



Diocese of St. Augustine Certification Program Basic Certification (I)

The current Basic Certification for teachers of religion (catechists) was promulgated by Bishop John Snyder in 1998, reaffirmed by Bishop Victor Galeone in 2005 and reaffirmed again with updating by Bishop Felipe Estévez in 2011. It is presumed that each catechist is aware of the catechetical guidelines for the United States published in the *National Directory for Catechesis* (U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, 2005). In addition, it is assumed that Catechists are familiar with *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* and have at least a working knowledge of the curriculum guidelines for Religion for their particular teaching level. Also, assumed is a working knowledge of the Diocesan Sacramental Guidelines as well as familiarity with the teacher's manual and the scope and sequence of the approved religion textbook series that they are currently using.

In addition, the following resources are to be mastered by those who serve the Church in catechetical ministry. **These readings are to be done prior to attending the certification sessions.**

Basic Certification Foundational Level: 20 hours over 2 years for all catechists

CONTENT/TIMEFRAME

REQUIRED READING

ROLE OF THE CATECHIST

Introduction to the role of the catechist and how he/she can better share the faith
3 hours

Be An Amazing Catechist (Mladinich)

PRACTICAL SKILLS

Develop an awareness of the various skills methods utilized in the communication premises of the faith
2 hours

Keeping Kids' Attention (White)

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Develop an appreciation of the various Stages of faith development as well as moral development. The essential elements of the social teachings of the Church will also be discussed.
3 hours

C.U. How God Invites Us to Grow (Sweeney)
Keeping Kids' Attention (White)

LITURGY/SACRAMENTS

Develop a deepening appreciation of the sacramental life of our faith, as well as assistance with personal prayer and skills in leading others in prayer
3 hours

C. U. What are Sacraments (Martos)
C.U. A Walk Through the Mass (Richstatter)
C.U. The Liturgical Year (Richstatter)

BASIC BELIEFS

Survey of the various tenets of the Catholic Faith
2 hours

C. U. *Nine Things That Make Us Catholic*
(Groome)
C.U. *The Nicene Creed* (Friedman)
C.U. *Celebrating Mary* (Carroll)

SCRIPTURE

Develop an appreciation of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments as well as an opportunity to connect the Word of
3 hours

C.U. *Choosing and Using a Bible*
(Witherup)
C.U. *Celebrating God's Word*
(Ralph)

CHURCH

Overview of the Church, with an emphasis on the Church since Vatican II
2 hours

C.U. *Treasures of Vatican II*
(Hahnenberg)
C.U. *Ten Peak Moments of Church History* (McBride)

CATECHETICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE/LEGAL

Exploring the various legal and ethical concerns of church ministers today.
2 hours

Office of Christian Formation materials
No pre-read

The reading materials are available from your School Principal or from your Director of Religious Education.