

CATECHIST FORMATION PROGRAM

BASIC – LEVEL 1

Level 1 Catechist Formation is a series of 10 workshops prepared to accommodate a variety of daytime and evening formats. Each workshop is six hours long and is designed for catechists and all adults interested in catechetical ministry.

- Catholic Identity
- Church
- Evangelization & Catechesis
- Foundations in Catechesis
- Holy Trinity
- Methods for Catechesis
- Moral Life
- Sacraments
- Sacred Scripture
- Understanding the Mass

Level 1 participants are required to bring to each workshop:

- Catechist Edition for Textbook Series
- A Catholic Bible (e.g. New American Bible)
- Catechism of the Catholic Church

Minimum Class Size: 10

Cost per participant: Determined by site

INTERMEDIATE – LEVEL 2

Level 2 Catechist Formation consists of 8 courses, each 15 hours in length, offered by the Academy for Lay Ecclesial Ministry throughout the Archdiocese.

The Level 2 courses are:

- #204 - Survey of the Old Testament
- #205 - Survey of the New Testament*
- #211 - The Church and Its History
- #216 - Christian Living: Discipleship and Morality
- #217 - Liturgy
- #218 - Sacraments*
- #221 - The Ministry of Catechesis: Theory and Practice
- #231 - Maturing in Faith

* Prerequisites apply.

Cost Per Participant: \$50

Textbooks: Additional cost, available at first session

Minimum Class Size: 10

NOTE: A Level 1 workshop or Level 2 course **IS CANCELLED** if the minimum number of participants has not registered two days prior to starting date (Level 1) and five days prior to starting date (Level 2). In addition, all participants for Level 2 must be certified at Level 1 and have taken *Foundations in Catechesis*.

BASIC (LEVEL 1) WORKSHOP GOALS

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Participants will expand their understanding of their faith identity as Catholics and integral members of the Catholic community.

CHURCH

Participants will increase their understanding of the Church and its mission through an introduction to Church history, models and images, and lives of the saints.

EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

The participants will see their catechetical ministry as a response to their baptismal call, deepen their understanding of evangelization and catechesis, and explore the relationship between evangelization and catechesis in the Church's mission.

FOUNDATIONS IN CATECHESIS

(Prerequisite for Level 2)

Participants will explore recent catechetical documents, become familiar with the theological reflection process, and recognize the importance of the application of human development theories to their students for effective catechesis.

HOLY TRINITY

Participants will deepen their understanding of the relationship between the three divine Persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

METHODS FOR CATECHESIS

Participants will deepen their awareness of catechesis as the totality of the Church's efforts to make disciples through catechetical instruction and formation of adults, youth, and children. They will become familiar with creative methods and skills needed for effective instruction and formation of all age levels.

MORAL LIFE

Participants will examine Church teaching on the moral life based on Scripture and Catholic Tradition, examine the effectiveness of their own moral decision making process, gain insights into human development, and explore effective catechetical approaches to moral formation.

SACRAMENTS

Participants will increase their understanding of sacraments as actions of the Church, effective signs and celebration of the Mystery of God in our lives, and will learn appropriate catechetical techniques for teaching sacraments.

SACRED SCRIPTURE

Participants will grow in awareness of a personal God revealed through Scripture, become more familiar with the context and structure of the Scriptures, and learn methods for sharing Scripture with different age levels.

UNDERSTANDING THE MASS

Participants will gain an informed understanding of the liturgy of the Mass as the action of Christ and the public worship of the Church.

INTERMEDIATE (LEVEL 2) COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#204 — SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

(prerequisite for #205) Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the Old Testament, its major divisions, key persons, places and events and will recognize the interconnection between our life story and the Old Testament story. They will become more skilled in presenting this message with the students they teach.

#205 — SURVEY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Participants will become familiar with the New Testament, its major divisions, key persons, places, events and themes and will recognize the interconnection between our life story and the Jesus story. They will become more skilled in presenting this message with the students they teach.

#211 — THE CHURCH AND ITS HISTORY

Participants will come to learn persons and events that have shaped the major stages of the Church's history as the pilgrim people of God and appreciate our place in this history. They will gain knowledge of the models of our faith of these eras and integrate the example of the saints into their teaching in ways appropriate for the developmental stages of their audiences.

#216 — CHRISTIAN LIVING: DISCIPLESHIP & MORALITY

Participants will grow in their understanding of Christian Morality as a way of life that flows from Christian discipleship; reflect on their own growth in the moral life; and will explore principles of social justice and their impact on moral decision making. They will demonstrate age-appropriate ways of presenting this message.

#217 — LITURGY

(prerequisite for #218) Participants will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of liturgical prayer and worship in the Catholic tradition. They will experience "breaking open the Word" for theological reflection.

#218 — SACRAMENTS

Participants will gain an appreciation of the Sacraments as unfolding throughout the history of the Church and as signs, symbols and celebrations of human life in all its stages. They will be guided in reflecting on their own experiences of these sacraments and in methods of presenting them at various age levels.

#221 — THE MINISTRY OF CATECHESIS: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Participants will gain an appreciation of the ministry of catechesis and its role in the process of evangelization. They will explore the elements of catechetical formation, methodology of effectively communicating the Gospel message, and grow in their awareness and understanding of the development of the learner.

#231 — MATURING IN FAITH

Participants will integrate and articulate their experience of maturing in faith as a living and fruitful disciple and reflect on their own identity as believers. They will become more skilled in locating resources and integrating them in their own reflections and in their teaching faith and doctrine in ways appropriate for the developmental stages of their audiences.

This September 2017 brochure supersedes all previous Catechist Formation Programs brochures.



ARCHDIOCESE
OF SAN ANTONIO

CATECHIST FORMATION PROGRAM

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ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN ANTONIO ACADEMY FOR LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY FORMATION AND CERTIFICATION OF PARISH CATECHISTS

	Level 1 Expectations: Each person will: -participate in all hours of the workshop -bring required books listed on reverse -engage in an adult learning environment -participate in small group dynamics and process	Level 2 Requirements: Each person will: -complete Level 1 Certification. -complete Level 1 workshop <i>Foundations in Catechesis</i> . -spend one hour of study time for each hour in class. -participate in all Level 2 course sessions.	<i>All catechist certification application forms are available at http://www.archsa.org/academy Click on "Additional Documents, Forms & Informational Brochures."</i>	
CERTIFICATION	LEVEL 1 Basic	LEVEL 2 Intermediate	LEVEL 3 Advanced	LEVEL 4 Professional
WORKSHOPS COURSES	10 Workshops (60 clock hours total) -Catholic Identity -Church -Evangelization & Catechesis -Foundations in Catechesis (<i>prerequisite for Level 2</i>) -Holy Trinity -Methods for Catechesis -Moral Life -Sacraments -Sacred Scripture -Understanding the Mass	8 Courses (120 clock hours total) #204-Survey of the Old Testament #205-Survey of the New Testament* #211-The Church and Its History #216-Christian Living: Discipleship and Morality #217-Liturgy #218-Sacraments* #221- The Ministry of Catechesis: Theory and Practice #231-Maturing in Faith * Prerequisites apply	Undergraduate degree in one of these areas (or the equivalent): -Religious Education -Religious Studies -Theological Studies -must include catechetics or course #221 Certificate Program beyond Level 2 which meets a minimum of 100 clock hours.	Master's Degree in one of these areas: -Religious Education -Religious Studies -Theological Studies Degree plan must include a course in catechetics.
EXPERIENCE		1 year	2 years	3 years
ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE	For all levels: Ministry Supervisor Recommendation and Retreat Experiences			
EQUIVALENCY	-Online Level 1 Option	- <i>Echoes of Faith</i> Program using Academy Guidelines for Level 1.	-Any Catholic university theology or religious studies course credit is evaluated toward certification credit.	
VALID	4 years	4 years	8 years	8 years
RENEWAL	For all Levels: 10 clock hours enrichment annually – such as any Level 1 workshop or Level 2 course; online courses from a Catholic university; approved facilitated video courses; local, regional and national conferences.			

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The Catechist Formation Program is for adult catechists; adults interested in catechetical ministry are encouraged to participate. For more information contact John Miller at 210-734-1989 – e-mail: john.miller@archsa.org.