



Catechesis comes from a Greek term meaning “to echo.”

echo

Catechists echo the Word of God. They journey with learners in the challenging process of bringing life to faith and faith to life.

Our Bishop has the expectation that catechist certification be implemented in all the parishes, Catholic institutions and schools of our diocese and that all who teach the faith seek the level of certification appropriate for their particular role.

The Catechist Certification Process is designed to meet the needs of catechists within our diocese. The process defines five competency levels and addresses four areas of concentration: Spirituality, Theology, Methodology (Praxis), and Pastoral Leadership. Certificates are available in five levels: Introductory, Basic, Advanced, Master, and Professional.

Many paths lead to certification, including online study, video and DVD assisted models, individual reading and group study.

“Local (bishops) are to see to it that catechists are duly prepared to fulfill their task correctly, namely, that continuing formation is made available to them, that they acquire a proper knowledge of the Church’s teaching, and that they learn in theory and in practice the norms proper to the pedagogical disciplines.” Code of Canon Law #780

The National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers, USCCB 2003.

- Certification Standard 1: Personal and Spiritual Maturity (Core Competencies 1.1 – 1.7)
- Certification Standard 2: Lay Ecclesial Minister Identity (Core Competencies 2.1 – 2.5)
- Certification Standard 3: Catholic Theology (Core Competencies 3.1 – 3.9)
- Certification Standard 4: Pastoral Praxis (Core Competencies 4.1 – 4.6) Special Competencies Youth Ministry (4.7 YML – 4.10.8 YML)
- Certification Standard 5: Professional Practice (Core Competencies 5.1-5.6)

The certification process for catechists in the Diocese of Davenport strives to:

1. Acknowledge that all ecclesial ministry flows from “participation in the threefold ministry of Christ who is priest, prophet, and king”. (Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, page 11, USCCB-2005)
2. Acknowledge the professional nature of the position of catechist in the light of education, experience and role expectations.
3. Adhere to standards of competence outlined in “National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers”. USCCB, 2003. This creates greater credibility, continuity and accountability for the catechist by establishing the specific standards for that ministry.

Certification of a catechist is a statement of competencies. It does not guarantee employment, placement or supervision. The individual and the Church benefit from certification inasmuch as the process helps maintain standards of professional competence.

*Faith Formation Handbook, 2007
Diocese of Davenport*

Catechetical Certification Process



Diocese of Davenport

www.davenportdiocese.org

“This is how it is with the Kingdom of God, it is as if a man were to scatter seed....”

Mark 4:26

"The single most critical factor in an effective parish catechetical program is the leadership of a professionally trained parish catechetical leader."

National Directory for Catechesis

Certification Process is based on contact hours.

A contact hour is 50 consecutive minutes in an approved class or activity. When transferring CEU's (Continuing Education Units) or college credits, the following formula is used: One CEU equals 10 contact hours. One credit course (quarter college system) equals 10 contact hours. One credit course (semester college system) equals 15 contact hours.

You can attend a variety of conferences, workshops, seminars, parish in-services, online courses, ministry formation courses (MFP), college courses, video or DVD processes, etc. If you want to know if a particular program is approved, contact the Office of Pastoral Services at (563) 324-1911.

Introductory Level

Each catechist is commissioned at the beginning of their first year of teaching in an approved parish or school faith formation program. Within this first year, the catechist agrees to participate in a minimum of 15 hours of professional growth in the following areas (based on the "Echoes of Faith" video-assisted program) *Getting Started as a Catechist, The Person of the Catechist, Roles of the Catechist, Introduction to the Learner, and Methodology (age appropriate for the learners with whom they will be working)*. A retreat or other opportunity for spiritual growth is also required. Persons who demonstrate proficiency in these areas and/or have completed these requirements in another diocesan-approved catechetical certification process or have completed college credit courses in these areas are exempt from this level.

Basic Catechist Certification

Basic Catechist Certification (30 contact hours) is granted to those who have at least one year of successful catechetical experience in an approved program and have completed contact hours in the following areas :

- **Theology-16 hours** (*Echoes of Faith-the Creed, Morality, Introduction to Scripture, Liturgy & Sacraments*)
- **Methodology-5 hours**
- **Personal/Spiritual Formation-4 hours** (*Echoes of Faith -Spirituality/Prayer*)
- **Pastoral Leadership-5 hours**

Echoes of Faith is a video or DVD assisted program approved by the NCCL (National Conference of Catechetical Leadership).

Completion of Year II in the Basic MFP (diocesan ministry formation program) fulfills this requirement.

Advanced Catechist Certification

Advanced Catechist Certification (60 contact hours) is granted to those who have at least two years of successful catechetical experience in an approved program and completed contact hours in the following areas:

- **Theology-32 hours**
- **Methodology-10 hours**
- **Personal/Spiritual-8 hours**
- **Pastoral Leadership-10 hours**

Completion of Year I in the Basic MFP (diocesan ministry formation program) fulfills this requirement.

Certification in another diocese, degrees or college coursework, completion of ministry formation programs or previous certification programs within the Diocese of Davenport will be applied to all of the certification levels. Supporting documentation and credentials will be reviewed before issuing the certificates.

Master Catechist Certification (CFF/CYM)

Master Catechist Certification (90 contact hours) is granted to those who have at least three years of successful catechetical experience in an approved program and have completed contact hours in the following areas:

- **Theology-30 hours**
- **Methodology-10 hours**
- **Personal/Spiritual Formation-10 hours**
- **Pastoral Leadership-40 hours**

Completion of both years in the Basic MFP (diocesan ministry formation program) fulfills this requirement.

Professional Catechist Certification (DFF/DYM)

Professional Catechist Certification (180 contact hours) is granted to those who have at least five years of successful catechetical experience in an approved program and have completed contact hours in the following areas:

- **Theology-60 hours**
- **Methodology-30 hours**
- **Personal/Spiritual Formation-30 hours**
- **Pastoral Leadership-60 hours**

Completion of both years in the Basic MFP (diocesan ministry formation program) and the Catechetical Leader track fulfills this requirement.

Annual Renewal

All certificates are renewed annually upon completion of five contact hours in any of the following areas: theology (includes scripture), methodology, personal and spiritual formation, or pastoral leadership.