

Diocese of Lafayette
Office of Christian Formation
Catechist/Youth Minister Certification Process
WORKSHOP APPROVAL APPLICATION
Revised 2015

Title of Workshop _____ **Length in hours** _____

Instructor _____

Dates and Times of Workshop _____

Location _____

Workshop Description (an outline may be required)

_____ (continue on back of page)

1. Does this workshop fulfill a workshop description in the Catechist Certification Process? Yes No
2. Can the content enhance specific content in your religious education curriculum? Yes No
3. If you answered yes to # 2, please enter the grade/s in the curriculum where this workshop content can be found.
Grade/s: _____

I am submitting the above workshop for approval in the catechist certification process. I recommend it be used in Level _____ in place of _____ for _____ credits
(title of workshop)

Signature of instructor or person submitting this application.

_____ Date _____

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

LEVEL I

Revised 2015

ECHOES 3.0 ONLINE

GETTING STARTED AS A CATECHIST - 6 credits

This workshop addresses the first and most important responsibilities of a beginning catechist. The six skills addressed in this module are: Creating the physical environment for catechesis; Shaping a social environment in which faith can be nurtured; Using creative activities in learning; Developing successful lesson plans; Managing positive behavior in the catechetical setting; Helping learners pray together.

INTRODUCTION TO SACRED SCRIPTURE - 6 credits

The workshop content includes: What is the Bible? Why is the Bible holy? The formation of the Scriptures over time; The importance of context in reading the Bible; Some literary forms found in the Bible; The meaning of inspiration; The establishment of the canon of Scriptures; The biblical themes of covenant and freedom; The root story of the Exodus; The relationship of Jesus' saving action to the Exodus event; The basic message of Jesus in the gospels; The role of Paul in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ; Is there a specific Bible that should be used in the classroom?

INTRODUCTION TO BASIC DOCTRINE - I BELIEVE, WE BELIEVE - 6 credits

This workshop acquaints the beginning catechist/youth minister with the central creedal statements of the Catholic community. It includes: God, the Creator of all that exists; God's revelation in human history; The call to relationship that God offers to each human being; Faith as response to God's call; Scripture and Sacred Tradition as the primary modes of God's revelation; Jesus Christ as the fullness of God's revelation; God as a Trinity of persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; The Incarnation; The Holy Spirit as animator of the community of faith; The Church as the Body of Christ, the community of believers; Creeds as summary statements of the community about its core beliefs; The Nicene Creed.

CATHOLIC MORALITY – 6 credits

This workshop addresses how we live as followers of Jesus Christ, who described himself as “the way, and the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6) It includes: Human dignity and community as the foundations of the moral life; The meaning of virtue and its foundations in the teaching of Jesus; The implications of the Beatitudes for daily life; The meaning and validity of objective morality; The sources for arriving at objective moral truth and subjective, or personal responsibility; Moral actions as the responses one makes to the grace offered by a loving God; Moral actions as a combination of act, intention, and circumstance; The nature, origin, and degrees of sin; The effects of sin on the individual and the community; The nature of conscience and the process of informing one's conscience; The timeless quality and universal validity of the Commandments; The relationship of the Commandments to the new law of Jesus Christ.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS REQUIREMENTS - 2 credits

This workshop will introduce catechists/youth ministers to the Diocese of Lafayette Certification Process for Religious Education/Youth Ministry. Questions that will be addressed include: What is certification? How do I get it? Why do I need it? What are the requirements? What are the levels of certification? What courses are approved or sponsored and what is the difference? How will I know when they are offered? Who keeps track of the courses I take? What happens after I am certified?

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

LEVEL II

Revised 2015

ECHOES 3.0 ONLINE:

ROLES OF THE CATECHIST - 6 credits

True catechists are symbols of the faith community. They have received and responded to a call from God to lead others toward growth in faith and an understanding of the Church and its doctrine and tradition. The catechist assumes four critical roles: that of storyteller, teacher-companion, leader of prayer, and witness for justice. The course content includes: Storytelling in religious education; The quality of the catechist as teacher-companion; The importance of leading prayer in the catechetical setting; The role of the catechist as a witness for justice with his/her learners.

THE PERSON OF THE CATECHIST - 6 credits

Many catechists begin simply as well-intentioned volunteers. Not all will embrace the richness of the catechetical ministry. To do so, they must come to appreciate that a catechist is one who “must also receive and respond to a ministerial call that comes from the Lord and is articulated in the local church.” (National Catechetical Directory, 206) This module invites catechists to reflect on the nature of the catechetical ministry and to explore their own level of commitment to it. The workshop includes: The vocation of the catechist; The role of catechesis in the Church’s ministry; The qualities of a catechist as expressed in contemporary Church documents; The importance of the catechist’s continued growth and understanding of the catechetical ministry; The role of the Spirit in the catechetical ministry of the Church.

METHODS FOR SPECIFIC AGE/GRADE LEVELS - 6 credits

The methodology modules assist participants in gaining practical skills related to the grade levels they are teaching. Each of the modules begins with an overview of the lifelong faith journey of the Christian. This overview reminds participants that they, too, are growing in faith, and provides them with a context in which to place the faith needs of their particular age group. The flow of the content is similar in each module, although the strategies and activities provided vary with each age group. The specific goals and learning objectives of each module vary according to the developmental needs of that age group. Each module includes: Human developmental characteristics; Developmental faith needs; Strategies for introducing the Scriptures and Sacred Tradition; The relevance of activities to faith development; Appropriate prayer forms; Inclusion of children with special needs.

ADULT EDUCATION METHODS - 6 credits

This module will help catechists to work effectively as facilitators in a number of small group settings such as Scripture study, prayer groups, small faith communities, or RCIA.

LITURGY & SACRAMENTS - 6 credits

This workshop includes: the meaning of ritual, the nature of liturgy, the relationship of liturgy to the Paschal Mystery, the celebration of liturgy in a cycle of time, the role of space, music, and cultural expression in liturgy, the importance of the assembly in liturgical celebration.

This workshop includes: the way in which symbolic actions express meaning and invite participation in the saving action they celebrate; the sacramental principle; the relationship of the seven sacraments to the fundamental experience of human life; the centrality of the Eucharist in the church; Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist as the sacraments of initiation; Penance and Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick as the two sacraments that celebrate healing; the sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony as celebrating the two central vocations at the service of communion.

CATECHIST RETREAT – 4 credits

Must be sponsored by the Office of Christian Formation. May be attended annually for hours.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS
LEVEL III: BASIC CATECHIST
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ECHOES 3.0 ONLINE:

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY – 6 credits

This workshop explores the relationship with the living God that we call prayer. It places prayer within the context of one's spirituality the name given to the entire life lived in response to God's call. It includes: The basic dynamic of prayer as listening and responding to God's call; The *Angelus* as an example of the dynamic of prayer; Mary as the perfect model of acceptance and response to God's call; The relationship between personal prayer and the community of faith; The various prayer forms through which we make our response to God; Obstacles to the life of prayer; The Holy Spirit as source of our prayer response; Prayer, service, and asceticism as the three foundations of the spiritual life; The *Our Father* as the bedrock of Christian prayer.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LEARNER – 6 credits

This workshop introduces the participants to the continuous cycle of growth and development that occurs throughout life. It provides an introduction to cognitive, psycho-social, moral, and faith growth. It includes: The nature of learning; The relationship of religion and science; Principles of developmental theory; The process of human knowing and the work of Jean Piaget; The psycho-social development of the human person and the work of Erik Erikson; Moral decision making and the work of Lawrence Kohlberg; The role of imagination in moral decision making; The relationship between moral decisions and moral actions; The relationship of human knowing, relating, and acting to religious faith; James Fowler's theory of faith development; The journey of faith through the seasons of childhood, discipleship, and stewardship.

CATHOLIC CHURCH (ECCLESIOLOGY) - 6 credits

As members of the Catholic community of faith, we share in the history and tradition of Christ's Body. This course offers participants insights into Catholic beliefs and traditions i.e., Revelation – Scripture & Tradition; Catholic understanding of One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic; The hierarchical structure of the Church and the magisterium; The Communion of Saints; the Parousia.

MULTICULTURAL CATECHESIS – 6 CREDITS

Description not available at this time.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION – 3 credits each

The workshop descriptions for the Areas of Specialization are included on flyers from the Office of Christian Formation as the workshops are offered.

DAY OF REFLECTION/PRAYER – 6 credits

Each year catechist may attend and use the Day of Reflection/Prayer in Levels III, IV, V, or VI because the content and speakers change each year.

OR Catechist may participate in any workshop/seminar/retreat that challenges the catechist/youth minister to grow personally or spiritually. The event (actual presentation time) must be **4 hours** in length or longer.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS LEVEL IV: CATECHIST

Revised 2015

NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES - 6 credits

This workshop provides participants with a basic overview of the Christian Testament. It includes brief historical, literary, and theological interpretations of the synoptic gospels; Luke's gospel and its connection to Acts of the Apostles; John's Gospel and its connection to the Book of Revelation; and a look at the Epistles as messages of instruction and encouragement.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS - 3 credits

The workshop should be one that raises awareness of the Social Teachings of the Church.

ELECTIVES – 3 credits each

The workshop descriptions for the electives are included on flyers from the Office of Christian Formation as the workshops are offered.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION - 3 credits each

The workshop descriptions for the Areas of Specialization are included on flyers from the Office of Christian Formation as the workshops are offered.

DAY OF REFLECTION/PRAYER – 6 credits

Each year catechist may attend and use the Day of Reflection/Prayer in Levels III, IV, V, or VI because the content and speakers change each year.

OR Catechist may participate in any workshop/seminar/retreat that challenges the catechist/youth minister to grow personally or spiritually.

The experience (actual presentation time) must be no less than **5 hours in length**.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS LEVEL V: ADVANCED CATECHIST

Revised 2015

CHURCH HISTORY – 6 credits

This workshop covers the history of Christianity, beginning with an overview of Judaism, the early development and spread of the Christian Church, and major events in the church's history to the present time.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION - 3 credits each

The workshop descriptions for the areas of specialization are included on flyers from the Office of Christian Formation as the workshops are offered.

ELECTIVES – 3 credits each

The workshop descriptions for the electives are included on flyers from the Office of Christian Formation as the workshops are offered.

DAY OF REFLECTION/PRAYER – 6 credits

Each year catechist may attend and use the Day of Reflection/Prayer in Levels III, IV, V, or VI because the content and speakers change each year.

OR Catechist may participate in any workshop/seminar/retreat that challenges the catechist/youth minister to grow personally or spiritually.

The experience (actual presentation time) must be no less than **5 hours in length**.