

The Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry knows the demands many face because of life today. To obtain Basic Certification is a huge endeavor but one so necessary in ministry. Here are some helps:

OREYM workshops The Office offers workshops for catechists on the Archdiocesan, deanery or parish level. The workshops are conducted in collaboration with the parishes or deaneries.

Parish or Deanery Programs The Directors of Religious Education and Master Catechists in parishes throughout the Archdiocese of San Francisco are encouraged to conduct classes for Basic Certification at times which are good for their catechists

Echoes of Faith This is a DVD-assisted resource for the formation of catechist. The thirteen modules provide an excellent foundation for Basic Certification.

Department of Catholic Schools Provide opportunities for teachers of Religion. The classes are open to teachers of Religion both in the Catholic Schools and the parishes.

Assessment on the Four Pillars of Faith (Catechism of the Catholic Church) Credit may be achieved by taking the IFG Assessment on the Four Pillars of Faith in the Catechism of the Catholic Church provided by NCEA.

Faith Formation Conference Credit hours towards Certification can be earned through attendance at the workshops at the Faith Formation Conference.

Screening

Each person seeking to teach religion in a parish/ deanery in the Archdiocese is screened by the Parish Catechetical Leader and/or by the Pastor. The screening is an evaluation of the person's potential to become a faith-filled and dynamic catechist who can meet the needs of the parish.

Catechist Performance: The final steps for certification are:

- Successful completion of at least one year as a Catechist
- Observation and evaluation of a catechetical session by a Master Catechist

Catechist Recertification:

Ten hours each year in courses offered by or recommended by the OREYM office will re-certify a candidate.

Archdiocese of San Francisco
One Peter Yorke way, SF 94109
415-614-5650
sforeym.org



Archdiocese of San Francisco

Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry

Obtaining & Renewal of Catechist Formation Certification

California Catholic Conference of Bishops



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sforeym.org

What is Catechist Formation?

The California Basic Catechist Certificate and Master Catechist Certificate

The General Directory for Catechesis states
“any form of pastoral activity is placed at risk if it does not rely on truly competent and trained personnel. The instruments provided for catechesis cannot be truly effective unless well used by trained catechists... Consequently, diocesan pastoral programs must give absolute priority to the formation of lay catechists.”

GDC #234

All who work in catechetical ministry must be well trained and committed to ongoing formation. The priority given by the archdiocesan office on this mission is in pursuance and implementation likewise, of the role of the Archbishop as the primary catechist.

The program for Basic Catechist & Master Catechist Certification gives a grounding on the truths of the Catholic faith and the skills needed to effectively teach and transmit the Catholic faith. The Certification program’s course content/curriculum is as prescribed by the Guidelines for Obtaining the California Basic Catechist Certificate or California Master Catechist Certificate which was issued by the Bishops of California Catholic Conference in 1996 (rev. 2011) in consultation with the Directors of Catechetical Ministry, Superintendents of Catholic Schools and Directors of Youth Ministry of the dioceses of the State of California.

Workshops on courses outlined are done in cooperation with the Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education Program and Youth Ministers in parishes/deaneries.

All catechists are expected to participate in Catechist Formation workshops and to work toward certification within three (3) years of teaching. The catechist will be certified through the Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education & Youth Ministry.



Katie Wolf [kwolf@siprep.org]

The Church entrusts the ministry of catechesis to exemplary followers of Christ with unquestioned personal integrity and moral character:

Positive qualities in candidates should be: faith that manifests itself in their piety and daily life; love for the Church and communion with its pastors; apostolic spirit and missionary zeal; love for their brothers and sisters and willingness to give generous service; sufficient education; the respect of the community; the human, moral and technical qualities necessary for the work of a catechist, such as dynamism, good relations with others, etc.

—National Directory for Catechesis No. 55

Catechist Certification:

- Builds confidence
- Promotes effective catechesis
- Nurtures personal faith growth
- Confirms ability to catechize