



The Diocese hopes to be enhanced Parish and School Catechetical efforts through website learning

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)

The Office of Faith Formation of the Diocese of Davenport has joined with the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) to offer online certification courses to catechists and adults throughout the diocese.

What is the Purpose of the VLCFF?

VLCFF (Web site: <http://vlc.udayton.edu/>) based at the University of Dayton, OH, is an Internet distance-learning initiative that supports catechetical formation of the Church. In collaboration with its partners throughout the country, VLCFF works to complement and support traditional diocesan efforts to enhance pastoral and educational services. The Church is creating a new space for ongoing formation based on the evolving lifestyles and ministry needs.

What kind of courses are available?

Over 60 online courses and seminars are available throughout a given year, including “Catholic Doctrine”, “Sacraments”, “Scripture”, “Catechesis”, “Social Justice”, “Jesus”, “Ecclesiology”, “Church History” and “Liturgy”. The online courses typically run three to six weeks. Each is capped at 15 participants and is designed to be an experience within a small “virtual” community--not an independent study.

Why would I be interested?

Courses are password protected and each course is \$40, which would be \$90, if the diocese were not a partner with the University of Dayton. Because of the online outreach of the program, the certification **courses can be done in the convenience of a catechist’s or adult learner’s home, provided there is reliable Internet access.**

Do the courses contribute to my diocesan certification?

Along with receiving diocesan catechist certification for these courses, participants also will be given “continuing education units” for each course they take. A certificate will be given for each course and is co-signed by the University of Dayton and the Office Faith Formation of the Diocese of Davenport.

Another part of the program is a closed group setup, which represents an option for a parish or Catholic school who also need to be certified in faith formation. In this setup a diocesan staff person may act as facilitator. The group will come together for discussion and some activities will be performed online.

When are the courses offered?

Courses are available 7 times a year. Check <http://vlc.udayton.edu/> for a course calendar and up-to-date information and all the course offerings.

Along with the opportunity to participate in these online courses, the diocese will continue to offer other programs such as staff development for volunteer catechists, Catholic school teachers, Adult Formation, “Echoes of Faith”, and MFP, June Institute and the August Gathering, etc.

Those interested in the online program should contact Mary Wieser (phone: 563-324-1912 ext.263 or e-mail wieser@davenportdiocese.org)