

Catechist Trainer Seminar

Session 1: Catechist Certification Overview



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May 23, 2011

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Who is a Catechist?

- John Paul II's *Catechesi Tradendae* (CT), *The General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) and the *National Directory for Catechesis* (NDC) recognize the calling of the laity to work as catechists.
- A catechist is one, chosen by the pastor or his delegate, who helps others grow in their relationship with Christ by passing on the Deposit of Faith Christ left the Apostles.
- In our Diocese, this includes:
 - Catholic School Teachers
 - Children's Catechesis Catechists
 - Youth Evangelization Core Team
 - RCIA/Adult Faith Formation Teams

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Necessity of Forming Catechists

- GDC #234: The quality of 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.
- NDC p. 229: Catechists need to be practicing Catholics who participate fully in the communal worship and life of the Church and who have been prepared for their apostolate by appropriate catechetical training.
- GDC #265: The organization of catechetical pastoral care has as its reference point the Bishop and the Diocese. The diocesan catechetical office is "the means which the Bishop as head of the community and teacher of doctrine utilizes to direct and moderate all the catechetical activities of the diocese".


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Diocesan Catechist Formation Process 1997

- **Target Audience:**
 - Parish Catechists, Catholic School Elementary Teachers, Youth Ministry Teams
- **Goals**
 - To provide catechists with experiences which will foster their own growth in faith.
 - To provide catechists with knowledge and skills necessary to nurture and foster the faith life and growth of others.
 - To certify and recognize, in a public manner, the education and formation experiences of the catechists.
- **Requirements/Characteristics**
 - 60 hours of formation
 - Observation of an experience catechist (mentor)
 - Renewal Experience
 - Be observed while functioning as a catechist
 - Complete one year of catechetical experience
 - Participate in an interview with parish leader

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Catechist Formation in Current Documents

- Catechesis is Christ-Centered.
- Catechesis today is to be missionary in nature.
- The Baptismal catechumenate models for us the progressive nature of conversion.
- Catechesis is to be Biblical, rooted in Salvation History.
- Formation in the Deposit of Faith is to be systematic and complete.
- Catechesis prepares the person for deeper participation in the liturgical life of the Church.
- Catechesis is directed towards "the love that never ends."

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Goals of the New Process

The updated Catechist Formation process seeks to:

- Facilitate conversion in the life of the catechist.
- Impart to the catechist the story of salvation history, developing the foundation for Biblical catechesis.
- Provide the catechist with an overview of the Church's mission of evangelization and catechesis.
- Train the catechist in the necessary skills to assist in conversion of those they serve and to pass on to them the teachings of Christ.
- Help catechists know the Deposit of Faith through a systematic and complete study of USCCA.

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Underlying Principles of New Formation

- Christ calls the person to be a catechist.
- Catechists lead busy lives.
- Adults learn best through a systematic, theme-based curriculum. The new curriculum is objective-based, not hour-based.
- The best presenter/formator of the catechist is the parish/school leader.

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Courses

- Doctrinal Foundations: Cat 101, 102, 103
- Catechetical Method and Practice: Cat 104
- Specialization Area: Cat 105
- Christ and His Mission: Cat 201
- Celebration of the Christian Mystery: Cat 202
- Life in Christ: Cat 203, 204
- Prayer: Cat 205

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Additional Formation Elements

- Observation of an experienced catechist (mentor)
- Observation by experienced catechist
- Final Interview with leader
- Renewal Experience/Retreat
- Completion of One Year of catechetical experience

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Additional Implications

- To ensure the organic nature of doctrine (GDC #240, 241), courses are to be taken sequentially (except 104 and 105).
- Certificate of Continuing Education Hours for each course
- Catechist Recertification remains the same: 24 hours of instruction over 3 years, plus one retreat/year.

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Curriculum - Completed

- Approval of the curriculum by Bishop Olmsted
- Writing of the course objectives
- Session Material
 - Instructor Notes
 - Participant Worksheets
 - Powerpoint slides
 - Participant *Questions on the Objectives*
- Transferring material to Kino Website
- Catechist Trainer Formation
- CGS Certification

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Curriculum – In Process

- Spanish Translation
- Session Recording/Online Support/Distance Delivery
- Retreat Outlines
- Equivalencies
- Test sites
- *Imprimatur*
- Name: *Encountering Christ, The Way*

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Goals for Catechist Trainers

- Stand as a witness to the transforming power of the Resurrected Christ.
- Foster conversion in the life of the catechist.
- Teach the doctrine of the Church in all it's 'rigor and vigor'.
- Strengthen the doctrinal unity among the faithful of the Diocese of Phoenix.
- Help adults have a basic, complete and organic understanding of the Deposit of Faith.
- Facilitate a prayerful dialogue between the catechist and the Lord.

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Credentialing Transition

- By '11-'12, 'Credentialing' Guidelines becomes 'Master Catechist' Guidelines
 - Credentialed 'Director' becomes certified 'Master Catechist'
 - Credentialed 'Coordinator' becomes 'certified 'Catechist Trainer'

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Summary Diocesan Certification Levels

- *Catechist*: Qualified to pass of the faith on to parishioners and others associated with the parish.
- *Catechist Trainer*: Qualified to form parish catechists and other parish catechetical and youth evangelization leaders in areas of specialization.
- *Master Catechist*: Qualified to form parish catechists and parish catechetical and youth evangelization leaders in areas of specialization and doctrine.

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MC/CT Requirements

- Education/Pastoral Formation
 - *Master Catechist*: MA in Catechetics or Theology
 - *Catechist Trainer*: BA in Catechetics/Theology or Kino *Prepare the Way*
 - Kino Leadership Conference
- Catechetical and Administrative
 - 2-3 years parish experience
- Continuing Education
 - 60 hours every 3 years since completion of degree
- Human and Spiritual Development
 - *Retreats*
 - *References*

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MC/CT Requirements

- Catechist Trainer Seminar
- Interview with Kino Director
- Profession of Faith

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Qualifications of Presenters

- Master Catechist/Catechist Trainer
- Priests or deacon (excluding cat 104 and 105) who has been through MC/CT seminar.
- Specialized instructors who have been who has been through MC/CT seminar, completed the application process and been accepted.

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Session 2: Revelation and The Progressive Unfolding of Doctrine



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The Ministry of the Word

- The explicit proclamation of the Lord
- Source of Nourishment to disciples
- Transmission of Revelation through the Church
- A work of the Holy Spirit

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Divine Revelation

- God's Self Disclosure
- His Plan: Saving Words and Deeds of God in history
- Christocentric: His Person, culminating in Jesus Christ

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Transmission of Divine Revelation

- One Source: God
- Two Modes: Scripture and Tradition
- Interpreted by the magisterium

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Catechesis and the Obedience of Faith

- Our response to God - *fides qua*
- Strengthened by the Faith - *fides quae*

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Theology and Catechesis - Bishop Olmsted

Quoting Christoph Cardinal Schoborn:

- Doctrine...is salvific; it leads us toward holiness.
- Theology (is) the activity of reflecting upon doctrine.
- Doctrine is to be known, received, understood, and handed on by all the members of Christ's body, without exception.

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Divine Pedagogy – How Revelation is given

- Pedagogy of God – *slow and progressive*
- Pedagogy of Christ – *uses words and signs*
- Pedagogy of the Church – *the place of encounter*
- Pedagogy of the Holy Spirit – *unseen work with grace*

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The Catechumenate and Conversion

GDC #59.

The model for all catechesis is the baptismal catechumenate...

GDC #90

Post-baptismal catechesis, without slavishly imitating the structure of the baptismal catechumenate, and recognizing in those to be catechized the reality of their Baptism, does well, however, to draw inspiration from "this preparatory school for the Christian life", (295) and to allow itself to be enriched by those principal elements which characterize the catechumenate.

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Stages of the Catechumenate, GDC #88

- Evangelization
 - Pre-Evangelization
 - Evangelization
- The Catechumenate
- Purification and Enlightenment
- Mystagogia

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Characteristics of *Kerygmatic* Catechesis


- See handout.

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 Session 3: Themes and Objectives



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Christocentric Catechesis

- Relational, not ideological
- Everything taught in connection with Christ
 - Creed: *Understanding Who Christ is*
 - Sacraments: *Uniting with Christ*
 - Morality: *Imitating Christ*
 - Prayer: *Communicating with Christ*
- Aims - *Understanding and Change*

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Key Catechetical Themes in GDC

- The Mystery of Triune God.
- The Mystery of the human person in light of Jesus Christ.

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The Golden Threads of the CCC

- Trinity
- Incarnation
- Redemption
- The Church
- The Dignity of the Human Person

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Foundational Themes in Cat. Formation

- *Grace* – Connects the story - Handout
- Themes in each course - Handout

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Session 4: Analyzing Doctrine



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Analyzing Doctrine

- The Premise - *Underlying Truth*
- The Essentials - *Elements that cannot be left to chance*
- Commonly Held Errors – *Mistaken notions that go unrecognized*
- Scriptural Driving Force – *Making doctrine come alive*
- Related Doctrines – *Those truths most closely connected*

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Analyzing Doctrine Worksheet

1. Trinity – CCC #232 – 267
2. Incarnation – CCC #465-483
3. Four Marks of Church – CCC #811-870
4. Liturgy – CCC #1077-1112
5. Created in Image of God – CCC #1701-1715

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Session 5: The Ecclesial Method



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Preparing a Session

- Pray
- Study
- Read the Scriptures
- Evaluate your Students

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Preparing a Session

- Select your Passages
- Prepare your Presentation
- Teach your Session


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Ecclesial Method

- Calculated Disengagement
- Proclamation
- Explanation
- Application
- Celebration

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Session 6: Administration



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Resource Materials

- Bible
- USCCA
- Instructor Notes
- Powerpoints
- Participant Worksheets
- Questions on the Objectives
- Online Catechist Trainer Resources
- Online Recorded Sessions

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On-Site Responsibilities

- To clarify: *Are you a catechist trainer or a host?*
- Schedule course dates and presenters with Kino.
- Promote, publicize and implement at your parish.
- Keep attendance records for all sessions.
- Oversee 'Additional Formation Elements' on appl, p. 3.

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Scheduling the Sessions

Determined by the host site. Options include:

- All day Saturday
- Friday Night/Saturday Morning
- Weekday afternoon/weeknight
- Hybrid: Intro session/online recordings
- Parish/Deanery

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Hybrid – Live/Online

- Introductory Session
- *Questions on the Objectives* worksheets/at home listening
- Individual or small group recap meeting

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Missed Sessions

- Access Online recording or hold individual session with priest, MC or CT
- Interview with – *Credentialed leader, MC, CT, priest* using 'Questions on the Objectives'.
- 104 and 105 must be taken live.

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Additional Spiritual and Catechetical Elements

- Renewal Experience/Retreat
- Observation of an experience catechist (mentor)
- Observation by an experienced catechist – *Credentialed leader, MC, CT, priest or Pastor*
- Interview with leader – *Credentialed leader, MC, CT, priest or Pastor*
- Completion of One Year of catechetical experience

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Transitioning from the Old Process

- List of equivalencies.
- Last Day to receive applications in the old formation process: June 30, 2012.

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Additional Forms

- Application to Host Cat Formation
- Transfer credential
- Catechist Session Tracker/Application
- MC/CT Application – Available 2011-2012
- Instructor (only) Application – Available 2011-2012
