed for this level.

Lost certificates are not replaced.



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SUMMARY OF CATECHIST CERTIFICATION IN THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

Basic Level Certification - 20 hours of certification (10 hours practical, 10 hours doctrinal) intended for all school teachers and parish catechists.

The certification is completed with eight classes that are 2-3 hours each.

Standard Level Certification - 60 hours of certification (50 hours doctrinal, 10 hours practical) intended for all school teachers who teach religion and parish catechists.

The certification is completed with six classes that are 10 hours each. They can also be completed through PATHWAYS, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I Training or through online programs that are approved by the Diocese.

Continuing Level Certification - 30 hours of certification every three years intended for all school teachers and parish catechists.

The certification is completed through a variety of in-person and online workshops. Spiritual events or Mass attendance is not included as options for continuing certification.

Advanced Level Certification - Lay Ecclesial Ministry Certificate or B.A. from a Catholic college or university in Theology or related field.

This certification can also be completed through Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level II and Level III training.

Master Level Certification - M.A. or M.T.S. or M.Div. (or higher) from a Catholic college or university in Theology or Related Field.

This certification can also be completed through Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Formation Leader training.



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CATECHIST CERTIFICATION EXPECTATIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

Parish Catechetical Leaders	Basic	Standard	Continuing	Advanced	Master
- Directors	N/A with Advanced Degree		X	X	X
- Coordinators	N/A with Advanced Degree		X	X	Preferred
- Administrators	X	X	X	Preferred	

Youth Ministers	N/A with Advanced Degree		X	X	Preferred
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Catechists for Children and Youth	X	X	X		
- Catechist Assistants	X	Preferred	X		
- Substitute Catechists (3 or more sessions a year)	X	X	X		

Catechists for Adults	X	X	X	Preferred	
Catechists for Christian Initiation	X	X	X	Preferred*	

*catechists for Christian Initiation should also complete Diocesan program on Christian Initiation.

Catholic School					
Principals and Administrators	X	X	X		
Catholic School Teachers	X		X		
Catholic School Teachers who teach 1 or 2 periods of religion	X	X	X		
Catholic School Teachers who teach 3 or more periods of religion	N/A with Advanced Degree		X	X	Preferred
High School Religion Teachers	N/A with Advanced Degree		X	X	