WHAT IS A CATECHIST?

A catechist is a person of faith who is called by the parish or school community to hand on the tradition and teaching of the Catholic Church to others. This call demands that the catechist understand church doctrine and demonstrate appropriate teaching skills. More than that, a catechist realizes God’s voice in this call to serve, and recognizes the need for continuing personal growth and faith formation.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE CATECHIST SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY:

- A love of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and of Christ’s Church, our Holy Father, and God’s holy people.
- A coherence and authenticity of life...
- Personal prayer and dedication to the evangelizing mission of the Church.
- A missionary zeal.
- Active participation in their local parish community, specially by attendance at Sunday Eucharist.
- A devotion to Mary...

On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: “Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”

Pope Francis EG # 164

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Departments—Office of Religious Education ORE Formation tab

For more information about becoming a certified catechist, contact your Parish Director or Coordinator of Religious Education.

Your Parish Coordinator may also contact their Regional Coordinator to be guided or informed for opportunities at their Region.

Our Lady of the Angels Region: David Lara
310 216 9587 § dlara@dalap.org

San Fernando Region: Dana Couso
818 365 5123 § dcouso@sfpr.org

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WHAT IS BASIC CERTIFICATION?

Basic Certification is a process through which a person gains the basic knowledge and skills to communicate effectively the basic Christian message.

The bishops of the California Catholic Conference have established criteria to promote and standardize the competence of catechetical programs. The Ministry Formation Program offered throughout the Archdiocese of Los Angeles implements these guidelines of the California bishops. It is called “formation”, for its object is not primarily to develop skills, but to assist the person to grow and develop as a proclaimer of the message of Jesus Christ through his Church.

The Catechist Certificate is recognized by all dioceses in the state of California.

The bishop shares his ministry with those whom he formally commissions as catechists, calling them to service of the word as proclaimers of the message of Jesus Christ through his Church.

At what age can a person be certified as a Catechist?

It is understood that there is a need for a certain maturity of faith, as well as a mature capacity to share that faith effectively with others. To participate in a Basic Faith Formation Center it is expected that a person is at least 18 years of age.

Do I only need to be certified once in my life?

The re-certification process enables catechists to renew their certification status after the initial three-year period. Thirty (30) hours of on going faith formation at different levels of education during those three years is required for recertification.

These hours are accumulated by attending workshops, seminars, and/or courses related to the required fields given at the time of certification.

It is the responsibility of the catechist to record hours on a Recertification Form and submit it to the Office of Religious Education. A catechist is re-certified for a three-year period when the Office of Religious Education has received notice of the required number of hours.

Three Steps to Becoming a Certified Catechists

THEOLOGY PHASE

The Ministry Formation program (40+ hrs) consists of a comprehensive introduction to the major themes of the faith and church teaching, as well as general catechetical preparation.

SPECIALIZATION PHASE

A series of workshops (14 -20 hrs) designed to help the person develop particular skills, according to their chosen area of catechetical ministry (e.g. early childhood, elementary, youth, confirmation, adult, etc.)

PRACTICUM PHASE

Once the two first phases have been completed the catechist needs to:
Do two observations to experience and be enriched by other certified catechists.
Be evaluated by a certified MC or catechists
Be recommended by Parish Catechetical Leader, i.e., DRE/CRE and Master Catechist Team where you participated for the Theological Phase.

Faith is a lifelong journey!